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Timber Use, Processing Capacity and Capability of Mills to Utilize Timber by Diameter Size Class Within the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Timber-Processing Area

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Introduction

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest contain portions of Clearwater, Idaho, and Latah counties in Idaho. Together, the total combined area of these three counties constitutes the "Study Area" referred to in this report. Analysis of area timber flow indicates that timber harvested in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest study area is processed by facilities located both inside and outside the study area. All counties that contain one or more facilities that process timber harvested in the study area constitute the "Timber Processing Area" or TPA. The TPA for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest includes the three counties within the study area, as well as Adams, Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Canyon, Gem, Jefferson, Kootenai, Lewis, and Nez Perce counties in Idaho, Cascade, Flathead, Missoula, and Ravalli counties in Montana, and Asotin and Whitman counties in Washington (figure 1).

This report is intended to help land managers better understand the availability of timber-processing capacity within the TPA. This information can help managers utilize timber removals in commercial timber harvests, forest restoration, or hazardous fuels reduction treatments and should enable them to better plan, appraise, advertise, and accomplish stated land management goals.

In what follows, "capacity" refers to the maximum total volume of timber (excluding pulpwood and fuelwood) that existing timber processors could utilize annually, given firm market demand for products, sufficient raw material, and ordinary downtime for maintenance. Also known as "timber-processing capacity", it is a measure of a timber-processing facility's timber *input* capacity and is expressed in thousand board feet (MBF) Scribner and hundred cubic feet (CCF) per year. Input capacity is a useful measure when attempting to express the capacity of multiple types of facilities in a common unit of measure. It is estimated from production (output) capacity information provided by the facilities. Capacity estimates in this report include the capacity of active facilities as well as idle (inactive) facilities with equipment still in place. Facilities that are permanently closed are not included.

This analysis focuses on facilities that exclusively use timber in round form; this includes sawmills, veneer mills, and facilities processing timber into house logs/log homes, posts, small poles, utility poles, cedar products (e.g., shakes and shingles, and fencing), and log furniture. Facilities (e.g., pulp mills, wood pellet manufacturers, and biomass energy facilities) that use a mix of roundwood and non-roundwood inputs (i.e., mill residuals such as chips, sawdust, shavings, and bark) are not included in the capacity analysis because the combination of roundwood and non-roundwood inputs can vary widely from year to year, potentially over- or under-estimating capacity and use of roundwood by substantial margins. Though mixed-input facilities are excluded from the analysis, they are included in the list of timber-processing facilities and in the map of facilities in the TPA.

"Capability" refers to the volume of trees of a certain size class, measured as diameter at breast height (dbh), that existing timber processors can economically process annually. Some facilities are designed to operate using only trees of a given size class (e.g., veneer/ plywood plants typically only use trees ≥10 inches dbh, and post manufacturers primarily use trees <10 inches dbh). Capability at these facilities is readily classified in just one of the size classes. Many facilities can and do use timber from a variety of size (dbh) classes. The three dbh classes used in this report are <7", 7 to 9.9", and ≥10". It is important to point out that capability in the ≥10" dbh class represents the portion of a mill's overall capacity that cannot process smaller trees, and it is calculated as total capacity minus the sum of the two small-log capability classes. "Use" refers to the volume of timber, both in total and by tree dbh class, that facilities are currently using.

This report is a follow-up to a similar analysis performed for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest for 2012; however, comparisons between these should not be made as both the TPA and the underlying methodology have changed somewhat in the intervening years.

The data used to develop these summary tables were collected and processed by the University of Montana's Forest Industry Research Program within the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER). Mill- or company-level data are confidential and cannot be released.

