

Treatment of lumber

Some of the lumber of the Selva is very resistant to decay and to insects such as termites. Huacapu is an outstanding example. Many other trees have many desirable characteristics but lack durability. Some of them can be treated with creosote, pentachlorophenol, or other toxic materials to enhance quality. However, intensive research still remains to be done in this area.

Transport of lumber

The forests of Peru lie east of the high Andes. In order to emphasize the importance of the transportation factor your attention is called to the following conditions:

- 1.- **Ocean shipments of lumber from the port of Iquitos:** There is one deep water wharf in Iquitos at which ocean-going boats can moor year round. This dock normally does not handle lumber. When there is sufficient water large boats tie up alongside the bank or at poor docking facilities and lumber is carried piece by piece or by sling loads into the boat.
- 2.- **River shipments to Pucallpa for truck shipment to Lima:** Barge and boat loads of lumber tie up at the bank where the lumber is piled waiting for trucks to be later loaded piece by piece for transport to destination.
- 3.- **Lumber transport by truck:** The quantity of lumber moving West over the mountains is increasing and although the Central Highway is deteriorated it is the only way lumber can be transported to the Peruvian coast. The Peruvian Minister of Transports announced at the end of September 1991, that in 1992 the Central Road System (Lima to Pucallpa and Tingo Maria) and the Panamerican Highway will be repaired in 1992 under a \$200 million program mostly financed by the Interamerican Development Bank.

Special problems of the lumber industry of Peru

One of the characteristics of the lumber industry all over the world is that there are both small and large mills with the small mills playing an important role in total lumber production. Communications between the mills in the jungle and the potential market are still poor in Peru.

Another major problem is developing a method of introducing new species to the market. Most users of lumber buy on the basis of past experience and are very slow to accept new species.