



# Landowner Experience: A Female Perspective

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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


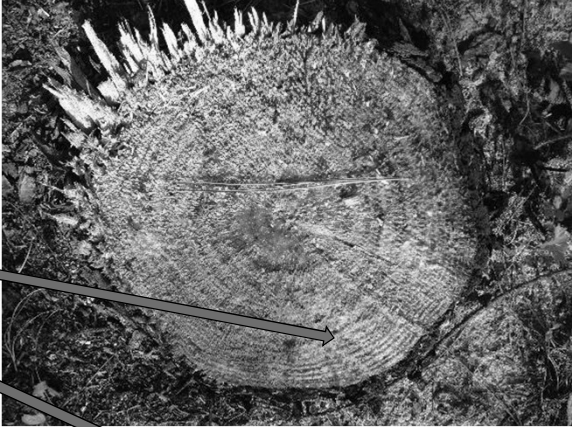
# Diameter



Each tree ring = 1 year growth

Competition slows growth

Thinning increases growth




The diagram illustrates the relationship between tree diameter and growth. It shows a forest of trees, a cross-section of a tree trunk with growth rings, and a tree trunk being measured with a diameter gauge. Text explains that each tree ring represents one year of growth. Competition slows growth, while thinning increases growth. Arrows point from the text to the corresponding images: 'Competition slows growth' points to the forest, 'Thinning increases growth' points to the diameter gauge, and 'Each tree ring = 1 year growth' points to the tree trunk cross-section.

# Effect of Thinning on Growth

THE EFFECT OF THINNING ON THE GROWTH OF LOBLOLLY PINE  
TREES PLANTED SPRING 1978

REPLICATED PLOTS WERE THINNED TO 30, 50, 70 AND 90 SQUARE FEET OF BASAL AREA



BA 90      BA 70      BA 50      BA 30

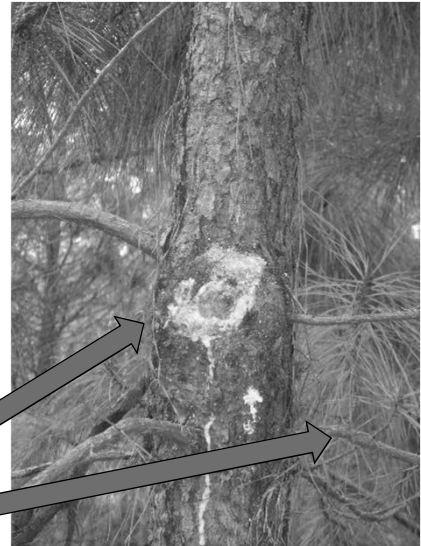
The image shows four cross-sections of loblolly pine tree trunks, labeled BA 90, BA 70, BA 50, and BA 30. The BA 90 section shows the most growth rings, indicating the highest growth rate. The BA 70 section shows fewer growth rings, indicating a lower growth rate. The BA 50 and BA 30 sections show the fewest growth rings, indicating the lowest growth rates. The text explains that the effect of thinning on the growth of loblolly pine trees planted in spring 1978 was studied, and that replicated plots were thinned to 30, 50, 70, and 90 square feet of basal area.

# Live Crown Ratio

LCR = Live crown / total tree height (as %)



