

East Coast Forestry Notes

REVIEW OF CYCLONE BOLA DAMAGE TO THE FORESTRY SECTOR

The May issue of NZ Forestry included an interim report on Cyclone Bola damage to the forestry sector by Julie Collins. Since then the full extent of the damage has been determined by the Ministry of Forestry (see table) and decisions on compensation have been made by the Government.

Cabinet has boosted the Cyclone Bola Agricultural Assistance Scheme by \$5 million to compensate for erosion and flooding damage to forests in the disaster regions.

The compensation will be payable only in the defined disaster regions of East Cape/Northern Hawkes Bay, Northland and Taranaki. It does not relate to wind damage to forests.

Damage caused by erosion and flooding will be treated in a similar manner to agricultural and horticultural damage.

Cost of Package

The initial estimate of the cost of the compensation package is \$5 million. As with the agricultural assistance package, payment will be on an indemnity basis; there will be no restriction on the use of compensation; and the first \$5000 of eligible losses per business unit will be deducted from the assessment of damages and compensation paid at the rate of 60% of the remainder.

Cyclone Bola caused widespread damage to forests in the North Island (see table), with about 80% of that damage in the central area outside the declared civil defence disaster area.

Very little of the central North Island damage involved soil slippage and flooding. Damage was mainly caused through snapping and uprooting of trees more than 10 years old. This is considered by Government to be a normal risk of forest growing, and much of the damaged wood is salvageable. There will be substantial loss, but there is to be no Government assistance to forest owners, nor has assistance been available in the past.

The value of losses in the disaster areas resulting from erosion and flooding will be calculated on the basis of the net present value of expected future production from the area of forest lost.

H.H. Levack

TABLE I. CYCLONE BOLA DAMAGE TO FORESTRY SECTOR

	Estimated Tree Crop damage	Estimated (\$million) Infra- structure damage
A DISASTER AREA		
East Cape and Hawkes Bay		
Companies and larger owners	5.80	3.10
Small private owners*	(0.41)	(0.22)
Other Regions		
Companies and larger owners	1.48	0.14
Small private owners*	(0.19)	(0.02)
B OUTSIDE DECLARED DISASTER AREA		
Central North Island		
Companies and larger owners	44.72	-
Small private owners*	(0.89)	-
Totals	52.0 (1.49)	3.24 (0.24)

Note*

"Small private owners" are not well defined. They are estimated as being between 2% and 13% of other owners by value. They are usually individuals, but not necessarily farmers, owning woodlots of 100 ha or less in size.

EAST COAST PROJECT REVIEW

After considering the East Coast Project Review via a committee of officials Government has decided to provide transitional funding to assist afforestation in the south of the East Coast region. At the time of going to press Government was still deciding what to do in the north of the region, but similar provisions are expected.

The following are details of how this transitional funding is to be provided in the south.

Government will fund two-thirds of the cost of a programme of tree planting in the East Coast region on 15,000 ha of hill country land with a severe or potentially severe erosion problem that is upstream of Gisborne City, and/or the Poverty Bay or Tolaga Bay flats.

The responsibility for administering

these monies is to be the Ministry for the Environment's, and the afforestation programme is to be under the control and direction of the East Cape Catchment Board or its successor.

Total of \$8 Million

A total of \$8 million will be available to fund this erosion control programme.

This money will be allocated at an annual rate of \$(March 1988) 1.6 million for five years.

These monies will be provided at a two-thirds subsidy rate, with the remaining one-third of the total cost (\$4 million) to be met by the region through the East Cape Catchment Board or its successor.

H.H. Levack

Staff cuts in DOC and MOF

The Department of Conservation has recently announced the loss of 164 staff (see comment on funding on page 2 of last issue). By regions these were: Northern, 23; Waikato, 10; Eastern, 11; Nelson/Marlborough, 46; Canterbury, 20; Southern, 37; and Central Office in Wellington, 17.

The Ministry of Forestry has had to shed 41 staff. Of these 10 were from the Head Office in Wellington and 31 came from the Forest Research Institute. In addition, three positions in Head Office were moved to Rotorua. Most of the loss from Head Office were administration and clerical people. The FRI losses included eight scientists and 15 technicians. Some 22 of the 31 FRI losses were in the Rotorua campus with the remainder from the Forest Centre in Christchurch.

Lincoln award for Dr Don Mead

Don Mead, from the School of Forestry at the University of Canterbury, has been awarded a Lincoln College Foundation Award to study the long-term availability of nitrogen fertilizers. This award made it possible for him to participate in a joint study with Dr Caroline Preston of the Pacific Forestry Centre (Canadian Forest Service) and Professor Gordon Weetman from the University of British Columbia.

