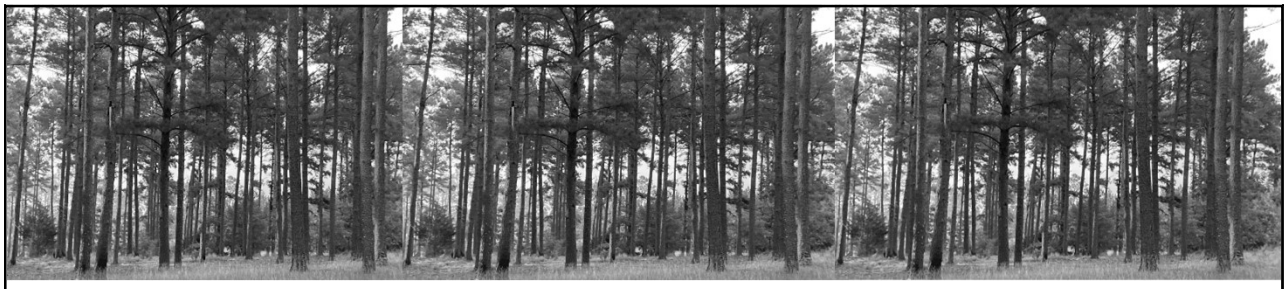

Landowner Experience: A Female Perspective

Heather Brasell
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Heather Brasell

Then…
- Forestry wildlife technician (NZ)
- Forest ecologist (Australia)
- Teacher – high school science
- Teacher – VSU teacher education
- Student – ABAC Forestry

Now…
- Forest manager
- Environmental educator

Default Assumptions

Earning Respect

- Be there
- Be seen
- Be heard
- Be confident

- Use common sense to make sound judgements

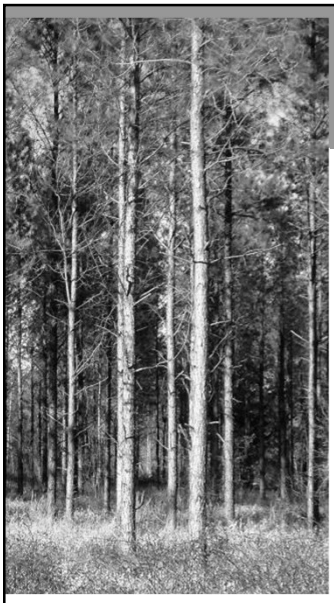
Assessing Your Stand

Decisions about Thinning and Clearcut

- **Height** – indicator of site quality
- **Diameter** – indicator of past growth
- **Crown** – indicator of future growth
- **Defects** – remove during thinning
- **Light at ground level** – indicates level of competition and quality of wildlife habitat

Tree Height

In general, tree height does not depend on density of trees on the site
Site Index = tree height at 25 yr
Species specific
Site productivity information available on qPublic

