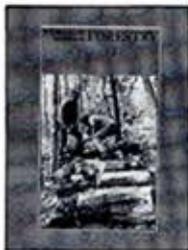


## Bring Luke Back



John E. Burks III's letter criticizing the over-technical contents of the *JOURNAL* (September) were valid. Many of us thought the decision to drop Luke Popovich was

a decisive step—backward. His articles were a significant expansion into socio-economic issues of far more interest than research articles.

Cost was cited as the reason for expunging Popovich, and presumably anyone else who would be paid real money for an article. If that is the case, SAF should examine staff costs, and devote resources to make major changes in the *JOURNAL*.

Most foresters are not interested enough in the socio-political scene, and need to be stimulated by writers of Popovich's caliber.

H. Hays  
Sitka, AK

*The JOURNAL has assigned Popovich to do several articles. The first, on privatization, will appear shortly.—Ed.*

## Skidder Model Flawed

I have just read the very interesting article by Curt C. Hassler et al. in the September *JOURNAL* (p. 610) and would like to offer the following observations:

1. The pull "p" should be calculated for each wheel; the insertion of a factor 4 into Equation 3 does not yield equivalent results.

2. The effect of dynamic wheel load "W" should be calculated for each axle. Because of skidder weight distribution and transferred weight of the turn, this factor must be determined by statistical analysis for each situation.

3. Grade resistance (assistance) of only the transferred log weight has been accounted for in equations 8 and 9. There still remains that portion of

the turn weight supported by the ground for which grade resistance (assistance) must be calculated.

An example of the correct procedure with regard to my first two observations is given in ASAE Paper No. 81-1042 by A.H. Adsit and R.L. Clark, "Tractive and Energy Performance of a Small Four-Wheel Drive Tractor."

The *JOURNAL* article's errors seriously affect the output of the skidder performance model. Users would be well advised to examine these points seriously.

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## Seeding "Archaic"

Although I greatly enjoyed the *JOURNAL*'s July convention issue—particularly the story on the Tillamook by Jay Heinrichs—I was disturbed by the portion that quoted Denis P. Lavender referring to the reforestation of the burn. Most of the information is inaccurate or misleading.

The assertion that "it would have taken us a century to reforest the whole burn if we'd done it by planting" is ridiculous. Bob Snow's crews began contracting reforestation on the burn in 1949. Because the ground was so clean and the seedling so small, he was able to average 1,400 seedlings per man-day. With wider spacing and larger stock the average would have been closer to 1,200, or 2 or 3 acres. Figuring 100 to 150 suitable planting days per year, this would work out to a conservative average of over 300 acres per man-season, or 4,500 seasonally for a 15-man crew. Since the state had about 250,000 acres to reforest, it would have been possible to plant the entire area one time in about six years with only 10 crews, indicating about a 1,600-percent error in Lavender's statement.

Further, it is difficult to understand why foresters got "really excited" about "the trees the state people got

started by helicopter." The problems with mice that Lavender expounds upon are very atypical in Coast Range reforestation and are only one of several reasons that helicopter seeding proved a failure as a method of reforesting with Douglas-fir.

According to Norm Parker of Western Helicopter in Newberg, Oregon, only about 5,000 acres of forestland are seeded in Oregon and Washington annually any more, and then only because of unusual site conditions. To say that "seeding was the only thing that had a prayer of succeeding" is wrong. Seeding has been all but discontinued precisely because it has not proven to be a very reliable method of reforestation.

Far more attention should have been paid to the developments in Douglas-fir plantations, and techniques derived from planting the burn, than to an archaic experiment that proved unsuccessful.

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## Landowner Knows Best

Recent articles in this and other journals maintaining that society will reap handsome profits from federal subsidies to private pine management in the Southeast are at best examples of incomplete analysis.

First, why should the rest of us pay for wood on private lands in other regions to compete with our own locally grown wood? One author presumed that consumers equals taxpayers equals society! This is not harmless rhetoric but another example of assuming away very difficult questions: Who pays for public programs and who benefits? Is any subsidy justified?

Second, these reports ignore the opportunity costs of transferring my "extra" cash to some "poor folks" in the Southeast. My surplus cash doesn't get buried in my back yard. I spend it somewhere in the private sector and