

Highlights of 2010

- Three more HSC Type 2 installations had the 17th year measurement; bringing the total to 14 of the 26 installations.
- ✓ Four HSC Type 2 installations had all treatments completed; bringing the total to 11 of the 26 installations.
 - The ORGANON modeling effort is well under way. All of the equations necessary for modeling the control/untreated stands have been completed. Attention is now focused on the effects of thinning.
- A collaborative effort between the WA Department of Natural Resources and the HSC will look at the effect of thinning natural red alder stands on volume and stem form.

Contents

Highlights of 2010	2
HSC Executive Summary 2010	4
History of the HSC	6
Red Alder Stand Management Study	9
Current HSC Activities	15
ORGANON Growth and Yield Modeling	15
Updates	15
Progress	15
Other Red Alder Research	25
Frankia Population Dynamics in Red Alder Stands	25
Red Alder and Climate Change	26
Thinned Natural Red Alder Stand Volume and Stem Form	26
Development of a Sustainable Woody Bioenergy Industry	27
Direction for 2011	29
Appendix 1—Treatment Summaries	30
Appendix 2—HSC Management Committee Meeting Minutes	31
Appendix 3—Financial Support Received in 2009-2010	36

HSC Executive Summary 2010

Established in 1988 by a small and visionary group, the HSC is in the lead developing and providing information for foresters interested in red alder management. The progress in 20 years is quite amazing to contemplate

The HSC has established thirty-seven study installations spread from Coos Bay, Oregon to Vancouver Island, British Columbia. There are three study types:

4 thinning studies in natural red alder stands

7 replacement series studies of red alder/Douglas-fir mixtures

26 variable density red alder plantations with thinning and pruning treatments

Last year's data collection schedule was less than average. Six installations were measured including three Type 2 installations having their 17th year measurement. This brings the total number of installations with 17 year data to 14. Furthermore, of those 14 installations, 11 have had all the treatments completed.

The data collected (combined with data from Weyerhaeuser Co.) are currently being used to develop a growth and yield model for red alder plantations (RAP-ORGANON), an essential tool for the management of red alder. This model will provide much needed information to estimate site productivity, growth responses following thinning, and the extrapolation of stand volume, rotation ages, log sizes, etc.

So far, in the process of building RAP-ORGANON, all of the equations necessary for the control/non-treated stands have been developed. These are: plantation-grown red alder dominant height growth (site index), heightdiameter, maximum crown width, largest crown width, crown profile, height to crown base, diameter growth, height growth, crown recession rate, mortality rate, and size density equations.

Furthermore, the value of the HSC data and study design has been recognized by researchers who are interested in a number of forestry related topics.

These include:

- Peter Kennedy (Lewis and Clark College) used the HSC study sites to study the effects of geographic location, stand origin, and tree density on nitrogen-fixing *Frankia* populations. Two peer-reviewed journal articles from this effort have now been published.
- ✓ A Canadian project "Using red alder as an adaptation strategy to reduce environmental, social and economic risks of climate change in coastal BC" has gotten underway. To date, the HSC has provided geographic and tree growth information for all of the HSC installations and assisted in collecting soil samples from the Type 3 installation in the USA. This coming fall, the HSC will collect Douglas-fir foliage from the same installations.
- The red alder stand containing the HSC Type 1 installation #4102 (Janicki) is scheduled for harvest. Because of this, the HSC and WA Department of Natural Resources are taking this opportunity to collect additional information on the effects of thinning on stem form and tree and stand volume. These results will assist WADNR in fine-tuning their red alder cruise estimates and help improve existing red alder volume/taper equations
- A large, cooperative effort is underway to acquire funding to promote and develop a sustainable bioenergy industry in the Pacific Northwest. The HSC may play a role in this study by providing volume/biomass data from red alder stands (both natural and planted). The work is contingent upon funding.

Summaries and/or updates of these research projects are presented later in this report.

Managing red alder stands has finally gained wide acceptance in the region in part due to the efforts of the HSC and all of its members. The vision and dedication of this group has resulted in great improvements in the understanding and management of red alder. May it continue to do so.

anden A Blum

History of the HSC

The Hardwood Silviculture Cooperative (HSC) is a multi-faceted research and education program focused on the silviculture of red alder (*Alnus rubra*) and mixes of red alder and Douglas-fir (*Pseutotsuga menzeisii*) in the Pacific Northwest. The goal of the HSC is improving the understanding, management, and production of red alder. The activities of the HSC have already resulted in significant gains in understanding of regeneration and stand management, and have highlighted the potential of red alder to contribute to both economic and ecological forest management objectives.

The HSC, begun in 1988, is a combination of industry and both federal and state agency members, each with their own reasons for pursuing red alder management. For instance, some want to grow red alder for high-quality saw logs, while others want to manage red alder as a component of bio-diversity. What members have in common is that they all want to grow red alder to meet their specific objectives.

Members invest in many ways to make the HSC a success. They provide direction and funds to administer the Cooperative. They provide the land for research sites and the field crews for planting, thinning, and taking growth measurements.

The HSC's highest priority is to understand the response of red alder to intensive management. To accomplish this, the HSC has installed 26 variabledensity plantations extending from Coos Bay, Oregon to Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The majority of plantations are located in the Coast Range, with a few in the Cascade Range. The plantation distribution covers a wide range of geographic conditions and site qualities. At each site, cooperators planted large blocks of red alder at densities of 100, 230, 525, and 1200 trees per acre. Each block is subdivided into several treatment plots covering a range of thinning and pruning options (twelve total treatments per site).

In addition to the 26 variable-density plantations, the HSC has related studies in naturally regenerated stands. Young stands (less than 15 years old) of naturally regenerated red alder, 5 to 10 acres in size, were pursued as a means of short-cutting some of the lag time before meaningful thinning results could be obtained from the variable-density plantations. It came as a surprise to find only four naturally regenerated stands of the right age and size available in the entire Pacific Northwest.

The HSC has also established seven mixed species plantations of red alder and Douglas-fir. They are located on land designated as Douglas-fir site class III or below. Each plantation is planted with 300 trees per acre with five proportions of the two species. The site layout is designed to look at the interactions between the two species. We are finding that in low proportions and when soil nitrogen is limited, red alder may improve the growth of Douglas-fir. This improvement is due to the nitrogen fixing ability of red alder. The management challenge is to find the right proportion of the two species through time to maintain a beneficial relationship.

Since the HSC was established, we have learned a great deal about seed zone transfer, seedling propagation, stocking guidelines, identification of sites appropriate for red alder, and the effects of spacing on early tree growth (see the HSC web-page http://www.cof.orst.edu/coops/hsc for more information). Furthermore, the data set is now complete enough to begin analyzing the growth response of red alder after thinning and/or pruning. Our ultimate goal is a better understanding of the effects of stand density management on red alder growth and yield, and wood quality and to develop red alder growth models.

The HSC red alder stand management studies are well designed and replicated on a scale rarely attempted in forestry. Over the next 20 years, we will harvest much from our investment. Our data set on growth of managed stands will make red alder one of the better-understood forest trees of the Pacific Northwest.



Location of installations for the Red Alder Stand Management Study.

