

Introduction to the Japan's Forest and Forestry Today (part3)

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- ◆ At the Forest English Forum
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5. National Forests

5-1 The fundamental policy of the National Forest

- ◆ The National Forests are managed within the context of a fundamental policy for the people based on the classification of important functions through the sustainable forest management and a sound watershed management.

Summary of classification by functions of national forest

Classification by Functions		Area 10,000 ha	principal	Management method
Conservation of water resources Utilization for public interests	Coexistence of forest and people	205 27%	Preservation of natural environments; Maintenance of the ecosystem; Protection of flora and fauna; Ensuring and promoting the aesthetic and recreational benefits of forest; Raising environmental awareness; Improving public health; Preserving cultural and spiritual values;	Sustained and vigorous protection; Pre-servation of natural conditions; Care and tending of wildlife and enrichment planting if necessary; Landscape improvement; Establishment of recreational facilities; Encouraging eco-tourism and events ; Disseminating information about natural resources;
	Conservation of soil and water	410 54%	Disaster prevention in hilly areas; Water conservation; Protecting against degradation of the living environment;	Development of multi-storey forest and mixed forest ; Establishment of wind-breaks and vegetative or structural erosion control measures ; identification of appropriate areas for establishment of timber production forests;
	Sustainable utilization of forest resources	144 19%	Emphasizing effective timber production without serious negative impact on environments;	Improvement of silvicultural systems; Appropriate research and development; Monitoring timber supply and demand;

5-2. The services of National Forest

The National forest management emphasizes offering public services such as land conservation, water conservation, and the preservation of natural environment.

5-3 The systematic and sustainable supply of forest products

- ◆ Measures to ensure the systematic and sustainable supply of forest products go hand-in-hand with long-term planning reflecting market demand and response to needs of consumers.

5-4 Contribution to the empowerment of rural and upland communities.

- ◆ Offering employment opportunities in forest related public work projects; supplying timber products for local people and the rental of national forest land for schools, roads, dams and other public uses.

Local Use of National Forest

Local Use of National Forest (March 2004)

Type	Number (100's)	Area (1000ha)	Proportion in total National forest (%)
Forest land rented	385	77	1
Profit sharing plantation	221	132	2
Communal use forest	15	1,478	20
Total	621	1,687	23

Note: Rented land is for agriculture, pasture, roads, facilities of electricity and communication etc.

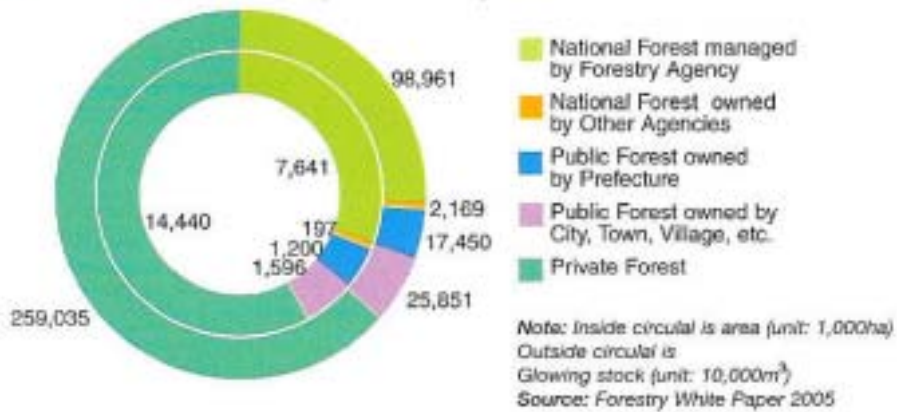
6. Forest Ownership and The Management Situation

6-1. Forests ownership in Japan

- ◆ Japan's forests are classified into national forests owned by the government , and non-national forests owned by private and local public bodies.

Forest Resources by Ownership

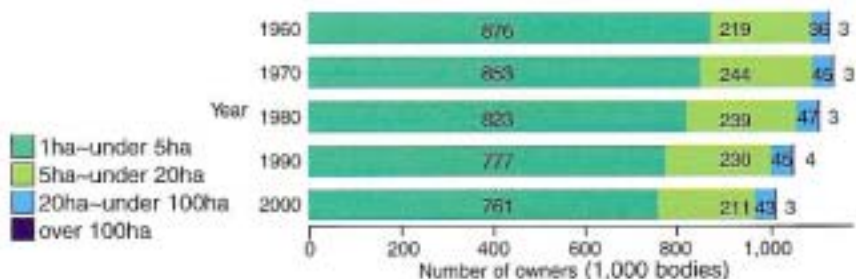
Forest Resources by Ownership (March 2002)



