

## Coastal Woodlot perspective on low grade log fibre utilization

Some small scale practical solutions for  
increasing utilization from Coastal  
Woodlots

## Coastal Woodlots quick FACTS

From Prince Rupert to the south coast there are 122 Woodlots.  
Significant contribution to the provincial economy and environment.

The total area covered is Crown:62,640ha; Total 66,799ha.

The total inventory estimated at 17million m<sup>3</sup>.

The total AAC 356,852m<sup>3</sup>/yr.

The total value is \$46,000,000/yr gross log value and \$1,070,556  
stumpage (2018).

The estimated number of jobs/woodlot (direct and induced) is 5.5  
people/year.

Waste is approximately 40m<sup>3</sup>/ha. Misleading as most are clean (less  
than 10m<sup>3</sup>/ha) as a whistle after firewood cutting and others are  
upwards of 100m<sup>3</sup>/ha in remote locations and Cedar types.

Historic and current practice is to pile and burn waste, due to many factors. Pressure is mounting to reduce burning. New mills like the Coastland Veneer mill in the city of Nanaimo have Cogen (min/no smoke) to heat their kilns.



**Log processing for the export market creates lots of waste (>100m<sup>3</sup>/ha). Average for Coastal Woodlots is 40m<sup>3</sup>/ha for combination of domestic and export sales. Modified bob cat firewood processor taking the 100m<sup>3</sup>/ha to a local firewood market. Lots of demand from rural areas on the coast. Private forest land near Horne lake.**



Combining C/S with pulp from the beginning of a harvest is the key to logging truck transport of low value fibre (pulp). Using the C/S length for bunking the pulp for a combined sale price using wt scaling is a good option. On the coast wt scaling has become more common, but just in the last 5+ years. Coast has a slower reaction time to change, such as the use of short log trucks (required to help keep waste levels low) only available in the past few years. W2045.

Short butts (from manufacture of poles) 8.5ft to 18ft sold to small sawmill vs firewood program. W1466



**Chambers (Chip transporting company located in Chemainus)**

**Added a debarker and chipper to their operations taking 2" tops and 6' min length for \$50/m3. Well organized and busy with a continuous line up of logging trucks. Trucking distances of greater than 150km become a little prohibitive, compared to other options at local (say Campbell river) log dumps. Large pulp split prior to debarking.**



Key to the Chambers operation is the big hole debarker turning hog at \$20/ton by removing bark to clean chips at \$50/ton. Clean chips are the key to Chambers ability to operate along with the integration with their existing trucking business.



**Interest group from the fiber utilization consultation within the SIFD taking a tour of Chambers operations. Campbell River fibre shuts down in the middle of the largest timber supply area due to lack of demand for chips, economic limits of only chipping, and other factors at a time when waste penalties are 3 times stumpage!**





**Chinook Forest Products in Courtenay. W0026 Comox valley**

**Waste pile historically is sold as hog fuel at a price equal to the cost of trucking.**

**Local bark mulch sales of coarse or fine (grinder used) supplies the local landscape market with personal vehicles and dump trucks coming and going all day long, especially during the spring warm up.**

**Another option is to compost hog with fish farm waste.**



**W0097 Bruce Carpenter - Parksville December 2018 winter storm caused 30 year old plantations and timber types to be knocked over making waste and utilization a priority. Avoidable vs unavoidable waste becomes a bigger issue when there is a 2x penalty.**

**W2045 Huck – Gold River clearcutting was selected due to wind damage. Waste at 45m<sup>3</sup>/ha, much was unavoidable due to high stumps as a result of windthrow and faller safety.**



**W0012 Rick Heikkila - Nanaimo**

**A few days after the winter storm the weekend warriors gut bucked valuable logs into worthless waste. Need to be innovative with waste survey design to avoid penalties, making the trail and road areas outside of the block. Truly wasted wood!**



**Waste on private lands within less than 20 km of Port Alberni Pulp mill. Onsite chipping (no debarking) so only produces hog vs chips. Bin trucks used (1/3 capacity) compared to Chip trucks due to steep roads and significant switch backs on most roads. Trucking of hog from the woods is 3 times more expensive than chips from Chambers, using chip trucks. Remote locations have waste levels and are an issue for Ministry.**



Onsite chipping to produce hog at \$20/ton, private land within view of Port Alberni pulp mill. Can not get Chip trucks (30m<sup>3</sup>/load) vs drop in containers (10m<sup>3</sup>/load) so transportation is triple the cost. Split rail fencing to utilize old buckskin cedar logs, often used for CWD.



### **Practical solutions for Coastal Woodlot Licensees**

- Preplanning to combine lower grade logs, C/S and Pulp, to transport via logging trucks vs onsite chipping using bin trucks. Cost savings and higher values!
- Continue to supply the home heating demand from local residents who on average consume 4 cords/yr (12m<sup>3</sup>). Average Woodlot produces 200m<sup>3</sup>/yr of waste so can supply 15 homes with their winter firewood supply.
- Use free firewood opportunities for local rural residents as part of our social contract.
- Work with the Ministry to authorize simple solutions (sample scaling and using load slips) to reduce the extra costs compared to using 100% piece scaling of low grade fiber.
- Encourage more local demand (small scale waste facilities/operations) for low grade fiber. Need to be spread out within economically feasible distances so as to reduce transportation costs. Lots of ideas, but not much action yet on central Vancouver Island!
- Modify the waste penalties for remote woodlots and those that have high old growth Cedar composition where waste levels are usually >100m<sup>3</sup>/ha.

**The most practical solution to utilising waste on Coastal Woodlots is often the most obvious. Firewood cutting is good exercise, something that some people enjoy (especially retired guys), saves money on home heating and helps to maintain the social contract with Woodlot neighbours!**

