

**Q: What post-2012  
forestry policy for NZ?**

**A: Omit forestry altogether**



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# Forestry should be excluded because:

1. It enormously complicates matters;
2. Most people don't understand it;
3. In the medium-term, forestry is a net liability for NZ;
4. In the long-term, it's a trivial tool globally for mitigation;
5. The benefits of wood can be encouraged by penalising the greenhouse-intensive competitors of wood.



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# Forestry complicates matters

1. Forestry is problematic to quantify precisely;
2. It is a playground for cheats;
3. Permanence is almost impossible to guarantee;
4. It takes the heat off reduction in fossil fuels.



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# Most people don't understand forestry

1. Sinks versus reservoirs, etc;
2. Complications of age-classes and lag effects.



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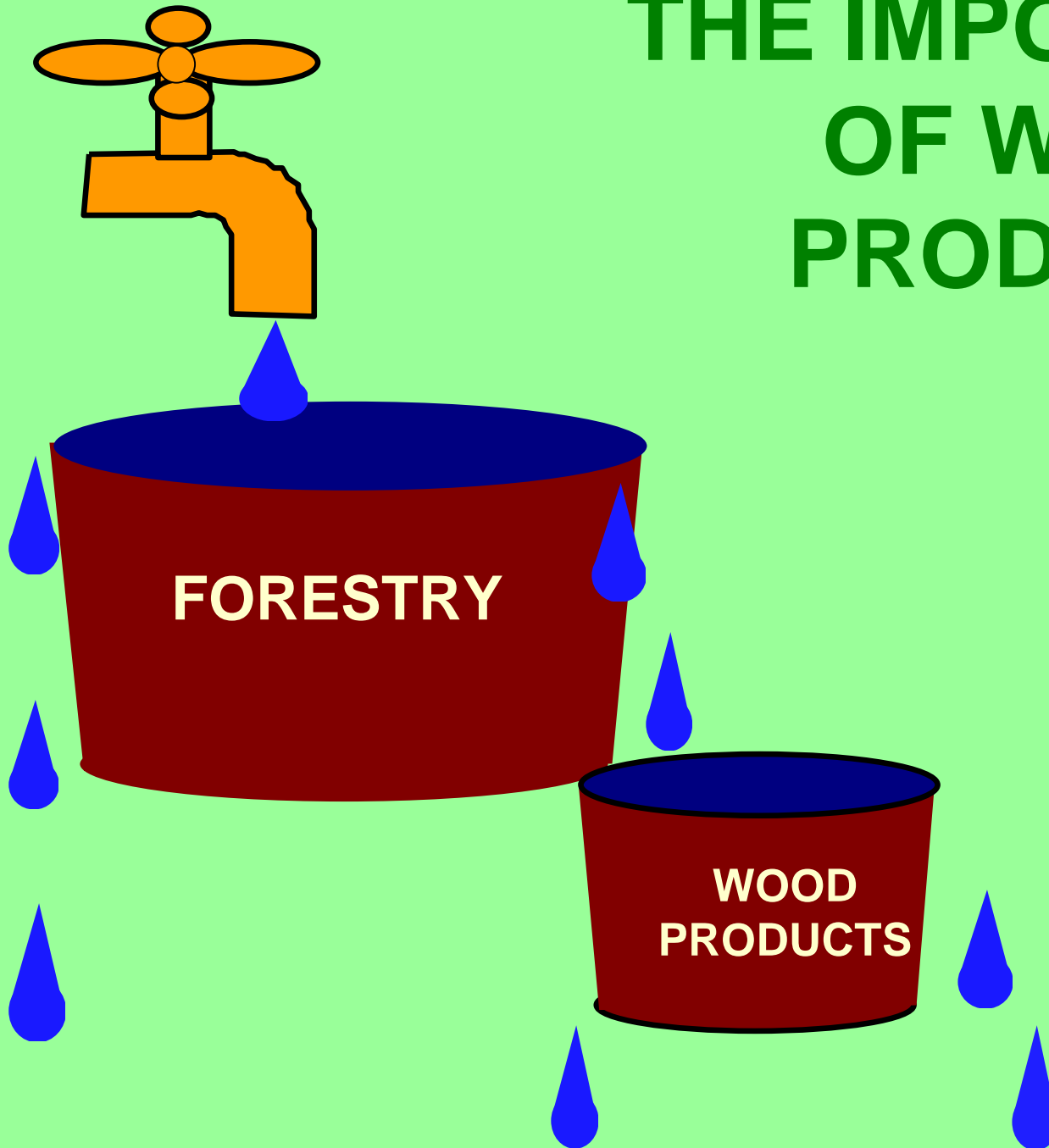
# Steady-state forest