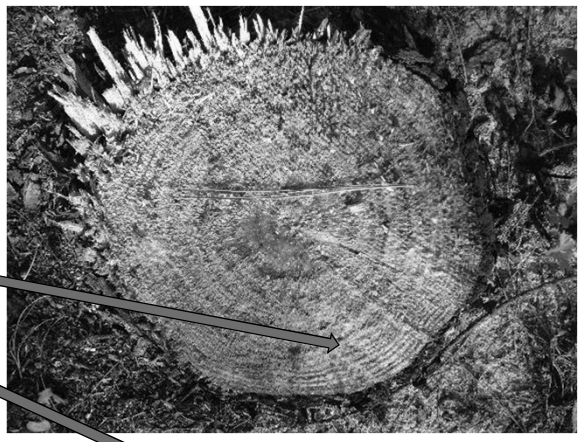


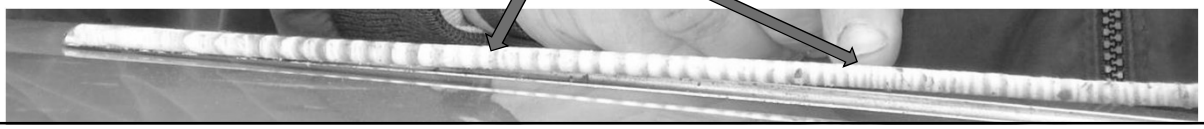
Diameter

Each tree ring = 1 year growth

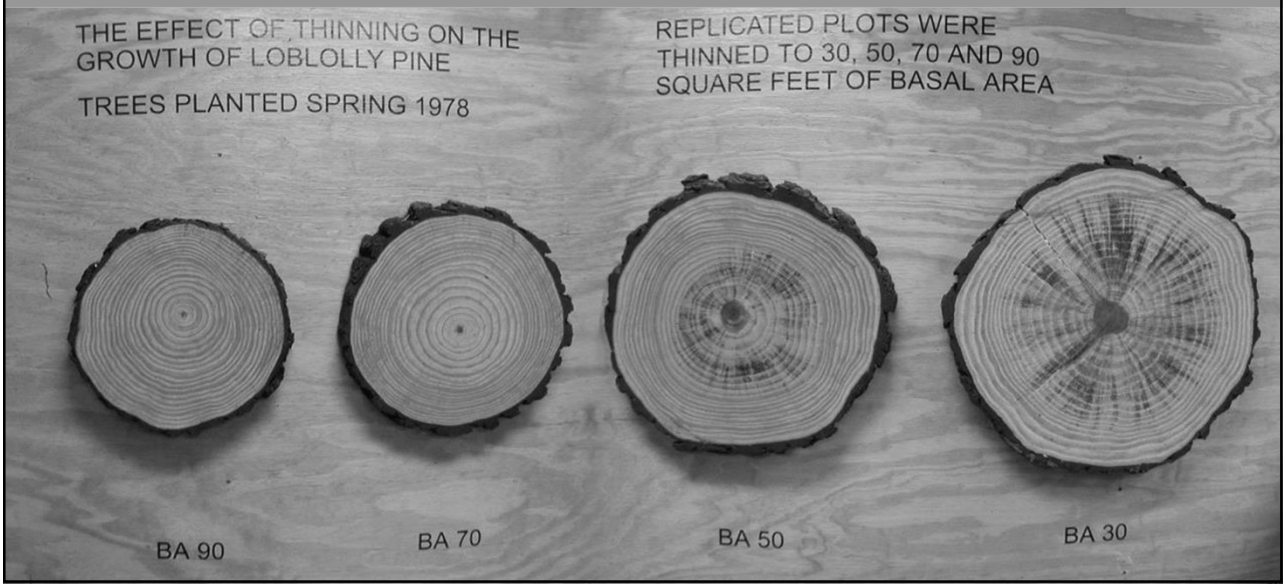
Competition slows growth

Thinning increases growth

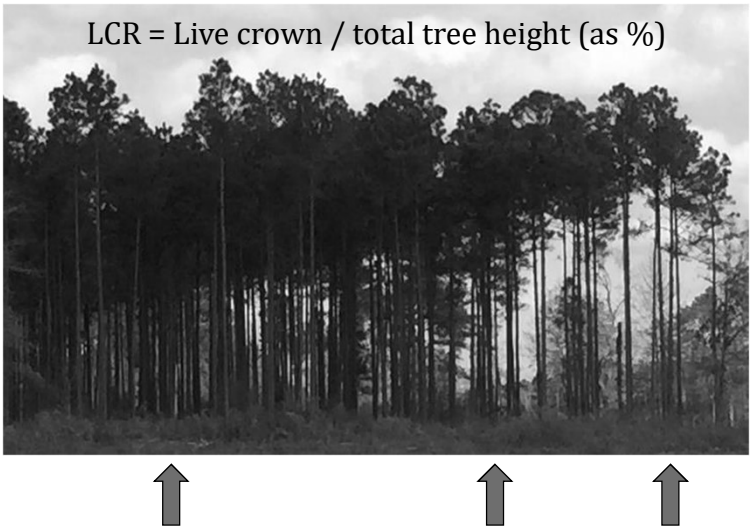




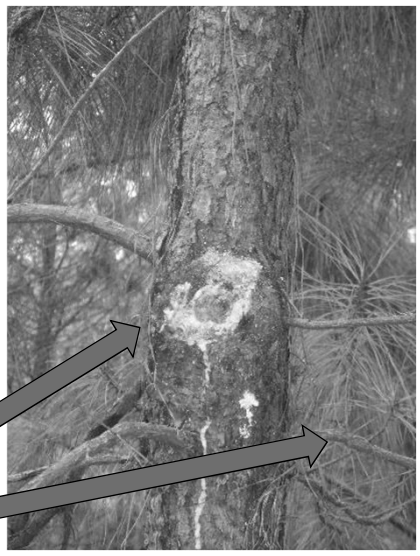
Effect of Thinning on Growth



Live Crown Ratio



Remove These Trees



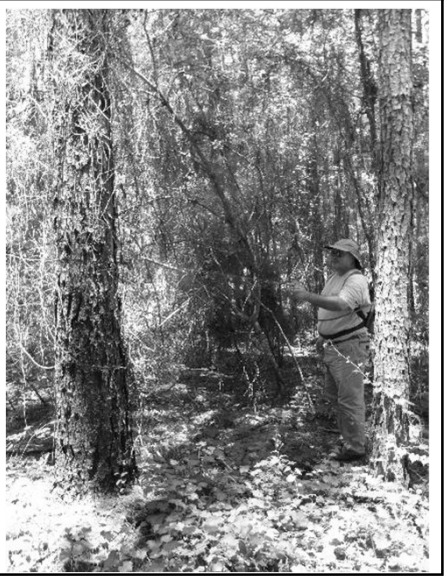
Left: dominant v suppressed. Right: Fusiform rust

Defects - Form

Left: Fork
Above: Sinuosity and kicker
Right: Excessive branching – "wolfy" trees

Marking Trees

- Removing trees reduces competition
- Removing smaller trees increases average diameter
- Trees should be marked for thinning
  - not operator-select
- Leave your best trees
- Look at
  - Height, diameter, canopy – remove suppressed trees
