

**FII 2002/03
Annual Operational
Report**

**Project title:Cariboo
Landing Rehabilitation
Trial**

Reference No: R2003-0158

Proponent: Bill Chapman, BCMOF
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Abstract

This intent of the work reported on here was to monitor seedling performance on 225 landings which constitute about 1/3 of the landings in a large landing rehabilitation trial initiated in 1995. In addition, seedling performance would be monitored at fifty locations in cutblocks near the landings monitored. A final report was to be prepared and submitted to the three Forest Districts (now two) which initiated this work and to Lignum Ltd. the forestry company which was the originator of the project.

Work was started late because money wasn't awarded until late into the fall. An exceptionally warm fall allowed all work to be completed as planned. The final report was prepared and submitted to two Forest Districts, Lignum Ltd. and is available from MOF Research. A copy of the report is enclosed.

Interesting findings this year are that data continue support the previous observation that rehabilitated landings are fully stocked and trees are growing at rates comparable to adjacent cutblocks. Treatments made little difference to seedling performance. Many seedlings on rehabilitated landings are scarred due to trampling or vole damage, but growth of these seedlings does not seem to be greatly affected.

Application was made to FII for funding to carry out the fifth year monitoring on the final third of the trial in 2003 and to prepare a much more detailed report. The report at the end of next year would contain an analysis of the feasibility of operational scale landing rehabilitation, as well as provide technical information on how to carry out landing rehabilitation. At the end of next year, briefing note will be prepared for the Regional Management Team of the Southern Interior Forest Region to make managers aware of the findings of this study.

Key Words

Landing Rehabilitation; Allowable Annual Cut Effect, Soil

Evaluation of Project Outcomes

The work was completed and all objectives achieved exactly as outlined in the proposal. The data from this year has all been archived with the previous years data. Preliminary

analyses were undertaken, though analyses were not detailed, as the data set is incomplete. Nevertheless, some interesting tentative trends were apparent.

Applicability of Results

Since this was not the last year of the early phase monitoring, it was not expected that results at this stage would or should be used to alter current forest practise. Nevertheless, the results are showing strong trends that support the idea that landing rehabilitation could be more widely practised with favourable silvicultural and economic outcomes.. The clients, Lignum Ltd., the 100 Mile Forest District and the Central Cariboo Forest District have received copies of the report.

The most important outcome of this year's work is that it will alert managers to the probable tone of the final report and initiate discussion around the possibility of changing policy regarding landing rehabilitation. This is important as it takes a considerable amount of time to change practises that have become entrenched in the forest industry. This year's report serves as a heads-up that a recommendation for change may be coming and managers should start to consider the implications of such changes. We are arranging meetings with our clients to determine what further information they will need to be in a position to make a decision regarding the feasibility of widespread operational landing rehabilitation. The work and final report for next year will be tailored to meet those needs.

Contribution to a Knowledge Gap

Landing rehabilitation research has been a recurring theme in British Columbia for many decades. There are some trials that clearly demonstrate that landings can be rehabilitated, while others demonstrate the opposite and still others that are inconclusive. Most landing rehabilitation trials are conducted on a small scale using implements and treatments that are of questionable applicability for operational situations. Managers in the former Cariboo Forest Region felt they did not have the correct type of information to determine if landing rehabilitation was feasible on an operational scale. Their concern hinged around two points, one was could landings be rehabilitated to tree production and was it economically sensible to do so. This trial was initiated to answer those questions. A central feature of the trial is that it was done at an operational scale so that any constraints to operating at an operational scale would become apparent and so that realistic cost estimates could be made. Rehabilitation treatments used were designed to be implemented using readily available equipment and amendments.

The data collected this year contributes to evaluating the effectiveness of the treatments as it provides fifth year data for another third of the trial. The final report for this year discusses apparent trends, recognizing that the dataset is not complete.

Key Operational Variances

There weren't any.