



# STATE FOREST NOTES

Office of the State Forester  
Sacramento

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## PRODUCTION OF CALIFORNIA TIMBER OPERATORS IN 1961<sup>1/</sup>

### SUMMARY

California's 1,493 active timber operators reported cutting 5,342,252,000 board feet of timber during 1961. This is a four percent increase over the 1960 production. Products included saw-logs, veneer logs, pulp logs, split products, poles, piling, fence posts and cordwood (tables 3 and 4). In addition there were 359,196 Christmas trees, 10 tons of bark, and 82 tons of greenery harvested (table 5). The large losses due to fire and insects comprise about one-fifth of the volume coming from sanitation and salvage logging operations.



Fig. 1. Typical logging scene in Humboldt County, the leading timber producing county in California.

<sup>1/</sup> 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

The leading producer of timber in California continued to be Humboldt County with 24 percent of the total (fig. 1). Mendocino County is second with 12 percent. El Dorado County in 1960 occupied the fourth spot due to a large scale operation of salvaging fire-killed timber. In 1961 El Dorado dropped to seventh place. The five leading counties are again Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, Trinity, and Siskiyou. They have been the leading five producers since 1957 with the exception of 1960.

The number of active timber operators continues to decrease. The trend has been declining since 1955 with the exception of 1959 (table 1). A large turnover in Christmas tree cutters continues.

Table 1. Active timber operators and timber production in California, 1946 - 1961.

Year	Timber operators (number)	Timber volume cut (board feet)
1946	399	
1947	790	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
1961	1,493	5,342,250,000

## HIGHLIGHTS

California continues to be the second largest producer of timber products in the Nation. Oregon is first and Washington third. The four percent increase in production in 1961 over 1960 was due in part to the longer cutting season. In 1960 a sharp drop in lumber prices was responsible for many operations curtailing their activity in September and October. Lumber prices appear to be firmer although low. Timber production centers still had some unemployment problems.

California was still troubled with large acreages of timber fires. Since 1959 these fires have required accelerated salvage logging programs. According to the California Forest Pest Control

Action Council nearly 20 percent of the timber production is fire-killed, insect susceptible, wind-felled and insect infested trees in 1961.

Even though the number of operators increased slightly (table 2) in 1961, there was a decrease in production of miscellaneous forest products (table 4).

Christmas tree production in 1961 was higher than in 1960. There has been an increasing Christmas tree production in the last several years.

Table 2. Number of timber operators harvesting minor forest products 1960 - 1961.

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
General split products	144	149
Poles and piling	210	214
Fuelwood - charcoal	117	108
Pulpwood	73	33
Posts	36	36
Christmas trees	278	262
Misc. (bark, greenery, etc.)	49	47

#### 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 1962. It is recognized that these figures do not represent complete coverage of 1961 operations. Counties in which no timber was cut were not listed. Some counties were combined to prevent disclosure of individual operations. The total board feet of timber cut is believed to be close to actual production and the best available information at this time.

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

Sawlogs and veneer logs 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 about 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 equalled 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, 1961.

County	No. of timber opera- tors <sup>a/</sup>	Veneer logs & sawlogs (MBM)	Pulp wood (MBM)	Misc. <sup>b/</sup> (MBM)	Total (MBM)
Alpine, Mono	8	13,300	-	-	13,300
Amador	16	60,638	-	30	60,668
Butte	54	52,632	-	687	53,319
Calaveras	26	105,634	123	33	105,790
Del Norte	70	228,259	-	1,411	229,670
El Dorado	53	197,368	-	82	197,450
Fresno	21	40,694	-	71	40,765
Glenn	8	52,681	-	-	52,681
Humboldt	329	1,259,459	-	5,505	1,264,964
Lake, Colusa	25	45,491	-	385	45,876
Lassen	39	120,966	-	165	121,131
Madera	14	61,436	-	-	61,436
Mariposa, Merced	10	1,060	-	318	1,378
Mendocino	234	677,307	2,124	3,831	683,262
Modoc	19	59,502	-	53	59,555
Monterey, San Luis					
Obispo	16	928	2,328	1,381	4,637
Napa, Marin	10	3,700	190	-	3,890
Nevada	77	70,481	505	706	71,692
Placer	50	180,659	500	1,174	182,333
Plumas	64	184,846	495	540	185,881
San Bernardino,					
Los Angeles	7	24,008	-	93	24,101
San Diego,					
Riverside	3	-	-	15	15
San Mateo	12	17,967	1,700	31	19,698
Santa Clara, San					
Benito, Stanislaus,					
Contra Costa	7	200	1,862	48	2,110
Santa Cruz	45	22,721	465	500	23,686
Shasta	108	454,363	-	926	455,289
Sierra	37	129,615	502	53	130,170
Siskiyou	85	336,813	-	362	337,175
Sonoma	87	138,945	1,277	532	140,754
Tehama	26	155,034	-	221	155,255
Trinity	87	376,469	-	722	377,191
Tulare, Kern,					
Ventura	24	42,370	-	310	42,680
Tuolumne	20	133,720	-	35	133,755
Yuba	23	59,983	-	712	60,695
Total	1,493	5,309,249	12,071	20,932	5,342,252

