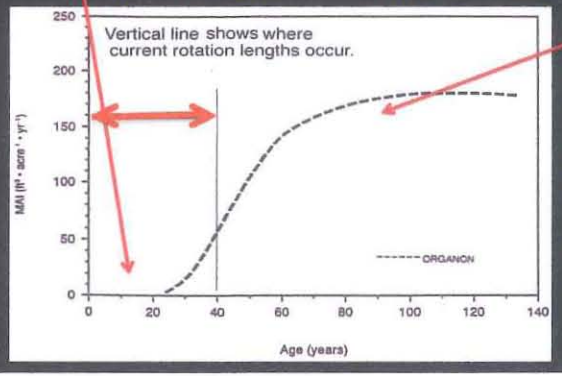
Greatest Permanent Value and Long Rotations

TOM BENDER
Sustainable Architecture and Economics
www.tombender.org * tbender@nehalemtel.net * 503-440-9525

Why are Long Rotations ignored in OFPA forestry that requires Greatest Permanent Value?

More than HALF of current 40-year timber rotations produce NO merchantable timber



That's why LONGER rotations produce FAR MORE timber per year than SHORT rotations

Longer rotations CONTINUE to produce FAR MORE timber.

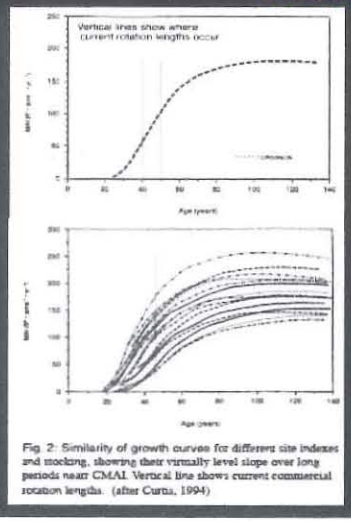


Fig. 2: Similarity of growth curves for different site indexes and stocking, showing their virtually level slope over long periods near CMAI. Vertical line shows current commercial rotation lengths. (after Curtis, 1994)

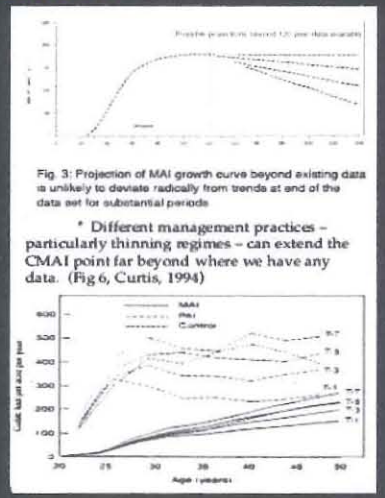


Fig. 3: Projection of MAI growth curve beyond existing data is unlikely to deviate radically from trends at end of the data set for substantial periods

* Different management practices – particularly thinning regimes – can extend the CMAI point far beyond where we have any data. (Fig 6, Curtis, 1994)

Why has ODF ignored 25 years of evidence on the greater value of long-rotation forestry?

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- Carey, Andrew; Lippke, Bruce; and Sessions, John, "Intentional Systems Management: Managing Forests for Biodiversity," JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY, Vol. 9(3/4), 1999.
- Curtis, Robert O. "Some Simulation Estimates of Mean Annual Increment of Douglas-Fir" USFS Research Paper PNW-RP-471, 1994.
- Curtis, Robert O., "Extended Rotations and Culmination Age of Coast Douglas-fir: Old Studies Speak to Current Issues," USFS Research Paper PNW-RP-485, Nov, 1995.
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With Oregon having more than 11 million acres of OFPA regulated forests, this means that:

Just going from 40 year to 100 year rotations, Oregon's OFPA forests can produce 1,375,000,000 MORE cubic feet of timber per year.

Long rotations also slash forestry COSTS.

