



STATE FOREST NOTES

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PRODUCTION OF CALIFORNIA TIMBER OPERATORS IN 1960^{1/}

SUMMARY

Timber production in California dipped to its lowest level since 1952. There were 5,136,649,000 board feet of timber cut in 1960. Production included sawlogs, veneer logs, pulp logs, split products, poles, piling, fence posts, and cordwood (tables 3 and 4). Other products included 289,385 Christmas trees, 222 tons of bark and 419 tons of greenery (table 5). Production in 1960 dropped 13 percent under 1959 production. This was the first decrease since 1957. Approximately 20 percent of the 1960 timber production came from sanitation and salvage cutting operations (fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Salvage logging of fire-killed timber in El Dorado County, 1960.

^{1/} This report was compiled in the State Forester's office by Daniel Dotta from information supplied by California timber operators and Division forest practice inspectors.

TRENDS

Humboldt County continues to be the leading producer of timber products in California. This county accounts for 22 percent of the state's production. Combined with Mendocino County 34 percent of the timber cut was reported. Formerly, the five leading counties were: Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, Trinity and Siskiyou. In 1960 El Dorado County moved into fourth place with Trinity County dropping to sixth place. This is the first major change in the top five timber producing counties since 1957.

There were 1,598 active timber operators in California in 1960 (table 1) as compared with 1,677 in 1959. This continues the downward trend in number of operators since 1955. Only in 1959 was there an upturn. A large turnover in Christmas tree operators was noted again in 1960.

Table 1. Active timber operators and timber production in California, 1946 - 1960.

Year	Timber operators (number)	Timber volume cut (board feet)
1946	399	
1947	750	3,185,995,000
1948	810	3,983,213,000
1949	813	3,795,252,000
1950	989	4,303,011,000
1951	1,052	4,984,288,000
1952	1,228	5,057,036,000
1953	1,487	5,990,088,000
1954	1,599	5,600,210,000
1955	1,768	6,014,939,000
1956	1,718	5,861,634,000
1957	1,591	5,346,521,000
1958	1,526	5,675,392,000
1959	1,677	5,886,061,000
1960	1,598	5,136,649,000

HIGHLIGHTS

California ranked second in the nation in both timber and lumber production in 1959 and 1960 being surpassed only by Oregon. In 1960 timber production dropped 13 percent under 1959 production. Unemployment was widespread in the timber producing centers of the north coast and northern California. The primary factor was the sharp drop in lumber prices. Timber cutting was stopped by some operators or sharply curtailed in some areas early in September. Other timber operations shut down in October and November although the mild winter favored late logging.

Large forest fires burned over a considerable acreage of commercial timber land in 1960. The continued accelerated salvage logging from 1959 and some 1960 fires increased production in certain counties such as El Dorado. Over one billion board feet of trees susceptible to insect attack or insect infested trees, and fire-killed or wind-felled trees were logged in 1960.^{2/} This type of salvage and high risk logging is expected to continue in 1961.

Miscellaneous forest products for 1960 which include split products, poles, and piling, fence posts, fuelwood and Christmas trees showed increased production over 1959 (tables 4 and 5). Many sawlog operators began harvesting forest products other than sawlogs in 1960. When logging operations were shut down, the harvesting of miscellaneous products was stimulated to provide work for unemployed people. Increased production of Christmas trees was also effected by unemployment, new areas becoming available and delayed winter weather which permitted a longer period for cutting trees. Increased production in 1960 of these minor forest products was not accompanied by an increase in the number of operators (table 2).

Table 2. Number of timber operators harvesting minor forest products 1959 - 1960.

	1960	1959
General split products	149	139
Poles and piling	214	206
Fuelwood - charcoal	108	109
Pulpwood	33	33
Posts	36	30
Christmas trees	262	265
Misc. (bark, greenery, etc.)	47	67

ACCURACY AND METHODS USED

The figures presented in this report were obtained from timber operators who voluntarily furnished this information when filing notices of timber operations in 1961. It is recognized that these figures do not represent complete coverage of 1960 operations. Counties in which no timber was cut were not listed. Other counties were combined to prevent disclosure of individual operations. The 5,136,649,000 board feet of timber cut is believed to be close to actual production and the best available information at this time.

^{2/} Forest Pest Conditions 1960. Official report California Forest Pest Control Action Council, Feb. 1961. 21 pp.

To convert information submitted to a common base, standard conversion factors and definitions were used as follows:

Sawlogs and veneer logs. These were combined because sawlogs are often later segregated for veneer logs. No attempt was made to convert all units to a common log scale because, in most cases, the scale used was not given.

Fence posts. Most operators reported number of posts. Conversion to board feet was made on the basis of an average post containing 11 board feet.

Shingles. Shingles were included in split products. When reported in bundles or squares it was assumed one bundle contained 25 board feet and 4 bundles equaled a square.

Poles and piling. Reports were received in lineal feet and pieces. Each piece was estimated to contain 30 lineal feet and 100 board feet.

Shakes. Shakes were included in split products. Reports were received in bundles and it was assumed that 25 shakes per bundle contained 10 board feet.

Table 3. California timber production, 1960.