Red Alder Stand Management Study

he Red Alder Stand Management Study is divided into three specific types of installations. Study installations are predominately located in the coastal mountain ranges of the Pacific Northwest from Coos Bay, Oregon to Vancouver Island, British Columbia (Figure 1). The three types of study installations are as follows:

- Type 1 is a natural red alder stand thinned to 230 and 525 trees per acre. There are four Type 1 installations.
- ✓ Type 2 is a variable-density red alder plantation. At each site, red alder is planted in large blocks at densities of 100, 230, 525, and 1200 trees per acre. Each block is subdivided into several thinning and pruning treatments. There are twenty-six Type 2 installations.
- ✓ Type 3 is a mixed species plantation of red alder and Douglas-fir. Each site is planted to 300 trees per acre with five proportions of the two species. There are seven Type 3 installations.

The primary focus of the Red Alder Stand Management study continues to be the Type 2 variable-density plantations. Type 2 installations are distributed across a matrix of five ecological regions and three site quality classes (Table 1).

With each passing year, more and more treatments are applied and more data is collected. Tables 2, 3, and 4 describe the data collection schedules for the three installation types. The shaded areas of the tables indicate the activities that have been completed and illustrate the tremendous accomplishments of the HSC to date.

Winter 2009/10 was a relatively light field season. Measurements and various treatments were completed on 6 of the 37 installations (see Table 5). Last years work included:

- ✓ One Type 1 installation was measured.
- ✓ Janicki (4102, WADNR) had its 19th year measurement. This is the 3rd Type 1 installation with 19 year post-thinning data.
- ✓ Five Type 2 installations had fieldwork.
- Three sites- Blue Mtn. (3206, WHC), Campbell River (4203, BCMIN), and Hemlock Creek (5204, WHC) had their 17th year measurement. In addition, Campbell River and Scappoose (3209, BLM) had their 4th and final pruning lift and their last thinning treatment. Finally, John's River (2201, WHC) had its 3rd pruning lift.
- ✓ As of this year, 14 of the 26 Type 2 installations have had their 17th year measurement and 11 of these have all treatments completed.
- ✓ No Type 3 installations had fieldwork.

This coming year's fieldwork (Winter 2010/11) will have almost double the fieldwork as last year. A total of 11 installations need either a measurement or a treatment. See Table 6 for the list of activities. Work includes:

✔ No Type 1 measurement:

- Eight Type 2 installations:
- ✓ Humphrey Hill (4201, GYN): 22nd year measurement
- ✓ Lucky Creek (1202, BCMIN): 17th year measurement and 3rd pruning lift
- ✓ Cape Mtn. (2204, SNF): 17th year measurement, 3rd pruning lift and possibly the 30ft HLC thin
- ✓ Siletz (2205, ANE): 17th year measurement, 3rd pruning lift and possibly the 30ft HLC thin

Table 1. Matrix of Type 2 installations. Each installation identified by number, ownership, and year planted.

	Site Quality					
	Low	Medium	High			
Region	SI50 :23-27 M	SI50 :28-32 M	SI50 :33+ M			
	SI20 :14-17 M	SI20 :18-20 M	SI20 :21+ M			
1) Sitka Spruce North	Х	1201 DNR '91	1202 BCMin '94			
·			1203 DNR '96			
2) Sitka Spruce South	2202 SNF '91	2203 ANE '92	2201 WHC '90			
	2206 SNF '95	2204 SNF '94	2205 ANE '94			
3) Coast Range		3202 WHC '90				
	3204 SNF '92	3205 ODF '92	3203 CAM '92			
	3209 BLM '95	3207 BLM '94	3206 WHC '93			
		3208 ODF '97	3210 OSU '97			
4) North Cascades	4205 BCMin '94	4202 GYN '90				
		4203 BCMin '93	4201 GYN '89			
		4206 DNR '95				
5) South Cascades	5205 GPNF '97	5203 BLM '92	Х			
		5204 WHC '93				

Definition of Acronyms

- 1. ANE-ANE Hardwoods
- 2. BCMin-British Columbia Ministry of Forests.
- 3. BLM-Bureau of Land Management.
- 4. DNR-Washington Department of Natural Resources.
- 5. GYN-Goodyear-Nelson.
- 6. GPNF-Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
- 7. MBSNF-Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest
- 8. CAM-Campbell Group
- 9. ODF-Oregon Department of Forestry.
- 10. OSU-Oregon State University Forest Research Laboratory.
- 11. SNF-Siuslaw National Forest.
- 12. WHC-Washington Hardwood Commission.

	BCmin 4203	Mohun Ck.	1993	1994	1995	1996	1996	1998	1998	1999	2001/03	2002	2002	2007	2005	2010	2010	2010	2015
	WHC 3206	Blue Mtn.	1993	1994	1995	1996	1996	1998	1998	1999	2002	2002	2002	2002	2005	2007	2005	2010	2015
	BLM 5203	Thompson	1992	1993	1994	1995	1995	1996	1996	1998	2000	2000	2001	2004	2004	2009	2009	2009	2014
	0DF 3205	Shamu	1992	1993	1994	1995	1995	1997	1997	1998	2000	2000	2001	2004	2004	2007	2007	2009	2014
	SNF 3204	Keller-Grass	1992	1993	1994	1995	1995	1997	1997	1998	2001	1999	2001	2009	2004	NA	2014	2009	2014
	NWH 3203	Sitkum	1992	1993	1994	1995	1995	1998	1998	1998	2001	2001	2001	2001	2004	2004	2004	2009	2014
S.	NWH 2203	Pioneer	1992	1993	1994	1995	1995	1997	1997	1998	2000	2000	2001	2004	2004	2009	2009	2009	2014
eted activitie:	SNF 2202	Pollard	1991	1992	1993	1994	1994	1996	1996	1997	1999/02	2000	2000	2003	2003	2008	2008	2008	2013
icate compl	DNR 1201	LaPush	1991	1992	1993	1994	1994	1996	1996	1997	1999	2002	2000	2008	2003	2011?	2013?	2008	2013
aueu areas linu	GYN 4202	Clear Lake	1990	1991	1992	1993	1993	1994	1996	1996	1996	1996	1999	1999	2002	2002	2002	2007	2012
tallations. Shi	WHC 3202	Ryderwood	1990	1991	1992	1993	1993	1996	1996	1996	1999	1999	1999	2002	2002	NA	2002	2007	2012
or Iype z Ins	WHC 2201	John's R.	1990	1991	1992	1993	1993	1996	1996	1996	1999/07	2002	1999	2010	2002	2012?	2012?	2007	2012
tion schedule to	GYN 4201	Humphrey	1989	1990	1991	1992	1992	1993	1995	1995	1995	1995	1998	1998	2001	2001	2001	2006	2011
ומחור דמי המוח ההוורי	TYPE 2 Site Number	Site Name	Year Planted	1st yr Regen	2nd yr Regen	Plot Installation	3rd yr Measure	3-5 yr Thin	Prune Lift 1 6ft	6th yr Measure	15-20' HLC Thin	Prune Lift 2 12ft	9th yr Measure	Prune Lift 3 18ft	12th yr Measure	30-32' HLC Thin	Prune Lift 4 22 ft	17th yr Measure	22nd yr Measure