# Remove These Trees



Left: dominant v suppressed. Right: Fusiform rust

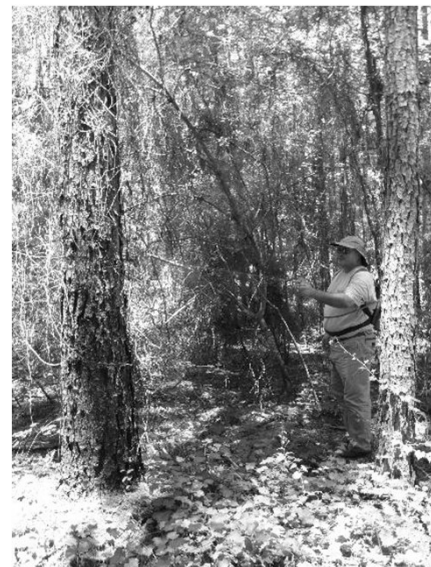
## Defects - Form



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





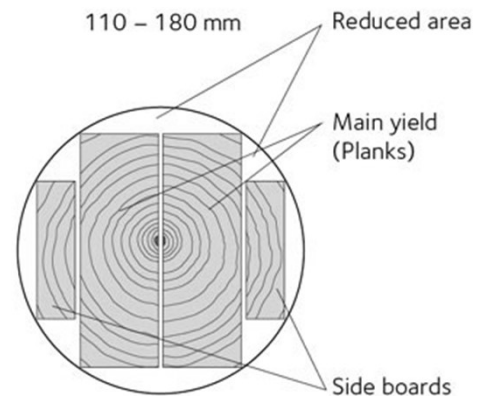
## Loading Operation

- 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



LOAD RECONCILIATION LOG

Supplier: Pierce Timber Company  
District: Gaskins  
WB Date: 7-3-2020  
Page: 1 of 3

Line #	Date	Label	Trailer	Line	Before	Species	Product	Start	Order	Scale
#			Tag #	Grav #	Load	Tree #		Time	Index	Ticket
1	6-29	174438	188							172663
2		174438	183							1126637
3		174438	159							1126657
4		174438	142							567144
5		174438	129							567232
6		174441	183							1126664
7		174442	183							1126677
8		174443	183							567281
9		174444	183							1126688
10		174445	183							1126694
11		174449	156							567193
12		174447	156							567323
13	6-30	174448	159							1093458
14		174449	159							1124746
15		174450	159							784412
16		174451	159							1124762
17		174452	192							784523
18		174453	159							567531
19		174454	195							567532
20		174455	195							

ORIGINAL TICKET

RAYONIER  
Advanced Materials

Rayonier Performance Fibers, LLC  
1344 Peachtree  
Clemens, GA 31716  
(770) 547-1251

Scale Ticket #: 784472

Order Location: 2  
Supplier: K&S  
Product: 537  
Truck Name: GATTOROUGH  
P.O. Box: 0728

Scale: K&S  
Card #: 6337  
Truck: Tractor 32  
Source County: 9830224, 155  
Cat: 25  
Haul: K&S

Gross Wt Lbs: 34,200  
Tare Wt Lbs: 96,100  
Net Wt Lbs: 35,500

Time In: 15:27  
Time Out: 4:53  
Via Time: 35:36min

Reported Time: 00:00  
Overweight Time: 00:00  
Net Wt Tons: 07.00

Order No: 174450  
PIERCE TIMBER CO., INC.

Order #: 6-30  
Driver: JFPA  
Tractor: 32  
Product: HMI  
Scale: 784472  
Operator: Olfman

Detail  
by: sec\_log

DATE	TKT#	SEC#	DEST	PRODUCT	UNIT	UOM	GROSS TONS	TARE TONS	ADJ NET	PAID UNITS	NET AMT
	<b>Murray H Gaskins SR (MT)</b>										
06/29/2020	1126605	174433	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	11,550	15,650	25,900	\$631.96
06/29/2020	1126642	174434	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	48,930	14,620	34,310	\$837.16
06/29/2020	1126618	174435	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	45,030	15,470	29,560	\$721.26
06/29/2020	1126618	174435	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	42,110	14,670	27,440	\$669.54
06/29/2020	1126623	174436	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	40,920	14,890	26,030	\$635.13
06/29/2020	1126637	174437	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	43,690	15,490	28,200	\$688.08
06/29/2020	1126651	174438	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	42,470	14,870	27,600	\$673.44
06/29/2020	1126664	174441	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	46,400	15,590	30,810	\$751.76
06/29/2020	1126677	174442	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	46,010	14,540	31,470	\$767.87
06/29/2020	1126688	174444	✓	Dupont Pine Products, LLC - Alapaha	CNS 5	TN	524.40	44,870	14,870	27,600	\$675.64

## 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

## Heather Brasell

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