Another paper of possible interest to New Zealand concerned the role of economic analysis in preservation of forest. The paper dealt with the valuation of "pristine" forests in the US which have economic value as well as intrinsic or "existence" value.

A good presentation by Whitehead (UK Forestry Commission) on the results of a study of non-market values of forests in the UK indicated that, if it is known how non-timber values vary with certain attributes of the forest (presence of water, diversity of species, diversity of tree height), it should be possible to alter forest management practices to obtain maximum efficiency. The measurement of the supply of recreation and landscape goods from forests is a major problem.

Scottish forestry

On the way to the IUFRO conference 1 spent a few days with Robin Cutler in Edinburgh. One of the interesting aspects of my visit to Scotland was the opportunity to present in a field day and debate concerned with a major forestry proposal in the Southern Uplands northwest of Dumfries. A private forestry enterprise, Tilhill Economic Forestry (TEF), had proposed a development to afforest a former hill farm and restructure existing plantations on the farm. The field day provided TEF with an opportunity to present their plans to the local community, conservation groups, farmers, statutory bodies, local government officials, forestry and wildlife researchers, woodland owners, wood processors, the UK Forestry Commission and other private forest companies. About 60 people attended.

TEF propose to afforest most of the 700 ha block in sitka spruce with minor plantings of hybrid larch and mixed broadleaf species. I was impressed by the detail of the planning and the attention that had been paid to the enhancement of natural features, open spaces, viewpoints, forest edges, treelines, construction of felling coupes, protection of wetland areas and protection of archaeological remains including cairnfields, animal enclosures and heaps of burnt rocks thought to have been used to heat medieval baths. The extent of forward planning was also impressive. TEF, using modern GIS techniques, was planning three rotations ahead, or about 250 years. The intent was to plan how the forests would be restructured over time to achieve a state of normality whereby all age classes were represented and felling and replanting could proceed on a continuing, regular basis.

TEF believe that the extensive collaboration, debate, and general involvement of the community and interested parties in the planning process is cost effective. They appeared to be willing to modify parts of their plans or make compromises to alleviate concerns by the community and special interest groups about the protection of soil, water wildlife and archaeological sites. There is little doubt that this approach wins the support of the public.

John Halkett has left DOC, Northland to take up a position as Assistant Commissioner, New South Wales Forestry Commission, Sydney.

Laurie Halkett is on secondment for two years from Tasman Forestry to Trazen, based in Wellington.

Scandinavian forestry

The great biennial Scandinavian forestry exposition is approaching again. To be held as usual near Jönköping, the fine city in central south Sweden, Elmiawood 93 will be staged on June 3-6, 1993. In addition to the main programme, seminars and workshops will be conducted on June 1-2.

Next year's show will further the Elmiawood tradition of presenting state-of-the-art technology across all facets of forest management. Despite the worldwide recession, advances in forestry technology have continued at a steady pace. In particular, the latest computer systems now becoming standard in harvesting operations will be of great interest. The close attention to integration of profitable forestry with sound environmental management will be highlighted on many stands. Some 50,000 visitors from 75 countries are expected to attend.

After our visit to Elmiawood, a comprehensive 12 to 14 day tour of forestry in Sweden and Norway is being put together, inspecting the whole range of operations and organisations that makes Scandinavia one of the world's leading forestry regions. This tour will be of great interest to farm foresters, contractors, forest owners, company foresters and others with a keen interest in the business of forestry.

Enquiries are welcomed, to: Elmiawood 93 Tour P.O. Box 1070, Wellington Phone (04) 478-1165 (evenings)

NZIF HANDBOOK REPRINT

The very successful NZIF Handbook is now out of print. Demand is still high and a new edition is to be produced. The editor is Don Hammond. If you have any suggestions for Don, we're sure he would like to hear them.

Contact Don, c/- Forestry and Rural Training Centre, P.O. Box 943, Rotorua.