GPNF	5205	Tongue Mtn.	1997	1998	1998	2000	2000	2003/07	NA	2003	2009/12	NA	2006	NA	2009	ż	NA	2014	2019
OSU	3210	Wrongway	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000	2003/06	2003	2003	2007/09	2006	2006	2011	2009	2011?	2014?	2014	2019
ODF	3208	Weebe	1997	1998	1999	2000	2000	2003	2003	2003	2007/12	2009	2006	2012	2009	ż	ż	2014	2019
DNR	1203	Maxfield	1996	1997	1998	1998	1999	2002	2002	2002	2005/08	2005	2005	2011	2008	2011?	2013?	2013	2018
DNR	4206	Darrington	1995	1996	1997	1997	1998	2000/01	2000	2001	2002/07	2002	2004	2004	2007	2012	2007	2012	2017
BLM	3209	Scappoose	1995	1996	1997	1998	1998	2000	2000	2001	2004/07	2004	2004	2010	2007	2010	2010	2012	2017
SNF	2206	Mt. Gauldy	1995	1996	1997	1997	1998	2001	2001	2001	2004/07	2004	2004	2012	2007	2012?	2012?	2012	2017
BCmin	4205	French Ck.	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997	1999	1999	2000	2003/11	2003	2003	2006	2006	2011?	2011	2011	2016
BLM	3207	Dora	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997	1999	NA	2000	2003	NA	2003	NA	2006	ż	NA	2011	2016
HWN	2205	Siletz	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997	1999	1999	2000	2003/06	2003	2003	2011	2006	2011?	ż	2011	2016
SNF	2204	Cape Mtn.	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997	1999	1999	2000	2006	2003	2003	2011	2006	2011?	ż	2011	2016
BCmin	1202	Lucky Ck.	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997	1999	1999	2000	2006/08	2006	2003	2011	2006	ż	ż	2011	2016
WHC	5204	Hemlock Ck.	1993	1994	1995	1996	1996	1998	NA	1999	2002	NA	2002	NA	2005	2007	NA	2010	2015
TYPE 2	Site Number	Site Name	Year Planted	1st yr Regen	2nd yr Regen	Plot Installation	3rd yr Measure	3-5 yr Thin	Prune Lift 1 6ft	6th yr Measure	15-20'HLCThin	Prune Lift 2 12ft	9th yr Measure	Prune Lift 3 18ft	12th yr Measure	30-32' HLC Thin	Prune Lift 4 22 ft	17th yr Measure	22nd yr Measure

Table 3. Data Collection Sch	edule for Type 1 Install	ations. Shaded areas indicate c	ompleted activities.	
TYPE 1	BCmin	SNF	DNR	MBSNF
Site Number	4101	2101	4102	4103
Site Name	Sechelt	Battle Saddle	Janicki	Sauk River
Plot Installation	1989	1990	1991	1994
1st yr Measurement	1989	1990	1991	1994
3rd yr Measurement	1992	1993	1994	1997
6th yr Measurement	1995	1996	1997	2000
9th yr Measurement	1998	1999	2000	2003
14th yr Measurement	2003	2004	2005	2008
19th yr Measurement	2008	2009	2010	2013
24th yr Measurement	2013	2014	2015	2018

Table 4. Data Collection Schedule for Type 3 Installations. Shaded areas indicate completed activities.

Owner	BCmin	NWH	GYN	BCmin	DNR	SNF	GPNF
Site Number	4302	2301	4301	4303	3301	2302	5301
Site Name	East Wilson	Monroe-Indian	Turner Creek	Holt Creek	Menlo	Cedar Hebo	Puget
Year Planted	1992	1994	1994	1994	1995	1996	1997
1st yr Regen Survey	1993	1995	1995	1995	1996	1997	1998
2nd yr Regen Survey	1994	1996	1996	1996	1997	1998	1999
Plot Installation	1993	1996	1996	1996	1998	1999	2000
3rd yr Measurement	1995	1997	1997	1997	1998	1999	2000
6th yr Measurement	1998	2000	2000	2000	2001	2002	2003
9th yr Measurement	2001	2003	2003	2003	2004	2005	2006
12th yr Measurement	2004	2006	2006	2006	2007	2008	2009
17th yr Measurement	2009	2011	2011	2011	2012	2013	2014
22nd yr Measurement	2014	2016	2016	2016	2017	2018	2019

✓ Dora (3207, BLM): 17th year measurement

- French Creek (4205, BCMIN): 17th year measurement, 4th pruning lift and the 30ft HLC thin
- ✔ Maxfield (1203, WADNR): 3rd pruning lift and the 30ft HLC thin
- ✔ Wrongway Creek (3210, OSU): 3rd pruning lift and the 30ft HLC thin
- ✓ Three Type 3 installations:
- ✔ Monroe-Indian (2301, ANE): 17th year measurement
- ✓ Turner Creek (4301, GYN): 17th year measurement
- ✓ Holt Creek (4303, BCMIN): 17th year measurement

Of note, there is one "orphaned" installation (3210, Wrongway Creek) to be measured/treated that does not have a field crew available.

Table 5. Hardwood Silvi	culture cooperative Field	perative rield Activities, winter 2009/10					
Туре	Activity	Installation	Cooperator				
Туре 1	19 yr measurement	4102	DNR- Janicki				
Type 2	3rd Pruning Lift	2201	WHC- John's River				
		3209	BLM- Scappoose				
	17yr Measurement	3206	WHC- Blue Mtn.				
		4203	BCMIN- Campbell River				
		5204	WHC- Hemlock Ck.				
	30ft HLC Thin	4203	BCMIN- Campbell River				
		3209	BLM- Scappoose				
	4th Pruning Lift	4203	BCMIN- Campbell River				
Туре 3	None						

Activity Туре Installation Cooperator

Table 6. Hardwood Silviculture Cooperative Field Activities, Winter 2010/11

Туре 1	None		
Type 2	3rd Pruning Lift	1202	BCMIN- Lucky Creek
	-	2204	SNF- Cape Mtn.
		2205	ANE- Siletz
		1203	WADNR- Maxfield
		3210	OSU- Wrongway Creek
	17yr Measurement	1202	BCMIN- Lucky Creek
		2204	SNF- Cape Mtn.
		2205	ANE- Siletz
		3207	BLM- Dora
		4205	BCMIN- French Creek
	30ft HLC Thin	2204	SNF- Cape Mtn.?
		2205	ANE- Siletz?
		4205	BCMIN- French Creek
		1203	WADNR- Maxfield
		3210	OSU- Wrongway Creek
	4th Pruning Lift	4205	BCMIN- French Creek
	22yr Measurement	4201	GYN- Humphrey Hill
Туре 3	17yr Measurement	2301	ANE- Monroe Indian
		4301	GYN-Turner Creek
		4303	BCMIN- Holt Creek

Current HSC Activities

ORGANON GROWTH AND YIELD MODELING

UPDATES

s described in last year's annual report, the HSC is developing a new version of ORGANON for red alder plantations (RAP-ORGANON). This version will be the first red alder growth and yield model that will specifically model the behavior of plantations. Described in last year's report were the accomplishments thus far. They were:

The data was cleaned and formatted, then "explored" (i.e. looking at the ranges and patterns of the data, identifying relationships, looking for "weird" behavior, etc.). In addition, the effect of planting density on height growth was tested and dominant height growth equations were then developed to calculate site index.

The following equations were then developed:

- Maximum crown width
- Largest crown width
- Crown profile
- Height-diameter
- Height-to-crown-base

However, during the development of additional equations, errors in the database were detected. These errors did not ignore existing equations but required reformatting the database for further analysis. It was then decided to take this opportunity to add additional data collected since the original database had been created. Although requiring additional effort, the updated database is much more robust with thousands of measurements added of (mostly) older trees. New parameter estimates were then calculated for the equations already completed.