Most expenses come from repeted logging and replanting, which can be reduced 80-90%:

- Scoping
- Bidding
- Logging
- Trucking
- Site prep / slashburn

- Herbicides
- Planting
- Release
- Fertilizing
- Thinning
- Administrative oversight

One analysis, way back in 1989, showed that the better wood quality and quantity of long rotations, elimination of multiple 20-year "stump times", and savings from eliminating need for multiple replantings,

(. . . hang on here . . .)

INCREASED net income per year 10-FOLD: from $220,000/acre to $2,015,000/acre!

(and this was only increasing rotations from 60 to 180 years)

"The Economics of Sustainable Forestry" Mark Wigg, Society of American Foresters, 1989

Oregon has 11 million acres of OFPA regulated state and private forests.

So current 40-year short-rotations are losing us 80% of GPV, costing us

$2.1 BILLION per year

compared to 240 year rotations.

. . . . and this only includes the timber-production value of these forests.

WHAT CAN LONGER ROTATIONS IN ALL OF OREGON'S FORESTS GIVE US EVERY YEAR ?

NW Planning Area - 312,000 acres - $60 million/year
State Forests - 860,000 acres - $165 million/year
Private OFPA Forests - 10, 308,000 acres - $2 billion/year
Total OFPA Forests - 11, 160,000 acres - $2.1 billion/year
Federal Non-Reserved Forests - 15, 190,000 acres - $3 billion/year
Total Oregon Timberlands - 24,000,000 acres - $4.6 billion/year

. . . . and this only includes the timber-production value of these forests.

LONG ROTATIONS ALSO HAVE POSITIVE IMPACTS ON OTHER ELEMENTS OF FOREST VALUE THAT MUST BE - BUT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN GPV:

- HEALTH IMPACTS OF HERBICIDES AND SLASHBURNS
- SCENIC VALUE, ECONOMICS OF TOURISM
- FIRE HAZARD OF OVERPLANTING
- LANDSLIDE AND SEDIMENTATION COSTS
- HUMAN RIGHTS
- AIR AND WATER QUALITY
- OTHER FOREST PRODUCTS
- RECREATION
- FISHERIES

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT possible with long rotation harvesting can produce annual revenues in the order of FIVE TO TEN TIMES current timber revenues.

* A 1990 Forest Service study showed that just **recreation FEES** could be **THREE TIMES AS GREAT** as revenues from timber.

* Forest Service studies in 1989 and 1990 showed **tourism, hunting, and recreation** producing $122 billion vs logging revenues of $13 billion - **TEN TIMES AS GREAT!**

FISHERIES RESTORATION possible with long rotation harvesting can produce annual revenues in the order of SEVEN TO TWENTY TIMES current timber revenues.

* **Salmon** from the Smith River in California, even heavily damaged by logging, **produced $7.8 million/year - more than the entire logging revenues** from the basin.

* A Forest Service study on the Salmon River in Idaho showed **that a $14 million logging operation resulted in a $100 million salmon revenue loss.**

SEDIMENTATION OF RIVERS AND ESTUARIES FROM FORESTRY CLEAR-CUTS

impact more than just fish.

Soil loss, and subsequent costs of siltation in estuaries and hydroelectric reservoirs is ignored by ODF.

116,000 TONS of silt flow into just the Nehalem River estuary EVERY YEAR, virtually all from clearcuts. Dredging costs are immense.

Our communities are required to pay huge costs of complex water treatment facilities just to deal with siltation.

The Carbon Value of our forest trees alone far outweighs timber value:

Carbon sequestering value far exceeds all other economic dimensions. It alone amounts to 20 TIMES the income from logging.

JOBS????

$2.1 BILLION additional economic benefits PER YEAR

just might provide more and better jobs than our current Oregon forestry practices!

SO . . . . CURRENT SHORT-ROTATIONS AND OFPA FORESTRY PRACTICES ARE IN TOTAL VIOLATION OF OREGON'S

GREATEST PERMANENT VALUE

LEGAL MANDATE

. . . . and cost us BILLIONS OF DOLLARS every year.

LONG ROTATIONS

MUST BECOME THE BASIS OF FORESTRY IN OREGON