

Trees Use Water; Proper Logging Mgt. Improves Watershed Output

Some 400 municipalities in the Northeast can step up water supply sharply by managing forested watersheds primarily for water yields according to Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman.

Ways to increase water yields, based on research by USDA's Forest Service, are now being related directly to the special problems of the municipal watershed manager in cooperative studies on Newark's Pequannock watershed and on Baltimore's Liberty watershed, the Secretary said.

Freeman noted that research on Fernow Experimental Forest near Parsons, W. Va., showed that, depending on the amount of timber logged, water yields could be increased by as much as 140,000 to 430,000 gallons per day from each square mile of ripland forest.

Forest Service research in the Pocono Mountains near Wilkes-Barre, Pa., found that trees growing on bottomlands of a 1,500-acre watershed used from 45,000 to 284,000 gallons of water a day.

When the Pennsylvania research findings were applied to Newark's 40,000-acre Pequannock watershed, it was concluded that 1.2

to 7.5 million gallons of water a day might be saved by selectively cutting trees on bottomlands and along the reservoir shoreline.

"These savings," Secretary Freeman said, "would occur during the summer season when water supplies usually are at a low ebb and water demands are highest."

USDA also is seeking ways of increasing water yield at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest near Plymouth, N.H. This 7,600-acre outdoor laboratory is dedicated to the solution of water problems in New England.

"In other studies, we are seeking facts on watersheds which we hope will enable communities to make long-range plans for managing watersheds to fill agricultural, industrial, and home water needs." As an example, Freeman cited a current study by USDA's Agricultural Research Service of 200 watersheds to determine the amount and duration of runoff

Scientists have already collected 24,000 soil samples from watersheds in 23 States, including New York, New Jersey, and Vermont along the drought-stricken Eastern Seaboard. Soil scientists of the University of Georgia are analyzing the porosity of these soil samples. This information, coupled with a study of yearly records of the rain that runs off each watershed, will enable scientists to estimate the amount of rainfall that each watershed can store, and the approximate rate at which rainfall moves through the soil.

"These facts," Secretary Freeman said, "will be available next year for use by flood-control engineers in building waterways and reservoirs that will carry and hold runoff water for whatever use communities choose to make of their total water supply."

Pin Money

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(Continued from Page 9) vote of commendation thanks. It is hoped they will continue this worthwhile contribution to our rural youth.

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