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August 1, 1980

Mr. Norman L. Hesseldahl
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Dear Norm:

Back in June you and Darrell Benson sent in a short manuscript and some photos on the Coeur d'Alene Tree Nursery. I considered trying to spot it in the Journal, but the seven full-length articles on convention subjects ate up all the space I could budget. I'm therefore returning the text and the illustrations.

Your long-hand note of transmittal indicated that I had asked for the piece, but there must have been a failure of communication somewhere, as I didn't know it was coming. Nevertheless I'm sorry it couldn't be used and thank you and Benson for the effort.

I believe that Maury Vogel has told you that Roger Chapman, Dennis Le Master, and Donald Weatherhead have prepared a manuscript that we will print in lieu of Louise Shadduck's piece on Idaho forests. Mrs. Shadduck phoned the other day and didn't seem unduly disturbed when I told her I planned to make the switch. The new manuscript describes the whole region rather than just Idaho, and it treats more aspects of forestry.

Sincerely,

N. H. Sand

Editor, Journal of Forestry

NHS:mro
encs. - ms. (original)
slides (2), negatives

TREES FOR THE FUTURE

By Norman L. Hesseldahl and Darrell Benson

Providing vigorous young tree seedlings for public forestlands in the inland northwest is a challenging mission, but one that the Coeur d'Alene Tree Nursery is ideally suited to meet.

Located just a mile northwest of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the Nursery is situated on 220 acres of agricultural land selected for its relatively uniform and rock-free soils, good drainage and flat topography. Underground lies the Rathdrum aquifer, a giant subterranean river extending from Lake Pend Oreille to Spokane, which provides ample water for field irrigation. With 135 acres permanently irrigated, the Nursery fields have the capacity to produce 20 million bare-root 2-0 (two year-old) seedlings annually. Bare-root stock is used to reforest lands which have been recently harvested, as well as to gradually reforest the 300,000 acres which have been burned over several times by major wildfires in the past 70 years.

In addition, the Nursery boasts the largest container-grown seedling program of the 13 Forest Service nurseries, with the capacity to grow up to 3.5 million containerized seedlings in two crops annually, using 15 climate-controlled greenhouses. Container stock can be ready for out-planting in a scant six months, making it effective for emergency reforestation efforts following floods, forest fires or other natural disasters. Container seedlings may also be used for fall planting, when dormant bare-root stock is not available.

The Nursery also serves as the seed bank for the National Forests in Region 1. Seeds are extracted from cones, de-winged, cleaned, tested and

stored in freezers, where they may be held for 10 years or more before planting in Nursery seedbeds. In addition, the Nursery grows western white pine blister rust-resistant seedlings from parent stock located at seed orchards in Sandpoint and the University of Idaho arboretum in Moscow.

Enjoying international acclaim for its unique application of skilled hand labor combined with innovative, one-of-a-kind machinery, the Coeur d'Alene Tree Nursery hosts thousands of visitors each year. Located less than an hour's drive from 1980 SAF Convention headquarters in Spokane, Washington, conventioners are invited to include a tour of the Nursery in their leisure time activities. For detailed information about individual and group tours, please contact the Nursery Superintendent, Darrell Benson, at (208) 667-2561, extension 375.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

- Photo 1 - Following germination, container-grown stock is painstakingly hand-thinned, leaving the most vigorous seedling to flourish in each container. These new seedlings will be ready for planting in only a few months.
- Photo 2 - These thriving two year-old seedlings are almost ready for their journey from nursery seedbeds to their planting site, where they will be ready for harvest in 80-100 years.
- Photo 3 - Developed especially for the Coeur d'Alene Tree Nursery, this giant "lifter" removes seedlings from their seedbed and gently separates tender roots from the surrounding soil.
- Photo 4 - After lifting, young trees are placed in protective packaging for their journey to the planting site.
- Photo 5 - (Nursery aerial slide) Viewed from the air, the Nursery looks like the well-managed farm it is.
- Photo 6 - (Nursery sign slide) No caption needed.
- Photo 7 - Despite its use of specialized machinery, the nursery still relies on skilled hand labor for many phases of its operation. About 350 area residents are employed on a part-time basis to accomplish such delicate tasks as weeding, thinning and handlifting stock.