  - Form – remove forked, sinuous, or wolfy trees
  - Health – remove trees with canker on stems



Assessing a Logging Operation

Inside the stand

- Monitor soil conditions – compaction, ruts
- Monitor damage to residual trees
- Monitor stump height

At the loading deck

- Monitor the loading operation
- Know the product classes
- Check chain of custody

Soil Compaction & Rutting

Damage to Residual Trees

Skinned trees invite beetle attack

“Turn trees” at the end of rows are removed last

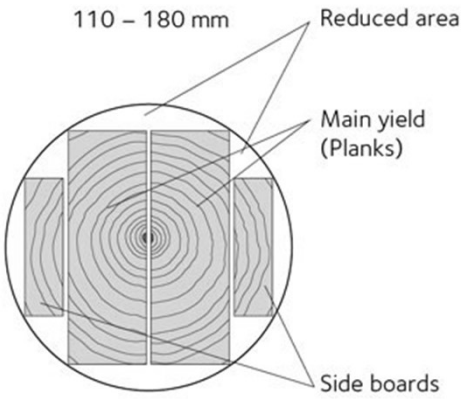
Stump Height

Loading Operation

- The loader is critical in maximizing income
  - Sorting into product classes
  - Maximizing tonnage

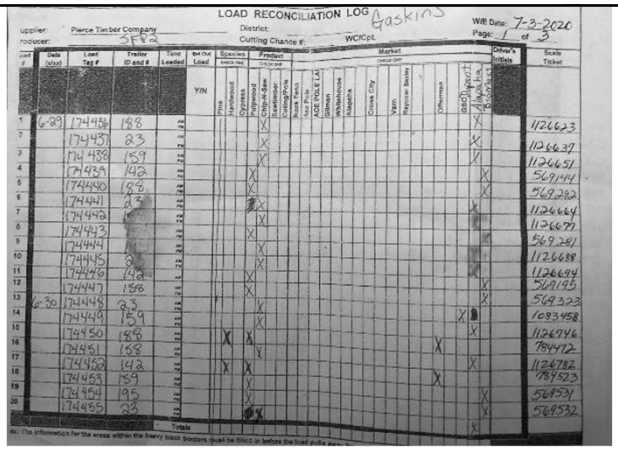
Timber Product Classes

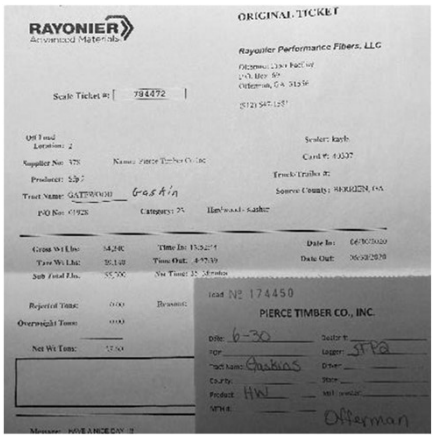
Pulpwood – 6-9” dbh
Chip-n-saw – 9-12” dbh
Sawtimber - > 12” dbh
Poles