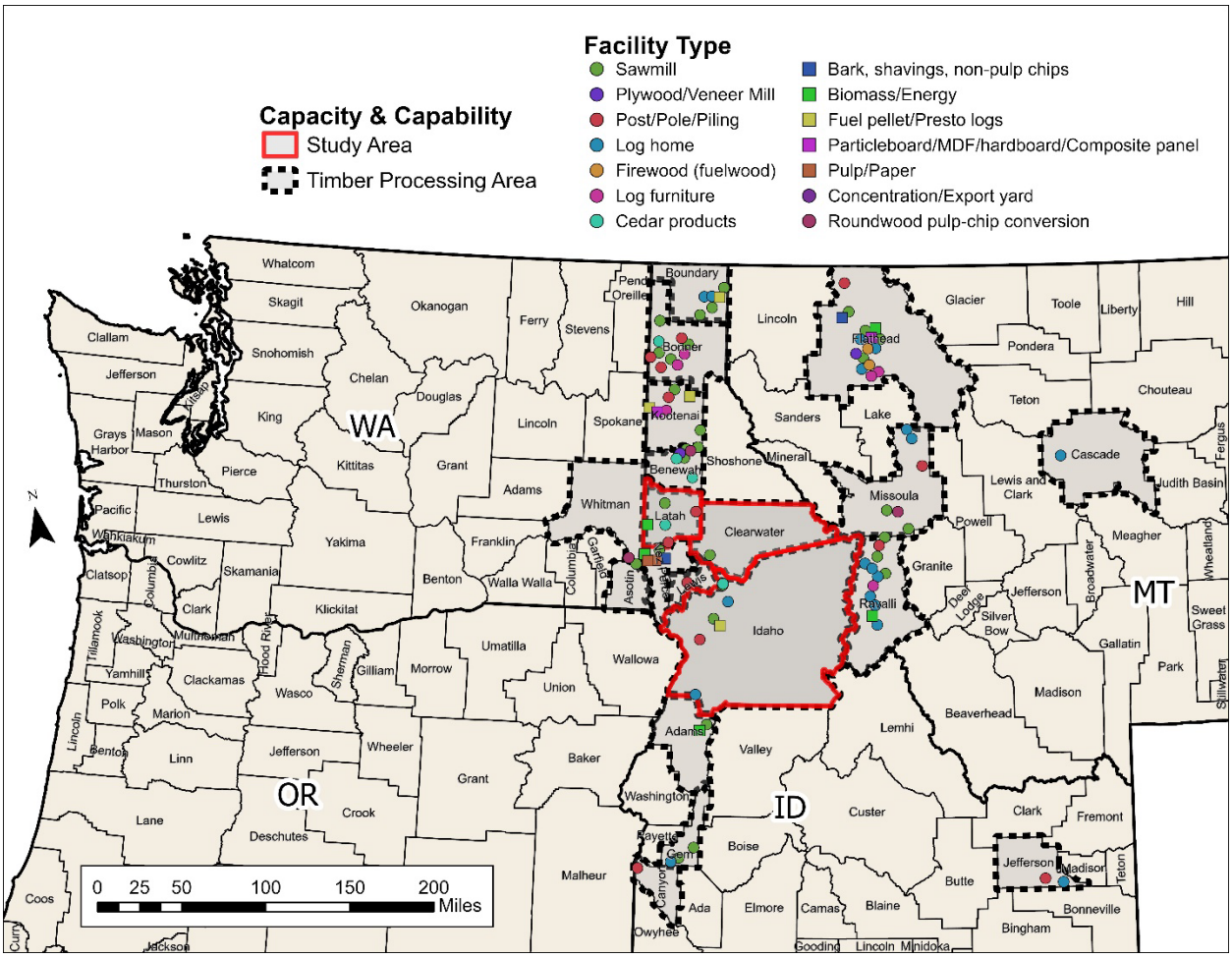

Figure 1 Map of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest study area, timber-processing area, and timber-processing facilities.

Study Area

Recent volume of timber harvested from all ownerships in the study area was estimated at 1,029,691 CCF (425,258 MBF) (table 1). National forests contributed 19 percent of the timber harvested in the study area's three counties (table 2). Of the other ownerships contributing to the harvest, private and tribal timberlands accounted for 53 percent, and state and other public lands contributed 28 percent. Timber from the Nez Perce-Clearwater national forest accounted for the majority (92 percent) of the national forest timber harvested from the study area, with the remaining volumes coming from the Idaho Panhandle, and Payette national forests. The majority (99 percent) of the timber harvested was live standing volume (table 3).

