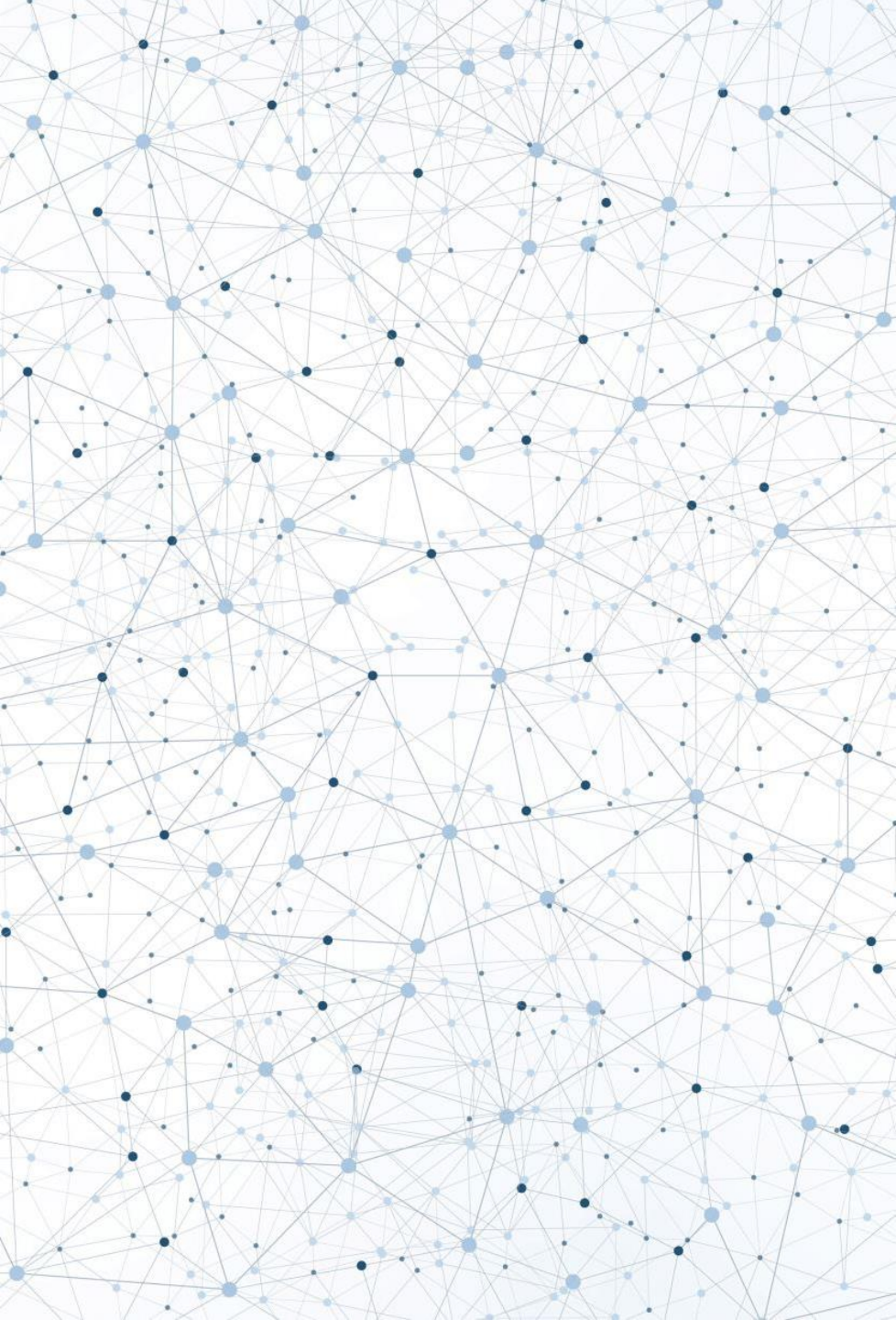


WOODLOT MANAGEMENT-A CONCEPT FOR SMALL TRACTS AND HOMESTEADS

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**WOODLOT
MANAGEMENT CAN
BE TOUGH-
WHAT CHALLENGES
DO YOU FACE?**

WHAT IS A WOODLOT?