– a reservoir not a sink

Losses from harvest and decay  
balance gains from trees of all ages

# THE IMPORTANCE OF WOOD PRODUCTS



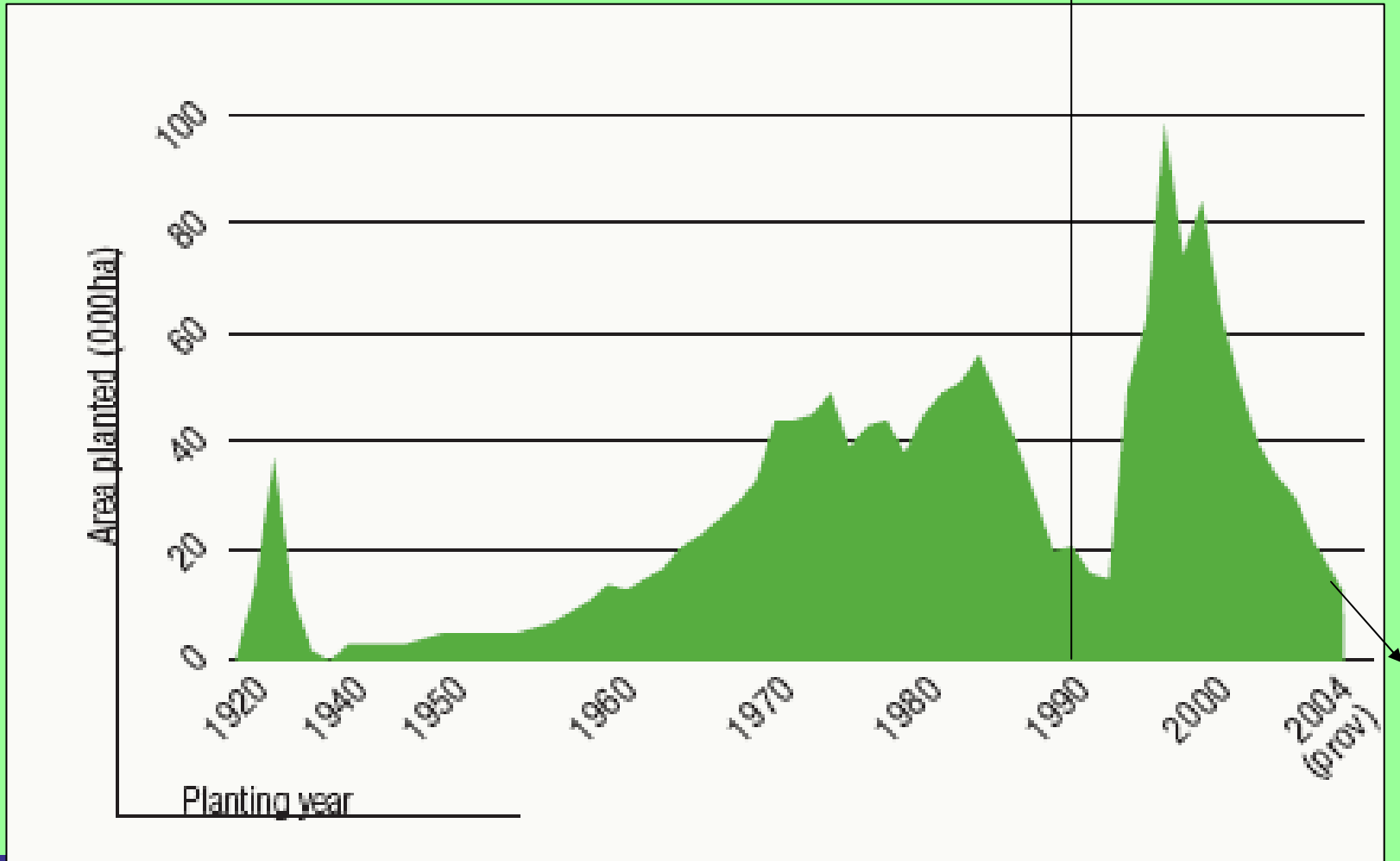
# Forestry is a net liability to NZ in medium-term

1. Planting boom of early 1990s will result in harvesting boom in 2020s, especially for Kyoto Forest component;
2. Kyoto Forests will be a Greenhouse SOURCE from 2022 for up to two decades, depending on planting rates now. NZers will CURSE forest sinks!



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# New Land Planting



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# Globally, forestry is trivial in the longer term

1. The carbon underground vastly exceeds the carbon than be stored above-ground, as explained below:
2. The world has 100-500 million ha of plantable land, the carbon per hectare of which can be increased by perhaps 100 tonnes;
3. This amounts to a gain of 10-50 billion tonnes carbon;
4. But carbon emissions in the next century are potentially 500-1000 billion tonnes.



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# Encourage forestry by discouraging substitutes

1. Wood is stored solar energy, and greenhouse-friendly;
2. Cement, aluminium and steel release large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> in their manufacture (as a chemical byproduct);
3. So tax the latter!



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# CONCLUSIONS

- **World should focus on CO<sub>2</sub> (not basket of 6 gases)**
- **World should focus on fossil fuels (not LULUCF)**
- **CO<sub>2</sub> should be taxed at fewest price-points (mine, oil-well, customs) and tax passed on to consumers.**

