COTTONWOOD WHIP PLANTING TRIAL

Technician i/c: Bob Wilson

Location: Echamsiks River (103 I 6C - 009)

Region/District: R/Kalum or nursery

OBJECTIVE

✓ 1. To evaluate the success of Scott Papers' techniques in terms of survival and growth of black cottonwhips over 3 years.

✓ 2. To determine if initial diameter and height are related to subsequent survival and growth.

PROGRESS


✓ 2. 100 trees staked and measured May 4, 1984.

STATUS

Trial established May 4, 1984

REPORT & DISTRIBUTION

Working plan/April 1984
Silviculture Br library, Victory
Regional Office - Smithers
District - Kalum

INCOMPLETE

RJW/prd
pg 1 0039F
To: G.D. LLOYD
Silviculture Officer
Prince Rupert Forest Region

From: Silviculture Section
Smithers

Date: February 21, 1984

File:

Attached is my recollection of Scott Paper's Management Regime for the cottonwood on the Fraser River Islands.

Note (1) Their brush problems are a little different from ours in the Skeena. We have more salmonberry, thimbleberry and alder.

(2) Their soils may be a little coarser. We may have more compaction problems.

(3) Our over mature Ct stands must employ a "YUM" system (Yarding Unmerch. Material) to allow for the appropriate site preparation.

(4) Sites selected for Ct management should be limited to high risk flood plains and persistent brush problems.

M. Geisler
Stand Tending Coordinator

cc: District Manager
Kalum Forest District
Attn: B. Wilson

cc: District Manager
Cassiar Forest District
Attn: C. Simmons

cc: G. Pinkerton

Ken Simonsen Scott Price
Dean Raven

Harvesting (Dominantly Ct Stands, preferably young)
- Promote naturals by on-site delimming and topping, skidding when ground is soft and skidding all large pieces. (The objective is to push "cuttings" into the ground.) If slash is not distributed evenly, it is pushed around and ground in as required.
- Minimize loss of productive area (landings, ballasted roads) by utilizing appropriate gravel bars and dry channels for sorting and loading. Clean up channels (raking) in advance of freshets.

Rehabilitation (Brush fields and Ct slums)
- "Eliminate" brush by piling in N.P. depressions or windrowing in narrow rows (<4m)
- Plant immediately with large whips (>2.0m)
  (herbicides usually not required)

Planting

Site factors
- dry sites (sands or gravels, low water table) require rooted cuttings,
- otherwise, unrooted cuttings suffice.

Collection of wildlings
- selected from overstocked, 1 year old stands (previous year's logging or flooding).
- use one year old material only; don't need big, healthy buds,
- should be approximately 2.0 meters in length (big enough to eliminate brushing and weeding requirements).

Storage of whips
- dig a hole in moist soils and store in bundles standing up (store on site if you like). Ct retains "viability" for several months

Planting
- schedule when ground is soft; use dibble (45 cm)
- plant whip deep enough to ensure continual moisture (not stagnant water) and tight enough to ensure good contact for bottom of whip as well as good resistance to dislodging winds.
Planting (cont'd.)

- soak whips for two days prior to planting; hormones may help.
- "hot" planting is best
- growth expectations
  - 1st year - 5 - 10 cm
  - 2nd year - 2 m
  - if spring is dry or soils dry out, survival will be low

Juvenile Spacing
- usually not required since natural thinning works so well

Rotation lengths
- Fraser River 25 yrs.
- Homathko 30 yrs.
-(Skeena 35 yrs. my guess)