

CHAPTER 3

PROTECTION

3-1. General. Adequate protection against fire, insects, disease, and other enemies is the first major accomplishment to be sought in developing forest management. Nationwide, insects and diseases are the most destructive enemies of timber. Fire is, however, the most common and most spectacular enemy, and the most destructive of human life, property and wildlife. (For fire protection see app D, No. 3).

3-2. Insect, Disease, and Other Enemies.

3-2.1. Pests of Vegetation. These are discussed in appendix D, No. 3.

3-2.2. Livestock.

3-2.2.1. Where hardwoods are the predominant crop, exclude livestock completely. Livestock prevent regeneration of desirable timber species, damage good trees by browsing, and their trampling may inhibit reproduction.

3-2.2.2. In the longleaf-pine type, exclude hogs. Range hogs eat the pine seedlings and prevent reproduction.

3-2.2.3. In other conifer types, light grazing by cat-

tle (only) may be justified. Maximum stocking in any case should not exceed 1 head to 40 acres.

3-2.3. Trespass. On military installations unauthorized cutting of timber is minor in occurrence and extent. Some thefts occur where the timber is good and the property line is not well marked.

3-2.3.1. The best preventive is to clearly identify the property lines. Patrols at irregular intervals further discourage theft. Investigate signs of recent log skidding and equipment tracks entering the installation. Require all equipment moving forest products across or out of the installation to carry a permit, or other evidence of authorization to be on the installation, together with proof of legal title to the products being hauled.

3-2.3.2. When legal action becomes necessary in case of timber trespass, prepare evidence which will stand up in court. Include estimates of the volume removed, the stumpage and sale values of the stolen timber, and the dollar and volume losses of growth projected to planned year of harvest. Such evidence must be determined by a professional forester.