Table 1. Timber harvest by county in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest study area, ID 2015, 2019, 2023.

	2015			2019			2023		
Study area	MBF	CCF	Percent	MBF	CCF	Percent	MBF	CCF	Percent
Clearwater	249,756	613,991	60%	268,519	659,102	64%	296,718	657,891	69%
Idaho	88,140	219,603	21%	84,741	227,396	22%	52,567	119,561	12%
Latah	87,361	196,096	19%	64,640	142,416	14%	80,085	182,644	19%
Study area total	**425,258**	**1,029,691**	**100%**	**417,900**	**1,028,913**	**100%**	**429,370**	**960,096**	**100%**

Table 2. Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest harvest by ownership and product type, 2020 through 2023.

	2020			2021			2022			2023		
Timber product group	**Private**	**National Forest**	**Other public & State**	**Private**	**National Forest**	**Other public & State**	**Private**	**National Forest**	**Other public & State**	**Private**	**National Forest**	**Other public & State**
Saw logs	58%	9%	33%	64%	6%	31%	56%	11%	34%	50%	20%	29%
Veneer logs	84%	0%	16%	84%	0%	16%	84%	0%	16%	100%	0%	0%
Post & small pole	0%	100%	0%	14%	86%	0%	30%	70%	0%	24%	76%	0%
House log	16%	74%	10%	21%	67%	11%	13%	78%	10%	22%	60%	18%
Pulpwood log	66%	0%	34%	32%	0%	68%	44%	0%	56%	71%	0%	29%
Cedar log	81%	1%	19%	74%	1%	25%	75%	1%	24%	29%	5%	66%
Piling/utility pole log	39%	0%	61%	42%	0%	58%	42%	0%	58%	21%	48%	31%
Study area total	**59%**	**8%**	**33%**	**61%**	**6%**	**33%**	**55%**	**10%**	**35%**	**53%**	**19%**	**28%**

Table 3. Percent harvested dead in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest study area, 2020 through 2023.

Study area	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
Clearwater	1%	4%	1%	1%
Idaho	6%	8%	4%	2%
Latah	0%	1%	1%	2%
Study area total	**1%**	**4%**	**2%**	**1%**

The species received by facilities in the study area were predominantly true firs, followed by Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and ponderosa pine (89 percent) (table 4). The remaining species mix consisted of western larch, other pines, western hemlock, spruce, and unknown species.

Table 4. Species composition of harvest in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest study area, 2020 through 2023.

Species Group	2020	2021	2022	2023
True firs	47%	53%	50%	45%
Douglas-fir	23%	23%	21%	26%
Western redcedar	12%	9%	12%	10%
Ponderosa pine	5%	4%	7%	8%
Western larch	4%	4%	4%	4%
Other pines	5%	4%	2%	3%
Western hemlock	2%	2%	1%	3%
Engelmann spruce	3%	0%	1%	2%
Other species	0%	0%	0%	0%
Study area total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Timber-Processing Area (TPA)

A total of 94 primary wood products facilities operate within the TPA, 81 of which receive only roundwood (table 5), and 38 of which reported receiving timber from the study area over the last five years. Nine of the 38 facilities receiving timber from the study area were located within the seven-county study area.

Table 5. Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA facilities.