PROGRESS

The following is a synopsis/summary of RAP-ORGANON equations developed last year. Full reports and final parameter estimates for all equations will be released after model testing.

Diameter Growth

The diameter growth rate (ΔD) used in ORGANON is a function of tree (dbh [D], crown ratio [CR], and basal area per acre in larger trees [BAL]) and plot (site index

[RASI] and basal area per acre [BA]) attributes. The general model form used to predict the diameter growth rate of red alder growing in plantations is:

$$\Delta D = e^{\frac{5}{\sum}b_i X_i} + \varepsilon_{\Delta D}$$

Where,

$$\begin{split} X_0 &= 1.0 \\ X_1 &= \ln(D + 1.0) \\ X_2 &= D \\ X_3 &= \ln[(CR + 0.2)/1.2] \\ X_4 &= \ln(RASI - 4.5) \\ X_5 &= BAL/\ln(D + 1.0) \\ X_6 &= BA^{1/2} \end{split}$$

The modeling dataset attributes used in developing the diameter growth rate equation are shown in Table 7.

Three different approaches were used to estimate the parameters from the control plot data:

- ✓ A weighted nonlinear regression fit to periodic annual increment data (central PAI).
- An unweighted nonlinear regression fit to the periodic data (unweighted summation).
- A weighted nonlinear regression fit to the periodic data (weighted summation).

Using the three methods, the parameters and their standard errors were calculated and each set of parameters was evaluated for how well they characterized the modeling

Table 7. Descriptive statistics for the modeling dataset used in developing the diameter growth (ΔD) equation of plantation grown red alder.

Attribute	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std. Deviation
		Tree Level Attributes	: N = 31,977	
ΔD (in.)	0.47	-0.43	2.13	0.26
D (in.)	3.51	0.2	12.8	1.91
CR	0.7539	0.0523	1.0000	0.1856
BAL (ft.²/ac.)	21.54	0.00	130.31	21.20
	P	lot/Measurement Level	Attribute: N = 600	
BA (ft.²/ac.)	43.89	0.46	131.83	31.89
		Plot Level Attribut	e: N = 196	
RASI (ft.)	64.1	32.2	89.9	10.25

dataset and then validated by determining how well they characterized their respective validation datasets.

The weighted central PAI procedure had the best fit statistics (using the mean residual [a measure of bias], the root mean square error [a measure of accuracy], and the adjusted coefficient of determination $[R_a^2]$). This method also had the best fit statistics using the validation dataset. Table 8 and Table 9 show the evaluation and validation fit statistics, respectively, for the three modeling approaches.

Table 8. Evaluation fit statistics for	r unweighted residuals (pre	dicted minus actual) using the	diameter growth (ΔD) model form.
Estimation Procedure	Bias	RMSE	R _a ²
Weighted Central PAI	+0.0000	0.1362	0.7308
Unweighted Summation	-0.0098	0.1371	0.7271
Weighted Summation	-0.0066	0.1368	0.7283

Table 9. Validation fit statistics for unweighted residuals (predicted minus actual) using the diameter growth (Δ D) model form.							
Estimation Procedure	Bias	RMSE	R _a ²				
Weighted Central PAI	-0.0276	0.1360	0.6100				
Unweighted Summation	-0.0368	0.1373	0.6025				
Weighted Summation	-0.0357	0.1371	0.6034				

The final decision on which method to use in **RAP-ORGANON** must wait until the results from fitting the other dynamic equations have been analyzed. The analysis does indicate that the weighted summation procedure often produced results that were a compromise between the other two procedures. Therefore, graphs of predictions from this equation are found in Figures 2 and 3. Figure 2 shows the maximum predicted ΔD



Predicted maximum annual diameter growth rate (ΔD) for an open grown tree with a measured diameter (D) and site index (RASI). Parameters of the model were determined using the weighted summation method.

for an open grown tree plotted across D for RASI values of 40, 60, and 80-feet. Figure 3 shows the multiplicative modifier for adjusting the predicted maximum ΔD to the plot's measured BA.

Height Growth

The height growth rate (ΔH) equation used in ORGANON is a direct and indirect function of tree (total height [H], crown ratio [CR], and crown closure at the tip of the tree [CCH]) and plot (site index [RASI]) attributes. The combination of height and site index are used to determine the tree's potential height growth rate, illustrated in Figure 4. The remaining attributes are used to predict a modifier equation that transforms the potential estimate to an estimate of the tree's actual height growth rate.

The general model form used to predict diameter growth rate of red alder growing in plantations is a product



Multiplicative modifier for adjusting the predicted maximum annual diameter growth rate (ΔD) to the plot's measured BA. Parameters of the model were determined using the weighted summation method.



Graph of the potential annual height increment plotted across growth effective age for site index values of 30, 60, and 90 feet. Potential annual height increment is predicted from the Weiskittel et al. (2009) top height growth equation.

of the potential height growth rate (POT Δ H) and a modifier equation (MOD):

$$\Delta H = POT\Delta H \times MOD + \epsilon_{AD}$$

Where,

$$MOD = b_0(e^{b_1 + b_2CCH} + (e^{b_3CCH^{0.5}} - e^{b_1 + b_2CCH})e^{-(1.0 - CR)e^{b_4CCH^{0.5}}}$$

The modeling dataset attributes used in developing the height growth equation are shown in Table 10.

Attribute	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std. Deviation
		Tree Level Attributes: N	l = 31,997	
∆H (ft.)	3.42	-7.2	12.13	1.66
POT∆H (ft.)	4.24	0.63	8.57	1.43
H (ft.)	29.19	5.3	76.8	11.41
CR	0.7539	0.0523	1.0000	0.1856
CCH (%)	19.32	0.00	197.26	24.99
		Plot Level Attribute:	N = 196	
RASI (ft.)	64.1	32.2	89.9	10.25

Like diameter growth, three different approaches were used to estimate the parameters from the control plot data:

- ✓ A weighted nonlinear regression fit to periodic annual increment data (central PAI).
- An unweighted nonlinear regression fit to the periodic data (unweighted summation).

V A weighted nonlinear regression fit to the periodic data (weighted summation).

Using the three methods, the parameters and their standard errors were calculated and each set of parameters was evaluated for how well they characterized the modeling dataset and then validated by determining how well they characterized their respective validation datasets.

In general, the three procedures produced similar fit statistics (using the mean residual [a measure of bias], the root mean square error [a measure of accuracy], and the adjusted coefficient of determination $[R_a^2]$). Overall, the weighted summation procedure had slightly better fit statistics. Table 11 and Table 12 show the evaluation and validation fit statistics, respectively, for the three modeling approaches.

The results of these analyses indicate that the parameters derived from the weighted summation procedure are the best for characterizing height growth rates. A graph of the modifier equation can be found in Figure 5.

Table 11. Evaluation fit statistics for unweighted residuals (predicted minus actual) using the height growth (ΔH) model form.

Estimation Procedure	Bias	RMSE	R _a ²	
Weighted Central PAI	+0.0133	1.0567	0.5957	
Unweighted Summation	-0.0196	1.0555	0.5966	
Weighted Summation	+0.0130	1.0545	0.5974	

Table 12. Validation fit statistics for unweighted residuals (predicted minus actual) using the height growth (ΔH) model form.

