

Copies of the final statement have been mailed to various state, federal and local agencies and leading national organizations for review and comments. The statement will also be available for inspection about April 3, during working hours, at the office of the Chief of the Forest Service and at the following places: Forest Service regional offices in Portland, Ore., Ogden, Utah, and Missoula, Mont.; forest supervisors' offices in Pendleton, Baker and John Day in Oregon, Okanogan, Colville, and Wenatchee in Washington, McCall, Boise, Twin Falls, Grangeville and Coeur d'Alene in Idaho.

It will also be available for purchase from the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce, Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22151. Cost per copy has not yet been determined.

Servis Equipment Co. Changes Name to Austin

Servis Equipment Co., Dallas, Texas, will now be operating under the new corporate name of Austin Products, Inc.

Austin will continue to market rotary cutters, utility blades, rakes, scrapers and other shortline implements under the "Servis" brand. Tillage tools will be marketed under the "Athens" brand.

The announcement of the name change was made following the annual directors and stockholders meeting.

Western Timber Exports Banned by USDA

Exports of unprocessed timber from National Forest lands in the west were banned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in line with new appropriations act language.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Robert W. Long also announced that no longer will timber from western National Forests be sold to replace timber cut on private lands and exported.

The changes affect the National Forests in the 48 contiguous states west of the 100th meridian, which runs from central Texas to central North Dakota. Language in the 1974 appropriations act called for a ban on sale for export of unprocessed timber from these forests and also for a prohibition on substitution of federal timber for exported private timber. Processed timber, which includes such manufactured products as lumber, construction timbers, plywood, pulp and pulp products, poles and pilings, may continue to be exported without restriction.

Previously, legislation had permitted annual sales for export of up to 350 million board feet of unprocessed timber from these National Forests. There were no regulations governing substitution.

The new regulation was first proposed last Oct. 26. In line with public comments and suggestions, the definition of "substitution" was changed to mean the purchase of National Forest timber or the export of private timber in amounts exceeding historic levels.

The definition of a cant as processed timber was not changed. A cant is a timber which is sawn on two sides and is no thicker than 8-3/4 inches. It is later re-manufactured into more finished products, such as boards.

"Many people advocated that a cant not be defined as processed timber, but many others were opposed to a change at this time," said Forest Service Chief John R. McGuire. "Since the evidence either for or against a change is not conclusive, the Forest Service will hold public hearings on the west coast in about three weeks to obtain more complete information on the question. If the hearings uncover evidence of the need for changes, they will be made."

Persons considering investments in plants for producing cants from National Forest timber would be advised to defer their decision, Chief McGuire cautioned.



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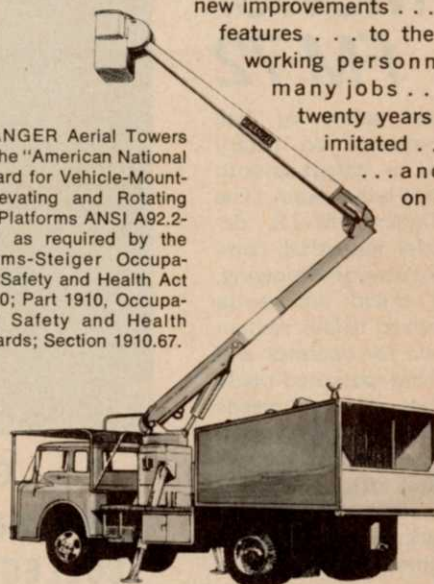
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