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A SELECTED LIST
OF FILMS

cop I

*FOR USE IN THE FIELD OF FORESTRY
AND CONSERVATION

January 1, 1948

Wm. May

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A SELECTED LIST OF FILMS
FOR USE IN THE FIELD
OF
FORESTRY AND CONSERVATION

by

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the requirement for the
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Ann Arbor, Michigan
Jan. 1, 1948

W.W.M

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INTRODUCTION

This paper was started with the idea that when it was completed it would be a selected list of films in the Field of Forestry and Conservation that would be known first hand to the writer, and considered by him as acceptable in every way. From this study also, was to come certain constructive criticism and if possible suggestions for improvement of this class of films. It was in all innocence that I started this work, thinking that at the end the product would be perhaps 25 or more films, that would stand out over all others, and that could be plucked from the rack and used with complete confidence by any one who desired film material for use in the field of conservation.

The list has been completed, but the plans have been altered by experience with the quality, quantity, and sources of conservation film material. The quantity of film available in the field is large, but the quality is in general low — thus the task of first hand inspection of each film listed has been increased, because of the number of unacceptable films that must be inspected and rejected. It is not intended that this shall be a complete list, for films are being released every day that will crowd some of the ones considered here immediately into disuse. There are also many films that could be added, but that are held in special distribution channels — that is, for state, region, or group use only, and these films have

been omitted, even where I possessed knowledge of their existence and quality. It seemed useless to include them, since it was intended that this list should be completely useable. Other films that have emphasis on projects which have been either completed or abandoned, have been in general discarded unless they had some fundamental truth that could be found in no other place. In general technical defects in films were admitted unless it was apparent that it was an ingrained quality in the production, and not simply a defect of the particular copy that was reviewed. However, where the films indicated by age or type of defect that it would be unlikely that other copies would be better, it was discarded.

Films made the list if they had unusual merit, were the only ones available on the subject, or if they were recommended by a person qualified to judge the branch of Conservation, with which the film dealt. A few films were included, which from their description were deemed acceptable by comparing that description with other films produced by the same agency at about the same period. This was done in the hope that these films would be called in and passed upon by a competent judge, to be retained or discarded after inspection. These are (6) six in number and are indicated as uninspected films.

One of the first needs recognized was that a form of description which could be used on all films must be devised. This outline would include all the details necessary to allow the user of the list to decide upon the films that would come closest to his needs. It should be stressed at this point that no list can be a substitute for a preview

of material before use. It is only to narrow down the search that we compile lists and fill them with the most accurate and detailed information that space and printing costs will allow. The user should obtain the film and inspect it fully if he is to be sure that it contains all of the material that is desired. However, in the field in which this list was compiled certain information will aid greatly in the selection of proper film.

The name is of some importance in the identification of film, but of little help in the selection of suitable material. For example, the title "Forest Treasures" would not suggest whether it was a film describing the wonders of the veneer making process, a Swedish nylon plant, or details of forest management. It happens that there is a film on each of these subjects by that name.

The second important factor listed concerning the film is the date that it was released. A film becomes weak usually as soon as the machines, cars, and particularly clothing makes them appear out of date, for an audience. This does not mean that the facts shown in the film are not just as true as at the time they were released, but in the minds of the group there will usually be a trace of doubt, and the impression that many of the basic facts may also be changed. If the date of release is given with each film, it is easy, with a little experience, to know what to expect from a certain producing agency. During certain periods an organization seems to maintain about the same production standards and with a little experience this knowledge can be of great help in making selections. Where two films are being considered, that

cover the same type of material, it is generally better to select the one bearing the most recent release date. It has been noted, with but few exceptions, that interest, skill increases rapidly once production has started in a particular agency. And throughout the field generally other organizations are likely to be making comparable progress on the same material.

The third section of the film outline was devoted to the length of time consumed in showing, whether it was sound or silent, and if the film was in color or black and white. The value of each of these quantities can best be determined in the light of the subject material. Of course, the budgets may also influence your selection if purchase or rentals are involved.

The next heading is called "Propaganda Trends". This heading would probably not be needed in any other field of film material. In films dealing with a subject that is changing as rapidly as Forestry and associated fields, however, it would be hard to produce a film that did not represent one of the possibly several interests. Under propaganda trends has been placed what appears to be the guiding motive or resultant effect of this particular production. It is not present in all film and in such cases, this heading was omitted, but where there was a 'sales' purpose present, good or bad, it was recognized and indicated in this space.

The heading "Field of Use" is intended simply to outline in a general way what appears to be the films best use. The expression "A general interest film", was coined to denote a film that has use

as background material in our study of the field of conservation.

The heading "Strength and Weakness" was included to allow the entry of any features that made the film particularly good or bad. It was interesting to note that although no method allowed the direct grading of the films one against the other, this device soon showed that there was in a sense, an average film. Some of the film seemed to have no especially notable faults or virtues, and others which had some faults and no virtues were kept on the list because there was a dirth of material on that subject. Though all of the films in the list are acceptable, some films by virtue of a particular strength stand out above the others, and some because of less desirable qualities fall below the average for the list. This method of compiling strengths and weaknesses seemed to have as much meaning as any numerical system could, especially with only one or two persons doing the previewing.

