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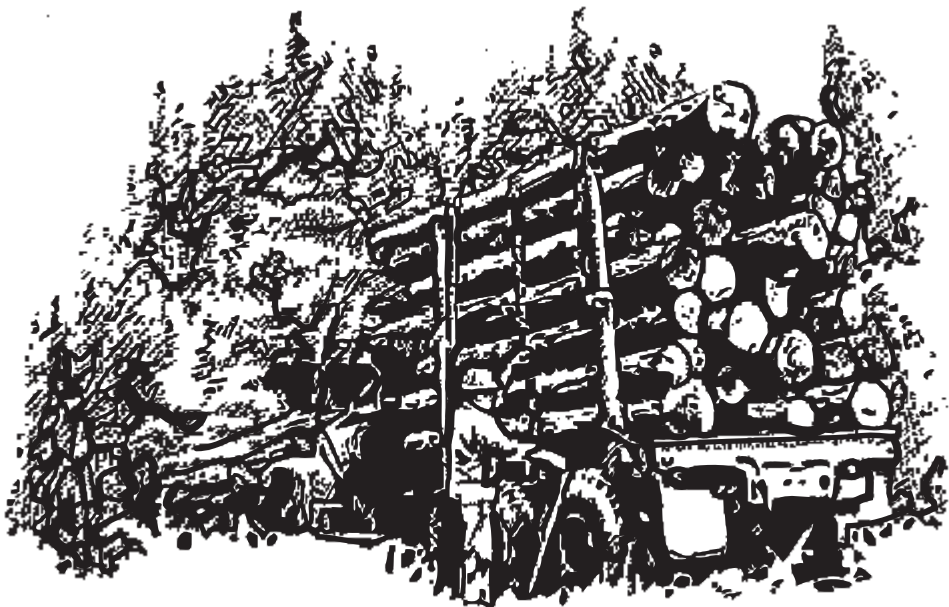
Alabama Harvest and Utilization Study, 2008

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Foreword

This resource bulletin describes the principal findings of a harvest and utilization study conducted during the ninth inventory of Alabama's forest resources. Survey crews sampled and measured trees harvested in a variety of logging operations, and analysts calculated wood volume and percent of wood utilization. Harvest volume data and factors for growing-stock and nongrowing-stock logging residue are described and interpreted.

Annual surveys of America's forest resources are mandated by the Forest and Rangeland Act of 1978. Surveys and utilization studies are part of a continuing, nationwide undertaking by regional experiment stations of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Inventories and utilization studies of the 13 Southern States (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia) and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are conducted by the Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Research Work Unit. Unit headquarters is in Knoxville, TN, and FIA has operational offices in Asheville, NC, and Starkville, MS. The primary objective of these appraisals is to develop and maintain resource information needed to formulate sound forest policies and programs. More information about Forest Service resource inventories is available in "The Enhanced

Forest Inventory and Analysis Program—National Sampling Design and Estimation Procedures" (Bechtold and Patterson 2005).

Tabular data included in FIA resource bulletins present a comprehensive array of forest resource statistics, but additional information is available to those who require more specific information. Access to data for the Southern States can be found at: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data/index.shtml>.

Acknowledgments

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The Southern Research Station gratefully acknowledges the cooperation and assistance of the Alabama Forestry Commission in collecting the harvest and utilization data. Appreciation is also extended to forest industry and loggers for allowing the crews access to their land and logging operations.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1
Methods	1
Site Stratification and Selection	1
Data Collection	2
Highlights	4
Characteristics of Harvested Trees in Alabama	4
Softwood Removals	5
Hardwood Removals	7
Literature Cited	9
Glossary	10
Appendix	13
Index of Tables	15
Tables A.1–A.17 ^a	16

^aAll tables in this report are available in Microsoft® Excel workbook files. Upon request, these files will be supplied in the format the customer requests.

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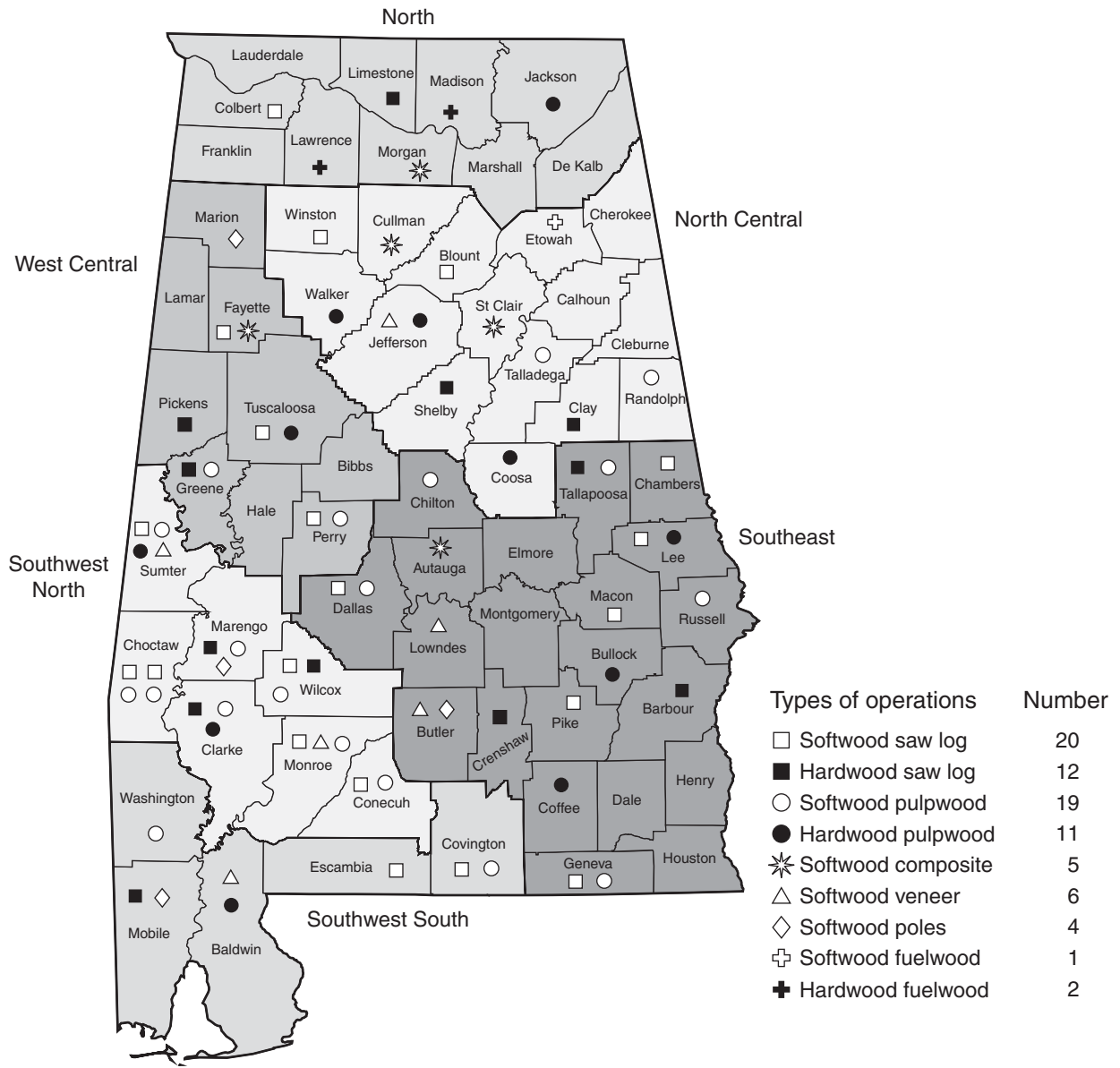


Figure 1—Harvest operations, Alabama, 2008.

