

# FOREST MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS, INC.



Volume 5 / Issue 3

**TIMBER MARKET UPDATE**

## FOCUS ISSUE

### Oak Regeneration:

According to information gathered from the US Forest Service's FIA plots, we are missing an entire age class of oak in the Southeastern US. Oak seedlings need help to reach the middle portion of the forest canopy. Dr. Callie Schweitzer, Research Forester with the US Forest Service recommends the following to increase the opportunity for oak establishment:

\*Retention of a lower basal area (30-50 ft<sup>2</sup>/acre) in the overstory during shelterwood harvests.

\*Removal of fire long enough to allow oak seedlings to reach the mid-story.

\*A crop tree release in pre-merchantable size stands.

Pine pulpwood: The quotas for pine pulpwood have eased compared to this time last year but prices remain low with little opportunity to increase in the near future.

Hardwood pulpwood. Hardwood pulpwood quotas have eased somewhat since last summer and we have even seen some price improvement in certain areas. Some producers are paying better prices for pulpwood from FSC certified.

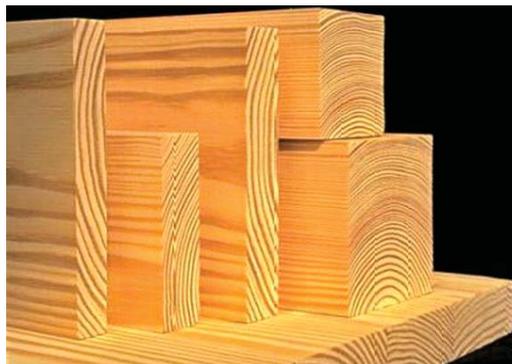
Pine chip-n-saw & saw timber: Prices remain low for this product and quotas are still tight. However, the expansion at Weyerhaeuser's mill in Millport and the opening of the Georgia-Pacific mill in Talladega should increase demand within 100 miles of each mill. Look for an easing of quotas at first and hopefully slight price increases will follow.

Hardwood blended saw timber: The prices for most products in this category remain strong. Several mills have contacted our office regarding the availability of poplar, ash, sweetgum, hickory, and tie-logs.

Hardwood high quality/specialty: There has been some concern that the slowing of the economy in China would have a negative impact on the prices paid for standing timber in the Mid-South region. However, most experts see a cooling of the trade war with China and the prices paid for standing timber at the time of this publication remain high.

## FOCUS INDUSTRY

Canadian-based Southern Parallel Forest Products Corporation, a firm producing Southern Yellow Pine dimensional lumber, re-opened the former Bowater sawmill in Albertville, Alabama in 2013. They purchase pine chip-n-saw timber harvested from north Alabama and south-central Tennessee.



## OUR WORK IN PICTURES.....



*FMS helped this landowner receive more than \$4,000/acre for their timber in north Alabama. White oak prices remain extremely high at this time.*



*We helped this landowner salvage timber damaged by a windstorm. The landowner will re-invest the timber sale revenue to make improvements of turkey habitat and security measures.*



*Many of our clients are interested in managing for white tail deer habitat and timber production. We have coordinated group selection harvests, crop tree release, early successional burning, and a mid-rotation herbicide in pine plantations to help them reach their goal.*

## TIME FOR

**Timber sales:** This is the best time to market tracts with hardwood sawtimber! Tracts that can be harvested in wet weather should bring a premium.

**Pine thinnings:** Our best method for finding a producer to thin our client's pine plantations is to send a notice to all of the buyers on our list and post maps of the properties on the internet.

**Pest Inspections:** We have diagnosed no infestations of Southern Pine Beetle during the past quarter. Most dead pine trees that we have inspected were infested with Ips beetles. The incidence of pine sawflies and needle rust also seem to be in decline. We use our drone to conduct aerial inspections and pinpoint problem areas. Give us a call if you suspect a pest problem.

**Tree planting:** Tree planting season begins in December for most of our operational area. Hopefully, you have already contacted our office to line up tree planting. However, if you or someone you know still needs planting services, please contact our office as soon as possible as some vendors still have seedlings available.

**Property Boundary Maintenance:** Well marked property lines can help avoid claims of adverse possession and can help prevent timber trespass. FMS recommends that boundary painting occur after leaf-fall. The temperature is cooler and visibility is greatly enhanced when compared to the growing season. Contact FMS now if you anticipate boundary maintenance this winter.

**Care Inspections:** Those enrolled in our Care Program will have their property inspected sometime between December and February. Our representative will inspect for the presence of pests, trespass, and signs of poaching. We will also check the general condition of forest resources, roads, and improvements.



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