A paragraph was needed that would summarize the story told, although this sometimes included particulars already mentioned in preceding sections of the outline. It was intended to include briefly the message contained in the movie.

The producing agency is important to the outline for two reasons; one, to aid in locating the film for use; and two, to give the user a link to tie this film to other film experience.

With this explanation of purpose of the outline it should be easy to use the catalogue with considerable success.

Name: Alaska's Silver Millions

U of M

Date of Release: 1936

Time 35 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Propaganda Trends: Support of the cause of the salmon canning industry.

Strength: Animated drawings of spawning time and the inclusion of the life cycle of the salmon. Commentary and sound good.

Contents: The complete story of the Alaskan salmon. The life cycle, catching, and canning of the fish are shown.

Producing Agency: The American Can Company
230 Park Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Name: American Walnut

Date of Release: 1939

Time 22 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: Wood Technology, and general forest products courses and groups.

Propaganda Trends: Stresses the value of Walnut as being above and beyond all other woods in usefulness and beauty.

Strength: Good color photography and clear commentary.

Contents: The story of walnut from prehistoric time to the present. Shows its use in the making of fine furniture, both solid

Name: American Walnut (contd.)

Contents: (contd.)

and veneer; and tells briefly why it is superior to all other woods for gun stock material.

Producing Agency: American Walnut Manufacturers Association
616 South Michigan Boulevard
Chicago 5, Ill.

Unseen

Name: Among the Hardwoods

U of M

Date of Release: 1935

Time 12 minutes Sound

Field of Use: Of value only in showing the manner in which logging and milling is done in other countries.

Propaganda Trends: None

Contents: The felling, logging, and milling of Western Australian hardwoods.

Producing Agency: Australian Government.

Name: Block that Termite

Date of Release: 1940

Time 20 minutes Sound

Field of Use: Wood Preservation and Wood Products interest groups.

Contents: This film outlines the best methods of protecting wood structures against these pests. Necessary living conditions are shown and explained.

Name: Block that Termite (contd.)

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture
Motion Picture Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Unseen

Name: Clean Waters

U of M

Date of Release: 1945

Time 20 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: Courses in the conservation of natural resources, wild-
life, land use, and general public education.

Propaganda Trends: Stresses the importance of water purification
equipment.

Strength: Excellent color photography; clear commentary; clear
animation of sewage processing; carefully planned sequence.

Weaknesses: Overdramatic.

Contents: The story of pollution of streams in this country, and
the suggested solution of this problem, by the use of
water purification plants to reduce contamination.

Producing Agency: General Electric Company
1 River Road,
Schenectady 5, N. Y.

Name: Commerical Fishing

Date of Release: 1940

Time: 11 minutes Silent Color

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Propaganda Trends: Stress the importance of commerical fishing in
the Great Lakes.

Strength: Excellent color photography and sequence.

Weakness: Lack of sound and briefness.

Contents: The story of commerical fishing in the forms practiced in
the Great Lakes. Includes some excellent shots of prepar-
ing and packing of fish for market.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing, 13, Michigan

Name: Canoe Trails

Date of Release: 1940

Time 11 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: Entertainment value for teenage to adult level.

Propaganda Trend: Stresses the beauty of two of Michigan's best canoe
streams.

Strength: Color, comentary, and sequence are all excellent.

Contents: Two couples in their canoes are followed down these rivers
in sample canoe trips.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing 13, Michigan

Name: Conservation of Natural Resources

U of M

Date of Release: 1938

Time 10 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A basic film. It should only be used for the indoctrination of groups with little information in the field of conservation.

Propaganda Trends: Points out the rapid rate at which we are wasting our country's natural wealth.

Weakness: This film tries to cover all of the aspects of conservation in ten minutes. It is little more than an outline of some of the main problems in the conservation of natural resources.

Producing Agency: Erpi (commerical production)

Name: Evolution of the oil Industry

U of M

Date of Release: 1945

Time 33 minutes Sound

Field of Use: Conservation of Natural Resources and similar groups.

Propaganda Trends: Sings the song of the fine and progressive service that the oil industry has rendered the country.

Strength: The completeness of the story of the production of oil. A very excellent commentary is given.

Weakness: Excessive detail in the description of some of the refining processes.

Contents: The story of the production of oil is traced from early oil field of Pennsylvania to present field of the West and Southwest. Exploration and refining methods are explained, and methods of distribution are shown.

Name: Evolution of the Oil Industry (contd.)

Producing Agency: U. S. Bureau of Mines
Sinclair Oil Company
4800 Forbes Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Name: Fighting Large Fires in Brush and Grass

U of M

Date of Release: 1946

Time: 30 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: This film was designed to be used in training supervisors and administrative personnel in fire fighting.