Facility name	Status	Facility type	State	County	Input size class
Evergreen Forest Products - Tamarack Mill	Active	sawmill	ID	Adams	5000 MCF or more
Evergreen Forests - Cogen	Active	biomass/energy	ID	Adams	No Roundwood
Roland Timber Company	Inactive	sawmill	ID	Benewah	<250 MCF
American Cedar	Active	cedar products	ID	Benewah	500 TO 999 MCF
DLM Shake	Active	cedar products	ID	Benewah	<250 MCF
PotlatchDeltic--St Maries (lumber)	Active	sawmill	ID	Benewah	5000 MCF or more
PotlatchDeltic--St. Maries (plywood)	Active	plywood/Veneer Mill	ID	Benewah	5000 MCF or more
Stimson Lumber Company (St. Maries)	Active	sawmill	ID	Benewah	5000 MCF or more
Swan Lake Fiber	Active	roundwood pulp-chip conversion	ID	Benewah	1000 TO 4999 MCF
Barretts Busy B	Active	cedar products	ID	Bonner	<250 MCF
Panhandle Forest Products	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Bonner	250 TO 499 MCF
Johns Rough Cut	Active	log furniture	ID	Bonner	<250 MCF
Stella Jones - McFarland Cascade Sandpoint	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Bonner	1000 TO 4999 MCF
Idaho Forest Group - Laclede	Active	sawmill	ID	Bonner	5000 MCF or more
Stimson Lumber Company (Priest River)	Active	sawmill	ID	Bonner	5000 MCF or more
Misty Mountain Furniture	Active	log furniture	ID	Bonner	<250 MCF
Priest Lake Lumber Company, Inc.	Inactive	sawmill	ID	Bonner	<250 MCF
Bell Lumber & Pole - Oldtown	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Bonner	250 TO 499 MCF
Specialty Beams	Active	sawmill	ID	Bonner	<250 MCF
Caribou Creek Log & Timber	Active	log home	ID	Boundary	<250 MCF
Structures Unlimited, Inc.	Inactive	log home	ID	Boundary	<250 MCF
Thick 'N' Thin Beams and Lumber	Active	sawmill	ID	Boundary	<250 MCF
Alta Forest Products LLC	Active	sawmill	ID	Boundary	5000 MCF or more
Idaho Forest Group - Moyie Springs	Active	sawmill	ID	Boundary	5000 MCF or more
North Idaho Energy Logs, Inc.	Active	fuel pellet/presto logs	ID	Boundary	No Roundwood
Parma Post & Pole, Inc.	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Canyon	1000 TO 4999 MCF
Tri-Pro Cedar Products	Active	sawmill	ID	Clearwater	<250 MCF
Sweet Lumber Company	Active	sawmill	ID	Gem	<250 MCF
Woodgrain Millworks - Emmett	Active	sawmill	ID	Gem	5000 MCF or more
Gem House Logs Manufacturer	Active	log home	ID	Gem	<250 MCF
Idaho Forest Group - Grangeville	Active	sawmill	ID	Idaho	5000 MCF or more
Frye Custom Log Homes	Active	log home	ID	Idaho	<250 MCF
Pineda Post and Poles	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Idaho	250 TO 499 MCF
Rocky Canyon Pellets/Rosebud Horse Bedding	Active	fuel pellet/presto logs	ID	Idaho	No Roundwood
Pleasant Valley Log Homes	Active	log home	ID	Idaho	250 TO 499 MCF
Cooley Brothers, Inc.	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Jefferson	<250 MCF
Yellowstone Log Homes	Active	log home	ID	Jefferson	250 TO 499 MCF
Lignetics, Inc.	Active	fuel pellet/presto logs	ID	Kootenai	No Roundwood
North Idaho Energy Logs, Inc	Active	fuel pellet/presto logs	ID	Kootenai	No Roundwood
North Idaho Post and Pole	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Kootenai	<250 MCF
Idaho Forest Group - Chilco	Active	sawmill	ID	Kootenai	5000 MCF or more
Whiteman Lumber Company, Inc.	Active	sawmill	ID	Kootenai	500 TO 999 MCF
Plummer Forest Products	Active	particleboard/MDF/hardboard/composite panel	ID	Kootenai	No Roundwood
North Idaho Log Furniture Co.	Active	log furniture	ID	Kootenai	<250 MCF
Idaho Cedar Sales LLC	Active	cedar products	ID	Latah	500 TO 999 MCF
Bennett Lumber Products - Princeton ID	Active	sawmill	ID	Latah	5000 MCF or more
Timber Works, Inc.	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Latah	<250 MCF
University of Idaho Steam Plant	Active	biomass/energy	ID	Latah	No Roundwood
Stella-Jones - Julietta	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Latah	1000 TO 4999 MCF
Star Cedar Sales, Inc.	Active	cedar products	ID	Lewis	250 TO 499 MCF
Empire Lumber Company - Weippe (sawmill)	Active	sawmill	ID	Lewis	5000 MCF or more
Camas Post Yard	Active	post/pole/piling	ID	Lewis	<250 MCF
Idaho Forest Group - Lewiston	Active	sawmill	ID	Nez Perce	5000 MCF or more
Clearwater Paper Corporation	Active	pulp/paper	ID	Nez Perce	No Roundwood
Clearwater Paper Corporation Consumer Products Div	Active	pulp/paper	ID	Nez Perce	No Roundwood
Ground Covers International	Active	bark, shavings, non-pulp chips	ID	Nez Perce	No Roundwood
Clearwater Paper - Co Gen	Active	biomass/energy	ID	Nez Perce	No Roundwood

