Comments on the “Estimating Firewood from standing trees” article.

* In item number 3, the up and down slope radius of the sample circle needs to be increased as the slope gets steeper. Most forest measurement texts will have tables showing how much to increase this length for any given slope.
* In item number 4, the diameter of trees is most easily measured using a diameter tape. This can be purchased at a forestry supply outlet, or made using a strip of pliable but not-stretch material (a plastic strip for example). Rather than marking the strip in inches, it should be marked in inches X 3.14. When the tape is wrapped horizontally around a tree at 4 ½ feet from the ground at the uphill side, the tape numbers will give an accurate measure of the tree diameter.
* In item number 6, the trees that the landowner intends to leave should be subtracted from the firewood volume total. In a forest that is completely covered with trees, this may total 50 to 150 trees per acre depending on their size.
* The table in the article will give an approximate estimate volume per tree. The actual volume may be higher or lower depending on the tree species and height.
* Excellent references relating to this article and forest management in general include the following:
  + California Forestry Handbook, T. F. Arvola, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
  + Principles of Silviculture; Danel, Helms, and Baker; McGraw-Hill Book Company.
* Excellent advise is also available at the offices of the following:
  + University of California Cooperative Extension
  + California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
  + US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service