Alabama Harvest and Utilization Study, 2008

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Introduction

Forest planners and managers have a continuing need for information about the timber resource, and the general public is expressing increasing interest in the effects of logging. Therefore, up-to-date data on the Nation's forests—and how they are changing—are essential to well-informed decisionmaking. Information about the condition of and changes in the timber resource of Alabama comes from three primary sources: (1) inventory plots, which describe current conditions and quantify changes due to mortality, growth, removals, and land use; (2) mill surveys, which quantify timber volume harvested and delivered to primary wood products facilities, i.e., sawmills, pulpmills, veneer mills, composite panel mills, and pole mills; and (3) logging utilization studies, which characterize harvest operations and quantify the timber volume that is cut and utilized, and that portion that is left in the forest.

This bulletin presents the findings of a 2008 harvest and utilization study in Alabama. The study's main goal was to provide an estimate of softwood and hardwood volume used, and of volume left in the woods as logging residue. Survey crews randomly selected and measured felled trees on 80 active harvest operations throughout Alabama (fig. 1). This bulletin also provides information on logging in Alabama and some general characteristics of trees harvested for various products, examples of which are average diameter at breast height (d.b.h.) by product, average bole length by product, average heights of residual stumps, and average diameter outside bark (d.o.b.) at the end of utilization.

Some standard FIA terms are used in this study. Two that are particularly important for understanding and interpreting study results are growing stock and nongrowing stock. A growing-stock tree is a live tree of commercial species that either contains or is capable of producing at least one 12-foot or two 8-foot logs in the saw-log portion of the bole. A nongrowing-stock tree is one that does not meet the requirements of growing stock due to poor form or

rot. For growing-stock trees, the growing-stock portion of a tree (5 inches d.b.h. or larger) includes the volume of sound wood between a 1-foot stump and a 4-inch top, d.o.b. Volume in the 1-foot stump, volume in the main stem from 4 inches to the growing top of the tree, and the volume of any limbs 4 inches or larger with at least one 5-foot section are considered nongrowing-stock volume by FIA standards. Rough or rotten trees were also sampled and make up another piece of nongrowing-stock (cull) volume. Figure 2 illustrates a poletimber and a sawtimber tree and the growing-stock section of each.

Methods

Site Stratification and Selection

Producing a complete list of timber-harvesting operations and ownerships in a State such as Alabama is problematic. Because the industry is so complex, it is impossible to list the names and locations of all during the timeframe considered in this resource bulletin. Many uncontrolled factors affect how, when, and where harvesting operations will take place; but the most common events that affect harvesting operations are weather and timber markets. A random sample provides a reasonably accurate estimate of utilization.

The sites selected for study were stratified by species group and product using the most recent data available from the publication "Alabama's Timber Industry—An Assessment of Timber Product Output and Use, 2003" (Bentley 2006), which provides county-level output of timber products harvested in Alabama by species group. Using those proportions, we designated 56 of the 80 selected sites as softwood operations, and the remaining 24 as hardwood operations. Harvest operations by product were based along these same general guidelines, although some flexibility was given to field crews for substitution due to the difficulty of locating harvesting operations for some specific products. Table 1

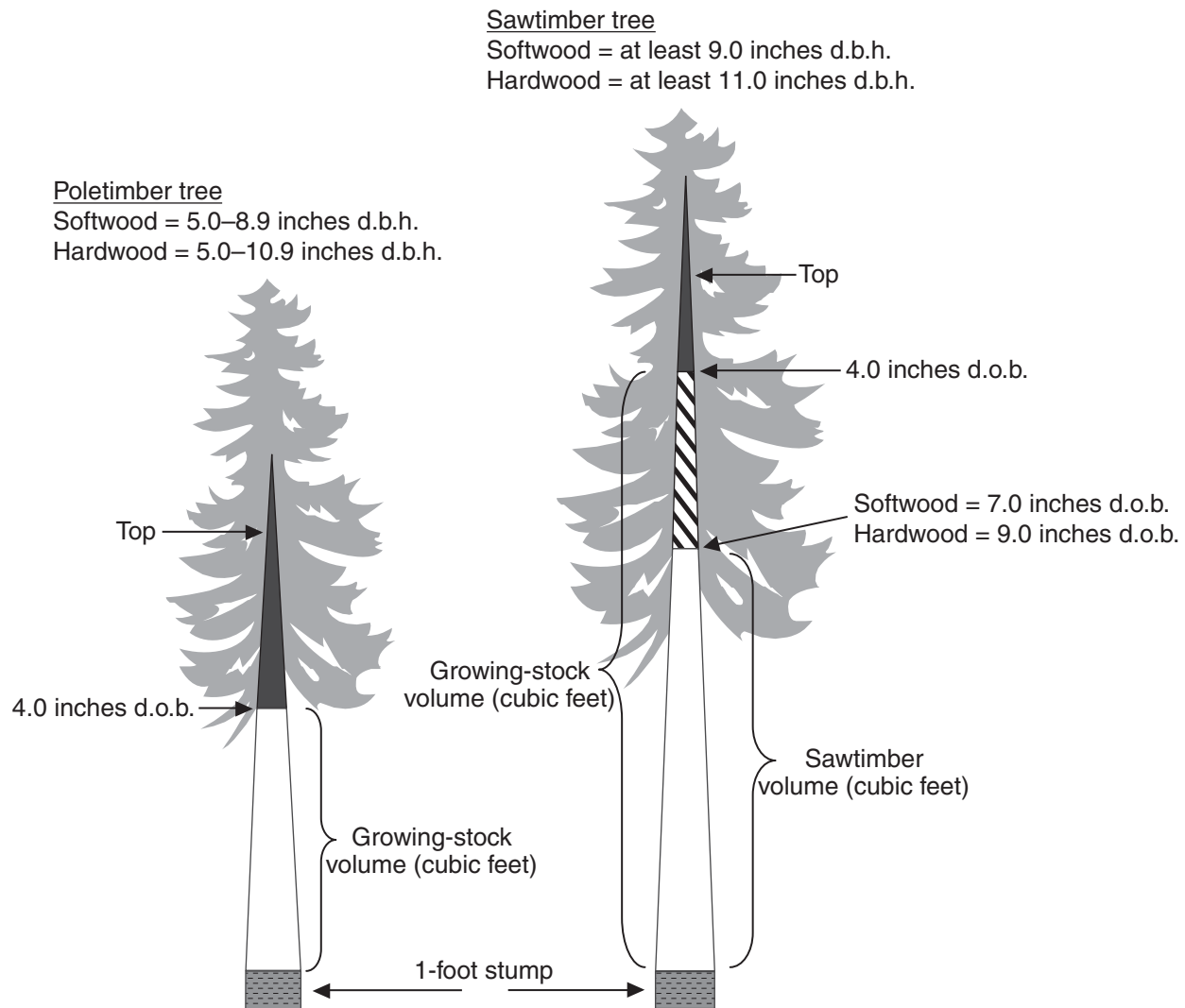


Figure 2—Stem sections of poletimber and sawtimber trees.

shows the final breakdown number of harvest operations and trees by product and species group.

After the harvest operations were stratified by major species group and product, the operations were placed in the appropriate region and county in the State. Using county-level product output data from the “Alabama’s Timber Industry—An Assessment of Timber Product Output and Use, 2003” (Bentley 2006) and a map that showed current mill locations, prospective utilization sites were selected based on a high probability of being able to locate a harvesting operation for the particular product and species group assigned. Figure 1 shows where the final harvest operations considered in this bulletin were located.

