

Tembec Implements Enhanced Forest Productivity in F44

A pilot project has hit the ground running at kilometer 5 on the Tremblay Road, 15 kilometres west of Kapuskasing. This project is occurring on a harvest site named "F44" and is part of a series of demonstration areas throughout North-Eastern Ontario where the latest science is being applied to grow trees faster in an ecologically sustainable manner.

The Forest Research Partnership, of which Tembec is a key partner, is integral in developing, field-testing and applying science to support how we regenerate forests now and into the future.

One of the main principles in enhancing forest productivity is to get full sunlight to the forest floor, creating new microsites. With full sunlight, soils will warm up faster, initiating plant growth sooner and provide important nutrients to the new crop trees.

Within F44 we have created these new micro-sites using two distinct harvesting techniques:

- 1) Our individual scattered wildlife trees are now aggregated into groups. This will facilitate our tree planting operations and increase the ecological integrity of the on-site wildlife trees, more wind firm, remain standing longer.
- 2) The non-commercial tree species, including Birch, Poplar, Cedar, Larch, etc. have been harvested and along with the logging slash piles are destined to the Kapuskasing mill in the form of biomass.

Image #1 – Grinding of Biomass With Peterson 4710B Horizontal Grinder

In the spring of 2008, F44 will be planted to a mixture of black and white spruce tree seedlings at a very specific inter-tree spacing, to maximize future wood volumes in a shorter time. Long term monitoring by the Forest Research Partnership will also be initiated to study how this stand will grow, the effects of aggregating our wildlife trees, along with a host of other monitoring aspects that are tied to the other demonstration sites. See Block #18 www.forestresearch.ca/partnership_projects/120-501.htm

Will we be carrying out this new activity on all of our harvest areas? No... as with all things in life it is important to diversify in order to give us options into the future. During the planning phase for the up-coming 2010-2020 Gordon Cosens Forest Management Plan, different levels of enhanced forest productivity activities will be investigated to determine what truly is the best balance for the forest.

Strategically selecting productive sites allow us, as managers, the opportunity to grow an enhanced, diverse forest that will produce a variety of forest products into the future.

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