

Technical Reports

BC Coastal Forest Sector Hem-Fir Initiative

Evaluating Opportunities to Improve Log Margin In Mechanical Processing Options

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Abstract

Mechanical processors equipped with value-optimization bucking technology have been shown to reduce value losses associated with log manufacturing operations. This study quantified the processing cycle time elements under manual control on three single-grip processors of different ages and evaluated the potential for improvement under automated control. It identifies reasons for value losses when manufacturing logs using single-grip processors, and identified possible barriers and their potential solutions to implementing value-optimization log bucking technologies. Processing errors affected the value recovery of 37% of the stems, and there was a value difference of \$3.61/m³ between the processor-operator and optimal bucking solutions as determined by a quality control supervisor. Fifty-seven percent of that value loss was attributed to length and diameter measuring errors or the operators' visual estimates of stem diameter.

Keywords: mechanical processing, log value, coastal, productivity, quality

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