Propaganda Trends: This film stresses the importance of planned and timed organization in fire fighting.

Strength: The excellent of sequence, animation, and photography makes this an exceptional film. The clear and detailed commentary bring out many facts which might otherwise escape the audience. Details of organization are reviewed within the film, and the duties of each individual are stressed in the proper amount.

Weakness: The film starts with a large fire and makes the Fire Boss the first man on the scene. It seems that it should have been pointed out that an operation of this size usually takes place only after a smaller crew has lost control of the fire.

Contents: A movie describing the organization, operation, and control of personnel and equipment on a large brush and grass fire in the West.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture
with states agencies of Idaho, Nevada, and Utah

Name: Forest Forever

Date of Release: 1945

Time 26 minutes **Sound** **Color**

Field of Use: This film can be used in any adult group to impress them with the immediate need for sustained yield in all of our forests.

Propaganda Trend: Need for greater responsibility of private owners of timber in the management of their holdings.

Contents: This film describes what the Forest Service considers good forest practice, the type necessary for continuous forest production.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture
 Regional Office - U. S. Forest Service

Unseen

Name: Flood Weather

Date of Release: 1937

Time 42 minutes **Sound**

Field of Use: A film for any group which has an interest in the cause and results of floods.

Propaganda Trends: Stresses the value of flood forecasts.

Strength: Excellent shots of recent floods — reviews forecasts made before and during these floods.

Contents: The story of the Ohio valley flood of 1937 and of the Potomac River flood of the same year. Describes the operation of the flood prediction offices and the method by which informa-

Name: Flood Weather (contd.)

Contents: (contd.)

tion is gained and used. Gives uses for information other than in flood prediction.

Producing Agency: U. S. Weather Bureau
Washington 25, D. C.

Name: Forest Fire Fighting in the South

Date of Release: 1945

Time 44 minutes **Sound** **Color**

Field of Use: This film is used in training fire fighting personnel in the South — should be of interest to all foresters.

Contents: This is a fire fighter training film designed for use in the South to demonstrate types and proper use of fire tools.

Producing Agency: U. S. Forest Service
(obtain from) Regional Forester
Glenn Building
Atlanta, Georgia

Name: Forest Treasures*

Date of Release: February 1948

Time Unknown **Sound** **Color**

Propaganda Trends: Stresses the value and beauty of veneer construction.

Field of Use: Groups interested in wood products.

Contents: This film describes the production of veneer from the log to the final use in furniture and plywood.

Name: Forest Treasures (contd.)

Producing Agency: Veneer Association
616 South Michigan
Chicago 5, Ill.

*The film 'Forest Treasures' has now been withdrawn from use and is being replaced by a new and more detailed edition, the old name is used to enter it in the list as the new title has not been released.

Name: Forest Treasures

U of M

Date of Release: 1938

Field of Use: Entertainment value for groups where forestry is the theme.

Time 21 minutes Sound

Contents: Pictures the lumber industry in Sweden, the making of paper, and the manufacture of rayon thread from cellulose.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture
Swedish Bureau of Information

Note: It is suggested that this film be used with Scenic Sweden (22 minutes) to complete the picture of conditions in that country and to add to the interest of the program.

Name: Gift of Ts'ai Lun --- Paper, The

Date of Release: 1946

Time 30 minutes Sound Color and (Black and White)

Field of Use: Any group interested in the production of paper.

Name: Gift of Ts'ai Lun -- Paper, The (contd.)

Propaganda Trends: The wonderful workmanship put into Hammermill
Bond Paper.

Strength: The balance that is maintained between the various processes
of paper making --- one part is not stressed more than another.

Weakness: The portion of the picture dealing with the forest production
of pulp logs is weak.

Contents: The story of the production of paper from the woods to the
final packing of paper for shipment to users. Explains the
making of paper by the use of excellent animated shots. Shows
the theory of making paper by the use of laboratory methods.

Producing Agency: Hammermill Paper Company
Advertising Department
Erie, Pennsylvania

Name: Harvest for Tomorrow

U of M

Date of Release: 1941

Time 27 minutes Sound

Propaganda Trends: Stresses the value of lime and phosphate in the
regeneration of the farm of New England.

Strength: Excellent photography and commentary.

Weakness: Overdramatic in spots.

Contents: The story of the decline of soil fertility in the New England
States and the measures that are now being undertaken to
rebuild it.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture

Name: Helping America Deliver the Goods

Date of Release: 1945

Time 24 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: Group interested in wood products.

Propaganda Trends: Stresses the great value of barrels in the
American way of life — all kinds of barrels.

Strength: The details that are shown of each process in the making
of a barrel. Excellent color photography helps the picture
greatly.

Contents: The story of the production of a barrel from the time the
tree falls to the shipment of the barrel to it's user.

