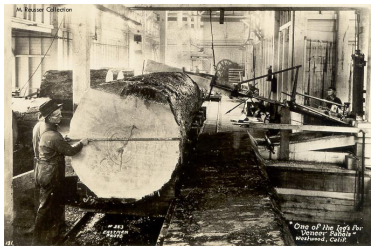

Timber Measurements Society
Intermountain District Spring Meeting

MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING OF THE TIMBER MEASUREMENTS SOCIETY
INTERMOUNTAIN CHAPTER
APRIL 5-6, 2007, COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

The Intermountain district held its annual spring meeting on April 4-5 at the Shilo Inn in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Attendance was excellent with a total of seventy-one people present. Rick Schroeder, Chairman of the Intermountain District, opened the meeting at approximately 8:30 a.m. with a general welcome, followed by a "round-house" introduction from each of the attendees stating their name, the name of the company or organization they were representing, and their years of scaling experience. The following is a brief summary of the speaker's presentations. Copies of the PowerPoint presentations will be available on the website.

State of Idaho Standing Timber Inventory – Wayne Koski - I.D.L.

Wayne Koski gave a brief history of how State of Idaho "Endowment Lands" were created . These lands were granted to the State of Idaho by the president of the U.S. when it entered statehood in 1890. Endowment lands are managed with the goal to secure the maximum long term financial return to certain public institutions, primarily public schools. The Endowment lands are divided into three base categories, primary, secondary, and non-forest totaling 2,464,502 acres. The primary base consists of 739,032 forested acres where the majority of 212 million board foot annual timber harvest is harvested. Wayne also explained the procedures used to develop the Continuous Forest Inventories and the different types of stands they break down.

Determining mill usage and log yard inventory via scanners – Matt Fonseca – Plum Creek Timber Company

Matt Fonseca discussed the various methods used to inventory logs stored in decks; the accounting processes used to calculate usage and cross reference with deliveries, physical inventory and usage expected via pegged recoveries ("book inventory"). He also presented some detailed information on using scanners to determine mill usage and log yard inventories. Included in his presentation were examples of some of the various methods used by different companies to determine log yard inventories. Matt explained how mill scanners worked and how they measure log volumes differently than the volumes determined by stick scaling while pointing out that the scanners do not measure defect volume. Plum Creek conducts a monthly test to determine the ratio between scaled volume and scanned volume. This information is then used to obtain a good average.

Northwest Log Rules Advisory Group Update – Tom St.Laurent – Yamhill Log Scaling and Grading Bureau

Tom St.Laurent gave a brief history on the NWLAG, which was founded in 1951. It's purpose is to provide a forum for the scaling bureaus and agencies to discuss scaling problems and standardize scaling and grading procedures - not only to the NWLAG rules, but also in conjunction with the USFS regulations. Tom explained how the advisory group was made up and some of the process involved in any proposed rule changes. The advisory group proposed some rule changes for slope of grain, pecky rot, and a new knot deduction guide which have been incorporated in the "NEW" (blue) United States Forest Service Log Scaling Manual. The new manual is still difficult to obtain, but can be viewed on the U.S.F.S. web site. Tom also noted that the NWLAG scaling and grading rule handbooks can be downloaded from their website.

Blue Stain in Ponderosa Pine – Russ Carrier – Boise Building Solutions

Russ Carrier presented the history of the Ponderosa pine tree and the wide ranging area in which it grows. Russ discussed the cause and effects of blue stain in this western species. He also spoke of his personal experience at the Boise Building in Kettle Falls, WA, in preventing and minimizing the effects of this disfiguring grade problem in pines and spruce. Russ noted that one of the major concerns with Ponderosa pine was the bluing that occurs if the logs sit very long after being felled when the temperature is between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Blue stain is caused by microscopic fungi introduced by the Mountain pine beetle which then spreads and grows by itself. Water is applied to the decks in an effort to reduce the temperature inside the deck to less than 60 degrees. Wet conditions help to reduce further insect infestation and prevent bluing. Boise Building Solutions have put forth an initiative to mitigate losses by insuring prompt delivery of logs after harvest and to store logs in a manner that does not allow blue-stain or the related pond-stain, which occurs when watering to prevent blue stain.

