

Technical Reports

BC Coastal Forest Sector Hem-Fir Initiative

Strategies to Improve Value Recovery from Log Manufacturing Including Feasibility of Central Merchandizing Yards in BC Coastal Forest Operations

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Abstract

The maximum product value is present in standing trees, and every process between falling, extraction, manufacturing, and transportation that causes mechanical damage, fibre loss, or sub-optimal bucking reduces that value. This study examines the losses that incur on total stem value, and identifies log manufacturing operations as the largest potential source of value losses. Three strategies to reduce the losses during log manufacturing are identified:

1. Manual log manufacturing at the harvest site and at existing dryland sort yards;
2. Log manufacturing at the harvest site using mechanical mobile processors equipped with computer-assisted bucking technology;
3. Log manufacturing at a centralized merchandizing yard using stationary scanning and processing equipment.

Operational, cost, and value implications are discussed for each strategy. The three strategies require different changes to harvesting systems and have different capital investment requirements, which will affect their suitability to different operations.

Keywords: Log value, merchandizing, scanning, wood damage, sortyard, mobile processors

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