



Response to West Coast Lumberman Letter, 1933

March 14, 1933 Response letter to West Coast Lumberman - State Forester's Correspondence, Forestry Box 3 Folder 35. (Original document on page 3)

March 14
1933

Mr. W. H. Crosby, Editor
West Coast Lumberman,
71 Columbia Street
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Mr. Crosby:

In accordance with your request of March 13, I am enclosing herewith copies of the bills which were enacted by the recent session of the legislature.

Senate Bill 136 is an amendment to our slash disposal law. Under the old law, the State Forester had the authority to issue a release for slash burning only in the case of selective logging. This made it impossible to release an individual in the fir country where everything was slashed. As you know, there are certain occasions when it is better to leave the slash than burn it. One of these would be where it has remained for a number of years and the young growth has come up through it. In order to clarify this portion of the law, you will note that the words "only a portion of the forest crop is removed and" have been deleted from the law.

The only change as made in Senate Bill 137 is the insertion of the word "reasonable" in line 12. This was made in order to get away from some of the criticisms various judges have made relative to the law. They state that the word "reasonable" would clarify the matter.

Senate Bill 138 repeals a couple of sections of our old code which heretofore gave the county courts the authority to issue burning permits.

Senate Bill 188 is a new addition to our code. It is a modified form of closure which corresponds very closely to the federal regulations dealing with entry into hazardous areas. When so desired the forester or a warden may now require that persons going into such places to camp must get a permit for camping outside designated areas and also refrain from smoking and carry certain tools. It is expected

that this section of the code will be used in areas where the hazard is not sufficiently high to require a closure of the area.

Senate Bill 216 is an amendment to our so-called acquisition law. Under the old law it was necessary to have an abstract of title before forest land could be transferred to the state. In investigation this matter, we have found that such an abstract would cost from thirty-five to fifty centers per acre. This, of course, is frequently more than the land itself is worth. Furthermore, the state has no money to spend on securing abstracts. Under this new law, it will be possible for the various county courts who so desire to transfer title to the state without the necessity of an abstract.

House Bill 156 is an amendment to our forest patrol law which defines timberland. Under the new definition, it will be possible for the State Board of Forestry to throw out certain forest areas within the agricultural districts from which we receive no income under the law. In other words, we will be able now to pull our lines back into the actual forested areas. Nevertheless, we still have police powers over all forested areas in the state.

Senate Bill 339 is in the nature of an enabling act which authorizes the State Forester to cooperate with carious forest land owners in order that the way may be paved for them to secure funds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

One of the bills which did not pass is House Bill 20. This bill provided for a gradual change in the taxation of mature timberlands, the ultimate tax being solely a severance tax as the timber was cut.

Another bill which was killed was one which contemplated changing the closed season from May 15 to October 10. Heretofore the season has been May 15 to October 1.

Very truly yours,

[signature]

State Forester.

enclosures

March 14
1933

GP

Mr. W.E. Crosby, Editor
West Coast Lumberman,
71 Columbia Street,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Mr. Crosby:

In accordance with your request of March 13, I am enclosing herewith copies of the bills which were enacted by the recent session of the legislature.

Senate Bill 136 is an amendment to our slash disposal law. Under the old law, the State Forester had the authority to issue a release for slash burning only in the case of selective logging. This made it impossible to release an individual in the fir country where everything was slashed. As you know, there are certain occasions when it is better to leave the slash than to burn it. One of these would be where it has remained for a number of years and the young growth has come up through it. In order to clarify this portion of the law, you will note that the words "only a portion of the forest crop is removed and" have been deleted from the law.

The only change as made in Senate Bill 137 is the insertion of the word "reasonable" in line 12. This was made in order to get away from some of the criticisms various judges have made relative to the law. They stated that the word "reasonable" would clarify the matter.

Senate Bill 138 repeals a couple of sections of our old code which heretofore gave the county courts the authority to issue burning permits.

Senate Bill 188 is a new addition to our code. It is a modified form of closure which corresponds very closely to the federal regulations dealing with entry into hazardous areas. When so desired the forester or a warden may now require that persons going into such places to camp must get a permit for camping outside designated areas and also refrain from smoking and carry certain tools. It is expected that this section of the code will be used in areas where the hazard is not sufficiently high to require a closure of the area.

Senate Bill 215 is an amendment to our so-called acquisition law. Under the old law it was necessary to have an abstract of title before forest land could be transferred to the state. In investigating this matter, we have found that such an abstract would cost from thirty-five to fifty cents per acre. This, of course, is frequently more than the land itself is worth. Furthermore, the state has no money to spend on securing abstracts. Under this new law, it will be possible for the various county courts who so desire to transfer title to the state without the necessity of an abstract.

House Bill 156 is an amendment to our forest patrol law which defines timberland. Under the new definition, it will be possible for the State Board of Forestry to throw out certain forest areas within the agricultural districts from

March 14, 1934

which we receive no income under the law. In other words, we will be able now to pull our lines back into the actual forested areas. Nevertheless, we still have police powers over all forested areas in the state.

Senate Bill 339 is in the nature of an enabling act which authorizes the State Forester to cooperate with various forest land owners in order that the way may be paved for them to secure funds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

One of the bills which did not pass is House Bill 20. This bill provided for a gradual change in the taxation of mature timberlands, the ultimate tax being solely a severance tax as the timber was cut.

Another bill which was killed was one which contemplated changing the closed season from May 15 to October 10. Heretofore the season has been May 15 to October 1.

Very truly yours,

State Forester.

enclosures