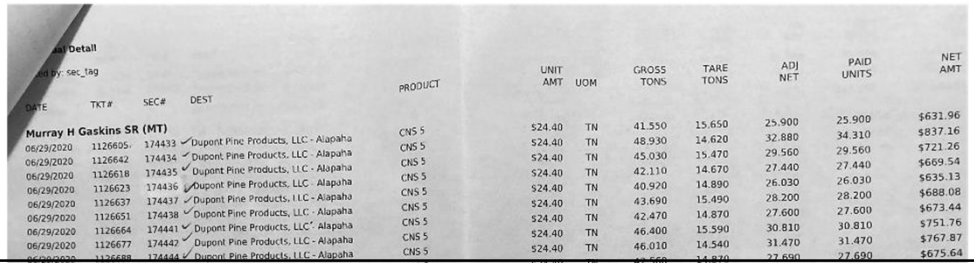


Chain of Custody

- Most (all?) logging companies have a chain of custody (anti-theft) system
- Loader maintains records –assigns each load a numbered "ticket"
- Two-part ticket is attached to load
- At the mill, the load is weighed and one part of the ticket is attached to the scale docket
- Landowner crosschecks
  - The loading records from the loader
  - The weight sheet and scale docket from the mill







What is a Tree Worth?

Rule of thumb:

- Logging trucks are limited to 25 tons/load
- The trucks have about 25 trees per load (CNS)
- Each tree weighs about 1 ton

- Example:
  - If chip-n-saw stump price is $20/ton,
  - each CNS tree is worth about $20
  - If it took 20 years to grow,
  - you earned $1/year for each tree

Assessing Handplanting

- Check quality of seedlings
- Check spacing
- Check planting depth, firmness (tug test), J-rooting




Employer v Contractor

- Avoid being an employer (tax implications)
- Don't provide housing, transport etc. for workers
- Don't give directions to workers

Timber Production Perspectives

Fiber Production

- "Plant it thick and cut it quick"
- Focus on lowest value product – pulpwood
- Rotation – 18+ years – no thinning

Sawtimber Production

- Focus on highest value product – sawtimber and poles
- Longer rotation – 25+ years – 2-3 thinnings
- Increased potential for recreation and wildlife habitat

Harvesting Options

Per Unit or Per Area?
- Applies to timber sales and pinestraw sales
- Both require a contract before the operation starts

Per Unit
- Timber sold as $/ton delivered to the mill
- Pinestraw sold as $/bale

- **Per Area**
- Timber sold as lump sum - $/stand
- Pinestraw sold as $/acre

Harvesting Options continued

Per Unit
- Payment after harvesting (delivered to mill etc.)
- Landowner assumes risk until harvesting is complete
- Incomplete harvesting, theft, fire, storm

Per Area
- Payment before harvesting
- Buyer assumes all risk during harvesting
- Inventory needed to establish lump sum value

What's In It For Me?

- Understand incentives and pragmatic constraints of stakeholders
- Landowner
  - Management objectives, family, recreation, conservation
  - Income – sell timber at highest price possible
- Forestry Consultant
  - Professional objectives, go-between, orchestrates operations
  - Income – often commission (thinning v clearcut) + extra
- Procurer / Timber dealer
  - Keep the mills happy, acquire timber at lowest possible price
- Logging crew
  - Load timber as fast as possible, move locations as seldom as possible
  - Good weather, good access, good roads

Suggestions I

- Ask questions
- Talk with other landowners
- Monitor your property – health, growth
- Monitor logging operations
- Monitor planting operations
- Observe changes over time – seasons, succession
- Evaluate management practices
  - After logging
  - After burning
  - After herbicide application

Suggestions II

- Attend field days
- Attend short courses and symposiums
  - Learn and Burn – prescribed fire
  - First Detector – invasive plant management
- Contact local GFC to visit and develop a management plan
- Contact NRCS to explain cost-share programs
- Contact DNR to talk about private lands programs

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