Data Collection

During the ninth survey (Bentley 2006), field crews were trained to collect data on felled trees at harvest locations. Using the list of operations and a map of sites, they began collecting data by county for the particular species group and designated product(s). Data were collected from October 2007 to January 2008 on active harvest operations by four field crews throughout the State. Alabama Forestry Commission region and county personnel arranged visits with loggers at active harvest operations; subsequently, the field crews visited the operations and obtained the needed measurements.

Table 1—Number of operations and trees by product and species group, Alabama, 2008

Product and species group	Operations	Trees
	<i>number</i>	
Saw logs		
Softwood	20	528
Hardwood	12	250
Total	32	778
Veneer logs		
Softwood	6	128
Hardwood	0	0
Total	6	128
Composite panels		
Softwood	5	129
Hardwood	0	0
Total	5	129
Pulpwood		
Softwood	19	530
Hardwood	11	366
Total	30	896
Poles		
Softwood	4	94
Hardwood	0	0
Total	4	94
Fuelwood		
Softwood	1	24
Hardwood	2	51
Total	0	75
All products		
Softwood	56	1,433
Hardwood	24	667
Total	80	2,100

At each harvest operation site, crew members talked to the logger or the person in charge of operations. Those contacts provided vital information about product(s) utilized, specific diameters, and log lengths the receiving mill(s) would accept, along with minimum diameters at the cutoff points for specific products. Crews also noted the type of logging equipment that was being used. This information was used to determine the level of mechanization for each harvesting operation.

On each harvest operation site, the crew's goal was to measure 25 to 30 trees for each product to ensure an adequate representation of overutilization and underutilization for a given type of harvest operation. Trees were randomly selected and had to be at least 5 inches d.b.h. and alive prior to harvest. Although they often had been bucked, limbed, and topped, the main bole of each tree selected for measurement had to be intact to be measured for utilization. The State, unit, county, and location number were recorded for each site. Each tree was assigned a number and identified by species, d.b.h., tree class, product, and bole length as well as percent cull if rot was detected. Each tree was measured from the top of the cut stump to the end of utilization. Measurements were made along the main stem in sections no longer than 16 feet until the end of utilization. The end of utilization usually is determined by the sawyer, according to particular specifications set by the receiving mill(s). Again, FIA merchantability standards for growing-stock volume are defined as the volume in the main stem of the tree from a 1-foot stump to a 4-inch top. However, most trees are not cut exactly at a 1-foot stump, nor are they cut off at exactly 4 inches. For example, trees that are cut off above a 1-foot stump and below 4 inches would be considered underutilized, and that volume not utilized would be considered growing-stock residue. On the other hand, by FIA standards, trees cut below a 1-foot stump and above a 4-inch top are considered 100 percent utilized, and those portions below and above are considered overutilization. A myriad of combinations actually occurs on active harvest operations. The aggregated volume from measured trees has provided overutilization and underutilization factors that can be applied to statewide inventory results for an estimate of growing-stock and nongrowing-stock logging residues. Other required measurements, besides d.b.h. and end of utilization, are the top of the sawtimber portion (7.0 inches in softwoods and 9.0 inches in hardwoods). Those measurements allow calculation of the sawtimber and poletimber portion of the growing-stock section.

Highlights

Characteristics of Harvested Trees in Alabama

Results of this study have identified several key characteristics of trees harvested, which cannot be obtained from a typical field inventory or a forest industry study that supplies product output data only. Characteristics such as average d.b.h. by product, average bole length by product, average residual stump height, and average d.o.b. at the end of utilization constitute important information that can help us more fully understand the complex nature of removals. Averages discussed in this section are based on the measurement of 2,100 trees. Of those, 1,433 (68 percent) were softwood, and 667 (32 percent) were hardwood.

According to the publication “Alabama’s Timber Industry—An Assessment of Timber Product Output and Use, 2003” (Bentley 2006), softwood and hardwood saw-log volume together accounted for 38 percent of the total product output for the State. This study classified 528 trees as having softwood saw log(s) averaging 12.4 inches d.b.h. It classified 250 hardwood trees as having saw log(s) averaging 17.6 inches d.b.h. Veneer and plywood constitute another important component of the product mix for Alabama. Based on 128 trees measured for softwood veneer, the average d.b.h. was 15.8 inches. Advances in lathe technology at softwood plywood mills are resulting in a drop of the average d.b.h. of peeler logs across the South. As expected, the d.b.h. of trees measured for pulpwood was significantly smaller. Of 530 softwood trees total, the average d.b.h. was 7.0 inches, while the 366 trees measured for hardwood pulpwood averaged 8.4 inches d.b.h. Table 2 shows the

breakdown of average d.b.h. for each product by species group.

Bole length is the distance between a 1-foot stump and a 4-inch top. As expected, trees harvested for solid wood products tended to have longer average bole lengths than trees harvested for pulpwood or composite panel products. The average bole length for softwood trees measured for saw logs was 59 feet, while trees measured for hardwood saw logs had an average bole length of 69 feet. In comparison, trees measured for pulpwood had average bole lengths of 31 and 38 feet, respectively. Softwood veneer trees had an average bole length of 76 feet, while trees measured for softwood poles had an average bole length of 71 feet. Table 3 shows the average bole length by species group.

Planted sites constituted a subset of the total number of trees measured. Trees measured in planted stands tended to have shorter bole lengths than those measured in the natural stands. Table 4 shows the average bole length for each product by species group and stand origin.

Residual stump height is a key component in determining utilization rates for harvested trees. By FIA standards, the stump is that portion of the tree measured at ground level from the uphill side of the tree to 1 foot up the bole. Loggers try to maximize volume harvested by cutting the tree as close to the ground as possible. Residual stump heights across the products ranged from 0.40 to 0.74 feet; however, most softwood trees harvested had an average residual stump height of about a 0.50 foot, while hardwood

Table 2—Average diameter at breast height by species group and product, Alabama, 2008

Species group	Product					
	Saw logs	Veneer logs	Composite panels	Pulpwood	Poles	Fuelwood
	<i>inches</i>					
Softwood	12.41	15.76	7.54	6.98	13.78	8.34
Hardwood	17.58	—	—	8.38	—	9.21

— = no sample for the cell.

Table 3—Average bole length by species group and product, Alabama, 2008

Species group	Product					
	Saw logs	Veneer logs	Composite panels	Pulpwood	Poles	Fuelwood
	<i>feet</i>					
Softwood	58.52	75.52	34.57	30.58	70.50	29.83
Hardwood	68.66	—	—	38.35	—	38.86

— = no sample for the cell.

Table 4—Average bole length by species group, stand origin, and product, Alabama, 2008

Species group and stand origin	Product					
	Saw logs	Veneer logs	Composite panels	Pulpwood	Poles	Fuelwood
	<i>feet</i>					
Softwood						
Natural	63.64	75.52	49.50	32.83	70.50	—
Planted	49.71	—	30.80	29.53	—	29.83
Hardwood						
Natural	68.66	—	—	38.45	—	38.86
Planted	—	—	—	26.67	—	—

— = no sample for the cell.

trees harvested averaged slightly higher residual stumps. In softwoods and across all products, this accounted for about 44 percent of the stump volume being used. In hardwoods and across all products, about 23 percent of stump volume was used. Stump volume for both hardwood and softwood contributed to utilization of the nongrowing-stock portion of trees, i.e., overutilization. Table 5 shows the average residual stump heights for each product by species group.

