STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests
Forestry/Timber management

Dale Remington – Sales Forester/Contracting Officer
WHY WE SELL TIMBER AND REASONS IT SELLS.

Timber tends to be of a higher quality and larger due to the length of time between harvests, when compared to private land.

All harvesting is conducted under strict contract requirements and administered by highly trained foresters and technicians.

Harvesting timber and supporting local communities is part of the mission of the Forest Service.

All harvesting is conducted on a sustained basis, using the highest standards.
WHY WE HARVEST TIMBER

Wildlife Openings

Road daylighting

Regenerating Oak

Diverse habitat

Jobs
Opening Views

Support Local Economy

Mast Production

Plywood production
WHY WE HARVEST TIMBER

Grouse Habitat

Forest Products

Thinning Forest Health

Age class
VEGETATION PROJECT PLANNING TIMELINE

- Gate 1 – Prescription - Focused Public input  FY 2010
- Gate 2 – NEPA - Full Public Input – FY 2011 – 2012
- Gate 3 – Layout and Timber Marking – FY 2013
- Gate 4 – Contract preparation – FY 2014
- Gate 5 – Contract Advertisement – FY 2014
- Gate 6 – Contract Award – FY 2014

Most sales are 2 to 3 years in length - FY 2014 – 2016

Stands visited to certify stocking after 3\textsuperscript{rd} growing season 2017-2019
National Forests in North Carolina
Timber History (1974-2014)

Old Plan ASQ (106,000 ccf) N&P

Current ASQ 66,000 ccf (N&P)
Timber Sale Values
Nantahala & Pisgah

Road Maintenance
Road Work
Stumpage
Nantahala and Pisgah Acres Sold by Year

Average for Period 860 acres/year
757 acres in 2015 not counting 2 no bid sales for 215 acres)
EACH TIMBER SALE IS GIVEN ONE OF THREE OBJECT CODES.

• Forest Stewardship (FS) – least net cost way to achieve the vegetation management objective.

• Timber Commodity (TC) – primary object is for the purpose of providing forest products as a raw material to contribute to the Nation’s Timber supply.

• Personal Use (PP) – Purchaser will use the material for personal use rather than for manufacture or resale.

In my 13 years in NC all sales have been coded (FS) and none have been coded (TC).
The project is designed to improve or maintain wildlife habitat, species diversity of stands, soil and water resources, and forest health through vegetation management, prescribed burning and other treatments designed to provide high quality early successional habitat. The project would implement direction set forth in the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) for the Nantahala/Pisgah National Forests (USDA, March 1987) as amended in 1994, in a manner which moves the existing natural resources toward desired future conditions.

Proposed management activities include:

• Tree harvesting through a commercial timber sale.
• Site preparation for forest regeneration. Timber stand improvements.
• Wildlife and fisheries habitat improvements.
• Temporary road reconstruction.

Nothing about the projects land base (suitable or unsuitable).
Strategic Goals

SUSTAIN – Our Nation’s Forests and Grasslands

Objective A – resilient, adaptive ecosystems to mitigate climate change.

DELIVER Benefits to the public

Objective E – Strengthen communities

APPLY – Knowledge Globally

Management Goal

EXCEL – as a High-Performing Agency
Our investment in restoration work and managing the land will help ensure that forests and grasslands continue to deliver values, uses, products, and services that people want and need, such as clean air and water; high-quality recreation settings and opportunities; scenic character; forest products; cultural sites; and a full suite of habitats for plant, aquatic, and wildlife species (including threatened and endangered species). Working with our partners, the Forest Service’s ecological restoration projects will support the growth and development of healthy ecosystems and vibrant, resilient communities.
Delivery of forest-related goods and services is integral to our mission at the Forest Service, stimulating tangible economic benefits to rural communities, such as private-sector investment and employment opportunities. The economic activity we support is directly attributable to the natural resource investments we make and the use of national forest and grassland resources that result in marketable products associated with outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing, timber production, livestock grazing, mineral production, land stewardship, and other activities.
Things to keep in mind

1. Suitable acres do not equal the lands on which timber sales will occur.

2. The non-suitable acres are not removed from consideration for timber harvest or are removed from management.

3. All wilderness is unsuitable but all unsuitable is not wilderness.
Lands suitable for timber production - A preliminary classification of determining lands that are suited for timber production. Lands not suitable for timber production based on factors such as:

- Statute / Executive Order
- Lack of Technology
- Withdrawn by Chief or Secretary
- Not Forested
- Cannot adequately restock in 5 years.
- Not compatible with Desired Condition (DC) stated in the plan.