Estimation Procedure	Bias	RMSE	R _a ²	
Weighted Central PAI	-0.1482	1.0484	0.5066	
Unweighted Summation	-0.1586	1.0592	0.4963	
Weighted Summation	-0.1351	1.0490	0.5060	



Graph of the multiplicative modifier equation on potential height growth (POT ΔH) for predicting height growth (ΔH) plotted across crown ratio (CR) for crown closure at the tip of the tree (CCH) values of 0, 1, 5, 20, 50, and 100 percent. $POT\Delta H$ is predicted from the Weiskittel et al. (2009) top height growth equation.

Crown Recession

The crown recession rate (Δ HCB) used in ORGANON is an indirect approach that uses a static HCB equation to predict HCB at the start and end of the growth period and then uses the difference as an estimate of Δ HCB (versus a dynamic equation that directly predicts Δ HCB). The objective of this analysis is to develop a direct dynamic equation for Δ HCB that can then be compared to the traditional indirect approach when the equations are inserted into RAP-ORGANON. The direct Δ HCB function uses both tree (predicted height growth rate [P Δ H], crown ratio [CR], crown length [CL], and, possibly, growth effective age [GEA] which can be computed without knowing the tree's or stand's actual age) and plot (crown competition factor [CCF] and, possibly, the total number of years since seed for the plantation [TAGE]) attributes. The following general model form used here for predicting Δ HCB of red alder growing in plantations is:

$$\Delta HCB = \frac{(CL + P\Delta H)^{b_1}}{1.0 + e^{b_2 + b_3 X_1 + b_4 X_2^{b_5} + b_6 X_3 + b_7 X_4}} + \varepsilon_{\Delta D}$$

Where,

 $\begin{aligned} X_1 &= \ln(CR) \\ X_2 &= CR \\ X_3 &= GEA \text{ or TAGE} \\ X_4 &= \ln(CCF + 1.0) \end{aligned}$

Because the definition of HCB differed between the HSC and the Weyerhaeuser Co. (WeyCo) datasets, separate equations were fit to each data set. A description of the two sets of control plots employed is found in Table 13 for the HSC dataset and Table 14 for the WeyCo dataset.

Table 13 Descriptive statistics for the HSC modeling data set to fit the grown recession (AHCR) equations for plantation

Attribute	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std. Deviation
		Tree Level Attributes: N =	11,230	
∆HCB (ft.)	1.67	-5.00	10.80	1.72
PΔH (ft.)	3.28	0.47	7.59	1.52
CL (ft.)	19.97	0.63	51.7	8.76
CR	0.7273	0.0523	0.9908	0.1790
GEA (yr.)	7.02	1.83	22.80	3.48
	Plot	/Measurement Level Attrib	oute: N = 321	
CCF (%)	223.72	10.69	670.20	169.60
TAGE (yr.)	9.1	4.5	15	3.3

Table 14. Descriptive statistics for the WeyCo modeling data set to fit the crown recession (ΔHCB) equations for plantation grown red alder.

Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std. Deviation	
Tree Level Attributes: N = 20,747				
2.63	-6.57	13.00	1.90	
3.54	0.39	6.37	1.20	
20.72	3.03	47.70	5.90	
0.7684	0.1233	1.0000	0.1875	
6.35	1.93	21.53	2.64	
Plot/Measurement Level Attribute: N = 279				
285.41	31.36	708.36	142.80	
8.8	3	15	3.3	
	2.63 3.54 20.72 0.7684 6.35 Plot/ 285.41 8.8	Incluit Internation Tree Level Attributes: N = 2.63 -6.57 3.54 0.39 20.72 3.03 0.7684 0.1233 6.35 1.93 Plot/Measurement Level Attrib 285.41 31.36 8.8 3	IncluitInfinitulitInfinitulitTree Level Attributes: $N = 20,747$ 2.63-6.5713.003.540.396.3720.723.0347.700.76840.12331.00006.351.9321.53Plot/Measurement Level Attribute: $N = 279$ 285.4131.36708.368.8315	

Like before, three different approaches were used to estimate the parameters from the control plot data. However, for each approach, two equations were developed. One using GEA and the other using TAGE :

- ✓ A weighted nonlinear regression fit to periodic annual increment data (central PAI).
- An unweighted nonlinear regression fit to the periodic data (unweighted summation).
- A weighted nonlinear regression fit to the periodic data (weighted summation).

Therefore, a total of 12 equations were developed, evaluated, and validated. For each equation, the parameters and their standard errors were calculated and each set of pa-

rameters was evaluated for how well they characterized the modeling dataset and then validated by determining how well they characterized their respective validation datasets.

Table 15 and Table 16 show the evaluation fit statistics for the three modeling approaches, for the HSC and WeyCo datasets, respectively.

Table 17 and Table 18 show the evaluation fit statistics for the three modeling approaches, for the HSC and WeyCo datasets, respectively.

The results indicate that the weighted central PAI estimation method produced parameters that were better fits to both the evaluation and validation datasets than the other two parameter estimation methods. For the HSC dataset, the equations incorporating GEA were better than the equations incorporating TAGE. For the WeyCo dataset, the equations incorporating TAGE were better than the equations incorporating GEA.

The maximum crown recession rate (Δ HCB) using the central weighted PAI method, the HSC data/equation, and GEA is presented in Figure 6. The maximum crown recession rate (Δ HCB) using the central weighted PAI method, the WeyCo data/equation, and TAGE is presented in Figure 7.

Table 15. Evaluation fit statistics for unweighted residuals
(predicted minus actual) from the HSC dataset using the crown
recession (Δ HCB) model form and using a) TAGE and b) GEA.

a) TAGE					
Estimation Procedure	Bias (ft)	RMSE (ft)	R ²		
Weighted Central PAI	-0.039	1.338	0.3968		
Unweighted Summation	-0.0346	1.3375	0.3973		
Weighted Summation	-0.0598	1.3511	0.385		
	b) GEA				
Estimation Procedure	Bias (ft)	RMSE (ft)	Ra2		
Weighted Central PAI	-0.0239	1.3279	0.4058		
Unweighted Summation	-0.0492	1.3381	0.3967		
Weighted Summation	-0.0687	1.3468	0.3889		

Table 16. Evaluation fit statistics for unweighted residuals (predicted minus actual) from the WeyCo dataset using the crown recession (Δ HCB) model form and using a) TAGE and b) GEA.

	a) TAGE		
Estimation Procedure	Bias (ft)	RMSE (ft)	R _a ²
Weighted Central PAI	+0.0062	1.3044	0.5281
Unweighted Summation	+0.1437	1.3580	0.4885
Weighted Summation	+0.0520	1.3605	0.4866
	b) GEA		
Estimation Procedure	Bias (ft)	RMSE (ft)	R ₂ ²
Weighted Central PAI	+0.0013	1.3404	0.5017
Unweighted Summation	+0.1510	1.4006	0.4559
Weighted Summation	+0.0348	1.3938	0.4612

Table 17. Validation fit statistics for unweighted residuals (predicted minus actual) from the HSC dataset using the crown recession (Δ HCB) model form and using a) TAGE and b) GEA.

	a) TAGE		
Estimation Procedure	Bias (ft)	RMSE (ft)	Ra2
Weighted Central PAI	+0.2183	1.1042	0.4298
Unweighted Summation	+0.1150	1.1653	0.3649
Weighted Summation	+0.0956	1.0996	0.4345
	b) GEA		
Estimation Procedure	Bias (ft)	RMSE (ft)	Ra2
Weighted Central PAI	+0.0976	1.0984	0.4357
Unweighted Summation	+0.0775	1.1602	0.3705
Weighted Summation	-0.0942	1.1209	0.4125

Table 18. Validation fit statistics for unweighted residuals (predicted minus actual) from the WeyCo dataset using the crown recession (Δ HCB) model form and using a) TAGE and b) GEA.

	a) TAGE		
Estimation Procedure	Bias (ft)	RMSE (ft)	Ra2
Weighted Central PAI	-0.0660	1.1839	0.5988
Unweighted Summation	+0.0592	1.2490	0.5535
Weighted Summation	-0.0081	1.2388	0.5607
	b) GEA		
Estimation Procedure	Bias (ft)	RMSE (ft)	Ra2
Weighted Central PAI	-0.1597	1.2061	0.5836
Unweighted Summation	-0.0073	1.2962	0.5190
Weighted Summation	-0.1228	1.2889	0.5244



Maximum predicted crown recession rate (ΔHCB) using the central weighted PAI method for the HSC equation with GEA.