Facility Name	Facility Status	Mill Type Description	State Name	County Name	Size Class
Cascade Log Homes of Montana	Active	log home	MT	Cascade	<250 MCF
F H Stoltze Land & Lumber Co	Active	sawmill	MT	Flathead	5000 MCF or more
Montana Timberline Firewood Co.	Active	firewood (fuelwood)	MT	Flathead	500 TO 999 MCF
Conkle's Custom Cuts	Active	sawmill	MT	Flathead	<250 MCF
Frontier Log Furniture	Active	log furniture	MT	Flathead	<250 MCF
Glacier Gold, LLC	Active	bark, shavings, non-pulp chips	MT	Flathead	No Roundwood
Kalispell Montana Log Homes, Inc.	Active	log home	MT	Flathead	<250 MCF
F.H. Stoltze-co-gen facility	Active	biomass/energy	MT	Flathead	No Roundwood
Wild Montana Wood	Active	firewood (fuelwood)	MT	Flathead	500 TO 999 MCF
Glacier Log Mill / Lazarus Log Homes	Active	log home	MT	Flathead	<250 MCF
Stillwater Post & Pole	Active	post/pole/piling	MT	Flathead	500 TO 999 MCF
Old Style Log Works, Inc.	Active	log home	MT	Flathead	<250 MCF
Weyerhaeuser - Columbia Falls MDF	Active	particleboard/MDF/hardboard/composite panel	MT	Flathead	1000 TO 4999 MCF
Weyerhaeuser Kalispell Plywood	Active	plywood/Veneer Mill	MT	Flathead	5000 MCF or more
Weyerhaeuser Kalispell Lumber	Active	sawmill	MT	Flathead	5000 MCF or more
RBM Logging & Lumber	Active	sawmill	MT	Flathead	250 TO 499 MCF
Simonson's Log Furniture	Active	log furniture	MT	Flathead	<250 MCF
Nordique Systems Log Homes	Active	log home	MT	Missoula	<250 MCF
Advantage Milling	Active	sawmill	MT	Missoula	<250 MCF
Bad Goat	Active	sawmill	MT	Missoula	<250 MCF
Willis Entrprises, Inc.-Bonner Chip Plant	Active	roundwood pulp-chip conversion	MT	Missoula	1000 TO 4999 MCF
Roundwood West Corporation	Active	post/pole/piling	MT	Missoula	<250 MCF
The Rustics Of Montana	Active	log home	MT	Missoula	<250 MCF
R & S Milling	Active	sawmill	MT	Ravalli	250 TO 499 MCF
Finlay Lumber	Active	sawmill	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Small Diameter Logs Company	Active	log home	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Valley Board & Beam	Active	sawmill	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Darby Public Schools	Active	biomass/energy	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Montana Timber Structures	Active	log home	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Master Log Homes	Active	log home	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Montana Custom Log Homes Inc	Active	log home	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Frontier Posts, LLC	Active	post/pole/piling	MT	Ravalli	250 TO 499 MCF
Rocky Mountain Log Homes - Victor	Active	log home	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Rocky Mountain Log Homes	Active	log home	MT	Ravalli	250 TO 499 MCF
Bearly Making It	Active	log furniture	MT	Ravalli	<250 MCF
Clearwater Fiber LLC	Active	roundwood pulp-chip conversion	WA	Asotin	5000 MCF or more
Bennett Lumber Products (Clarkston)	Active	sawmill	WA	Whitman	5000 MCF or more

County grouped with others to prevent disclosure of facility-specific confidential information

The species received by facilities in the TPA were predominantly true firs, followed by Douglas-fir, western redcedar, ponderosa pine, western hemlock, other pines, and western larch, and Englemann spruce.