Producing Agency: The Associated Cooperage Industries of America
408 Olive Street
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Name: Heritage We Guard

U of M

Date of Release: 1940

Time 30 minutes Sound

Field of Use: Introduction to land use studies, and general conserva-
tion courses. For any adult group having a general
interest in the conservation of natural resources.

Propaganda Trends: Stresses the waste that has taken place in this
country in what is intended to be a frightening
manner.

Weakness: Over-dramatic and over-colored with the spirit of Hollywood.

Name: Heritage We Guard (contd.)

Contents: The story of the waste that has taken place in the use of our natural resources: wildlife, timber, and soil and what is being attempted in an effort to conserve them.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Name: Hunger Signs

Date of Release: 1946

Time 15 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: Soil study groups.

Propaganda Trend: Tends to over-stress the value of fertilizer as a means of maintaining soil fertility.

Contents: This movie outlines the balance of minerals in the soil necessary for proper plant production. Gives the fundamental causes of plant malnutrition, and tells some of the measures necessary to correct this condition.

Producing Agency: National Fertilizer Association, The
616 Investment Building
Washington 5, D. C.

Name: In Common Cause

U of M

Date of Release: 1945

Time 20 minutes Sound

Field of Use: Land-use study groups.

Propaganda Trend: Tends to show the organization of a soil conservation *district* as an easy task.

Name: In Common Cause (contd.)

Strength: The use of real farmers in this film tends to give it more force.

Contents: This film outlines the steps necessary to organize a soil conservation district. It shows some of the practices that are recommended, and the results of these practices.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

Name: Irrigation Farming

U of M

Date of Release: 1938

Time 10 minutes **Sound**

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Propaganda Trends: Tends to leave the impression that irrigation farming is a completely cooperative venture.

Weakness: The briefness of the film does not allow for inclusion of details concerning the growing of other crops than sugar beets under irrigation conditions.

Contents: The need for irrigation; the operation of the irrigation canals; the methods of flooding the fields; and harvesting of the crops are shown.

Producing Agency: Erpi (commerical producers)

Name: Know Your Land

Date of Release: 1945

Time 10 minutes **Sound** **Color**

Name: Know Your Land (contd.)

Field of Use: Land Use study groups.

Contents: This film presents the eight classes of soil which are used in land classification. Shows their proper use and treatment.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

Name: Marsh and Shore Birds

Date of Release: 1945

Time 11 minutes **Sound** **Color**

Field of Use: Wildlife studies.

Strength: Excellent color photography and a good commentary adds greatly to this picture.

Contents: This film describes twelve marginal water birds that are common to Michigan. Natural habitat is shown and explained for each.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing 13, Michigan

Name: Masterpieces in Mahogany

Date of Release: Unknown

Time 30 minutes **Silent**

Field of Use: Wood technology.

Contents: The complete story of the reproduction of a fine sixteenth

Name: Masterpieces in Mahogany (contd.)

Contents: (contd.)

century mahogany table is shown. The film begins with the rough mahogany and carries it through to the finished product.

Producing Agency: Mahogany Association Inc.
75 East Wacker Drive
Chicago 1, Ill.

Unseen

Name: Meet the Waterfowl

Date of Release: 1945

Time 11 minutes **Silent** **Color**

Field of Use: Waterfowl Identification.

Strength: The close-ups in color of waterfowl shown in this movie make it considerably valuable in identification work.

Contents: Shows eighteen species of Michigan waterfowl in a manner that makes it an excellent aid in learning to name these species. Two hunting scenes are included.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing 13, Michigan

Name: Michigan Beaver

Date of Release: 1933

Time 15 minutes **Sound**

Field of Use: Wildlife groups and groups with an interest in animal studies.

Name: Michigan Beaver (contd.)

Contents: This film shows the life of the beaver, his work and his habits. Damage from flooding is shown, as well as, the steps necessary to control it.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing 13, Michigan

Name: Michigan Mammals

Date of Release: 1929

Time 11 minutes Sound

Field of Use: General interest groups and wild life classes.

Weakness: This film is old and the commentary is not particularly good, but is the only film in this field that is acceptable at all. Many of the scenes were to apparently made in captivity.

Strength: There are some good animal close ups which bring out details of color nicely.

Contents: This film shows most of the mammals common to Michigan in as nearly their natural habitat as possible.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing 13, Michigan

Name: Mountains of Marble

Date of Release: Unknown

Time 22 minutes Sound

Field of Use: Natural resources courses.

Contents: This film depicts the marble industry in its entirety, from quarrying to distribution.

Name: Mountains of Marble (contd.)

Producing Agency: Vermont Marble Company
Proctor, Vermont

Name: Never Off Duty

Date of Release: 1938

Time 22 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Propaganda Trends: This film is intended to show the public the goodness
and usefulness of the conservation officer.

Contents: This film gives an outline of the duties of the Michigan
Conservation Officer.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing 13, Michigan

Name: Nickel Mining

U of M

Date of Release: Unknown

Time 18 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Contents: This film contains the complete story of nickel mining in
Canada and the United States.