Most Definitions-An Area of Small Woodland/Forest that is Privately Owned and used as a source of wood products, firewood, or other resources



Historically an area maintained on a homestead or farm for producing firewood, posts, lumber, and other wood product needs on farm



Often also used as wildlife areas, buffer zones, and other environmental uses



Key Components: Smaller Forested Area, Produces Small Scale Wood and Forest Products, Often attached to a Farm or Homestead

WOODLOT CHALLENGES

- Too Small for Commercial Forestry Operations
- Can't Find Forester or Service Contractor Interested
- Need Forest Management, But Barriers To Accomplishing Goals
- Overgrown, Overstocked, or Otherwise Degraded
- Most large trees or other valuable timber previously removed
- At or Below Cost Share or Assistance Limits-new updates allow as small as 10 forested acres, check the program and inquire
- Often requires Do-It-Yourself approach which may require specialized equipment and learning skills

UNDERSTANDING FOREST MARKETS



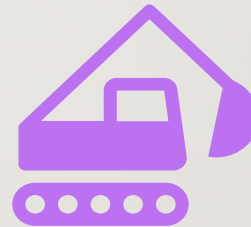
Commercial Forest Product Classes

Pulpwood

Chip-n-Saw

Sawtimber

Poles



How They are Paid-

Landowner Paid Stumpage-typically per ton

Logger Paid Deliver Price at Mill (Delivered Price- Stumpage=Logging Rate)

LOCAL FOREST MARKETS BASICS

- 40 Acres or Less-Below Typical Commercial Forestry Operations
- Thinning and Partial Harvests Could Require 60 acres or More
- Logging Contractors Must Make Contracts Profitable
- Often Small Tracts get Lower Stumpage-Due To Higher Logging Costs i.e. higher Logging Rate
- Economy of Scale Matters, and Impacts Forest Management



HOW DO YOU MAKE SMALL TRACTS VALUABLE

- Get Timber Sales If Possible, But Focus on Alternatives
- Look At Non-Timber Forest Products-Pine Straw, Mushroom Production, Edible and Medicinal Plants, Christmas Trees, Etc.
- Access-A Prime and Valuable Commodity: Ecotourism, Outdoor Experience, Camping
- Agroforestry: Combine Agricultural Operations with Forest Operations
- Specialty Wood Products-Furniture, Small Sawmilling, Firewood, Live Edge, Crooked and Burl Wood, Lighter Wood, Wood Supplies For Artists, Mushroom Logs
- Use Your Wood Yourself



FORESTRY CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

- Similar To Loggers and Others-They Must Make Good Business Decisions
- Consulting Foresters-Paid on Commission or per a Rate (Hourly or Acre)
 - Can Provide Advice and Management Plans, Estimate Timber Volumes, Locate Contractors
 - Work For The Landowner, Much Like a Realtor
- Contractors-Provide Services for Meeting Objectives: Burning, Mechanical Treatments, Planting, Herbicide Work, etc.
- Scale Matters and Often a Minimum Charge Applies
- These Professionals Want to Help
 - Understand What you Want Done, And When Your Project May Be Too Small



ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FOR SMALL TRACTS

GENERATING VALUE THROUGH OTHER OPERATIONS



ALTERNATIVE WOOD MARKETS AND STRATEGY



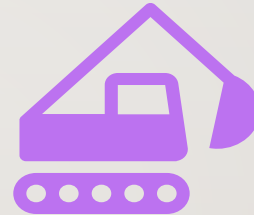
Alternative Forest Product Classes

Specialty woods and lumber for furniture, etc.

Firewood or Camp Wood

Live Edge Slabs for tables, bar tops, etc.

Historical or Architectural Markets, specialty restoration supplies



Strategies for getting value

Network with small sawmill operators and specialty wood markets

Self-production-consider firewood processing and portable sawmilling

Self-Use-use wood produced on your woodlot to replace purchasing wood products

Consider lease or contract arrangements with people seeking opportunities



FIRST AND FOREMOST, HAVE A PLAN

WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

WHAT OUTCOMES DO YOU WANT?



WHAT IS A TIMBER CRUISE ANYWAY?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS ON YOUR LAND
AND THE CONDITION?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR TIMBER
STOCKING HOW DO YOU MANAGE?