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, 1961.

County	Split products (MBM)	Poles piling (pieces)	Fence posts (pieces)	Fuel-wood (cords)	Total (MBM)
Alpine, Mono	-	-	-	-	-
Amador	10	-	-	40	30
Butte	100	4,601	4,050	163	687
Calaveras	11	-	-	44	33
Del Norte	1,396	-	1,365	-	1,411
El Dorado	-	671	-	31	82
Fresno	71	-	-	-	71
Glenn	-	-	-	-	-
Humboldt	2,975	4,978	239	4,059	5,505
Lake, Colusa	-	1,247	-	520	385
Lassen	129	-	-	72	165
Madera	-	-	-	-	-
Mariposa, Merced	-	2,724	100	90	318
Mendocino	2,681	11,496	-	-	3,831
Modoc	-	250	250	50	53
Monterey, San Luis Obispo	814	-	-	1,135	1,381
Napa, Marin	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada	-	6,895	-	31	706
Placer	-	8,501	1,300	620	1,174
Plumas	-	5,400	-	-	540
San Bernardino, Los Angeles	-	330	-	120	93
San Diego, Riverside	-	-	-	30	15
San Mateo	8	63	-	35	31
Santa Clara, San Benito, Stanislaus	-	-	-	-	-
Contra Costa	-	-	300	90	48
Santa Cruz	167	-	-	667	500
Shasta	-	6,516	1,950	507	926
Sierra	-	500	-	5	53
Siskiyou	-	3,549	-	14	362
Sonoma	506	57	400	32	532
Tehama	-	1,245	1,880	150	221
Trinity	-	7,221	-	-	722
Tulare, Kern, Ventura	300	50	-	10	310
Tuolumne	35	-	-	-	35
Yuba	-	5,596	-	305	712
Total	9,203	71,890	11,834	8,820	20,932

Table 5. Production of other forest products in California, 1961.

County	Christmas trees (number)	Bark (tons)	Greenery (tons)
Alpine, Mono	283	-	-
Amador	3,465	-	-
Butte	6,123	-	-
Calaveras	8,556	-	-
Del Norte	-	-	16
El Dorado	14,937	-	-
Fresno	530	-	-
Glenn	1,800	-	-
Humboldt	1,085	-	15
Lake, Colusa	175	-	-
Lassen	48,845	-	-
Madera	3,606	-	-
Mariposa, Merced	2,641	-	-
Mendocino	211	10	37
Modoc	15,564	-	-
Monterey, San Luis Obispo	-	-	-
Napa, Marin	250	-	-
Nevada	36,325	-	12
Placer	11,637	-	-
Plumas	52,523	-	-
San Bernardino, Los Angeles	150	-	1
San Diego, Riverside	200	-	-
San Mateo	-	-	-
Santa Clara, San Benito, Stanislaus, Contra Costa	-	-	-
Santa Cruz	650	-	1
Shasta	74,773	-	-
Sierra	19,171	-	-
Siskiyou	15,429	-	-
Sonoma	112	-	-
Tehama	17,046	-	-
Trinity	625	-	-
Tulare, Kern, Ventura	1,100	-	-
Tuolumne	11,659	-	-
Yuba	1,725	-	-
Total	351,196	10	82

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