

Hardwood Silviculture Cooperative
Summer Management Committee Meeting Minutes
June 16-17, 2016

Thursday June 16, 2016:

The HSC 2016 Summer meeting was held in conjunction with the Washington hardwood Commission (WHC) Annual Symposium. This event titled “Experience an Alder Day in the Woods” toured operational, mid-rotation red alder plantations on Weyerhaeuser property in the Kelso & Ryderwood, WA area. Most aspects of operational red alder management were covered but special emphasis was placed on:

- Site productivity
- Site selection
- Plantation establishment
- Stand density management
- Commercial thinning

As part of the meeting, Glenn Ahrens spoke to the group about the HSC- its history, goals and importance to foresters and forestry in the PNW. In addition, Andrew Bluhm talked about stand density management using results from 22 year data from the HSC site #3202.

The tour was jam packed with information which is nicely assembled into a pdf found at the following: http://wahardwoodscomm.com/2016_AnnualMtg.html.

Friday June 17, 2016:

Attendees: Andrew Bluhm, Glenn Ahrens- OSU; Brian Morris- WA DNR; Michael Johnson- Hancock Forest Management /Washington Hardwood Commission; George McFadden- Bureau of Land Management; Florian Deisenhofer- Hancock Forest Management; Joe Monks- Northwest hardwoods/Washington Hardwood Commission.

The meeting started at 8:30 AM at the WA DNR Pacific Cascade Region Office in Castle Rock, WA with a welcome from the HSC program leader, Glenn Ahrens. As most are aware by now, Dave Hibbs has retired and Glenn has taken his place. The group then the highlights of the WHC tour from the day before. Discussion, here, centered on:

- Feasibility of commercial thinning
- Two site preparation treatments
- Seedling issues, specifically the lack of quality seedlings currently available
- Reduction of rotation ages

Next was a presentation given by Andrew Bluhm titled “HSC Red Alder Taper Project”. This analysis was a continuation of the ongoing project investigating how well the red alder taper equation predicted DIB and thus volume. Andrew reviewed the previous results of “testing” the accuracy of the taper equation. Briefly, these are:

- DIB was most often under predicted above DBH
- DIB under predictions increased with increasing measurement point height
- Merchantable tree volume and log volume was consistently under predicted

This obviously raised the question whether the taper equation needed to be refit with using the now, much more robust dataset. To that end, the HSC in partnership with Aaron Weiskittel at the University of Maine evaluated the performance of the taper equation using the entire red alder

taper database. The goal was to refit the Bluhm et al (2007) equation using the combined dataset and compare the performance of this new equation to an alternative model form and the existing equations. The (preliminary) results presented here showed that while the “new or refit” Bluhm equation did the best job at predicting diameter inside bark, the “old or original” Bluhm equation did the best job at predicting tree volume.

The group then discussed additional sources of taper data.

- Processor-gathered data
 - C & C logging
 - SE US pine processors
- Elochoman stands- old WeyCo density trial now owned by DNR

Andrew then moved on to HSC business with a review of last years’ fieldwork, the coming years’ fieldwork and an overview of the data collection schedule for all three installation types.

Last year (Winter 2015/16) had fieldwork on nine installations. Measurements included:

- Six Type 2 installations needed fieldwork.
- Humphrey Hill (4201, GYN) was the first installation receiving its 27th year measure.
- Five Type 2 installations- Lucky Creek (1202, BCMIN), Cape Mtn. (2204, SNF), Siletz (2205, Stimson), Dora (3207, BLM) and French Creek (4205, BCMIN) having their 22nd year measurement.
- Of these installations there was one pruning treatment (Lucky Creek) needed.
- Three Type 3 installations- Monroe-Indian (2301, Stimson), Turner Creek (4301, GYN), and Holt Creek (4303, BCMIN) having their 17th year measurement.

This upcoming year (Winter 2016/17) will have the “usual” amount of fieldwork with a total of six sites needing either a measurement or a treatment. Work will include:

- Two Type II installations- Clear Lake Hill (4202, GYN) and Ryderwood (3202, WHC) will have the 27th year measurement.
- Three Type II installations- Mt. Gauldy (2206, SNF), Scappoose (3209, BLM), and Darrington (4206, WADNR) will have the 22nd year measurement.
- Of these installations there will be one pruning treatment (Mt. Gauldy).
- One Type III installation- Menlo (3301, WADNR) will have the 17th year measurement.

As fall approaches, Andrew will contact each HSC member to provide specific on the activities and schedule the fieldwork. In theory, all sites have cooperator support, but depending on the status of Goodyear Nelson, there may not be a crew available to conduct the 27th year measurements on Clear Lake Hill. Therefore, it was decided for Andrew to stay in touch with Paul Kriegal, and if there is no support, to possibly have an HSC winter work party this coming winter to complete the measurements.

Next, Andrew presented the HSC budget. Highlights included:

- Dues received in 2016 were \$47,500, down \$5,000 from the year before.
- Actual costs, with the exception of Andrew’s cost, were in line with what was projected.
- Therefore, with the increase in Andrew’s costs and the reduction in revenue, Andrews’s time was decreased from 0.40FTE to 0.35FTE.
- Looking ahead to 2017, and using the worst-case scenario in terms of dues income, Andrews’s time will be decreased again from 0.35FTE to 0.30FTE.

After a break, the grouped discussed many topics including:

- Annual dues vs. project-based funding- inquire with Dave Hibbs and OSU accounting how flexible the mechanisms are to bring in “extra” or non-dues money
- Seedling availability
- Seed sources, relative performances, and climate change
- Clonal stock trial
 - WSU is developing some clonal material that may be available this fall
 - WSU and WeyCo are currently negotiating proprietary issues
 - Test sites for clonal stock- quantifying amount of gain
 - Seedling trials- bareroot vs. plug
 - Should the HSC coordinate test site selection, establishment, measurements, and data analysis? What would the time and cost be?
 - Hancock is very interested in this trial and already have a test site selected.
 - DNR and BLM could also provide test sites
 - Alex has the authority to share results from his clonal outplanting trial.
 - Realized gain trial
 - Planted in 2006 at 680tpa
 - 2 sites Westside of Coastal mountains
 - Appx. 12 clones and a local seed source/site
 - 6 reps, blocked by slope position, 40 trees/plot
 - Needs to be PCTd, could be done for free upon request, then measured
 - Would require maintenance
 - J&M has measured these sites in the past. Ask them for an estimate to do the measurements
 - Timeline- this winter?
- Mixed species and/or natural alder stand growth and yield model
 - Ask HSC members their degree of interest in a creating a new version of the plantation model vs. developing a mixed-specie/natural stand model.
- Mill trial for commercial thinned lumber
 - Randy Bartelt said this type of trial is easy and they are good at it but the right of 1st refusal HNW has with WeyCo would need to be addressed before Randy could buy a timber sale and do the mill study. Joe Monks, with NWH said WeyCo could just sell them the logs and have the trial done there.
 - Michael Johnson and Alex Dobkowski volunteered to take the lead on this mill trial effort
- WHC data request
 - Road Map
 - Deliverables
 - Proposal
 - HSC Member approval
 - Revie RAP ORGANON validation
 - Stand tables