The final component we used to determine use rates was d.o.b. at the end of utilization. Tops and limbs constitute most of the nongrowing-stock volume, although they accounted for only 43 percent of the nongrowing-stock portion that was utilized. The average end of utilization for softwood saw logs was 4.7 inches, and for hardwood saw logs 8.0 inches. For softwood veneer logs the average end of utilization was 5.2 inches. The average for pulpwood was 2.4 and 3.7 inches for softwoods and hardwoods, respectively. Table 6 shows the average end of utilization by the different products and species group.

Softwood Removals

Results from this study document 34,548 cubic feet of softwood volume, of which 30,244 cubic feet, or 88 percent, was used for product(s). Twelve percent, or 4,305 cubic feet, was left onsite as logging residue (fig. 3). Twenty-six percent of the residue volume came from the growing-stock portion of the tree, while 74 percent came from the nongrowing-stock portion (stumps, tops, and limbs) (fig. 4) (table A.1).

The total softwood growing-stock volume measured was 30,332 cubic feet. Of that total, 96 percent was utilized, and 4 percent was logging residue (fig. 5). By FIA merchantability standards, the logging residue portion of growing-stock trees is underutilized volume. Of the total utilized volume, 1,014 cubic feet, or 3.35 percent, was from the nongrowing-stock portion of trees. By the same merchantability standards, that volume is considered overutilization (tables A.2 and A.3).

Table 5—Average residual stump height by species group and product, Alabama, 2008

Species group	Product					
	Saw logs	Veneer logs	Composite panels	Pulpwood	Poles	Fuelwood
	<i>feet</i>					
Softwood	0.48	0.54	0.51	0.40	0.49	0.46
Hardwood	0.74	—	—	0.50	—	0.47

— = no sample for the cell.

Table 6—Average end of utilization by species group and product, Alabama, 2008

Species group	Product					
	Saw logs	Veneer logs	Composite panels	Pulpwood	Poles	Fuelwood
	<i>inches</i>					
Softwood	4.69	5.15	2.32	2.40	4.41	0.00
Hardwood	8.03	—	—	3.74	—	0.00

— = no sample for the cell; 0.00 indicates a value > 0.000 but < 0.005.

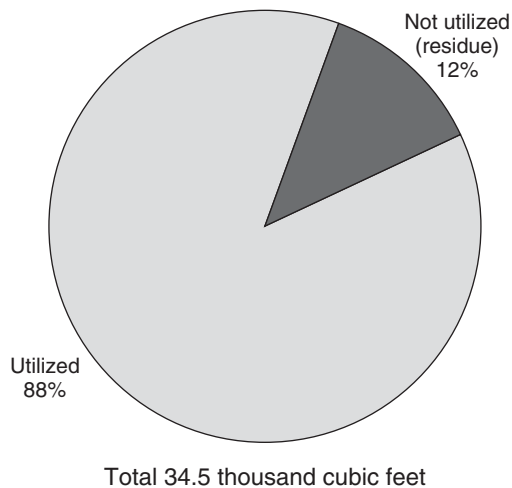


Figure 3—Disposition of total softwood harvest volume, Alabama, 2008.

Softwood volumes and percentages are broken down further by poletimber and sawtimber, and by the various products measured (tables A.2 through A.9). By product, trees harvested for pulpwood and composite panels had above average rates of utilization for the merchantable portion of the tree (98.6 and 98.4 percent, respectively) and the highest rates of overutilization (12.9 and 8.7 percent, respectively). This means that more of the nongrowing-stock portion of the tree was being used for product(s) and less was left as logging residue.

Softwood percentages and volumes presented in these tables represent just trees measured in this study of 80 active harvest operations. However, it is possible to apply the percentages to inventory data from Alabama's latest survey (Hartsell, in press) to get an estimate of total softwood logging residues for the State. Annual softwood removal from all live trees measured in that survey was 870.5 million cubic feet. Softwood growing-stock removals were 827.4 million cubic feet, or 95 percent of the total. Applying the factors from this study to total softwood removals for all live trees tallied in the State survey provides an estimate of 191.4 million cubic feet total annual softwood residue. Of the total residue for all live trees, 43.6 million cubic feet, or 23 percent, was considered growing-stock residue. The remaining 77 percent, or 147.8 million cubic feet, was nongrowing-stock residue from stumps, tops, and limbs, and cull trees not used.

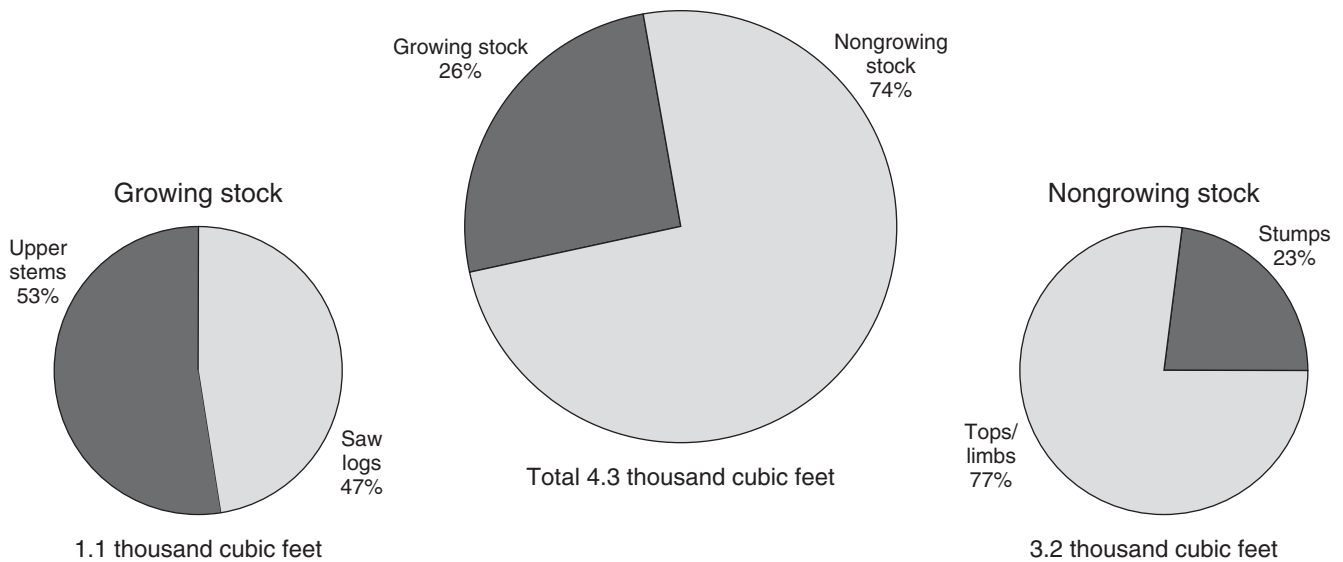


Figure 4—Softwood residue by volume type, Alabama, 2008.

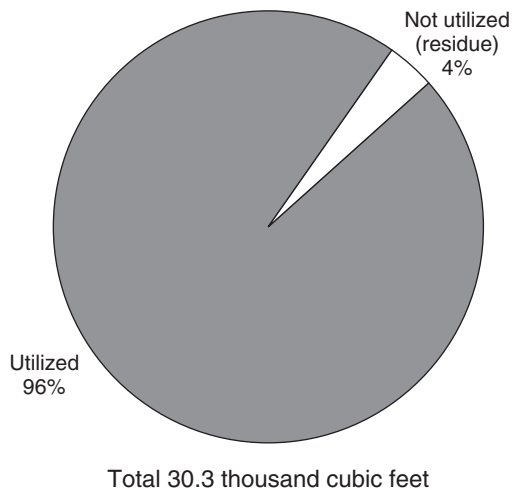


Figure 5—Disposition of softwood growing-stock volume, Alabama, 2008.

