

Technical Reports

BC Coastal Forest Sector Hem-Fir Initiative

Effects of Season on the Moisture Content of Roadside Harvesting Debris in Coastal British Columbia

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Project Leader:	Peter Dyson	Date:	March 2013

Abstract

The seasonal change in the moisture content of roadside harvest debris was measured at four sites on Vancouver Island in coastal British Columbia. The stands had been harvested in the early months of 2011 (winter) and moisture content was measured in June and August 2011 and in January 2012. Diameters of the sample pieces were measured, and then they were classified as on-ground or elevated, and as partially protected or exposed. During the summer the residue pieces dried, but they re-absorbed moisture in the winter and by January 2012 the moisture content was very similar to what it had been when it was measured in June 2011 shortly after harvesting. The on-ground pieces re-absorbed and lost moisture in proportion to the elevated pieces. Partially protected pieces re-absorbed moisture in proportion to the exposed pieces. This study showed that the drying of roadside harvesting residue that occurs during summer does not carry forward; the residue pieces that are retained at roadside into the subsequent winter re-absorb moisture regardless of their position in the pile.

Keywords: harvesting residue, harvesting debris, residue piles, moisture content, feedstock, coastal British Columbia

Contact:

Jack MacDonald

Email: Jack.MacDonald@fpinnovations.ca

For copies of the publication please contact:

FERICVancouver.Admin@fpinnovations.ca