

INVENTORY

5031

(May 1988)

Timber inventory work on state forests consists of the effort necessary to obtain information about the timber resource, such as estimates of volume, quality, stand structure, timber types, etc. This work is concerned primarily with timber cruising, a procedure which may be done for a variety of reasons, including timber sales, management plan development, acquisition, timber stand improvement, damage investigation, appraisals, trespass, pest control, etc. Some inventories are more intensive than others depending on the ultimate use of the data obtained.

Since timber volumes on state forests are always changing due to growth, mortality, and cutting, timber inventories become obsolete in a few years. In state forests where timber sales are being conducted (Jackson, Boggs Mountain, Latour, and Mountain Home), a forest inventory plan for each forest should be developed for management plan purposes. This plan may provide for periodic conventional timber cruises and growth studies or a continuous forest inventory system using permanent plots.

Major timber cruising projects, such as a state forest inventory, must have the approval of the region chief and the director before they are initiated.

Minor timber cruises on state forests, with the exception of incidental projects, will be approved by the region chief for accuracy, methods, and standards before the field work is started.

Form RM-5 (Cruise Sheet) can be used for recording cruise data.

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