Producing Agency: U. S. Bureau of Mines Experiment Station
Graphic Service Section
4800 Forbes Street
Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania

Name: Ocala

U of M

Date of Release: 1941

Time 10 minutes Sound

Propaganda Trend: Stresses the wonderful things that the Ocala National Forest has done for the region of the 'big scrub' of Florida.

Strength: Excellent photography and commentary.

Weakness: Dramatic — but only in a mild manner.

Contents: Pictures the work of the Forest Service in the development of the Ocala National Forest.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture

Name: Oil For Tommorrow

Date of Release: 1944

Time 32 minutes Sound Color

Propaganda Trend: Over stresses what is being done to conserve our petroleum resources.

Contents: The story of American oil and gas; its geology, recovery, and conservation. Animation is used to explain processes not adapted to photography.

Producing Agency: Interstate Oil Compact Commission
Capitol Station, Box 3185
Oklahoma City 5, Oklahoma

Name: Operation of a Forest Nursery

U of M

Date of Release: 1938

Time 11 minutes Sound

Field of Use: In the study of seeding and planting.

Weakness: Briefness and age.

Contents: The story of the operation of a forest nursery, from the collection of seeds to the time of transplanting to the field.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

PARKS:

The list of all the films of National Parks would be too large, and they have been produced by such a great number of different sources that it was impossible to review and list them all at this time. A few have been listed here that will serve all who do not have a very particular interest in parks.

Bryce National Park 7 minutes Ford Motor Company U of M

Glacier National Park 9 minutes Ford Motor Company U of M

Shenandoah National Park and Luray Caverns of Virginia
30 minutes Color
Conservation Commission
Richmond, Virginia

Yosemite National Park 20 minutes Color U of M
Simmel-Mesevery (commerical)

Yellowstone National Park 8 minutes Ford Motor Company U of M

Zion National Park 7 minutes Ford Motor Company U of M

Name: Peace River

U of M

Date of Release: 1945

Time 22 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: A general use film. A study in the conservation of the human resource.

Propaganda Trend: This film stresses the great progress that has been made by the people of the Peace River Country in the opening up of that region.

Strength: This film is in every way a complete and well produced movie.

Contents: This film outlines the settlement and activity of the Peace River region, Canada's last frontier in northern Alberta and British Columbia. The film shows in a very interesting manner the bringing in to production of new land.

Producing Agency: National Film Bureau of Canada.

Name: Rain on the Plains

U of M

Date of Release: 1938 (revised 1944)

Time 9 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Propaganda Trend: This film leaves the impression that mans efforts are the main factors in the cure of the dustbowl. It gives no credit to the change of amount of rainfall since the drough years.

Weakness: Overdramatic.

Contents: This film shows how overgrazing and over-cultivation led

Name: Rain on the Plains (contd.)

Contents: (contd.)

to destructive wind erosion in the southern Great Plains,
and how modern soil conservation methods are being employed
to save the land.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Name: Realm of the Wild

Date of Release: 1945

Time 27 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: A general interest film and for wildlife study groups.

Propaganda Trend: This film stresses the need for control of wild
animal populations on our national forests.

Strength: Rare shots taken of some of the big game animals on the
National Forests which are not available in any other film.

Contents: This film shows big game on our National Forests in many
unusual scenes. It shows that the land area and food
available for wildlife is limited, and that wildlife popula-
tions must be kept in proportion to land area and food supply.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Name: Saga of the Redwoods

U of M

Date of Release: Unknown

Field of Use: Logging and milling study groups, and forestry orienta-
tion courses.

Name: Saga of the Redwoods (contd.)

Propaganda Trends: Stresses importance of redwood logging industry.

Strength: Good commentary and photography; action unstilted.

Weakness: Black and white photography.

Content: The story of the cutting of redwoods, from the felling of the tree through the milling process. The film shows the destruction of smaller stock in felling and logging operations.

Producing Agency: Simmel-Mesevery

Name: Richer Range Rewards

Date of Release: 1945

Time 30 minutes **Sound** **Color**

Field of Use: This film will be of particular interest to those interested in range management.

Propaganda Trend: This film tends to show the good done by the Forest Service in the management of the National Forest Grazing lands.

Contents: Shows range conditions in the western half of the United States, and tells what the Forest Service considers necessary to keep this land at the peak of productivity.

Producing Agency: U. S. Forest Service

(can be obtained from Regional offices only)

623 North Second Street
Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin

Name: The River

U of M

Date of Release: 1939

Time 32 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Propaganda Trend: This picture depicts the waste that has been brought to the Mississippi Valley by the careless use of the land. The last portion of the film is devoted to the magic of TVA.

Strength: The musical score which goes with this film is very fine, however, it leaves the feeling that your mood is being cattered to, rather than your reason.

Weakness: Overdramatic.