Hardwood Removals

Results from this study document 22,915 cubic feet of hardwood volume, of which 17,115 cubic feet, or 75 percent, was utilized for product(s). Twenty-five percent, or 5,800 cubic feet, was left onsite as logging residue (fig. 6). Thirty-five percent of residue volume came from the growing-stock portion of trees, and 65 percent came from the nongrowing-stock portion (stumps, tops, and limbs) (fig. 7) (table A.1).

The total hardwood growing-stock volume measured was 18,759 cubic feet. Of that total, 89 percent was used, and 11 percent was logging residue (fig. 8). By FIA merchantability standards, the logging residue portion is underutilized volume. Of the total utilized volume, 376 cubic feet, or 2.2 percent, was from the nongrowing-stock portion of trees. By the same merchantability standards, that volume is considered overutilization (tables A.10 and A.11).

Hardwood volumes and percentages also were measured for poletimber and sawtimber, and differentiated by the various products they provided (tables A.10 through A.17). At 94 percent, however, those trees measured for pulpwood were more fully utilized. Also, more of the nongrowing-stock portion was used for pulpwood. Trees measured for hardwood saw logs were the least utilized of all, although they have the most nongrowing-stock material.

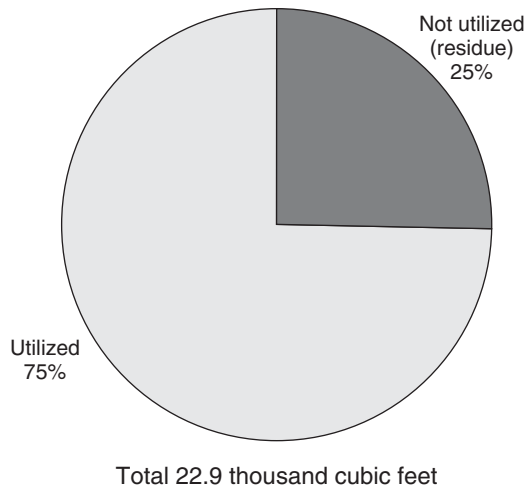


Figure 6—Disposition of total hardwood harvest volume, Alabama, 2008.

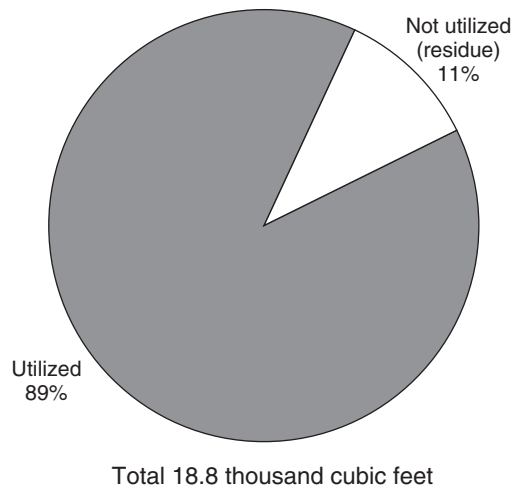


Figure 8—Disposition of hardwood growing-stock volume, Alabama, 2008.

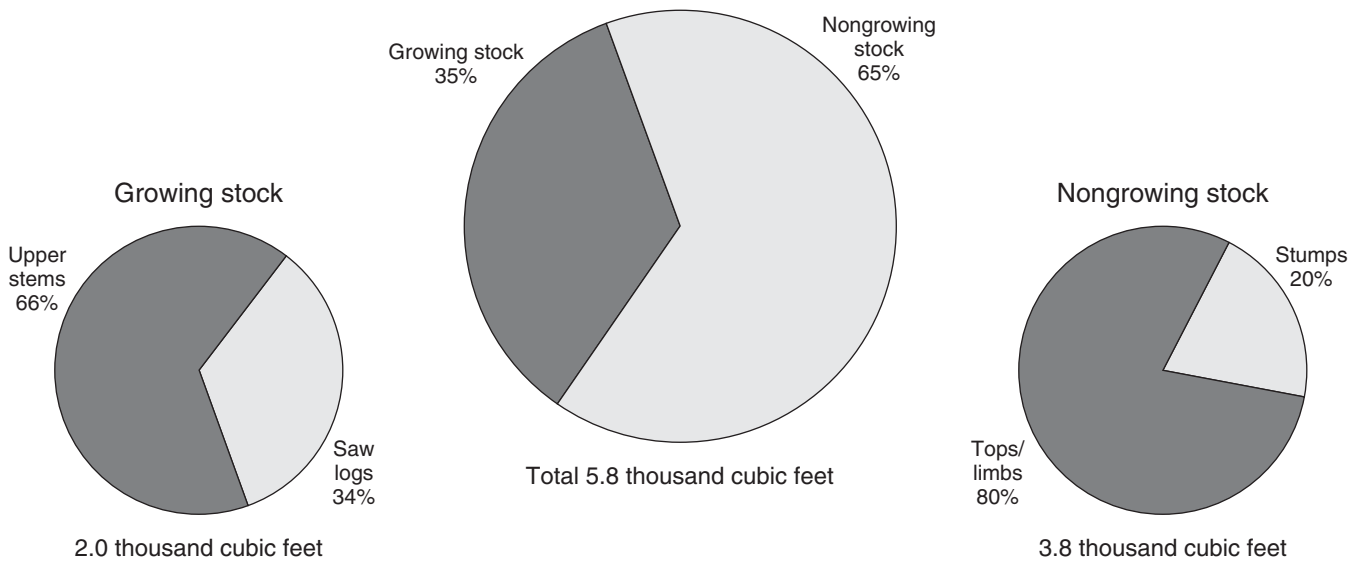


Figure 7—Hardwood residue by volume type, Alabama, 2008.

Hardwood percentages and volumes presented in the tables represent just trees measured in this study of 80 active harvest operations. However, it is possible to apply the percentages to inventory data from Alabama's latest survey (Hartsell, in press) to provide an estimate of total hardwood logging residue for the State. Annual hardwood removals from all live trees totaled 453.7 million cubic feet. Hardwood growing-stock removals totaled 394.0 million cubic feet, or 87 percent of that total. Applying factors

from this study to total hardwood removals from all live trees tallied in the State survey provided an estimate of 186.2 million cubic feet total annual hardwood residue. Of that total, 74.2 million cubic feet, or 40 percent, was considered growing-stock residue. The remaining 60 percent, or 112.0 million cubic feet, was nongrowing-stock residue from stumps, tops, and limbs, and rough or rotten trees that were not used.

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Glossary

Board foot. Unit of measure applied to roundwood. It relates to lumber that is 1-foot long, 1-foot wide, and 1-inch thick (or its equivalent).

Composite products. Roundwood products manufactured into chips, wafers, strands, flakes, shavings, or sawdust and then reconstituted into a variety of panel and engineered lumber products.

Drain. The volume of roundwood removed from any geographic area where timber is grown.

Growing-stock removals. The growing-stock volume removed from poletimber and sawtimber trees in the timberland inventory. (Note: Includes volume removed for roundwood products, logging residues, and other removals.)