Table 6. Species composition of volume received from all ownership classes by facilities in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA, 2020 through 2023.

Species group	2020	2021	2022	2023
True firs	35%	35%	35%	31%
Douglas fir	29%	30%	27%	27%
Western redcedar	11%	10%	10%	10%
Ponderosa pine	5%	6%	10%	11%
Western hemlock	4%	4%	4%	6%
Other pines	6%	7%	6%	6%
Western larch	6%	7%	7%	6%
Englemann spruce	3%	2%	2%	2%
All species	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

National forests provided on average 15 percent of the timber received by facilities in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA (table 7), and accounted for the majority of post, pole, and furniture logs, and firewood and energywood logs (69 and 100 percent, respectively) in 2023.

Table 7. Percent of volume received from national forests by facilities in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA by timber product group, 2020 through 2023.

Timber product group	2020	2021	2022	2023
Saw log	11%	12%	14%	21%
Veneer log	28%	16%	9%	22%
Post/pole/furniture log	85%	75%	59%	69%
House log	56%	53%	77%	50%
Pulp/fiber log	8%	6%	10%	11%
Cedar log	0%	1%	0%	6%
Firewood	62%	59%	79%	100%
Energywood log	0%	51%	100%	100%
Piling/utility pole log	0%	0%	0%	21%
TPA total	**12%**	**12%**	**14%**	**22%**

TPA Timber-Processing Capacity and Use

The timber-processing capacity of facilities in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA was estimated as 3,590,040 CCF (1,546,404 MBF) (table 8). Capacity within the study area was 638,743 CCF (283,660 MBF), 3 percent of the total capacity in the TPA. Fifty-seven percent (2,045,702 CCF or 929,536 MBF) of timber-processing capacity in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA is not capable of efficiently utilizing trees with dbh less than 10 inches (table 9). Capability to efficiently utilize trees 7 to 9.9 inches dbh accounts for 36 percent of total timber-processing capacity, while 7 percent of total capacity in the TPA can efficiently utilize trees smaller than 7 inches dbh. Facilities in the TPA were estimated to process 2,703,726 CCF (1,203,854 MBF) of timber, indicating that approximately 75 percent of total capacity, within the TPA was used.

Table 8. Most recent timber-processing capacity and use in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA.

	Capacity to process timber		Timber Consumption		
Tree dbh	*Thousand board feet, Scribner (MBF)*	*Hundred cubic feet (CCF)*	*Thousand board feet, Scribner (MBF)*	*Hundred cubic feet (CCF)*	**Most recent utilization**
<7 in.	77,883	247,427	16,772	74,846	30%
7-9.9 in.	538,985	1,296,911	168,666	427,224	33%
≥10 in.	929,536	2,045,702	1,018,417	2,201,656	108%
TPA total	**1,546,404**	**3,590,040**	**1,203,854**	**2,703,726**	**75%**

Table 9. Most recent annual timber-processing capacity in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA by dbh size class and county.

	Thousand board feet, Scribner (MBF)			Hundred cubic feet (CCF)		
Timber Processing Area	<7 in. dbh	7-9.9 in. dbh	≥10 in. dbh	<7 in. dbh	7-9.9 in. dbh	≥10 in. dbh
Adams, Canyon & Gem ID	1,098	20,197	59,103	8,607	45,787	126,131
Benewah ID	8,350	57,291	139,993	28,797	146,576	283,533
Bonner ID	5,051	67,211	98,169	12,424	147,005	212,998
Boundary ID	13,273	60,244	60,685	28,326	128,577	129,530
Clearwater & Latah ID	3,775	36,173	97,128	11,563	80,453	223,810
Idaho ID	1,146	51,222	94,215	8,983	112,380	201,555
Jefferson ID & Ravalli MT	2,283	3,388	16,972	9,014	6,620	35,812
Kootenai ID	14,161	62,753	67,100	32,360	134,831	143,192
Lewis ID	210	14,820	30,410	1,646	32,342	68,772
Nez Perce ID, Asotin WA & Whitman WA	9,926	93,583	139,731	38,542	238,926	313,726
Cascade & Flathead MT	7,925	49,174	117,274	21,986	126,322	270,430
Missoula MT	10,684	22,929	8,757	45,178	97,092	36,213
Grand Total	**77,883**	**538,985**	**929,536**	**247,427**	**1,296,911**	**2,045,702**

