



File Code: 4810

Date: August 10, 2007

Tom Inman  
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Inc.  
P.O. Box 427  
High Point, NC 27261

Dear Tom:

I would like to take this chance to provide you with a summary of the key findings from the review of growth and removals in the Appalachian Hardwood Region<sup>1</sup> (AHR) conducted by scientists here at the US Forest Service Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.

The key findings are as follows:

- 1) The area of timberland in the AHR has remained relatively stable with an estimated 65.1 million acres of timberland in 1990<sup>2</sup> and 65.4 million acres in 2004<sup>3</sup>.
- 2) While overall timberland area has remained stable, saw timber size (trees with a diameter at breast height of at least 11 inches) hardwood stands have increased from accounting for 57% of all acres in 1990 to 64% of all acres in 2004.
- 3) Concomitantly, the diameter distribution of hardwood trees is shifting to larger diameter classes.
- 4) Average annual hardwood removals<sup>4</sup> were estimated to be approximately one half of average annual hardwood net growth<sup>5</sup> in each of the distinct county units within each state.
- 5) The region-wide hardwood growth to removals ratio is 2.29, meaning that 2.29 times more wood on average has been grown in the AHR than has been removed on an annual basis for the period of this study<sup>4</sup>.
- 6) Estimated average annual hardwood removals account for approximately 1% of the current<sup>3</sup> total hardwood inventory in the AHR.

The details from these analyses will be developed into a peer-reviewed Forest Service publication in the near future. We are also planning another document to be submitted to a professional forestry journal. We will share copies of these documents when they are in print.

---

<sup>1</sup> 344 county area as defined by the Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturer's, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Data years ranged from 1986-1993.

<sup>3</sup> Data years ranged from 1999-2005.

<sup>4</sup> Data years ranged from 1984-2005. Removals include harvesting and land-use change.

<sup>5</sup> Data years ranged from 1984-2005. Net growth = gross growth – mortality.



We appreciate your interest in the data that the FIA program can provide. We hope that we can continue to work with you and your organization to constantly update this analysis as more current data becomes available. It is important to constantly evaluate the status of our natural resources with the best available data that we here at FIA can provide.

Sincerely,

/s/ William G. Burkman  
WILLIAM G. BURKMAN  
Program Manager, Forest Inventory and  
Analysis

cc: Peter J Roussopoulos  
Christopher Oswalt