Data Transfer Options for Scaling – David Dean - Electronic Data Solutions

David Dean demonstrated wireless data transfer for handheld data recorders. The system operates with RF technology and can send information securely, directly to the receiving PC or main-frame without having to travel to the docking station to hook cables. The range is certainly suitable for most scaling applications at a mill log-yard. For more information contact David at david@elecdata.com .

Automated Scaling Station and Scanner – Scott Dodson – Vaagen Brothers

Scott Dodson gave an overview of the automated scaling station that Vaagen Brothers is currently using to scale logs, most of which are purchased on a ton basis. The system operates on a porter scanner with an interface that David Dean designed to translate scanned measurements into log scale information and to account for bark thickness and defects based on input from the scaler (who sits at a temperature controlled work station with a computer monitor, video display of the far-end of the log, and a view of the log.

The system accurately scales the logs in cubic and Scribner and utilized the porter optimization software to simulate recovered product and thus value. On top of providing an accurate log volume, the system gives real-time break-even value.

New Mensuration Products – Jon Aschenbach, Atterbury Consultants

Jon Aschenback showed off some of the new products that they are marketing for recording log and timber data. They have a complete selection of lazer range-finders, data-recorders, software and setups for using palm pilot for recording data. For more information contact Jon at jaschenbach@atterbury.com .

Status of Forest Insects In The Northern Region – Lee Pederson – United States Forest Service

Lee Pederson reported on the status of insect attacks on western forests, a bit about the biological drivers of these pests and an overview of what the USFS is doing to manage insect attacks via timber harvest and other efforts. Lee had some information on the catastrophic mountain pine beetle infestation which is killing vast areas of lodgepole pine in the interior of British Columbia and perhaps elsewhere. As Jim Crover from the BC Ministry of Forest Service was in attendance, he was able to elaborate on this huge event which has devastated so much of BC's lodgepole pine stands and is responsible for what must be the largest timber salvage event ever undertaken.

Status of Forest Diseases In The Northern Region – Holly Kearns – United States Forest Service

Holly Kearns explained the differnt causes of disease in our region (fungi, parasitic plants, bacteria/viruses, and nematodes), environmental conditions and species preference, as well as significance. She spoke of the management options for controlling these pathogens, most of which are native (with the exception of the devastating "white pine blister rust"). Holly also pointed out that while those of us in the roundwood measurement and wood product arenas may not care for disease; most of these pathogens are part of the ecosystem and provide benefit in terms of nutrient recycling and providing wildlife habitat.

Scaling Procedures For top-Wood Attached Sales – Pete Van Sickle – I.D.L.

Pete Van Sickle explained the new scaling procedures used for sub-sawlog material that is attached to sawlog volume. Given the poor lumber market, but good pulp log market there is demand for topwood or small stems which in the past were not profitable. Currently topwood is sold on a lump-sum basis, which is based on cruised MBF volume. Pete said that the current guidelines are evolving and will be modified and improved as needed after consultation with industry and gaining experience. For the time being, however, a scaling system is in place and it seems to be accommodating current needs.

Log Roll Out

Jon Miller, Bob McDainiel, and Mike Rose organized a great log roll-out at the Stimson Lumber Company's Atlas log-yard. Many thanks to them and Stimson for hosting the rollout. Most of the attendees at the meeting participated in the day-two log roll-out whereby everybody scales the logs; their volumes are recorded; and a "school-book answer is developed for every log based on agreed measurements, procedures, rule application, and bucking to assess proper judgment. There were 51 logs with a gross volume of 16,760 b.f. and a net volume of 10,320 b.f. the percentage of defect was 38.4%. It seems that Bob and Mike were motivated to show us the extent of volume loss caused from Scolytus scars in the grand fir (most of us were surprised how extensive the loss was once the logs were bucked). No doubt these were some very tough logs. Congratulations go to Jerry Youmans (16,700 b.f.- 10,920 b.f.) and Josh Sakaske (16,900 b.f. - 10,290 b.f.) who both tied for the net volume closest to the school book answer . Gross volume had to be within 2.0% of the school book answer. Honorable mention is also extended to Elton Turcotte, Terry Simcox, Tom St.Laurent, Jim Youmans, Denny Pomerleau, Matt Fonseca, Bob Bostrom, and Luke Kolar for finishing in the top ten. With sunny skies and a temperature over 60 degrees (15 C), scaling does not get any better than this roll-out (especially if they remember the blizzard at the April 1997 meeting/rollout).

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