Growing-stock trees. Living trees of commercial species classified as sawtimber, poletimber, saplings, and seedlings. Growing-stock trees must contain at least one 12-foot or two 8-foot logs in the saw-log portion, currently or potentially (if too small to qualify). The log(s) must meet dimension and merchantability standards and have, currently or potentially, one-third of the gross board-foot volume in sound wood.

Growing-stock volume. The cubic-foot volume of sound wood in growing-stock trees at least 5.0 inches d.b.h. from a 1-foot stump to a minimum 4.0-inch top d.o.b. of the central stem.

Hardwoods. Dicotyledonous trees, usually broadleaf and deciduous.

Soft hardwoods. Hardwood species with an average specific gravity of 0.50 or less, such as gums, yellow-poplar, cottonwoods, red maple, basswoods, and willows.

Hard hardwoods. Hardwood species with an average specific gravity > 0.50, such as oaks, hard maples, hickories, and beech.

Industrial roundwood products. Any primary use of the main stem of a tree, such as saw logs, pulpwood, and veneer logs, intended to be processed into primary wood products, such as lumber, wood pulp, and sheathing, at primary wood-using mills.

International 1/4-inch rule. A log rule or formula for estimating the board-foot volume of logs, allowing 1/2-inch of taper for each 4-foot length. The rule appears in a number

of forms that allow for kerf. In the form used by FIA, a 1/4-inch of kerf is assumed. This rule is used as the USDA Forest Service standard log rule in the Eastern United States.

Log. A primary forest product harvested in long, primarily 8-, 12-, and 16-foot lengths.

Logging residues. The unused merchantable portion of growing-stock trees cut or destroyed during logging operations.

Merchantable portion. That portion of live trees 5.0 inches d.b.h. and larger between a 1-foot stump and a minimum 4.0-inch top d.o.b. on the central stem. That portion of primary forks from the point of occurrence to a minimum 4.0-inch top d.o.b. is included.

Merchantable volume. Solid-wood volume in the merchantable portion of live trees.

Noncommercial species. Tree species of typically small size, poor form, or inferior quality that normally do not develop into trees suitable for industrial wood products.

Nonforest land. Land that has never supported forests and land formerly forested where timber production is precluded by development for other uses.

Nongrowing-stock sources. The net volume removed from the nongrowing-stock portions of poletimber and sawtimber trees (stumps, tops, limbs, cull sections of central stem) and from any portion of a rough, rotten, sapling, dead, or nonforest tree.

Other forest land. Forest land other than timberland and productive reserved forest land. It includes available and reserved forest land that is incapable of producing annually 20 cubic feet per acre of industrial wood under natural conditions because of adverse site conditions such as sterile soils, dry climate, poor drainage, high elevation, steepness, or rockiness.

Other products. A miscellaneous category of roundwood products, e.g., cooperage, excelsior, shingles, and mill residue byproducts (charcoal, bedding, mulch, etc.).

Other removals. The growing-stock volume of trees removed from the inventory by cultural operations such as timber stand improvement, land clearing, and other changes in land use, resulting in the removal of the trees from timberland.

Other sources. (See: Nongrowing-stock sources.)

Poletimber-size trees. Softwoods 5.0 to 8.9 inches d.b.h. and hardwoods 5.0 to 10.9 inches d.b.h.

Posts, poles, and pilings. Roundwood products milled (cut or peeled) into standard sizes (lengths and circumferences) to be put in the ground to provide vertical and lateral support in buildings, foundations, utility lines, and fences. May also include nonindustrial (unmilled) products.

Primary wood-using plants. Industries that convert roundwood products (saw logs, veneer logs, pulpwood, etc.) into primary wood products, such as lumber, veneer or sheathing, and wood pulp.

Pulpwood. A roundwood product that will be reduced to individual wood fibers by chemical or mechanical means. The fibers are used to make a broad generic group of pulp products that includes paper products, as well as chipboard, fiberboard, insulating board, and paperboard.

Rotten trees. Live trees of commercial species not containing at least one 12-foot saw log, or two noncontiguous saw logs, each 8 feet or longer, now or prospectively, primarily because of rot or missing sections, and with less than one-third of the gross board-foot tree volume in sound material.

Rough trees. Live trees of commercial species not containing at least one 12-foot saw log, or two noncontiguous saw logs, each 8 feet or longer, now or prospectively, primarily because of roughness, poor form, splits, and cracks, and with less than one-third of the gross board-foot tree volume in sound material; and live trees of noncommercial species.

Roundwood (roundwood logs). Logs, bolts, or other round sections cut from trees for industrial manufacture or consumer uses.

Roundwood chipped. Any timber cut primarily for industrial manufacture, delivered to nonpulp mills, chipped, and then sold to pulpmills for use as fiber. Includes tops, jump sections, whole trees, and pulpwood sticks.

Roundwood product drain. That portion of total drain used for a product.

Roundwood products. Any primary product, such as lumber, poles, pilings, pulp, or fuelwood that is produced from roundwood.

Salvable dead trees. Standing or downed dead trees that were formerly growing stock and considered merchantable. Trees must be at least 5.0 inches d.b.h. to qualify.

Saplings. Live trees 1.0 to 5.0 inches d.b.h.

Saw log. A roundwood product, usually 8 feet in length or longer, processed into a variety of sawn products such as lumber, cants, pallets, railroad ties, and timbers.

Saw-log portion. The part of the bole of sawtimber trees between a 1-foot stump and the saw-log top.

Saw-log top. The point on the bole of sawtimber trees above which a conventional saw log cannot be produced. The minimum saw-log top is 7.0 inches d.o.b. for softwoods and 9.0 inches d.o.b. for hardwoods.

Sawtimber-size trees. Softwoods 9.0 inches d.b.h. and larger and hardwoods 11.0 inches d.b.h. and larger.

Sawtimber volume. Growing-stock volume in the saw-log portion of sawtimber-sized trees in board feet (International ¼-inch rule).

Seedlings. Trees <1.0 inch d.b.h. and >1 foot tall for hardwoods, >6 inches tall for softwood, and >0.5 inch in diameter at ground level for longleaf pine.

Softwoods. Coniferous trees, usually evergreen, having leaves that are needles or scalelike.

Standard cord. A unit of measure applied to roundwood, usually bolts or split wood. It is a stack of wood 4 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet long encompassing 128 cubic feet of wood, bark, and air space. This usually translates to approximately 75.0 to 81.0 cubic feet of solid wood for pulpwood, because pulpwood is more uniform.

Standard unit. A unit measure applied to roundwood timber products. Board feet (International ¼-inch rule) is the standard unit used for saw logs and veneer; cords are used for pulpwood, composite panel, and fuelwood; hundred pieces for poles; thousand pieces for posts; and thousand cubic feet for all other miscellaneous forest products.

Timberland. Forest land capable of producing 20 cubic feet of industrial wood per acre per year and not withdrawn from timber utilization.

Timber product output. The total volume of roundwood products from all sources plus the volume of byproducts recovered from mill residues (equals roundwood product drain).

Timber products. Roundwood products and byproducts.

Timber removals. The total volume of trees removed from the timberland inventory by harvesting, cultural operations such as stand improvement, land clearing, or changes in land use. (Note: Includes roundwood products, logging residues, and other removals.)

Tree. Woody plant having one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 3 inches d.b.h., a more or less definitely formed crown of foliage, and a height of at least 13 feet (at maturity).

Upper-stem portion. The part of the main stem of saw-timber trees above the saw-log top and the minimum top diameter of 4.0 inches outside bark, or to the point where the main stem breaks into limbs.