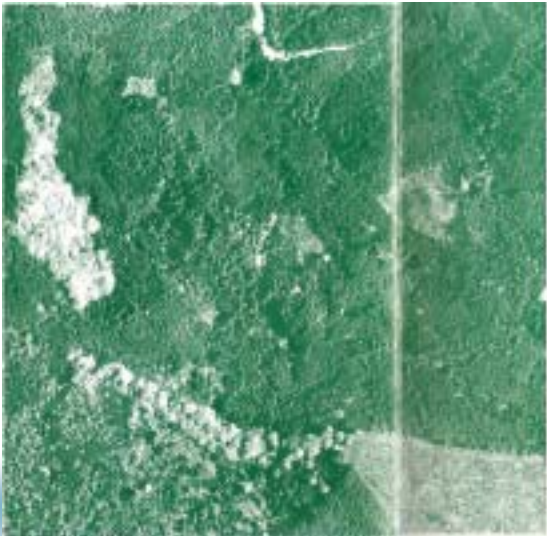
6-2. Small-scale individual forest owners comprise the majority

- ◆ Approximately 1.0 million private forest owners with more than 1 ha. Less than 1.0 ha, 1.5 million.

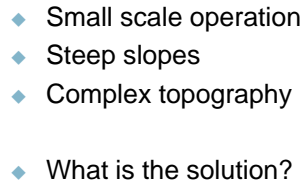

Private Forest Ownership by size



Small scale management of forests



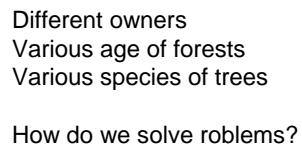
- ◆ Small scale operation
- ◆ Steep slopes
- ◆ Complex topography
- ◆ What is the solution?



Small scale management of forests

Different owners
Various age of forests
Various species of trees

How do we solve problems?

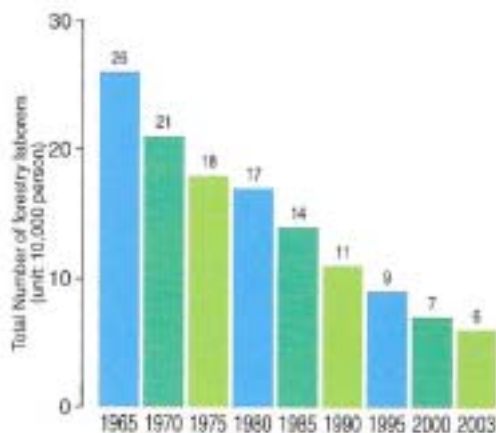


6-3. Depopulation and economic stagnation in upstream villages.

- ◆ Higher wages in urban areas lure away young workers.
- ◆ By depressed prices of timber and changes in the timber demand structure, the forest production activities have stagnated.
- ◆ About 1,000 “Forest Owners Cooperative” manage more than 70% of all non-national forests.

Forestry laborers and aging trends

■ Total number of forestry laborers and aging trends

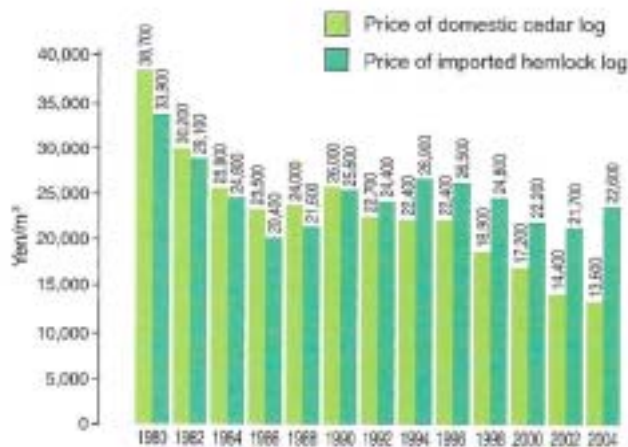


6-4. Declining prices of timber

- ◆ Higher wages have increased the costs of reforestation and plantation maintenance.
- ◆ Forest products from other countries provide most of the timber used in Japan.
- ◆ These factors have combined to push down prices of domestic timber and discourage investment in forestry activities.
- ◆ So there is no future in Japanese Forestry.
- ◆ Is it true or not true?

The trends of log prices

■ Log Prices Delivered to Mill Site (Unit: yen/m³)



* Timber price per one cubic meter delivered to mill site.

Capability of employment of logging laborer

■ Capability of Employment of Logging Laborer by Stampage Price of 1m³ Cedar tree (Unit: persons/m³)