STARTING POINTS

- More Mature Natural Area
- Established Pine Plantation-15+ Years Old
 - Thinned or Unthinned?
- Established Pine Plantation-<15 Years Old
- Previously Harvested-Minimally Stocked
- Cutover to Be Replanted
- Uniform or Multiple Conditions

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Three Techniques
 - Mechanical
 - Chemical (Herbicides)
 - Prescribed Fire
- Consider desired outcomes, expense, and timeline
- Conducting operations yourself requires considerations of equipment, certifications, and regulatory requirements
- Prescribed Grazing-Uses Grazing animals and trampling as vegetation management treatment
- Do It yourself
 - Mechanical-mowers and other tractor mounted implements are limited in certain conditions
 - Herbicide Application-requires good knowledge and understanding of proper application, hand equipment is labor intensive, broadcast sprayers for equipment mounting
 - Prescribed Fire-must comply with regulations, consider Northwest Florida Prescribed Burn Association (<https://talltimbers.org/private-lands-prescribed-fire-initiative/northwest-florida-pba/>)

PINE STRAW

- Longleaf-Premium, Slash-Marketable, Loblolly-Little Interest
- Need a Young Stand 18 Years Or Less, Fully Stocked
- Thinning Lowers Straw Yield and Value, May Be Needed For Forest Health
- If Planting Consider Pine Straw as a significant monetary source
- Yield Starts age 8-10, Optimally Requires Fertilization and Vegetation Control
- Small Tracts may require self harvesting and marketing, repeated operation require careful fertility management

PINE WOOD UTILIZATION

- Pine is not suited to firewood or mushroom production
- Small Scale Markets Focus on high value large sawlogs
- For small wood, fence posts and other light uses
- Mid sized-used as small sawlog, log cabin stock, small roundwood
- Good quality straight poles can be used for barn poles and other applications



HARDWOOD UTILIZATION

- Hardwoods in the area rarely reach large high quality states
- Highest Quality and Demand
 - Red and White Oaks
 - Yellow Poplar
 - Hickory & Pecan
- Small Low Quality-Firewood and Mushroom Production
- Large sawtimber can be excellent for custom and specialty markets
- Burlwood and wood for artist and woodworking markets



MATCH YOUR HARVESTING WITH FOREST OBJECTIVES

What are you hoping to gain by removing the trees?

Does what is cut meet the guidelines and objective?

Will this benefit your woodlot?



WHERE TO START?



WHERE YOU WANT TO BE



TAKING CARE OF PESTS AND DISEASES



GETTING THERE IS A PROCESS



ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

- Agroforestry-Alley Cropping, Silvopasture, Other Systems
- Lower Density Management-Lower standing timber stock targeting larger mature trees
- Self-Harvesting Timber
- Small and Portable Sawmilling
- Mitigation and Carbon Markets
- Tourism and Experience Operations

CHRISTMAS TREE BASICS

- HOW MUCH ACREAGE DO YOU WANT TO INVEST?
- IS IT CLEARED, OR WILL IT NEED TO BE CLEARED?
- WHAT ARE THE INSTALLATION EXPENSES?
- HOW MANY TREES DO YOU PLAN TO SELL ANNUALLY? HOW DOES THIS TRANSLATE TO ROTATION
- FIRST CROP 5+ YEARS FROM ESTABLISHMENT



SMALL SAWMILLING AND PROCESSING

- Harvest and Transport-Fell, Limb, Buck, Skid, Haul
- Equipment-Chainsaw, Skidding Arch, Tractor and Skid Attachment, Log Loading, Transport Trailer
- Log Storage and Moisture Management
- Log Scaling and Measurement
- Alaskan Style Chainsaw Mills
- Portable Band Saw Style
- Circular Saws-Traditional Vertical and Edging, Single Swing Blade Style
- What are You Producing? Lumber, Slabs, Specialty Cuts
- Storage and Drying-Stacking and Air Dry, Post Processing



INCORPORATING GRAZING

GRAZING ADVANTAGES AND USES

- For the Homestead or Small Farm, 2 uses on one area
- Best Method-Silvopasture conversion by thinning existing stands
- Grazing can be used as vegetation management-trampling and browsing can control Brush.This is conservation or forest grazing
- True silvopasture operations manage at very low densities, can be challenging on small acreage
- Be aware animals in areas of limited forage will require supplemental feeding.

SILVOPASTURE ON GEORGE C. OWENS FARM

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE C. OWENS



SCENARIOS-WHAT TO DO?

- Former Part of Production Pine Plantation-Planted High Density Improved Loblolly
- Cutover-Not Replanted for 5+ Years
- Former Farm with Unmanaged Woodlands
- Mid Rotation Pine Stand with Hardwood and Brush Issues
- Overcrowded area of Hardwoods with many undesirable trees
- Well Stocked Mature Pine Stand with overgrown Understory
- Overharvested and High graded Stand, low density



QUESTIONS

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO FILL OUT THE SURVEY

Forestry Program Evaluation
Survey



<https://forms.office.com/r/WYJjvPZmgd>