Finding the right logger for your timber harvest

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Finding the right logger

- Right equipment
- Right approach
- Reasonable price (may not be the cheapest!)
- Availability
Factors influencing equipment choice

- Type of harvest: thinning vs. clearcutting
- Size of timber
- Terrain: ground vs. cable
Right approach

- Look for a match between what the logger is best at, and what you need
- Reputation and skill
- Professionalism
Skill – in action!
Skill – action #2
Price – what is reasonable?

- Beware of split payments (i.e., 50/50)
- Prefer $/MBF on board truck, with separate haul rates
- Cheapest is not always the best
Low bidder syndrome
Availability – a big challenge

- Do you have rocked roads, or is it summer-only work?
- How large is the job? Consider move-in costs.
- Plan in advance and don’t flinch if log prices aren’t exactly what you hoped they’d be.
Ex 1 – Thinning in 30 year old DF
Ex 1 – Thinning in 30 year old DF

- Thinning
- Small trees
- Ground-based
Ex 1 options

- Cut-to-length side
Ex 1 options

- Machine or hand cut and skid to landing
Ex 2 – Heavy thin in 80 year old DF
Ex 2 – Heavy thin in 80 year old DF

- Heavy thin, room for big machine
- Large logs
- Want to protect reprod
Ex 2 - Options

- Hand-cut and shovel-logged if gentle terrain
- Hand-cut and tower-logged if steep
Role of the forester

- Landowner’s agent
- No conflict of interest
- Relationships with many loggers

Association of Consulting Foresters
SINCE 1948
Contracts

- Logging contracts spell out roles and responsibilities.
- Which trees to cut?
- Logging and hauling rates
- Insurance requirements
Types of harvest contracts

- Stumpage vs. managed sale
- Lump sum vs. recovery ($/MBF)
- Split with logger