County	No. of timber opera- tors ^{a/}	Veneer logs & sawlogs (MBM)	Pulp wood (MBM)	Misc. ^{b/} (MBM)	Total (MBM)
Alpine, Mono	11	16,676	-	-	16,676
Amador	11	15,902	-	276	16,178
Butte	59	142,624	-	1,489	144,113
Calaveras	34	74,095	-	93	74,188
Del Norte	62	256,253	-	1,776	258,029
El Dorado	62	336,593	-	231	336,824
Fresno	20	52,505	-	29	52,534
Glenn	4	39,963	-	5	39,968
Humboldt	335	1,130,634	-	4,782	1,135,416
Lake, Colusa	15	34,540	-	343	34,883
Lassen	45	98,004	-	178	98,182
Madera	19	64,019	-	1	64,020
Mariposa, Merced	22	18,134	-	459	18,593
Mendocino	232	622,501	3,094	9,878	635,473
Modoc	15	42,243	-	53	42,296
Monterey, San Luis					
Obispo	20	1,829	1,100	1,650	4,579
Napa, Marin	15	8,545	620	-	9,165
Nevada	91	62,805	1,369	268	64,442
Placer	56	73,090	1,000	193	74,283
Plumas	65	179,269	-	443	179,712
San Bernardino, Los Angeles	7	11,737	-	68	11,805
San Diego, Riverside	4	3,725	-	93	3,818
San Mateo	14	17,896	1,144	6	19,046
Santa Clara, San Benito, Stanislaus, Contra Costa	5	1,670	1,230	135	3,035
Santa Cruz	35	19,990	2,400	388	22,778
Shasta	102	551,471	-	1,214	552,685
Sierra	30	99,457	-	137	99,594
Siskiyou	96	314,711	-	614	315,325
Sonoma	103	203,928	2,369	149	206,446
Tehama	26	145,836	-	231	146,067
Trinity	97	304,024	1,313	505	305,842
Tulare, Kern, Ventura	25	39,568	-	400	39,968
Tuolumne	24	74,055	-	131	74,186
Yuba	25	35,647	-	853	36,500
Total	1,598	5,093,939	15,639	27,071	5,136,649

a/ Includes active timber operators engaged in production of miscellaneous and other forest products (tables 3 and 4).

b/ Miscellaneous forest products include split products, poles, piling, fence posts, and cordwood. For breakdown by products see table 4.

Table 4. Production of miscellaneous forest products
in California, 1960.

County	Split products (MBM)	Poles piling (pieces)	Fence posts (pieces)	Fuel- wood (cords)	Total (MBM)
Alpine, Mono	-	-	-	-	-
Amador	-	2,634	-	23	276
Butte	5	13,335	12,788	21	1,489
Calaveras	-	464	-	94	93
Del Norte	1,747	-	2,603	-	1,776
El Dorado	52	1,514	-	55	231
Fresno	29	-	-	-	29
Glenn	-	-	-	10	5
Humboldt	4,630	1,187	-	66	4,782
Lake, Colusa	-	-	-	686	343
Lassen	5	-	10,000	127	178
Madera	-	-	-	3	1
Mariposa, Merced	15	4,423	150	-	459
Mendocino	5,702	41,760	-	-	9,878
Modoc	-	250	250	50	53
Monterey, San Luis Obispo	1,035	-	-	1,230	1,650
Napa, Marin	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada	-	2,260	200	80	268
Placer	-	176	-	350	193
Plumas	-	4,400	-	5	443
San Bernardino, Los Angeles	-	530	-	30	68
San Diego, Riverside	8	300	500	100	93
San Mateo	6	-	-	-	6
Santa Clara, San Benito, Stanislaus, Contra Costa	-	-	-	270	135
Santa Cruz	291	40	-	187	388
Shasta	8	6,504	-	1,111	1,214
Sierra	-	1,300	-	15	137
Siskiyou	-	5,991	-	30	614
Sonoma	83	549	-	23	149
Tehama	-	2,307	-	-	231
Trinity	-	5,047	-	-	505
Tulare, Kern, Ventura	50	140	90	670	400
Tuolumne	1	1,254	10	10	131
Yuba	30	7,727	-	100	853
Total	13,697	104,092	26,591	5,346	27,071

Table 5. Production of other forest products in California, 1960.

County	Christmas trees (number)	Bark (tons)	Greenery (tons)
Alpine, Mono	200	-	-
Amador	150	-	5
Butte	8,625	-	1
Calaveras	10,400	-	-
Del Norte	-	-	86
El Dorado	10,961	-	-
Fresno	1,997	-	-
Glenn	-	-	-
Humboldt	35	217	275
Lake, Colusa	31	-	1
Lassen	73,542	-	-
Madera	2,650	-	-
Mariposa, Merced	1,500	-	-
Mendocino	3,070	5	43
Modoc	3,000	-	-
Monterey, San Luis Obispo	-	-	-
Napa, Marin	-	-	-
Nevada	17,567	-	-
Placer	22,550	-	-
Plumas	40,569	-	-
San Bernardino, Los Angeles	-	-	-
San Diego, Riverside	200	-	-
San Mateo	-	-	-
Santa Clara, San Benito, Stanislaus, Contra Costa	-	-	-
Santa Cruz	-	-	-
Shasta	56,827	-	-
Sierra	4,461	-	-
Siskiyou	22,421	-	-
Sonoma	100	-	8
Tehama	5,150	-	-
Trinity	359	-	-
Tulare, Kern, Ventura	2,100	-	-
Tuolumne	-	-	-
Yuba	920	-	-
Total	289,385	222	419

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