

which is what is shown by the isohyets, and allows a real contrast (nearly 1000 mm) between Maimai and Omoto.

It is quite clear that more intensive research into the process and causal elements of erosion hazard is needed before a better definition of the problem, leading hopefully to management solutions, can be made. Our paper was intended to paint a fairly broad picture based on data from soil survey operations, and to indicate a number of working hypotheses regarding the implications of pedological trends. We are gratified that it has had some success in this respect.

REFERENCES

WARREN, G. 1967: Sheet 17, Hokitika (1st ed.). "Geological Map of New Zealand 1: 250 000" DSIR, Wellington.

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PRELIMINARY RESULTS ON THE EFFECT OF SELECTION MANAGEMENT OF TERRACE RIMU FOREST: COMMENT

Sir,

I feel I should correct a fallacy which seems to have become engrained in the record of terrace podocarp forest management in south Westland. It has been stated (James and Franklin, 1977; p. 349) that: "Strip felling was abandoned in the mid-1960s mainly because regeneration in the felled areas was not as good as anticipated."

To explain the true position, I must go back to 1953, when I was posted to Westland in order to try to introduce some form of management into podocarp forests there. At that time all forests were clearfelled on a front, leaving a derelict landscape devoid of seed trees. This is described in a book entitled "Westland's Wealth" by J. H. Johns and C. G. R. Chavasse (Government Printer, Wellington, 1959). All access was by tramway, leaving an accessless forest when the loggers had moved on. The N.Z. Forest Service was at that time merely an agent for selling Crown timber, and the budget for Westland Conservancy was less than that for Ashley Forest.

The major initial step was to persuade the sawmillers, who for so long had had it their own way, that the N.Z. Forest Service should introduce forest management on a long-term sustained yield basis. It was soon decided that our efforts should be concentrated on terrace forests: first because these, to some extent, already had a quasi-selection structure as revealed by National Forest Survey figures for stocking at all levels; secondly, and even more importantly, clearfelling of these sites reduced them to the status of unproductive bogs, and it seemed vitally necessary to retain them in some form of standing forest.

The steps we had to take were thus to persuade the sawmilling fraternity that:

- the forests should be managed in perpetuity
- to do this, permanent road access would be needed
- that no further clearfelling of terrace forests could be permitted.

It was the late Mr D. Kennedy, then Conservator of Forests, who effectively sold these ideas to the sawmillers, several of whom were ready to co-operate.

By 1956 it was apparent that the eventual form of management of the terrace forests would have to be some form of selection. In the mean time, however, before selection methods could be tested for feasibility, we needed to halt clearfelling. Strip felling was

instituted because this was, at that time, the method which the sawmillers could use without incurring additional expense of any magnitude, and because they could use the equipment they already had. It was never envisaged that strip felling would be the final form of management adopted for the terrace forests. This is made plain in "Westland's Wealth", where strip felling is shown after selection logging and is described as "a compromise solution . . . a crude form of silviculture adapted to the undeveloped condition of logging in Westland."

There was also no expectation that felled strips would regenerate rapidly, so the future of the strip-felled areas was not prescribed. Study of a strip of forest felled in about 1906 revealed that, by 1958, regeneration of rimu was entirely adequate for re-stocking. Thus, a regeneration period of several decades was expected in felled strips. Since strip felling only started in 1956, there was no expectation that regeneration would be adequate by the mid-1960s.

It was hoped that, by 1960, research into selection forestry would have started. The difficulty was first to get a firm recommendation from logging experts as to the correct equipment to use for extraction, and secondly to get the equipment. Trials started in 1962 which, within a year or so, had shown that selection logging was technically feasible. The switch to selection logging, and the cessation of strip felling, was due to obtaining this information.

JAMES, I. L. and FRANKLIN, D. A. 1977: Preliminary results on the effects of selection management of terrace rimu forest. **N.Z. J. For. Sci.** 7(3): 349-58.

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