

## STATE OF IDAHO COOPERATIVE BOARD OF FORESTRY

OFFICE OF

*The State Forester*

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING - BOISE, IDAHO

27 May 1963

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CHIEF FORESTER

TO: Members of State Land Board

FROM: Roger L. Guernsey, State Forester

SUBJECT: Bruce Eddy Timber

INFORMATION

As directed by the Board at the meeting on May 14 the Forestry Department makes the following recommendations concerning the Bruce Eddy timber:

1. General Statement regarding June 10 time limit for the State to decide on timber disposal procedures:

We feel the requirement that an immediate decision be made on all the timber to be removed during the next four years is both unreasonable and unnecessary. A quick decision on the 1963 clearing should fill immediate requirements. The State should then have until at least January 1964 to determine her best course of action for handling timber in the balance of the pool area.

2. Selling the Timber:

We differ with the Army's assumption that the State will realize more from her timber by selling as compared to condemnation. Distress selling during a weakened market period, when further attended by a glutted "buyers" market, cannot reasonably be expected to yield fair realization values. Because of excessive road development costs involved the net stumpage value would be low at best. The road costs would be excessive both because of the terrain and because of the fact that only a small part of the available timber could be amortized against the roads to be flooded.

3. Recommendations:

- a. The United States be asked to condemn all State lands and timber in the lower pool area that must be cleared during 1963. Prices should be established by December 1, 1963. The State Forestry Department should make an independent appraisal for the State.
- b. An all-out effort be made to set up land exchange machinery by January 1, 1964 in case that route is available and the State decides to go that way. If exchange is not possible, Idaho would do well to lay the groundwork for making exchanges possible on future dam projects.

It should not be necessary to consummate any exchanges within any time limit. All that should be necessary would be agreement by the federal agencies that the State would receive fair value in exchanges. The State land would then be carefully appraised and the exchange completed several years later.

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The main purposes for exchange are:

- (1) Maintain the State-owned timber land base.
  - (2) Reserve timber for sale at a more favorable time when the State could expect to realize fair value for timber.
- c. If exchange agreement fails to materialize by January 1, 1964 then the United States should condemn all State lands and timber in the pool area.

Other Forestry Considerations:

a. Preservation of Natural Areas:

We do not understand how the Army expects to keep the 300 foot strip around the pool area in a "natural state, under management" (management is not natural).

b. Removal of Dead or Diseased Trees:

To remove only dead trees from "the strip" is both impractical and wasteful. In the upper reaches of the pool area the incidence of blister rust in white pine is so severe that studies show 90% of the white pine will be dead in the next 30 years anyway. Diseased trees are live trees. They may become diseased and live for 10 or 15 years or more. Sometime before they die is the proper time to utilize them. It doesn't make sense to cut only dead trees if you can cut them a couple years earlier and realize green tree value.

*Roger L. Lumsden*