Contents: This film tells the story of the Mississippi Valley; what man has done to the river and what the river has and is doing to man.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

Name: Romance of Mahogany

Date of Release: Unknown

Time 30 minutes Silent

Contents: This film tells the story of the forest production of mahogany in Africa, Central America, and South America. Cutting, transportation, milling, and veneer making is shown.

Producing Agency: Mahogany Association
75 Wacker Drive
Chicago 1, Ill.

Unseen

Name: Song Birds of the North Woods

U of M

Date of Release: 1939?

Time 11 minutes Sound

Field of Use: Wildlife study groups.

Strength: The novel use of special sound pickup equipment to record the cries and songs of a few of our bird friends has given this film a position of interest which could not be gained in any other manner.

Weakness: The commentary and photography are very weak.

Contents: By the use of special sound equipment the songs and cries of several of the North Wood birds are recorded as they were being photographed. The loon cry is one of the best of those recorded, and all give an example of what might be done in the future in recording more of the sounds of the wilds.

Producing Agency: Cornell University.

Name: Snow Harvest

Date of Release: 1946

Time 25 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Propaganda Trend: This film stresses the value of the snow survey to western agriculture and industry.

Name: Snow Harvest (contd.)

Strength: The complete and detailed story told by this film, in excellent color, is one of the outstanding films reviewed.

Weakness: Mildly dramatic.

Contents: This film shows the techniques of measuring snow to forecast irrigation and other water supplies in enough detail to satisfy even the scientific viewer.

Producing Agency: U. S. Forest Service
(can be obtained from regional office only)

Name: Story of Anthracite, The

Date of Release: 1940 ?

Time 20 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general film.

Content: This film tells the complete story of the mining and preparation of anthracite coal.

Producing Agency: Anthracite Institute
101 Park Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Name: Story of Canadian Pine, The

U of M

Date of Release: 1939?

Time 28 minutes Sound

Field of Use: This film will be of great interest to all concerned with forest production.

Propaganda Trend: This film stresses the strength, beauty, and usefulness of Canadian pines.

Name: Story of Canadian Pines (contd.)

Contents: This covers in detail, the entire story of Canadian white pine including woods operation, the spring drive of logs to the mills, and a great deal of the milling operation.

Producing Agency: National Film Bureau of Canada

Name: Story of Copper, The

Date of Release: 1945

Time 34 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Contents: This film tells the story of the production of copper in open pit and subsurface mining operations, and of it's processing in one of the nation's largest plants.

Producing Agency: U. S. Bureau of Mines
Graphic Section
4800 Forbes Street
Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania

Name: Steel -- Man's Servant

Date of Release: 1943?

Time 38 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Contents: This film tells the story of the production of steel from the time it is taken from the open pit until it comes out of the final line at the steel mill.

Producing Agency: United States Steel Corp.
Chicago, Film Distribution
208 LaSalle Street
Chicago 90, Ill.

Name: Terracing in the Northeast

U of M

Date of Release: 1939

Time 11 minutes Sound

Field of Use: This film could be studied in land use groups to best advantage.

Contents: This film gives a brief outline of terracing and other soil erosion control measures as they are practiced in the north-eastern part of the United States.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Name: Timber Harvest

Date of Release: 1939?

Time 11 minutes Sound Color

Field of Use: A general interest and entertainment film.

Propaganda Trend: This film stresses the importance of the lumber industry to Michigan.

Weakness: The briefness of this film makes it little more than a film of interest.

Contents: This film shows lumbering operations in northern Michigan. Brief scenes of camp, transportation, and mill are shown.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing 13, Michigan

Name: Trees and Homes

Date of Release: 1941

Name: Tree of Life

U of M

Date of Release: 1938

Time 20 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film — designed to indoctrinate audiences into the meaning of sustained yield.

Propaganda Trend: The film puts forward strongly the idea that we should have government control over private cutting.

Weakness: Overdramatic.

Contents: This film gives a description of sustained yield that is well suited for lay audiences. It shows briefly and simply the methods used to select trees to be cut from a stand, and compares this with the complete removal of all timber from an area as practiced in many private operations.

Producing Agency: U. S. Forest Service.

Name: Trees to Tame the Wind

Date of Release: 1940

Time 12 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film.

Propaganda Trend: This film stresses the value of wind-breaks as a means of preventing erosion by wind.

Weakness: Its chief weakness is that it fails to make clear the limited value that is derived from wind-breaks.

Contents: This film shows the changes that are the results of shelter belt plantings in the dust-bowl area.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Name: Valley, The

U of M

Date of Release: 1939?

Time 11 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film. A study in the conservation of the human resource.

Propaganda Trend: This film tells in great detail the successes of the government settlements in the Matanuska Valley of Alaska.

Contents: The story of the settlement of the Matanuska Valley in Alaska is shown in this film. Scenes of the clearing, planting, and harvesting of the first crops are shown. This film, though not as well produced, is an interesting parallel to the Canadian film, 'Peace River'.

Producing Agency: March of Time.

Name: War on Insects, The

U of M

Date of Release: 1939?

