

NOTES FROM THE YOUNG GROWTH COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCT. 8, 2008

Participants:

- George Woodbury – SE Conference
- Evan Hjerpe – Wilderness Society
- Dr. William Schlosser – Kamiak Ridge
- Jim McWhorter – Terra Verde
- Sheila Spores - Tongass NF
- Keith Rush – The Nature Conservancy
- Ron Wolfe – Sealaska
- Randy Henry – Tlinget/Haida
- John Caouette – The Nature Conservancy
- John Sisk – The nature Conservancy

Ron Wolfe and Jim McWhorter described past work for the Young Growth committee. This work was presented to TFR in Seattle in Dec. 07 and is captured in the report titled “Future Harvest Level Capacity Managed Stands Second Rotation Forests On Tongass National Forest Lands”. John Caouette and Sheila Spores worked on this project as well.

Randy Henry and Dr. Bill Schlosser described their present project for Tlingit/Haida Central Council. Dr. Schlosser is using satellite imagery (SI) to analyze inventory data generated by Randy on Tlingit/Haida allotments throughout SE AK. Their project is not specific to Young Growth (YG) but this type of analysis could be applied to YG stands. They have requested existing TNF inventory data (young and old) to stratify and then extrapolate to native allotments. This will result in a stand level inventory on these lands.

George Woodbury described the work Ray Granville is doing for the SE Conference. The work is in two phases. Phase one is analysis of the current TNF YG model and identity of areas in need of additional data. Phase two would involve collecting additional field data in the identified areas and incorporating the new data into the FS YG model. They believe that this will make the model more dependable for stand level management decisions.

Sheila Spores is the TNF Silviculturist and the YG data manager. She shared that the FS collected new YG data in 2005. They inventoried 25,000 acres spread across the southern Tongass with 2,200 inventory plots. Mike Sheets, silviculturist at the Craig RD, is now stratifying and extrapolating this new data through photo interpretation work. Sheila believes that this improves the FS YG model.

John Caouette also is working with these 2005 plots. He is statistically analyzing the data, identifying possible correlations between forest measures (e.g., volume, density of trees larger than 12” dbh) and topography (e.g. elevation, aspect, slope). He believes that identified correlations can improve stratification and extrapolation of the FS YG model.

Discussions:

Sheila has been overwhelmed by inventory data requests for these projects. John C. has offered to share this data with Randy and Dr. Schlosser. This will allow them to complete the Tlingit/Haida inventory with a better data base and on time.

The group believes that there is some duplication of effort among these projects. This is to be expected as they each use the same FS YG model and inventory data as a basis for their respective work. They also believe that much of the work is complementary as well. Specific projects represent steps involved in arriving at an improved YG model, while other projects use different analyses (e.g. statistical, photo interpretation, satellite imagery) to create an improved model.

The meeting participants decided that for the committee to better understand the unique analysis processes and projects, they should be applied to the same specific area. The 12 Mile Arm area was chosen because it has new, 2005 plot data, and the past pre-commercial thinning is well delineated. John Caouette will do a statistical analysis, Dr. Schlosser will do a satellite imagery analysis, and the TNF will conduct a photo interpretation analysis. These analyses will be presented to the YG Committee in Ketchikan immediately prior the TFR meeting in early Dec.

The YG Committee will meet on Dec. 3 in Ketchikan at 1 PM in the TNF conference room located on the first floor of the Federal Building.