The unused capacity resides in the <7” dbh and 7-9.9” dbh size classes. Despite some mills having the ability to process smaller diameter logs, mills within the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA processed more ≥10” dbh logs than their assigned capability, typically indicating a preference for that size class. Even if the mill is capable of processing timber 9.9” dbh and less, it might be economically preferable to process larger logs. Negative unused volumes in the ≥10” size class indicates there was ample supply of ≥10” dbh logs and it was economically preferable to process that size class (table 10 and 11).

Table 10. Most recent unused timber-processing capacity in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA by dbh size class.

	Unused timber-processing capacity	
	Thousand board feet,	*Hundred cubic feet*
Tree dbh	*Scribner (MBF)*	*(CCF)*
<7 in.	61,111	172,581
7-9.9 in	370,319	869,687
≥10 in.	(88,881)	(155,953)
TPA total	**342,550**	**886,315**

Table 11. Most recent unused timber-processing capacity by the county and dbh size class in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest TPA.

	Thousand board feet, Scribner (MBF)			Hundred cubic feet (CCF)		
Timber Processing Area	<7 in. dbh	7-9.9 in. dbh	≥10 in. dbh	<7 in. dbh	7-9.9 in. dbh	≥10 in. dbh
Adams, Canyon & Gem ID	157	15,154	(4,967)	1,230	31,447	(10,599)
Benewah ID	8,350	48,476	(33,252)	28,797	127,740	(72,721)
Bonner ID	4,875	57,202	(42,048)	11,056	124,651	(89,551)
Boundary ID	13,273	25,597	(4,102)	28,326	54,637	(8,733)
Clearwater & Latah ID	3,619	31,086	33,700	10,339	68,976	84,507
Idaho ID	806	43,368	(10,432)	6,317	94,285	(21,927)
Jefferson ID & Ravalli MT	518	2,539	10,419	2,309	3,890	22,569
Kootenai ID	14,161	55,255	(45,753)	32,360	118,495	(97,991)
Lewis ID	30	9,762	1,432	235	20,780	5,301
Nez Perce ID, & Asotin & Whitman WA	5,056	48,779	(42,129)	17,396	105,125	(88,319)
Cascade & Flathead MT	6,446	11,302	41,692	18,231	27,234	94,262
Missoula MT	3,820	21,797	6,559	15,986	92,427	27,250
Grand Total	**61,111**	**370,319**	**(88,881)**	**172,581**	**869,687**	**(155,953)**

Capability to process trees less than 7 inches dbh tends to be concentrated among facilities that produce pulp chips, studs, and posts and poles. Generally, it is less capital intensive (i.e. less

expensive) to increase chipping or post and pole capacity than to re-fit a larger sawmill to process smaller diameter logs into lumber. However, demand for roundwood pulpwood tends to move counter-cyclically with demand for lumber since roundwood pulp-chips are a substitute for mill residuals as a raw material input for pulp and paper mills. Thus, when demand for lumber is strong, sawmills may not be able to increase their utilization of small diameter trees to the same degree that roundwood pulp-chip facilities can when lumber demand is weak.

Conclusion

Many of the facilities throughout the Northern Region are included in the timber processing areas of more than one national forest and the sum of the capacity and capability of all the individual national forests is greater than the total for the region. The region-wide report (forthcoming) provides information on total capacity and capability for the entire region. Therefore, the timber planning staff at the regional, forest, and district levels should coordinate and share information about prospective projects and potential buyers to prevent offering more timber, particularly in the small size classes, than can be processed.

Resources

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