Time 10 minutes Sound

Field of Use: This is a general interest film -- it is intended as an instrument for getting the interest of the public in insect control.

Propaganda Trend: This film points out the work being done by the Bureau of Entomology in the control of insect pests.

Contents: The work and control of the elm bark beetle, Japanese beetle,

Name: War on Insects, The (contd.)

Contents: (contd.)

and the gypsy moth are shown as examples of the work performed by the Government in this field.

Producing Agency: March of Time

Name: Wetlands

U of M

Date of Release: 1944

Time 11 minutes Sound

Field of Use: This film should be useful in land use study groups.

Propaganda Trend: The importance of draining only suitable land is shown by this film.

Weakness: It does not point out to clearly what should be done with land that is not suited to drainage.

Contents: The story is told of the land in the United States that is suited for drainage and outlines how this may be accomplished. Mentions that some of the land is suited only for timber and wildlife production.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Name: White Fringed Beetle, The

U of M

Date of Release: 1940

Time 9 minutes Sound

Field of Use: A general interest film -- should be of particular interest to etomology study groups.

Name: White Fringed Beetle, The (contd.)

Propaganda Trend: This film stresses the important work that the Bureau of Entomology is doing.

Contents: This film outlines the life history of the White Fringed Beetle, describes the methods of control and eradication that are being practiced on this pest.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture

Unseen

Name: White Pine Blister Rust

Date of Release: 1942

Time 20 minutes **Sound** **Color**

Field of Use: This film should be of interest to all general forestry groups.

Contents: This film shows the areas affected by white pine blister rust; the complete life cycle in association with current and gooseberry plants; how the disease enters and kills white pine; and the effective measures now being used to control and protect our native white pines in its natural habitate.

Producing Agency: U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Name: Wild Wings

Date of Release: 1944?

Time 11 minutes **Sound** **Color**

Name: Wild Wings (contd.)

Field of Use: This film will be found useful to wildlife study groups.

Strength: This film has the qualities that are common to all of the color films produced by the Michigan Department of Conservation, that of excellent photography and a well ordered sequence of ideas.

Contents: A very fine identification study film of sixty Michigan species of birds. They are arranged in biological order.

Producing Agency: Michigan Department of Conservation
Lansing 13, Michigan

Conclusion

The conclusions reached in the preparation of this paper deal with the improvements needed in many of the films that have been produced for forestry, and allied fields. Although some of the suggestions made here may apply to those in other fields, they are directed primarily toward the improvement of forestry and conservation films and should be examined in that light.

Use Level:

The most important consideration from a conservation point of view is that the films should be on a proper use-level; that is on the same plane as the audience. Only a few films in the field seem to have attempted to give a clear outline of the story to be told without reducing it to a level below that justified by the material. In general it seems that they have attempted to appeal to the moods of the audiences rather than to their reason. Appealing to feelings and moods, even when the intent is purely propaganda, seems an unsound practice. First, because an audience that is merely emotionally aroused does not usually accomplish a great deal in the right direction, and secondly, the message stops with the audience, that has been appealed to in this manner. If on the other hand impressive factual material is used there is some hope that a small amount of the material may be retained and even spread. Many of the present films might be suited to use with children, but when they are shown to adults they are usually received without much enthusiasm. Of course when the purpose is training and the film is explaining a process, there is no excuse whatever for anything but straight forward factual material.

Regional Scope:

The most notable improvement that has been found in recent films is the attempt to produce for a more specific group or region. In the past the idea seemed to be to produce one film to be used in all groups, in all areas, and for all purposes. Just in the last year or so has there been an effort to produce any film that seemed to cover a particular part of any problem. In many cases the production of the very general films have been wasteful both from the standpoint of production and use. The over-broad scope is not an objection in all film, for some few are needed and can be used as background material. There should, however, be only a few of these, in relation to the number of film that deal with particular parts of particular problems. A good example of film of regional scope is the recent film, "Fire Fighting in the South", produced by the Forest Service for use in that area. This film was designed for the training of men in the use of methods and tools common to the southern part of the United States. Because of the relatively narrow focus, of this film, no attempt has been made to distribute it to the entire country. This principle of producing seems to be successful and similar limited scope productions should be made for other parts of the country.

It might also be mentioned that distribution on these productions can be narrowed as an economic measure, with little loss of value from the object of the film, and possibly even negative results may be avoided. To explain this it is best done by reference to the production, "One Match Can Do It". This film is based on conditions peculiar to Southern California. It shows in a fair manner the flash floods that are the results of watershed burn off in that area. The picture is actually a good story of what happens, with little exaggeration, but to those

unacquainted with the conditions of that region the picture would seem grossly overdrawn. Unless there is someone present to recognize and explain the film, little good and possible harm might result from its use.

Modernization of Films:

After examining something over two hundred films to collect a number that were usable, it became very apparent that there are a good many films currently in use that should have been withdrawn or at least reedited long ago. Some of these have been held because there seemed to be none available to replace them. I sincerely believe that these films should be withdrawn entirely until something is produced that is satisfactory. With this idea in mind I have omitted film which did not seem to come up to the useful standard.

