

WESTERN FOREST NURSERY COUNCIL

BIENNIAL MEETING

August 13-16, 1968

INTRODUCTION

The 1968 meeting of the Western Forest Nursery Council was held at Bend, Oregon and Sutherlin, Oregon. The meeting opened in Bend on August 13 with an evening dinner and meeting. During the morning of August 14, papers were presented at Bend and a tour of the Bend Nursery and Silviculture Laboratory was conducted during the afternoon. Papers were presented on the morning of August 15. An evening dinner and meeting were held at Sutherlin on August 15. A tour of the D. L. Phipps Nursery at Elkton, Oregon was conducted during the morning on August 16.

Bob Leavengood of the Deschutes National Forest gave the welcoming address.

Acknowledgements of assistance in planning the meeting are due John Hann, Oregon State Division of Forestry and Lloyd Soule, U.S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon.

Thanks are due to Walt Dahms of the Bend Silviculture Laboratory for conducting the tour of the laboratory. Also thanks to the ladies of the Bend and D. L. Phipps Nurseries for preparing lunches.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Business of the Council was conducted periodically during the meeting. Points discussed and voted upon follow:

- A. Chairman Bigelow pursued the possibility of the Council presenting to the Pacific Northwest Range and Experiment Station problems that need research. He requested that those attending the meeting study the list assembled by Bill Stein (APPENDIX A), for an expression of immediate needs in research that are associated with tree nurseries. Bill Stein presented a paper concerning seed research needs during the meeting. The following motions related to research needs were made, seconded, and passed:
1. The Council do what it can to develop reasonable germination tests for true firs.
  2. Research people are requested to work with the nurseryman in applying germination data from seed testing laboratories so that consistent results will be obtained in the seed beds at the nurseries.
  3. A study is requested to correlate each class or tree size of planting stock to the plantation site. It was suggested that the Western Forest Nursery Council planting stock description be used in such a study. Considerable discussion followed this motion. Some nurserymen felt that the motion would indicate

that the nurserymen want to tell planters what kind of stock should be used. Others believe that this study will aid nurserymen in growing more suitable planting stock and might reduce the demand for larger planting stock.

- B. A motion had been made by Ron Adams during the 1966 meeting that a letter be written to the Western Tree Seed Council requesting a seed processing quality control research project be undertaken. The objective of the study would be to determine the effect different types of processing equipment have on quality of seed.

The representative of the Western Tree Seed Council stated that he had not received the request. The motion was re-presented at the 1968 meeting and passed.

- C. In order to have a tentative schedule for future meetings, Chairman Bigelow appointed a committee of Homer Ward, Rex Hide, and Hugo Busch to study the possibility and desirability of establishing future meeting locations. The committee presented the following schedule:

1970 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
1972 Olympia area  
1974 Southwest Washington or Northwest Oregon  
1976 British Columbia  
1978 Boise, Idaho  
1980 California  
1982 Oregon

A motion was made that the schedule as presented be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

- D. B4.11 Stein reported that the Society of American Foresters is examining the needs of standardization of nursery stock measurement procedures and, as a member of the committee appointed to make the study, he has presented the planting stock descriptions as adopted at the 1966 meeting of the Western Forest Nursery Council. The members of the committee are to meet in October, 1968 to report on the recommendations.
- E. Homer Ward reported on the present status of the Intermountain Forest Nurserymen's Association. They have considered consolidating with the Western Forest Nursery Council, but at this time have elected to remain as they are. The intermountain group meets annually and has extended an invitation to the Western Forest Nursery Council to attend their meetings. It is hoped that the two groups can have a joint meeting in Coeur d'Alene in 1970.
- F. Fees for the publication of the proceedings were collected for the 1968 meeting. Chairman Bigelow inquired of the disposition of any excess money after the printing and mailing of the proceedings. It was moved, seconded, and passed that any funds remaining after the printing are to be kept in a Council account and turned over to the next Chairman.

- G. A motion prepared by Nelson Jeffers was presented at the meeting but was not acted upon because of a lack of a second. The motion follows:

It has been amply demonstrated that in the careful control of the origin of seed used in reforestation lies one of the most critical factors affecting the future yields of northwest forests. The mechanism exists today through the Northwest Forest Tree Seed Certifiers Association to obtain seed of known origin at a practical level consistent with price and desirable genetic control.

Any nursery producing stock for public sale or distribution is obligated morally to assure the purchaser that: first, the stock is produced from seed whose origin is as accurately known as is possible through use of the Certifiers Association services; and secondly, that no stock is falsely labeled as to seed origin, whether intentionally or accidentally. Any intentional or accidental commingling of seed of previously known origins must be avoided entirely as a matter of professional ethics. The right to determine the extent of commingling lies not with the nurseryman, but with the user.

The costs of obtaining seed certified as to origin is not prohibitive, particularly in terms of its effect on the cost of planting stock. The costs of further certifying that planting stock has been produced from certified seed is of less than minor consequence. There no longer exists any justifiable reason why seed origins should be mixed intentionally or accidentally, either when sowing or when filling orders. To do so without the knowledge of the purchaser now is open to consideration from the aspect that such an act borders on fraud.

Therefore, it is moved that the Chairman appoint a committee of six, consisting of one man of management level from each of the following groups: Federal, state, and private, who control the use or sale of planting stock; and one man from Federal, State, and private nurseries which produce stock for sale or distribution (private to include either association or individual company).

Further, the Chairman instruct the committee to prepare a report of their findings after adequate inquiry into the following questions:

1. Is there a practical system of voluntary "truth of labeling" procedures which can be reasonably followed by all nurseries?
2. Can certificates of origin be obtained for nursery stock through the existing seed certifying authorities in Washington and Oregon if assistance is given in developing standards?
3. Should all nursery stock which is produced for public sale be identified according to standard seed zones and elevation bands recognized by the Northwest Forest Tree Seed Council?

4. Should the recommended procedures, if any, be published for wide distribution, and should these standards be recommended as minimum acceptable standards for all nurseries? Further, should any nursery, public or private, make full disclosure of its entire system of records and procedures having to do with seed origin control if that nursery is selling or distributing planting stock?

Further, that the report of findings be prepared prior to December 31, 1968 and mailed to all members of the Western Forest Nursery Council and to selected management level personnel controlling planting operations in the states of Washington, Oregon and California.

- H. Steve McDonald will be the Chairman for the next meeting with the assistance of Bud Mason. The Intermountain Forest Nurserymen's Association will be invited to a proposed joint meeting in 1970.