**SAME GOALS, DIVERSE MEANS**


Historically, a nation’s forest policy was determined primarily by domestic interests. Contemporary forest policy, however, is increasingly influenced by a combination of domestic factors and a broad range of international influences such as trade liberalization, cross-boundary environmental issues, industrial restructuring, and globalization of capital markets. This book provides a broad range of international influences such as trade liberalization, cross-boundary environmental issues, industrial restructuring, and globalization of capital markets. This book provides a broad range of international influences such as trade liberalization, cross-boundary environmental issues, industrial restructuring, and globalization of capital markets. This book provides a broad range of international influences such as trade liberalization, cross-boundary environmental issues, industrial restructuring, and globalization of capital markets. This book provides. Bill Wilson, G.C. van Kooten, Ilan Vertinsky, and Louise Arthur. CABI Publishing, Oxford University Press, 1999. 273 p., $45 cloth.

The introductory chapter provides an overview of forest policies in various jurisdictions and a contextual basis for the case studies in the remaining chapters. These describe the forest resources, forest economy, institutional environment, and forest policy in nine regions: the US South and Pacific Northwest, the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, New Zealand, Sweden, Finland, Chile, and Russia. The final chapter gives an excellent summary of forest policy changes in the various regions and an overview of international forest policies that are affecting all exporting countries.

What is particularly revealing about the similarities in issues and social goals relative to forests but the wide diversity in approaches, instruments, and institutional settings for achieving these goals. The challenges of joint production of economic, social, and environmental goals in an increasingly competitive global market with limited public sector resources and growing concerns for environmental quality are facing all forest nations. However, all continue to strive to find the appropriate balance between environmental goals and commercial benefits. Some regions are in a position to impose and enforce stringent regulations, others rely on consultation and economic incentives to achieve their goals. Some regions rely on clear segmentation between commercial forests and natural and protected forests to achieve the balance between environment and economy. Others attempt to ensure that environmental quality and commercial production are jointly produced on the same land base.

A number of regions discussed in the book (New Zealand, Chile, and the US South) have established fast growing, short rotation plantations to satisfy local and in some cases offshore demand for timber. In the case of the South, plantation establishment has occurred on private lands with limited support from public agencies. In the early 1970s to mid-1980s, governments in New Zealand and Chile played an active role in expanding plantations in their respective countries through government funding of planting and by subsidizing private landowners. National financial pressure in the mid-1980s led New Zealand to stop funding plantation establishment and to the privatization of commercial forestlands. Chile continues to directly subsidize plantations, although the focus has shifted from large-scale industrial operations to small private landowners.

Canada, Russia, and the US Pacific Northwest have retained high proportions of forestland under public ownership. In Finland, Sweden, and the US South, small private holdings are dominant. Ownership patterns and the suite of property rights associated with ownership have significant implications for the development of forest policies and institutions. In the Pacific Northwest, for example, federal ownership of forestland and the associated statutory regime which allowed groups to litigate resulted in major and dramatic changes in forest land use in that region. In the South, where private landowners account for 89 percent of forestland, the development and application of public forest policy and the use of the courts to protect environmental values is contentious and difficult, particularly in cases where such efforts require withdrawal of private property rights. Although the majority of forestland in Sweden and Finland is in private ownership, the set of property rights associated with private ownership differs from that of the United States. For example, in Finland and Sweden private landowners cannot exclude people from using their forestland for recreational use.

**Forest Policy** is descriptive, not prescriptive. It does not assess or evaluate the success of particular approaches or the performance of a particular country’s policy set relative to achieving social objectives. Also, some important policy areas such as science, technology, and professional education are not addressed comprehensively. Forest Policy is, however, an excellent reference for those times when readers are looking for some initial insights on the particular forest sector and forest policy circumstances of one of the regions described.

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**BRIEFLY NOTED**


No other comparably sized region on Earth contains a greater diversity of cone-bearing plants than does California, which is home to 52 native coniferous species. They include some of the most spectacular trees anywhere—the towering redwood, massive giant sequoia, and ageless Great Basin bristlecone pine—and occupy a wide variety of habitats from fogbound coastal areas to the Mojave Desert. Lanner, professor emeritus of forest biology at Utah State University and a longtime SAF member, has produced an informative, lavishly illustrated work of interest to both foresters and nonprofessionals.


The goal of this book, in the words of its editors, “is to help the development community break the negative
spiral of poverty and deforestation” so often found in developing countries. It has been written for policymakers in national governments and international agencies and assumes that sustainable development, especially for inhabitants of areas with substantial but imperiled moist tropical forests, cannot occur without attention being paid to the benefits that can accrue from sound forest management.

NEW RELEASES


GENERAL


ECONOMICS


ENTOMOLOGY, PATHOLOGY


FIRE


FOREST ECOLOGY


(Continued on page 48)