Maximum predicted crown recession rate (Δ HCB) using the central weighted PAI method for the WeyCo equation with TAGE.

Size Density

The maximum size-density trajectory is used as an option in the ORGANON model to restrict stand development in a manner that keeps the stand on or below the maximum size-density trajectory as it develops over time. The following is the maximum size-density trajectory equation used in ORGANON:

$$\ln(QMD_{i}) = a_{1} - a_{2} \cdot \ln(N_{i}) - (a_{1} \cdot a_{4}) \cdot (N_{i}/N_{0})^{a3}$$

The first step of the analysis was to ascertain whether the plots in the ORGANON dataset had developed enough so that their most recent measurements fell on the maximum size-density line. Two methods were used to assess this situation.

The first involved calculating the stand density index (SDI) values for each measurement on each plot. This was done using both Reineke's exponential parameter and Puettmann's exponential parameter for red alder. It was expected that stands with measurements falling on the maximum size-density line would have near constant SDI values in the latter measurements. Examination of the data indicated that there were no plots in which the last two values of SDI were near the same.

The second method involved calculating the slope value using all consecutive pairs of measurements available on each plot. It was expected that stands with measurements falling on or near the maximum size-density line would have slope values between -0.5 and -1.0 for at least the last measurement. Only 15 of the 196 control plots had the last pair of measurements meet this criterion.

The 15 control plots were then used to estimate the parameters of the above equation but the resulting values were not reasonable. The value of a₂ was then fixed first to Reineke's value of 0.62 and then to Puettmann's value of 0.64. But again the remaining parameters were unreasonable. This led to the conclusion that the datasets had not developed far enough for them to be useful in estimating the parameters of the maximum size-density trajectory of red alder plantations. Therefore, it was decided to use the Puettmann parameter for RAP-ORGANON.

Mortality

The mortality rate equation used in ORGANON is a generalized logistic model of the following form:

$$PM = \frac{1}{1.0 + \exp[f(X,b)]}$$

Where,

PM = the probability of the tree dying in the next year X = an array of independent variables b = an array of additional regression parameters [f(X,b)] = a linear or nonlinear function of the values in parentheses Although this general form has been quite similar in many studies, the particular independent variables vary substantially. These variables can be classed into four groups: tree size, tree vigor, tree position in the stand, and stand density. Variables used in previous versions of ORGANON include dbh, crown ratio (CR), site index (SI), basal area in trees with dbh larger than the subject tree (BAL), and crown closure at the tip of the tree (CCH). Dozens of model forms were fit (along with various variable transformations). The evaluation, validation, and decision on the final model form are pending.

OTHER RED ALDER RESEARCH

FRANKIA POPULATION DYNAMICS IN RED ALDER STANDS

The work by Dr. Peter Kennedy, Department of Biology, Lewis and Clark College, on the structure, diversity, and assemblages of nitrogen-fixing *Frankia* populations in red alder forests has been published.

The first article, "Frankia bacteria in *Alnus rubra* forests: genetic diversity and determinants of assemblage structure" has been published in *Plant and Soil*. The following is a copy of the abstract:

To quantify the genetic diversity of Frankia bacteria associated with Alnus rubra in natural settings and to examine the relative importance of site age, management, and geographic location in structuring Frankia assemblages in A. rubra forests, root nodules from four A. rubra sites in the Pacific Northwest, USA were sampled. Frankia genetic diversity at each site was compared using sequencebased analyses of a 606 bp fragment of the *nif*H gene. At a 3% sequence similarity cutoff, a total of 5 Frankia genotypes were identified from 317 successfully sequenced nodules. Sites varied in the total number of genotypes present, but were typically dominated by only one or two genotypes. Phylogenetic analyses showed that all of the A. rubra-Frankia genotypes grouped with other Alnus-infective Frankia. Analysis of similarity (ANOSIM) and chi-square analyses indicated that Frankia assemblages were more strongly influenced by site age/management than geographic location. This study demonstrates that the Frankia assemblages in A. rubra forests have low genotype diversity, but that genotype abundance can differ significantly in forests of different age/management history.

The link to the full article is:

http://www.springerlink.com/content/j5g18w72m1432j59/fulltext.pdf

The second article "A molecular and phylogenetic analysis of the structure and specificity of *Alnus rubra* ectomycorrhizal assemblages" has been published in *Fungal Ecology*. The following is a copy of the abstract:

Ectomycorrhizal (EM) assemblages associated with *Alnus* spp. are often distinct in composition and richness from other host plants. To examine the EM assemblage associated with *A. rubra*, a common tree in western coastal North America, we sampled

four *A. rubra* forests varying in age, management history, and geographic location in Oregon, USA. From the 364 EM root tip rDNA TS sequences, we found a total of 14 EM taxa. The five most abundant taxa, *Tomentella* sp. 3, *Alnicola escharoides, Tomentella* sp. 1, *Lactarius cf. obscuratus*, and *Alpova diplophloeus*, represented 80 % of the samples and were present at all four sites. Assemblage structure differed significantly among young managed sites and older unmanaged sites but not by geographic location. The younger managed sites had higher tree density, *Frankia* frequency, and soil nitrogen than older unmanaged sites. Phylogenetic analyses revealed that *Alnus*-associated EM congeners were not closely related, indicating the distinct nature of *Alnus* EM assemblages is not due to a unique co-evolutionary history.

The full article is not available online. Please contact Andrew Bluhm to obtain a copy.

Red Alder and Climate Change

As described in last year's annual report, the HSC collaborated with multiple Canadian organizations on a project titled "Using red alder as an adaptation strategy to reduce environmental, social and economic risks of climate change in coastal BC". The idea behind the project is that because the range of red alder is expected to increase with climate change, and it is a short rotation high value crop providing a diversity of wood products, and it improves long-term site productivity and ecosystem resiliency, the increased use of red alder is an adaptation strategy that could reduce environmental, social and economic risks of climate change in coastal B.C. The HSC is involved in the environmental (biological) component through its network of long-term research installations.

The HSC has provided geographic and tree growth information for all of the HSC installation types. The geographic information will be input into the ClimatePNW model to provide climatic information. Effects of climate (GDD, MAT, MAP, growing season precipitation, monthly precipitation, minimum temperature, etc.) on the growth of red alder and Douglas-fir will be examined.