Utilization studies. Studies conducted on active logging operations to develop factors for merchantable portions of trees left in the woods (logging residues), logging damage, and utilization of the unmerchantable portion of growing-stock trees and nongrowing-stock trees.

Veneer log. A roundwood product either rotary cut, sliced, stamped, or sawn into a variety of veneer products such as plywood, finished panels, veneer sheets, or sheathing.

Weight. A unit of measure for mill residues, expressed as oven-dry tons (2,000 oven-dry pounds).

Appendix

Index of Tables

A.1—Harvest and utilization volume by species group, source, and volume type, Alabama, 2008

A.2—Volume of softwood growing stock by product and utilization for sawtimber and poletimber, Alabama, 2008

A.3—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for softwood growing stock by product for sawtimber and poletimber, Alabama, 2008

A.4—Volume of softwood growing stock by product and utilization for sawtimber, Alabama, 2008

A.5—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for softwood growing stock by product for sawtimber, Alabama, 2008

A.6—Volume of softwood growing stock by product and utilization for poletimber, Alabama, 2008

A.7—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for softwood growing stock by product for poletimber, Alabama, 2008

A.8—Volume of softwood cull by product and utilization, Alabama, 2008

A.9—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for softwood cull by product, Alabama, 2008

A.10—Volume of hardwood growing stock by product and utilization for sawtimber and poletimber, Alabama, 2008

A.11—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for hardwood growing stock by product for sawtimber and poletimber, Alabama, 2008

A.12—Volume of hardwood growing stock by product and utilization for sawtimber, Alabama, 2008

A.13—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for hardwood growing stock by product for sawtimber, Alabama, 2008

A.14—Volume of hardwood growing stock by product and utilization for poletimber, Alabama, 2008

A.15—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for hardwood growing stock by product for poletimber, Alabama, 2008

A.16—Volume of hardwood cull by product and utilization, Alabama, 2008

A.17—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for hardwood cull by product, Alabama, 2008

Table A.1—Harvest and utilization volume by species group, source, and volume type, Alabama, 2008

Species group and source	Total tree volume	Growing stock					Nongrowing stock				
		Total	Saw log		Upper stem		Total	Stumps		Tops/limbs	
			Utilized	Not utilized	Utilized	Not utilized		Utilized	Not utilized	Utilized	Not utilized
<i>cubic feet</i>											
Softwood											
Sawtimber	30,420.34	26,994.26	24,853.09	523.47	1,050.90	566.80	3,426.08	442.82	622.53	76.84	2,283.89
Poletimber	4,128.04	3,338.14	—	—	3,325.51	12.63	789.90	128.61	112.55	365.84	182.90
Total	34,548.38	30,332.40	24,853.09	523.47	4,376.41	579.43	4,215.98	571.43	735.08	442.68	2,466.79
Hardwood											
Sawtimber	20,115.55	16,505.12	13,685.81	687.68	864.32	1,267.31	3,610.43	151.41	672.08	53.34	2,733.60
Poletimber	2,799.77	2,253.97	—	—	2,188.99	64.98	545.80	73.37	97.30	98.07	277.06
Total	22,915.32	18,759.09	13,685.81	687.68	3,053.31	1,332.29	4,156.23	224.78	769.38	151.41	3,010.66

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.
 — = no sample for the cell.

Table A.2—Volume of softwood growing stock by product and utilization for sawtimber and poletimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Total volume utilized	Growing stock			Nongrowing stock utilized	Saw-log portion			
		Total	Utilized	Not utilized		Total	Utilized	Cull utilized	Not utilized
<i>cubic feet</i>									
Saw logs	15,411.92	15,789.32	15,072.17	717.15	339.75	14,236.26	13,921.10	177.11	138.05
Veneer logs	6,871.66	6,929.26	6,762.35	166.91	109.31	6,741.12	6,621.60	116.09	3.43
Composite panels	979.81	908.86	894.47	14.39	85.34	326.67	320.21	3.34	3.12
Pulpwood	3,045.24	2,691.11	2,654.07	37.04	391.17	415.81	391.62	24.20	—
Poles	3,776.91	3,878.50	3,711.07	167.43	65.84	3,630.58	3,572.45	-9.52	67.66
Fuelwood	158.08	135.39	135.39	—	22.69	26.13	26.13	—	—
Total	30,243.61	30,332.40	29,229.50	1,102.90	1,014.10	25,376.57	24,853.11	311.22	212.26

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.
 — = no sample for the cell.

Table A.3—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for softwood growing stock by product for sawtimber and poletimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Overutilization		Underutilization		Saw-log portion		
	Growing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Nongrowing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Growing stock utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Growing stock not utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Saw log utilized/ total saw-log volume	Cull utilized/ total saw-log volume	Saw log not utilized/ total saw-log volume
	<i>percent</i>						
Saw logs	97.80	2.20	95.46	4.54	97.79	1.24	0.97
Veneer logs	98.41	1.59	97.59	2.41	98.23	1.72	0.05
Composite panels	91.29	8.71	98.42	1.58	98.02	1.02	0.96
Pulpwood	87.16	12.85	98.62	1.38	94.18	5.82	—
Poles	98.26	1.74	95.68	4.32	98.40	-0.26	1.86
Fuelwood	85.65	14.35	100.00	—	100.00	—	—
All products	96.65	3.35	96.36	3.64	97.94	1.23	0.84

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.4—Volume of softwood growing stock by product and utilization for sawtimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Total volume utilized	Growing stock			Nongrowing stock utilized	Saw-log portion			
		Total	Utilized	Not utilized		Total	Utilized	Cull utilized	Not utilized
	<i>cubic feet</i>								
Saw logs	14,781.02	15,195.87	14,484.05	711.82	296.97	14,236.26	13,921.10	177.11	138.05
Veneer logs	6,871.66	6,929.26	6,762.35	166.91	109.31	6,741.12	6,621.60	116.09	3.43
Composite panels	408.81	406.91	393.22	13.69	15.59	326.67	320.21	3.34	3.12
Pulpwood	550.26	554.28	523.85	30.43	26.41	415.81	391.62	24.20	—
Poles	3,761.85	3,864.04	3,696.61	167.43	65.24	3,630.58	3,572.45	-9.52	67.66
Fuelwood	50.05	43.92	43.92	—	6.13	26.13	26.13	—	—
Total	26,423.65	26,994.28	25,904.00	1,090.28	519.65	25,376.57	24,853.11	311.22	212.26

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.5—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for softwood growing stock by product for sawtimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Overutilization		Underutilization		Saw-log portion		
	Growing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Nongrowing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Growing stock utilized/total growing-stock volume	Growing stock not utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Saw log utilized/ total saw-log volume	Cull utilized/ total saw-log volume	Saw log not utilized/ total saw-log volume
	<i>percent</i>						
Saw logs	97.99	2.01	95.32	4.68	97.79	1.24	0.97
Veneer logs	98.41	1.59	97.59	2.41	98.23	1.72	0.05
Composite panels	96.19	3.81	96.64	3.36	98.02	1.02	0.96
Pulpwood	95.20	4.80	94.51	5.49	94.18	5.82	—
Poles	98.27	1.73	95.67	4.33	98.40	-0.26	1.86
Fuelwood	87.75	12.25	100.00	—	100.00	—	—
All products	98.03	1.97	95.96	4.04	97.94	1.23	0.84

