

Fire Implications for Land Managers

ROBERT P. MATTHEWS
Director of Forest Protection
Washington Forest Protection Association
Seattle, Washington

SINCE it's obvious that fire does have many implications for land managers, I'm going to rely upon the panelists to address this subject rather than attempt it myself.

It wasn't until the threat of fire became manageable that private forestland owners were willing to invest large amounts of capital in long-term forestry practices. Although potential for loss still exists, it has been greatly mitigated by the fire prevention and preparedness of all forest users, particularly those who are dependent upon the forest for their livelihood.

Today, it's not only the fire that has implications on the forestland manager, it is also the smoke. Our panel will not address this aspect of the problem, however, it will be dealt with in tomorrow mornings session.