

FOREST MAP OF NEW ZEALAND. TYPE MAP SERIES NO.
2 by J. L. Nicholls. 1967, Forest Research Institute, N.Z.
Forest Service.

Following frustrating delays in printing, the first set of a series of ecological survey type maps was published by the Forest Research Institute during 1967. The delay has been more than compensated for by the quality of presentation and usefulness of the final production, which has been brought about by the use of colour and the incorporation of the necessary descriptive and technical data on the reverse side of the maps. The scientific and draughting staff of the Institute, responsible for this production, deserve the acclaim of all foresters, dependent as they are on clear and accurate information for the efficient performance of their field operations.

The first set of six one-inch-to-the-mile (1:63,360) maps comprise part of a series showing the forest types in the main tracts of indigenous forest in New Zealand. The area covered in this set extends from Tauranga in the north to just south of Lake Tarawera and from the Ikawhenua Range just east of the Rangataiki River to the forests west of Arapuni. A further 19 maps were ready for printing at the end of 1967, covering the Urewera and Tararua regions. Their completion and release will be welcomed by all who have had experience in the use of the present series.

The forest type classification for the North Island proposed by McKelvey and Nicholls (1957) is used to present the basic forest data which have been obtained from the New Zealand Forest Service volumetric survey (Thomson, 1946; Masters, Holloway and McKelvey, 1957). As this classification recognizes 16 large forest groups, which have been further broken down into 78 types, the difficulty of presentation in a form which is both intelligible and aesthetically acceptable must have posed a formidable problem. The choice of colour, the quality of printing and the degree of subdivision have all combined to overcome this difficulty.

Information printed on the back of each plan covers data applicable to the particular area under the following headings — physiography, soils, climate, animals, history, land tenure, timber resources, water resources and a list of reference sources. Although concise, the text appears to omit little which would be required in the field by a forester, soil conservator, student, or anybody connected with forest or land management. Each forest type represented on the map face is then listed and described by the provision of details concerning the physiognomically prominent species; the acreage; past and present condition; species composition, including the number of merchantable species per acre; and approximate timber yield in board feet per acre.

Because the Institute has primarily sought to produce a source of information which can be readily taken into and used in the field, these maps will undoubtedly be employed to a greater extent than earlier publications from the same source. They represent the most successful attempt to date to extend the findings of the Institute into practical applica-

tion and it is hoped they will foreshadow similar presentations in other sections. It is therefore disturbing to read in the 1967 Annual Report of the Forest Research Institute that "Type map production is now in abeyance . . ." while the production of other maps is expedited. No one will question the Institute's decision of how to apply its resources, but it is unfortunate that valuable information should continue to be in repositories awaiting publication, owing to insufficient staff or finance being available.

J. G. GROOME