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.6—Volume of softwood growing stock by product and utilization for poletimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Total volume utilized	Growing stock			Nongrowing stock utilized
		Total	Utilized	Not utilized	
	<i>cubic feet</i>				
Saw logs	630.90	593.45	588.12	5.33	42.78
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	571.00	501.95	501.25	0.70	69.75
Pulpwood	2,494.98	2,136.83	2,130.22	6.61	364.76
Poles	15.06	14.46	14.46	—	0.60
Fuelwood	108.03	91.47	91.47	—	16.56
Total	3,819.97	3,338.16	3,325.52	12.64	494.45

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.7—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for softwood growing stock by product for poletimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Overutilization		Underutilization	
	Growing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Nongrowing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Growing stock utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Growing stock not utilized/ total growing-stock volume
	<i>percent</i>			
Saw logs	93.22	6.78	99.10	0.90
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	87.78	12.22	99.86	0.14
Pulpwood	85.38	14.62	99.69	0.31
Poles	96.02	3.98	100.00	—
Fuelwood	84.67	15.33	100.00	—
All products	87.06	12.94	99.62	0.38

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.8—Volume of softwood cull by product and utilization, Alabama, 2008

Product	Total volume utilized	Nongrowing stock			
		Merchantable			Unmerchantable utilized
		Total	Utilized	Not utilized	
		<i>cubic feet</i>			
Saw logs	—	—	—	—	—
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	150.21	147.56	143.16	4.40	7.05
Poles	—	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	7.31	6.19	6.19	—	1.12
Total	157.52	153.75	149.35	4.40	8.17

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.9—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for softwood cull by product, Alabama, 2008

Product	Overutilization		Underutilization	
	Merchantable utilized/ total volume utilized	Unmerchantable utilized/ total volume utilized	Merchantable utilized/ total merchantable volume	Merchantable not utilized/ total merchantable volume
	<i>percent</i>			
Saw logs	—	—	—	—
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	95.31	4.69	97.02	2.98
Poles	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	84.68	15.32	100.00	—
All products	94.81	5.19	97.14	2.86

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.10—Volume of hardwood growing stock by product and utilization for sawtimber and poletimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Total volume utilized	Growing stock			Nongrowing stock utilized	Saw-log portion			
		Total	Utilized	Not utilized		Total	Utilized	Cull utilized	Not utilized
	<i>cubic feet</i>								
Saw logs	14,049.34	15,730.02	13,875.37	1,854.65	173.97	13,807.71	13,192.85	-247.12	861.99
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	2,785.58	2,796.35	2,631.02	165.33	154.56	514.24	441.41	57.05	15.78
Poles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	280.39	232.74	232.74	—	47.65	51.55	51.55	—	—
Total	17,115.31	18,759.11	16,739.12	2,019.97	376.18	14,373.50	13,685.81	-190.07	877.77

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.11—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for hardwood growing stock by product for sawtimber and poletimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Overutilization		Underutilization		Saw-log portion		
	Growing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Nongrowing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Growing stock utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Growing stock not utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Saw log utilized/ total saw-log volume	Cull utilized/ total saw-log volume	Saw log not utilized/ total saw-log volume
	<i>percent</i>						
Saw logs	98.76	1.24	88.21	11.79	95.55	-1.79	6.24
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	94.45	5.55	94.09	5.91	85.84	11.09	3.07
Poles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	83.01	16.99	100.00	—	100.00	—	—
All products	97.80	2.20	89.23	10.77	95.22	-1.32	6.11

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.12—Volume of hardwood growing stock by product and utilization for sawtimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Total volume utilized	Growing stock			Nongrowing stock utilized	Saw-log portion			
		Total	Utilized	Not utilized		Total	Utilized	Cull utilized	Not utilized
	<i>cubic feet</i>								
Saw logs	14,018.85	15,699.96	13,845.81	1,854.15	173.04	13,807.71	13,192.85	-247.12	861.99
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	658.19	739.47	638.62	100.85	19.57	514.24	441.41	57.05	15.78
Poles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	77.84	65.71	65.71	—	12.13	51.55	51.55	—	—
Total	14,754.88	16,505.14	14,550.14	1,955.00	204.74	14,373.50	13,685.81	-190.07	877.77

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.13—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for hardwood growing stock by product for sawtimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Overutilization		Underutilization		Saw-log portion		
	Growing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Nongrowing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Growing stock utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Growing stock not utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Saw log utilized/ total saw-log volume	Cull utilized/ total saw-log volume	Saw log not utilized/ total saw-log volume
	<i>percent</i>						
Saw logs	98.77	1.23	88.19	11.81	95.55	-1.79	6.24
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	97.03	2.97	86.36	13.64	85.84	11.09	3.07
Poles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	84.42	15.58	100.00	—	100.00	—	—
All products	98.61	1.39	88.16	11.84	95.22	-1.32	6.11

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.14—Volume of hardwood growing stock by product and utilization for poletimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Total volume utilized	Growing stock			Nongrowing stock utilized
		Total	Utilized	Not utilized	
	<i>cubic feet</i>				
Saw logs	30.49	30.06	29.56	0.50	0.93
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	2,127.39	2,056.88	1,992.40	64.48	134.99
Poles	—	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	202.55	167.03	167.03	—	35.52
Total	2,360.43	2,253.97	2,188.99	64.98	171.44

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.15—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for hardwood growing stock by product for poletimber, Alabama, 2008

Product	Overutilization		Underutilization	
	Growing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Nongrowing stock utilized/ total volume utilized	Growing stock utilized/ total growing-stock volume	Growing stock not utilized/ total growing-stock volume
<i>percent</i>				
Saw logs	96.95	3.05	98.34	1.66
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	93.65	6.35	96.87	3.13
Poles	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	82.46	17.54	100.00	—
All products	92.74	7.26	97.12	2.88

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.16—Volume of hardwood cull by product and utilization, Alabama, 2008

Product	Total volume utilized	Nongrowing stock			
		Merchantable			Unmerchantable utilized
		Total	Utilized	Not utilized	
<i>cubic feet</i>					
Saw logs	67.70	66.10	66.10	—	1.60
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	597.83	579.45	560.16	19.29	37.67
Poles	—	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	415.24	342.22	342.22	—	73.02
Total	1,080.77	987.77	968.48	19.29	112.29

Numbers in rows and columns may not sum to totals due to rounding.

— = no sample for the cell.

Table A.17—Percent of overutilization and underutilization for hardwood cull by product, Alabama, 2008

Product	Overutilization		Underutilization	
	Merchantable utilized/ total volume utilized	Unmerchantable utilized/ total volume utilized	Merchantable utilized/ total merchantable volume	Merchantable not utilized/ total merchantable volume
	<i>percent</i>			
Saw logs	97.64	2.36	100.00	—
Veneer logs	—	—	—	—
Composite panels	—	—	—	—
Pulpwood	93.70	6.30	96.67	3.33
Poles	—	—	—	—
Fuelwood	82.41	17.59	100.00	—
All products	89.61	10.39	98.05	1.95

— = no sample for the cell.

Bentley, James W.; Johnson, Tony G. 2008. Alabama harvest and utilization study, 2008. Resour. Bull. SRS-141. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 24 p.

In 2008, a harvest and utilization study was conducted on 80 operations throughout Alabama. There were 2,100 total trees measured; 1,433 or 68 percent were softwood, while 667 or 32 percent were hardwood. Results from this study showed that 88 percent of the total softwood volume measured was utilized for a product, and 12 percent was left as logging residue. Seventy-five percent of the total hardwood volume measured was utilized for a product, while 25 percent was left as logging residue.

Keywords: FIA, growing stock, logging residue, nongrowing stock, overutilization, product, removals, underutilization.



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