



Potential Impacts of Woody Biomass Markets on Private Woodlands

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North Carolina's Woodlands

The basics...

- Rank 4th nationally in total forestland
- 18 million acres covering 60% of the State
- Approximately 3/4 (~14 million acres) owned by 700,000 private landowners

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continued

- Most private forestland in North Carolina produces usable wood at a rate **LESS THAN HALF ITS POTENTIAL!**
- Why?
 - No or poor forest management
 - High-grading
 - No thinning
 - No consideration of growth and vigor
 - No consideration for reforestation
 - No forester supervising harvests

North Carolina's Woodlands

continued

- Many landowners have appropriately planted pine to reforest (CRP, FDP, FIP, etc.)
- BUT there are inadequate markets for pine pulpwood—thinnings are not being done
- There are ~1.9 million acres of pine pole timber available in North Carolina—**BUT only ~47,000 acres thinned annually**
- Prices for North Carolina's pine pulpwood are the **lowest** in the SE

North Carolina's Woodlands

continued

- There are also inadequate markets for low-quality hardwood timber
- Intermediate silvicultural treatments in hardwood stands (e.g. thinnings and improvement cuttings) are not an option
- Only silvicultural choice available is to clearcut and start over

North Carolina's Woodlands

continued

According to  members...

- Over most of the state, many high-graded tracts are not economically viable—either too little timber volume or too little timber quality or both
- If viable, only marginally so—harvests on these sites are a tool, not an income producer

North Carolina's Woodlands

continued



Real world examples...

- ❑ 32 acres of 40 year old high-graded hardwood—needs harvest—no market!
- ❑ 460 acres of 21 year old planted pine and natural hardwood—needs thinning—no market!
- ❑ 140 acres high-graded hardwood and Virginia pine stands—75 acres put up for sale—no bids!

Potential Impacts for North Carolina's Woodland Owners

So...

- ❑ *The potential use of woody biomass for fuel has enormous economic and environmental significance for North Carolina*
- ❑ *New biomass markets for pulpwood and poor quality timber will allow silvicultural options that currently do not exist for North Carolina's private woodland owners*
- ❑ *These markets could only help the overall productivity and health of our state's 14 million acres of private woodlands*

Potential Impacts for North Carolina's Woodland Owners


THE BOTTOM LINE TAKE-HOME MESSAGE IS:

- ❑ *To be good stewards of the resource, to create wealth, and preserve green space North Carolina's private woodland owners need **NEW, STRONG, AND RELIABLE WOODY BIOMASS MARKETS** for pulpwood and poor quality timber*

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