

FORESTRY IN THE FUTURE

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Population growth, social attitudes, and world markets will continue to mold how we manage the many values and uses of world forest resources. World population will continue to grow for the foreseeable future and the U.S. population, will also grow, but at a slower rate. The demand for wood as an industrial material will continue to be strong, however, there will be greater pressure on the finite forestland resource base for other values and uses. New technology in both the biological and materials fields will change forest management strategies toward very intensive management on a limited part of the forestland base, and extensive management on the remaining land base where the integrity of ecological functions, processes, and cycles are of significant importance. The complexity of management decisions will continue to increase as a result of human induced climate change and variability and by a rapid increase in the size and extent of the urban/rural interface zone. In addition, the realization that this country does not have a sustainable energy policy, and exhibits a consumption ethic that often disregards global human needs, will influence the profession of forestry and forest resource management in the future.

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