



# FOREST SERVICE NEWS



PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION  
AND

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION  
PORTLAND, OREGON

RELEASE  
IMMEDIATE

Y-110  
11762

## Air Survey Completes Timber Blowdown Picture

An aerial survey of blowdown timber left in the wake of the Columbus Day storm will be completed this weekend, weather permitting, according to J. Herbert Stone, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Portland.

The cooperative survey will cover approximately 8 million acres of timberlands in western Washington and western and southern Oregon not already surveyed for blowdown. Lands involved are state, private, and federal (primarily National Forest and Bureau of Land Management).

(more)

The Forest Service, at the request of the Timber Disaster Committee of the Northwest Forest Pest Action Council, is coordinating all survey information and making the supplemental aerial surveys as needed to give coverage of an area totaling 22½ million acres. The aerial project will fill the gaps in information already furnished by the state foresters of Oregon and Washington, private industry, National Forests, and Bureau of Land Management districts affected by the storm.

Completed surveys will show the estimated volume of timber blowdown and will provide a general map of the windfall damage by light, moderate, and heavy classifications. The aerial survey involves sketch mapping of blowdown areas.

Survey data will help point out problem areas and determine salvage goals, Stone said. Quick salvage is important to prevent outbreaks of insects, primarily the Douglas-fir beetle. It is also important to prevent loss through decay and to reduce the fire hazard. The data also will be used as guides in determining need for reinventories of timber stands, probable effect on allowable cuts, and so forth.

Eight aerial observers and four aircraft are involved in the supplemental survey. Five observers are from four western regions of the Forest Service, one from the Bureau of Land Management, and one each from the states of Oregon and Washington. The men have been flying every day that visibility would permit.

# # # #