



Quicksheet #1

Salvage Logging

Trees can become very old, but like all living things, will die at some point. Salvage of dead and dying trees and reaction to the events that kill trees are crucial components of forest management in British Columbia.

Over 91% of the timber harvested from the UBC/Alex Fraser Research Forest has come from salvage and sanitation related activities. The graph below compares volume harvested each year by the following methods: dispersed, green (undamaged) and sanitation.

Dispersed or single-tree salvage removes individual trees from very small areas. Larger concentrations of infested

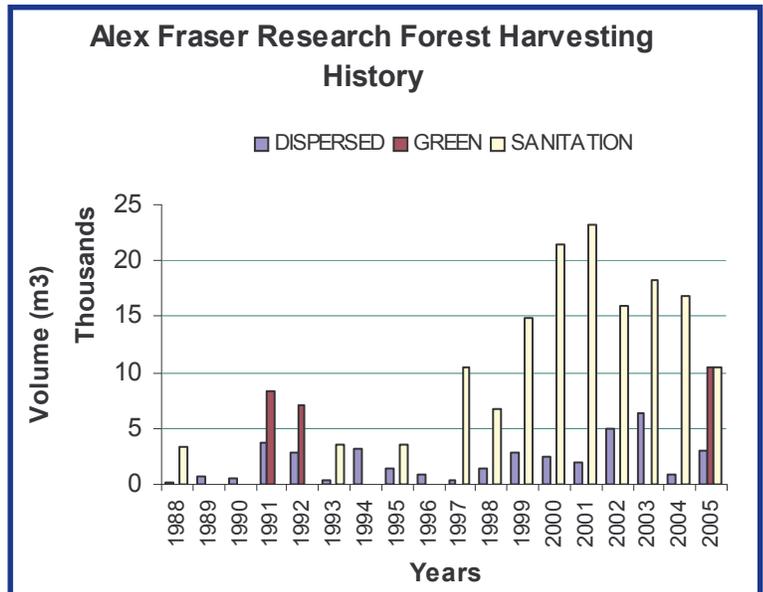
or damaged trees (5 to 51 ha) are developed into cutblocks. Damaged trees are removed so that the chance of spread into remaining and adjoining stands is reduced, i.e. sanitation.

In order of the volume cut, salvage effort has been directed towards: mountain pine beetle-affected lodgepole pine; windthrow or snow damage; Douglas-fir bark beetle; and spruce bark beetle.

In the period between 1993 and 2004, harvesting occurred only in damaged stands. As of 2005, however, sanitation and dispersed removal of merchantable lodgepole pine has been completed on most of the Research Forest. While salvage of trees damaged by wind, snow or other bark beetles will continue to be a harvesting priority, harvesting in green stands has begun again now that losses due to mountain pine beetle have been mitigated.

Operations generally occur in the winter to protect the soil and to remove infested trees before the insects can emerge as reproducing adults. Old skid trails are re-used when possible from year to year to reduce damage to smaller, regenerating trees. Roads and trails are rehabilitated when future use is not anticipated so as to discourage cattle from ranging into inappropriate areas, and stress on wildlife due to vehicle traffic, hunter access, and poaching.

Timber harvesting provides most of the operating budget of the UBC Research Forests. Salvage operations will continue to supply a significant part of the harvest volume in the future.



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Key Words:

salvage logging

bark beetles