Detail:

The criticism that comes most often from audiences seems to be the lack of detail in most of these films. This weakness in the films is more apparent when it is pointed out that all films shown were carefully screened before they were put before an audience for criticism, and all of the films that were lacking in a reasonable amount of detail were weeded out. The primary need, to increase the amount of detail, is better preparation of script and directions from it. It appears that the use of good technicians, using a script, that was prepared by someone so well acquainted with all part of the subject material, might do a great deal towards filling the film with information in the best and most painless manner. Scenes should be long enough to allow all of the needed picture details and also to allow time for proper commentary.

Need for commentary space is true whether the film is silent or sound.

In general sound films are to be favored, because of the quality of commentary that can be supplied with each showing. If it is desired all sound film may be turned down and used silently. In general this is not the best practice unless a very accomplished lecturer is using the film or unless the commentary is unusally bad. People are also accustomed to sound with film and it gives them a better impression of subject covered. An exception to this is the film that is used principally for identification. In these a few words usually cover all needed material and the rest of the time is used to impress details on the minds of the audience.

In films that are in use now it is sometimes desireable to delete certain parts of the sound and supply brief comments of your own. This is easily done if the film is previewed. By doing this it is very often possible to add details that are desirable or to remove others that are not wanted.

The use of color film and animation can very often add greatly to the value of a film. Animation is always helpful when it is necessary to explain the working of a chemical or mechanical process which the camera cannot reach directly. Color adds to the appeal of almost any film which is taken outdoors, and in a good many films of processes it is also very helpful in adding detail and interest. In the use of color, however, the expense will very often be the deciding factor.

Balance:

Another factor that contributes a great deal to the success of a movie, is the balance that is maintained between all of the portions of the film. The purpose for which the film is designed determines the amount of time that will be allotted to each part. In shooting, each

shot, should allow enough time to tell the necessary story both in film and in words. At present this is very often not done. When filming is done properly there seems to be a clear picture outline on the screen which can be rounded out with a commentary that just fills the sound track. When all of the operations or scenes are weighted against each other as to time and importance, the film may be considered balanced. The production "Gift of Ts'ai Lun — Paper" is an excellent example of this principle. All of the processes of paper making are given about an equal amount of time in relation to their importance. This does not, of course, mean that each machine is given the same amount of film, but rather an amount proportional to the part it plays in the whole process. An example of poor maintenance of this balance can be seen in the film, "Evolution in the Oil Industry". This film gives a complete, interesting, and well balanced story of the development of the oil industry, until it reaches the refining processes. Here the film grinds through a maze of scenes and descriptions of the various types of equipment used in breaking down petroleum products. It is very doubtful if this contains an equal amount of interest for most audiences in relation to other parts of the film. Balance is not a fault that destroys the usefulness of a film completely, but it does take a great deal from its quality. A little careful editing by a thoughtful producer would do much to reduce or eliminate this weakness.

Over-Dramatic:

The over-dramatic film is one of the most common among the defects observed in the productions studied. It is not the most serious fault, but it is one of the most noticeable especially in a few films that lend

themselves so well to this type of defect. Others would be very difficult to dramatize, however, and these have tended to balance the score. The films produced in the last two years have tended to reduce this defect, and it appears that we are now drifting slowly from dramatic to more factual productions.

Summary:

In outline form the points that should be examined most closely, when a film is to be produced or reedited seem to be:

1. Keep the film on the level with the idea and purpose for which it is being produced.
2. Avoid producing more generalized material.
3. Withdraw or reedit all film that are overaged.
4. Be sure that the film produced covers the subject in detail.
5. Be sure that the film maintains a balance between the scenes or processes of the film.
6. Avoid adding one more 'very dramatic film' to the present supply.

Though all of the films listed in this catalogue are the best that it was possible to preview, no claim is made that they are even near the high standard that we should like to maintain in all conservation film. All of them do have merit enough to justify their use when aids of this type are desired. If we are to expect better film in the future it seems necessary to use the best of what is available in spite of imperfections. It is to be strongly recommended that these films be used and then criticized or praised to their producers at every opportunity, in the hope that it will spur them on to more and better film.

It should also be pointed out that this list is neither complete

or up to date since many good films have undoubtedly escaped, by not being listed in any of the film catalogues or referred to in any place that would call attention to their existence. At the present time there is no forestry or conservation magazine that gives any recognition to new film productions, except as might be mentioned in passing in some article. It is to be hoped that there will soon be brought together under a recognized cover a list which will be kept up to date and usable by those who have an interest in forestry and conservation film.

The outline of principles given here for the improvement of films now in use are pointed at the faults of the films previewed. They are general, because only in that way can they be directed at more than a few of the films. It must be realized that these are the faults that exist today and that tomorrow when they are removed, smaller and more detailed ones will arise to be considered and dealt with in their turn.

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