To complement the growth data, the project also includes collection of soils data and foliage data to accurately characterize the installations. This last spring (May 2010), soil samples were collected from all of the replacement and additive installations in the US and BC. Samples will be analyzed for pH, total N, total C, available P, CEC and mineralizable N. This coming fall, Douglas-fir foliage from the same installations will be collected and analyzed for nutrient content. Analysis will proceed through the winter with the first results expected in mid- to late 2011.

THINNED NATURAL RED ALDER STAND VOLUME AND STEM FORM

The WA Dept. of Natural Resources (WADNR) is planning a timber harvest in a hardwood stand that contains the HSC Type 1 installation #4102 (Janicki). The presale layout process has been started; the stand will be cruised this summer/fall and sold/ logged (most likely) in the spring of 2011.

Janicki, established in 1976, was thinned in 1990 and just had its 19th year

post-thinning measurement. But before the stand is logged, both the HSC and the WADNR decided to collaborate on a project to collect additional information. Although many of the details remain to be worked out, the project will likely contain two main objectives.

Objective 1- Comparison of cruise volume estimates with volume equation estimates

WADNR will provide individual and stand level merchantable volume estimates obtained from their pre-sale cruise. The HSC, using the most recent measurement data, will calculate individual and stand level merchantable volume estimates from existing volume and taper equations. This will allow for comparisons of the estimates. Results would enable WADNR to fine-tune their cruise estimates, to determine which existing volume/taper equation more closely "matches" actual volume, and to determine the effects of thinning on stand volume.

Objective 2- Did thinning effect stem shape

To determine if thinning affected stem shape, upper stem measurements will be taken on a subsample of trees. Diameter outside bark and diameter inside bark will be measured at various locations along the tree bole. This data then can be used to calculate and compare Girard form class (17.3ft) and form factor between thinned and unthinned trees. Additional comparisons can be made regarding merchantable height, diameter at base of live crown, most common log lengths (i.e. every 20ft), etc.

Other possible objectives may include: calculating volume by log sort diameters, determine monetary value by applying current prices to log sort volumes, and comparing gross and net scale volumes with cruise estimates.

DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE WOODY BIOENERGY INDUSTRY

A cooperative effort is underway to garner funding to promote and develop a sustainable bioenergy industry in the Pacific Northwest. A proposal will be submitted to the AFRI Sustainable Bioenergy Program. Participants in the proposed effort include (but are not limited to) Oregon State University, Oregon Department of Energy, Washington State University, University of Washington, US Forest Service, Greenwood Resources, University of California.

The mission of the proposed effort is to:

Help to produce a robust, diverse, and environmentally sound bioenergy industry in the Pacific Northwest region based on diverse woody feedstock sources and energy products. Conduct applied research, education, and extension programs to improve the operational efficiency of dedicated plantations, produce ethanol and non-ethanol biofuels and coproducts, initiate demonstration-scale plantings and pilot-scale biofuels production, study partial harvests in coniferous stands, and examine social and environmental implications of production options. Focus feedstock studies on 1) poplars as best established dedicated feedstock system in the Pacific Northwest, 2) alder as a second dedicated woody crop, and 3) conifer thinnings, restoration harvests, and woody residuals.

The role of the HSC in this study may be to use the existing data from the research installations (primarily the Type 2, high density treatments) to estimate/calculate potential productivity for biomass across a large geographic range using existing volume/ biomass equations and the forthcoming RAP-ORGANON. In addition to plantations, biomass red alder may also come from naturally regenerated alder. The HSC could use the large natural stand alder data base that has already been collected to greatly improve the current red alder version of ORGANON.

The deadline for the proposal is September 15, 2010.

Direction for 2011

s always, the specific goals for 2011 are both continuations of our long-term objectives and new projects:

- Continue HSC treatments, measurements and data tasks.
- ✓ Keep the HSC website updated and current.
- Continue efforts in outreach and education.
- Continue efforts to recruit new members.
- ✓ Continue working with and analyzing the HSC data.
- ✓ Continue ORGANON modeling efforts in the creation of both a plantation model and a natural-stand model.

Appendix 1

SUMMARY OF RED ALDER STAND MANAGEMENT STUDY TREATMENTS

Type 1- Thinned Natural Red Alder Stands

- 1. Control- measure only, stand left at existing density
- 2. 230 trees/acre (tpa) re-spacing density in year 3 to 5
- 3. 525 tpa re-spacing density in year 3 to 5
- 4. 230 tpa re-spacing density when height to live crown (HLC) is 15 to 20 feet
- 5. 525 tpa re-spacing density when HLC is 15 to 20 feet
- 6. Control- measure only, stand left at existing density
- 7. 100 tpa re-spacing density when HLC is 30 feet
- 8. 230 tpa re-spacing density when HLC is 30 feet
- 9. Control- measure only, stand left at existing density

Type 2- Red Alder Variable Density Plantations

- 1. 100 tpa control- measure only
- 2. 230 tpa control-measure only
- 3. 230 tpa pruned to 6 ft. lift, 12 ft lift, 18 ft lift, 24 ft lift
- 4. 525 tpa control -measure only
- 5. 525 tpa thin to 230 tpa in year 3 to 5
- 6. 525 tpa thin to 230 tpa when HLC is 15 to 20 feet
- 7. 525 tpa thin to 230 tpa when HLC is 30 to 32 feet
- 8. 1200 tpa control- measure only
- 9. 1200 tpa thin to 230 tpa in year 3 to 5
- 10. 1200 tpa thin to 230 tpa when HLC is 15 to 20 feet
- 12. 1200 tpa thin to 100 tpa when HLC is 15 to 20 feet
- 13. 525 tpa thin to 100 tpa when HLC is 15 to 20 feet

TYPE 3- MIXED RED ALDER DOUGLAS-FIR PLANTATIONS

- 1. 100% red alder planted at 300 tpa density
- 2. 50% red alder and 50% Douglas-fir planted at 300 tpa density
- 3. 25% red alder and 75% Douglas-fir planted at 300 tpa density
- 4. 11% red alder and 89% Douglas-fir planted at 300 tpa density
- 5. 100% Douglas-fir planted at 300 tpa density



HSC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

SUMMER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday July 7, 2009:

Attendees: Andrew Bluhm, David Hibbs- OSU; Scott McLeod, Chris Rasor, Florian Deisenhofer, Jared Larwick, Scott Hancock, Jacob Vaughn, Marcus Johns, Leanne Krein- WA DNR; Jerry Anderson, Walt Shields- Forest Capital; Jeanette Griese- BLM; Wayne patterson- Siuslaw National Forest; Paul Kriegal- Goodyear Nelson; Glenn Ahrens- OSU Extension; Del Fisher- Washington Hardwood Commission

Please refer to the associated handouts (or the HSC 2009 annual report) for further information.

