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For Immediate Release

West Virginia Becomes Twentieth Tree Farm State

West Virginia officially became the 20th Tree Farm State in the nation on May 22 when the 41,000-acre New River Company Tree Farm was dedicated near Beckley, West Virginia.

More than 100 forestry leaders and landowners attended the ceremonies conducted at one of the New River Company's numerous plantations which were started in 1931 and now cover 700 acres.

The Tree Farm dedication came as the climax of the first annual meeting of the West Virginia Forest Council which was organized a year ago as a coordinated group to work on the forestry problems facing West Virginia. West Virginia Tree Farms are sponsored by the council in cooperation with the Conservation Commission of West Virginia and the Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.

These agencies give recognition to woodland owners who have managed their forestlands and harvested their forest products in accordance with good forestry practices. These practices include adequate protection from destructive forest fires, planting of seedlings when necessary to reforest idle or abandoned land, and managing and harvesting forest crops in a manner designed to produce continuously the greatest yield of high quality products.

- Long a leader in the forestry field, the New River Company is one of West Virginia's larger coal companies. It adopted its forestry policy in 1919.

The company has set a rigid policy for harvesting. Low grade material is removed for the mines with a consequent improvement in the stand. Fifteen thousand acres of the farm are in young timber on which no cutting is planned in the immediate future. Twenty-six thousand acres are being cut on a 20-year cycle. The New River Company is also playing a leading role in reclaiming strip mine spoil banks.

West Virginia's entry into the Tree Farm System brings the Nation's total to 15,211,851 acres.