SMC TAC meeting
6/16/2015
Gifford Pinchot NF Headquarters in Vancouver, WA.

ATTENDEES

Florian Deisenhofer, Hancock Forest Management; Greg Ettl, UW; Mic Holmes, Plum Creek; Dave Marshall, Weyerhaeuser; Jason Cross, UW; Kim Hanft, UW; Bill Marshall, Cascade Timber Consulting; Dave Hamlin, Campbell Global; Tony Powell, Roseburg Resources; Scott Holman, Weyerhaeuser; Ryan Schlect, Olympic Resource Management; Steve Loy, Green Diamond; Keith Jayawickrama, OSU; Candace Cahill, Rayonier USFR; Eini Lowell, PNW RS; Chris Sexton, Lone Rock Timber; Cole Gross, UW; Eric Turnblom, UW; Gareth Waugh, PBTF

SUNSETTING PROTOCOL (E. Turnblom, E. Lowell)

Take-home message about 722 (Silver Creek Mainline) is that it is scheduled to be harvested 1st quarter 2016; This may be advanced if the year remains dry, even to as soon as (late) fall 2015. The standard re-measurement should take place as soon as possible. Hand-felling of sampling trees is not possible, they will be felled and set aside; also, Cascade may have an operator on site to produce materials. We'll need to be nimble and ready to act (Bob, Bert, and Eric have completed annual safety training).

Phase I of the proposed retirement protocol includes nine plots (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14 and 15) that cover the six basic treatments but will not include heavy thinning, pruned plots, or best tree spacing. With respect to pruning, there was some favor for including in the protocol the ISPA/2 at 60% removal. Log processing, Phase 2C, has been dropped from the protocol. It is expected to take six crew-days per plot for a total of 54 crew days.

We may need to reduce our proposed sample size from 15 trees per plot down to 9 trees per plot. Removal of 15 trees per plot (= 135 trees from harvest unit) will likely be received unfavorably by Columbia Timber; some level of compensation might be proposed to offset heavier sampling.

Determination of specific gravity, proportion of latewood, and (perhaps) microfibril angle (which yields MOE) will require wood samples up to live crown (est ~50'). Each cookie is expensive for radio-densitometry, and there was discussion about taking cookies from the tops of logs rather than at regular intervals up the bole. There was discussion of which sorts might be standardized – 2 x 20', 17' + 33' (M. Holmes, seconded by T. Powell as a veneer sort). It may also be possible to substitute a core (12 mm) for a cookie; however, the variability of core data was an issue for some.

Some discussion of branch sampling followed – perhaps for the largest branches by quadrant in the first log - noting that Doug Maguire will get the branches up the stem, but only as they are present (making sure that branches stay with trees in the felling process). The Selected tree protocol need to be worked out—we need to tie stumps to their tree tag.

The budget will be revised and distributed.

HEMLOCK GENETIC GAIN (K. Jayawickrama)

Light discussion as trees are being grown in 2015 and 2016. Plots will be laid out in 2017. Brief discussion about starting plot measurements and obtaining year 1 survival.

LATE ROTATION FERTILIZATION

This project is designed to determine an area-based regional average volume response to later rotation fertilization. An acronym to describe the effect – RRE (regional response estimate) was coined and it was noted that the design of

stratified random sampling with proportional allocation into 6 or 7 zones (and perhaps by ownership as well) would be the first of its kind as would the result. Specifics of the design include:

- Stands selected randomly with probabilistic scheme conditioned on:
  - Late rotation 8-10 years before harvest (30-50 y at treatment)
  - At least 75% Douglas-fir by BA
  - Have not been fertilized in 8 y
- Install paired plots to get greater regional coverage
- 4 0.5 acre circular plots w/ 33' buffer; species and DBH
- Look for closest match among 4 plots (K-S test for stand structure)
- Characterization of forest floor samples
- Fertilize one of the pair
- 220 lb/acre N
- Initial measurement (year 0), repeated at years 2, 4, and 8 (if not harvested)

The project schedule was outlined:

- 2015: locate 10 plots
- 2016: locate 10 more paired plots
- 2017-2021: remeasure
- 2021 report

The general discussion focused on the need to stratify the samples by region and place them proportionately within each region. There was some discussion about the need (or not) for a 6 year measurement. A total of 20-24 plots should be close to yielding a significant result according to a power analysis performed by D. Marshall. There is also the potential to scale the timber on site when harvested.

A general discussion both at the meeting and in follow up emails emphasize a need to finalize budgets for these projects. At a minimum, we cannot exceed what we voted on at the spring meeting without additional discussion.

Meeting adjourned with a reminder to make plans for our 2-day annual fall meeting in Victoria BC on September 9th and 10th. We have a hold on a block of rooms at the Harbour Towers Hotel in downtown Victoria that will be kept until July 20th ONLY. The rate is $100 (US) for a standard room for stays anytime between Sept 8th-10th for those interested in staying anytime between Sept 6 to 13, you will need to call the hotel directly to get the same rate for all days

Louise de Montigny will arrange transportation from the hotel to the meeting and field tour for those who don't bring a vehicle.

We would encourage you to register even if you're not sure you'll be attending, the cancellation policy is up to 48 hours in advance if you decide not to come. Please use this SMC Mgt Coop link:

https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1428716&hotelID=13405