We started the meeting at 9:00 at the WA DNR Castle Rock office. After welcomes and introductions, Andrew began 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 08/09) had an extraordinary amount of fieldwork. Measurements and various treatments were done on 11 installations. Many thanks go out to all of the cooperators for providing crews and special thanks go out to the HSC Management Committee, for measuring the "orphaned" Type 2 installation outside of Sitkum, OR. Last years work included:
- ✓ One Type 1 installation was measured.
- ✓ Battle Saddle had its 19th year measurement. This is the 2nd of the 4 Type 1 installations with 19 year post-thinning data.
- Eight Type 2 installations had fieldwork.
- Three sites- Weebe' Packin', Wrongway Creek, and Tongue Mtn. had their 12th year measurement and either a pruning (Weebe' Packin') or the 2nd thinning treatment (Wrongway Creek and Tongue Mtn.).
- ✓ Five sites had their 17th year measurement and appropriate treatment: Pioneer Mtn. (3rd thinning and 4th pruning lift), Keller-Grass (3rd pruning lift), Shamu, and Thompson Cat (4th pruning lift). All treatments are completed on 8 of the 11 sites with 17 year data.
- ✓ Two Type 3 installations had fieldwork.
- ✓ Puget had its 12th year measurement. This was the last Type 3 to have its 12 year measurement.
- East Wilson had its 17th year measurement. This was the first Type 3 to have its 12 year measurement.

This coming year's fieldwork (Winter 2009/10) is greatly reduced compared to last year. A total of 6 installations need either a measurement or a treatment. Work includes:

✓ One Type 1 measurement:

• Janicki (19th year measurement).

✓ Five Type 2 installations:

- John's River (3rd pruning lift)
- Scappoose (3rd pruning lift and 3rd thin)
- Blue Mtn. (17th year measurement)
- Campbell River (17th year measurement, 4th pruning lift and 3rd thin)
- Hemlock Creek (17th year measurement)

No Type 3 measurements

Of note, there are three "orphaned" installations to be measured/treated that may not have field crews available.

As fall approaches, Andrew will contact each HSC member to provide specific on the activities and schedule the fieldwork.

Andrew then provided an overview of the data collection schedule for all three installation types.

All installation types have now "switched over" to a 5 year measurement cycle.

Two (of the four) Type 1 installations have had their 19th year post-thinning measurement.

All Type 2 installations have had at least their 12th year measurements.

Eleven (of the 26) Type 2 installations have had their 17th year measurement. Of these eleven sites, eight have had all of their treatments completed.

All Type 3 installations have had at least their 12th year measurements.

Andrew then presented a summary on the dominant height growth equation work recently completed. This work was just published as: Modeling Top Height Growth of Red Alder Plantations. 2009. Weiskittel, A.R., D.W. Hann, D.E. Hibbs, T.Y. Lam, and A.A. Bluhm. Forest Ecology and Management. 258:323-331.

Please refer to the reprint of the paper, the handout, and the HSC annual report. Andrew then informed the group about the start of a new project investigating any

possible effects of density on plantation tree size and growth.

Handouts of various graphs illustrate the extent of the data being analyzed. An overview of the project can be found in the HSC annual report.

Andrew then updated the group on the ORGANON modeling effort. The effort is proceeding as well as expected. In addition to the creation of the dominant height growth equations, the following equations have been developed:

Maximum/Largest crown width

✓ Crown profile

✔ Height-diameter

✓ Height-to-crown-base

✔ Diameter growth rate

Height growth rate

✔ Mortality rate

Crown Recession

This years' goals are to develop all of the required equations for both the control plots and the thinned plots and to assemble the growth model.

Chris Rasor, with WA DNR, then presented an overview of the DNR's alder management program. Key points included:DNR started planting alder in 2005

Since that time 750 total acres has been planted, with appx. $\frac{1}{2}$ of that in the Pacific Cascades region.

Historically, about 5% of the total annual volume sold by DNR is alder (about 20 mmbf) all from natural stands.

At current rates of plantation establishment (160 acres/year) and estimated yield (20 mbf/acre) these plantations will provide only about 3.2mmbf/year or 15% of the total DNR alder volume.

Major concern identified by DNR and the group in attendance is how long will the natural alder supply last, the future of the market, and how to promote alder plantation establishment to sufficiently substitute for the natural supply.

Florian Deisenhofer, also with WA DNR, presented an overview of mapping tool he helped develop to identify sites most suitable for establishing alder plantations on the landscape.

This is an ARCGIS-based tool that uses physical criteria to estimate "site quality". It is mostly based on Harrington's "A Method of Site Quality Evaluation for Red Alder". Physical criteria include:

Elevation

✔ Aspect

✓ Slope

Topographic Position

✔ Soil Type & Depth

Site Index

The model is an easy to use screening tool for foresters and produces four categories of potential suitability: high, medium, low, and not suitable. Resolution is 10x10m- adequate on the landscape and harvest unit level. Evaluation of the model reveals:

Field verification necessary

Lumping is necessary ("medium" potential often very suitable when adjacent

to "high" potential and "low" potential from ridge top location may not be an issue

Frost pockets not accounted for

Model "conservative"

Please refer to the two handouts for specifics on the model.

Next, the topic turned to the HSC budget. In regards to FY 2009, dues received were less than expected. This allowed the HSC enough income to fund Andrew for only 6 months instead of 7 months. The balance of his time was made up for by external funding for the ORGANON project. All other expenses for FY 2009 were consistent with the projections except the buying of a new chainsaw and the hiring of field help to measure an "orphaned" site.

For FY 2010, the amount of dues expected will again be less than what was received in FY 2009. This trend is concerning and will result in Andrews time again being reduced to only 5 months. Once again, Andrew's time will be made up with the ORGANON modeling project.

To help identify what Andrew has time for and conversely what he is not able to accomplish with his reduced time, Dave and Andrew assembled a list of deliverableswhat's being done, and what is not.

Please see the associated handouts for the specifics.

After lunch on the grounds, we traveled to DNR west of Longview near Abernathy Creek. Here we visited three stops and focused on three main topics:

✓ Performance of, and potential improvements to, the ARCGIS mapping tool.

- Precommercial thinning
- ✔ Growth and yield

The three stops were:

- ✓ Shakers Unit: 62 acres, 4th growing season of a medium quality site (SI20-65ft), the first DNR plantation, planted to 600tpa
- Aldericious Unit- 100 acres, established by WeyCo, 15th growing season, low to high site quality (SI20~ 57-70ft), planted to appx. 680tpa, PCT'd four years ago to appx. 370tpa
- ✓ Abernathy Creek- alder plantation spacing trial, 20th growing season

Discussion topics included:

- ✓ Site preparation methods, plantation establishment techniques, factors effecting early growth of alder
- Resolution of the site selection model and potential refinements (including localized effects of small-scale topographical features)
- ✓ Usefulness of the new site index equation to validate the model
- Frost pocket identification and strategies

Effect and placement of retention trees

✓ Timing and intensity of both PCT and commercial thinning

Trade-offs between optimizing growth, volume, and wood quality

Projected yield and rotation ages

Many thanks go out to Chris Rasor and Florian Deisenhofer (WA DNR) for coordinating the field stops and providing the meeting location.

As a reminder, there will be no upcoming Winter 2009/10 winter meeting. But please mark your calendars for the next HSC Summer 2010 Meeting. Potential dates are July 6-7 or July 13-14, 2010. If you have any preference as to the dates, location, or topics please contact the HSC.

Appendix 3

FINANCIAL SUPPORT RECEIVED IN 2009-2010

Cooperator	SUPPORT
BC Ministry of Forests	\$2,500
Bureau of Land Management	\$9,000
Forest Capital	\$8,500
Goodyear-Nelson Hardwood Lumber Company	\$5,500
Oregon Department of Forestry	\$4,250
Siuslaw National Forest	
Trillium Corporation	
USDA Forest Service PNW Station	In kind
Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$4,250
Washington Hardwood Commission	
Subtotal	\$34,000
Forestry Research Laboratory	<u>\$35,930</u>
Total	\$69,930