The experiment they are involved in was established eight years ago in 10-year-old loblolly pine. The urea and ammonium nitrate fertilizers had been labelled with the stable ^{15}N isotope.

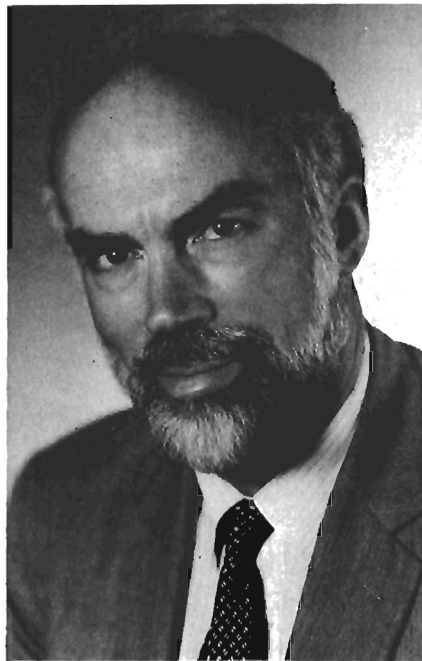
Don Mead was in Canada last August and is to return again next year.

CORRIGENDA

In Smale, Bathgate and Guest - 'Current prospects for Tawa', N.Z. Forestry 31/1, 1986.

Abstract: line 17, 18: for "for a cottage insuring" read "for a cottage industry consuming"

Growth Rate of Smaller Stems (<25 cm dbh): line 7: for "with annual diameter increments of c. 3 cm in seedlings" reads "with annual diameter increments of c. 1 mm in saplings and poles, and annual height increments of c. 5cm in seedlings." line 12: for "Ogden and West 1982" read "Ogden and West 1981".



Mr. David McDowell

Diplomat for DOC

Former New Zealand Ambassador to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Mr David McDowell is the new Chief Executive of the Department of Conservation. Mr McDowell replaces inaugural Director General Mr Ken Piddington who left the department to take up the position of Director for the Environment of the World Bank in Washington.

Mr McDowell joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1959 after graduating from Victoria University with a masters degree in history. His former appointments also include High Commissioner in Fiji and Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Overseas Aid Division.

Elmia Wood Tour update

In association with local and Swedish travel agents, planning for the 1989 Elmia Wood Tour is on target with the preparation of the draft itinerary.

After arrival at Copenhagen and a rest from jetlag, the tour will visit Denmark's beautiful oak and beech forests, also taking in the famous Tivoli Gardens. Then follows a short trip over to Jonkoping, location for the Elmia Fair where we spend four to five days.

After a visit to south Sweden, the tour then heads up the east coast, to Stockholm and onwards to the far north, land of the Midnight Sun (which we will catch). After absorbing the remarkable features and huge scale of forestry in the Arctic Circle, we travel south, eventually passing the huge inland sea of Lake Vanern before reaching Gothenburg, Sweden's second city, and we complete our expedition at Oslo.

At numerous stopover points, it is planned to have an extensive look at forest operations and to visit the principal organizations in Swedish forestry (including private growers' associations, state forestry, company forestry and the statutory bodies such as the National Board of Forestry, Forest Operations Institute and the logging Foundation).

Early January 1989 is the absolute deadline for subscription to the tour. Inquiries are very welcome, to: Elmia Wood 89 Tour, NZ Institute of Forestry, P.O. Box 12314, Wellington North and/or phone Kevin Jamieson, Project Organizer at (04) 781-165.

K.M. Jamieson

Two new DSIR Divisions

Following the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research taking over the Soil and Water Division of MOWD two new divisions have been formed. The Division of Water Sciences is headed by Dr R.A. Heath, who is based in Wellington. This division is made up of three main groupings: the NZ Oceanographic Institute in Wellington; the Hydrology Centre in Christchurch; and the Water Quality Centre in Hamilton. The Water

Growth Rate of Canopy Trees (<25 cm dbh): 2nd para, lines 11, 12: for "Ogden and West 1982: read "Ogden and West 1981".

Resource Survey staff and Taupo Research Laboratory are also to continue.

The Division of Land and Soil Science includes the former Soil Bureau. Initially it will have three larger groupings together with the existing field office structure. These will be the old Soil Bureau laboratory, the Aokautere digital technology and geotechnology core, and thirdly a new landscape, land resource and land suitability grouping in Christchurch. Dr J.D.G. Milne is the Director of the Division of Land and Soil Science.