Current Plan – 275,798 acres suitable

Note: Timber Production = Purposeful growing, tending harvesting and regenerating a regulated crop of trees into logs, bolts or other round section for industrial or consumer use.
TIMBER MANAGEMENT AND THE PLANNING RULE

Lands suitable for timber production

- Timber production is primary or secondary use for these acres
- Timber production is planned to continue even after DFC is met.
- A schedule of harvests can be planned and is predictable
- Regeneration is intended
- Timber production is compatible with DC

TAKE HOME MESSAGE: You can have land that is found to be unsuitable for production, but you still can have a timber sale and harvest timber.
TIMBER MANAGEMENT AND THE PLANNING RULE

- **Timber Harvest** = Considered a tool to protect or enhance other multiple use values. The use of timber harvesting for other than timber production may be the most cost effective method as long as plan components can be met. Can happen on suitable & unsuitable lands.

- Used to meet a DC.
- Coded as a Forest Stewardship sale rather timber commodity sale
- Also used for salvage, public safety, forest health
- Volume removed is considered a by-product of using the timber sale tool to move towards a DC, but helps local economies.

Note: **Timber Harvest** = The removal of trees for wood fiber use and other multiple-use purposes. To meet a desired condition for the mix of vegetation.
PLAN COMPONENTS (STANDARDS & GUIDES) THAT LIMIT TIMBER HARVEST

• Harvest for *timber production* only from suitable land base
• Timber Harvesting only where soil, slope or watershed conditions would not be damaged.
• Timber Harvesting only where protection is provided for streams, streambanks, lakes and wetlands.
• Harvests will protect fish, wildlife, recreation and aesthetic resources.
• Assurance that lands can be adequately restocked within 5 years
• Where the harvest system is not selected primarily because it will give the greatest dollar return or unit output.
TIMBER MANAGEMENT AND THE PLANNING RULE

- **Projected Wood Sale Quantity (PWSQ)** – timber and other products expected to be sold in the planning period from all lands. Consistent with Plan components. (Commercial sales, Firewood, biomass)

- **Projected Timber Sale Quantity (PTSQ)** – A subset of Timber harvested that meets a utilization standard, from any land expected to be sold in planning period. (FS sets standards)

- **Sustained Yield Limit (SYL)** – timber that meets utilization standard that could be removed annually in perpetuity on a sustained yield based from the lands that may be suitable

Note: Timber Harvest within organizational capacity.
Not considered a target or limitation
TIMBER HARVEST CAN ONLY BE CONDUCTED ON THE SUITABLE LAND BASE.

False – Only timber harvested for production must be from the suitable land base.

We will harvest all suitable acres in time. False – There are areas within the suitable land base that will not be harvested for many reasons, most of which are tied to plan components.

Timber harvesting on the lands not suitable will result in resource damage. False - If all Forest Plan S&G are followed, there will be no significant impacts.

Timber companies are subsidized to harvest on National Forests. False – Timber is sold by sealed bid to the highest bidder with minimum bid set at fair market value for the timber.

Timber harvests impact the viewsheds. False – The vast majority of harvest units are not seen or recognized by public.

Timber purchaser select the trees they will harvest and they work independently. False – All stems to be harvest are marked or designated and they work under constant inspection by a highly trained Contract Administration Team.
Timber sales on the National Forest cost the taxpayers. False – Value of the stumpage removed, road work completed, and value of resource work conducted always totals to more than the timber budget.

Timber harvesting results in sedimentation of creeks. False – BMP monitoring shows that in 98% of sales monitored visible sediment has reached a stream.

The Forest Service is cutting growth. False – Estimated standing volume is 33,860,000 ccf (all Forests) Growth would be about 8% or 2,708,800 ccf we cut 44,000 ccf or .02% of growth
More Important than the footprint of the suitable land base vs the unsuitable land base are the Desired Conditions (DC)

Desired Conditions control:
- The integration of projects
- How the vegetation is altered
- Project development
- Logging systems
- What the area will look like after the project is done.

The desired conditions help determine the suitable land base rather than the suitable lands determining the DC’s

The DC’s are more important and more controlling than the determination of suitability.