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Reply To: 3600

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To: Western Juniper Forum Participants and Other Interested Parties

Enclosed are the informal notes for the Western Juniper Forum which took place September 1, 1993, in Bend, Oregon. This was the first conference in over 10 years devoted to Western juniper and the interest expressed by those who attended and others, indicates a strong need for better communication. These informal notes are an effort in that direction. If there are obvious substantive errors, please do not hesitate to contact me (503-883-6714) so corrections can be made.

Over 140 people attended the "forum", representing wood products manufacturers, land owners, economic development organizations, government agencies, and environmental groups. There were also over 15 Western juniper product exhibitors. Overall evaluations of the conference, other than seating arrangements (about 50 more people attended than expected), were excellent. "Forum" notes are going to a mailing list of about 250 different individuals or organizations.

A number of people have called to check on the status of the last topic of the "forum", which was: "What's next?"

Obviously, given the audience, there was a wide range of objectives. However, several broad goals can be extracted from statements made at the end of the conference and in conversations since that time:

1. Assistance is needed to develop markets for Western juniper products.

2. Communication between and among various interested groups (e.g. landowners, manufacturers, scientists, government agencies, etc.) has to somehow be improved and facilitated;

3. Environmental issues have to be addressed in a candid, forward-thinking fashion so "train wrecks" will be avoided (e.g. "spotted owl" type controversies);

4. Another "forum"(s), focused on specific issues (such as marketing, processing, ecosystem management, and management practices), is needed in a year or so to keep people informed of what is happening regarding Western juniper.

Currently, here is where we are at with these goals:

1. Market Development - The Wood Products Competitiveness Corporation, Inc., (WPCC) is considering initiating a market development program with primary and secondary manufacturers, as well as potential end-product retailers or brokers of Western juniper products. The WPCC is also putting together a steering committee for market development and manufacturing processing issues. Call the WPCC (503-388-6372) if you are interested in either the market development program or participating in the steering committee.

2. Improved Communication - There are no formal networks established yet, however, people are talking to each other and the 1993 Western Juniper Forum participant list enclosed is expected to help. People are encouraged to call forum panelists if they are interested in what is happening in specific areas. If someone is not sure who to contact, please contact me (503-883-6714 or FAX 503-883-6709) and I will try and put you in touch with someone with similar interests.

3. Environmental Issues - There appears to be sufficient research to provide a solid baseline for management practices, such as those suggested by Lee Edelmen (Oregon State University) and others. It has been suggested that a panel of scientists examine and summarize the state of knowledge about Western juniper woodlands/grasslands ecosystem, point-out those areas requiring better information, and describe what needs to be done, and where, to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

   We are still seeking the individual(s) and organization who will spearhead and organize such an effort. Many suggest the Bureau of Land Management should take the lead of a collaborative effort, because it manages the most acres of this type of ecosystem.

4. Future Western Juniper Forums - Everyone recognizes that it is difficult to stay up-to-date with all issues involving Western juniper. There is no firm date set for future "forum"(s), however, anyone interested in helping with organizing a similar "forum", or more focused ones, is encouraged to contact me.

Western juniper studies funded in whole or in part by government sources will be made available to the mailing list receiving the notes resulting from the September 1st Western Juniper Forum in Bend (subject to certain proprietary restrictions if manufacturing or marketing issues are involved). If you know someone who wants to be added to the mailing list, please contact WPCC (telephone number given above).

Sincerely,

LARRY SWAN
Resource Specialist
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Enclosure

Western Juniper Forum
Sept. 1, 1993
Bend, Oregon

Good Logs?

Sawlogs-straight, limbed closely, minimum sapwood, not badly fluted, no heart rot or dotey limb pockets. Would prefer they came from a mixed hardwood stand rather than glade. No artificial pruning. Lengths 5'+, mostly 7' & 8'. Minimum taper. 2-3 inch trim allowance.

Size range?

Mostly 7' & 8' sawlogs, 5"+ scaling diameter. Avg. 7"-8" diameter.
Shaving wood is normally 42" and down to 3 inches in diameter.
Not much tree length material is produced, even though many mills would prefer it.

Most Impt. Defect?

Probably heart rot.

Log grades?

Very few logs are graded. There is some purchased on a weight basis. Large diameter logs are resold for export and these may be graded. Grades are usually based on small-end diameter (Min 10"), length, and clearness.

Log Quality Improvement?

Tree length for merchandising at the mill.

Volume Needed?

Cedar sawmills are generally small w/ only 2-3 employees. The average sawmill cutting cedar exclusively processes about 500,000 BF annually.

Log Storage?

All are dry decked w/ inventories allowed to decrease during the summer months. It is common practice to store shaving logs for 1 year before processing.
There is no problem with staining or insect infestation during normal log storage. No water spray is used on cedar logs in Mo.
Logs can check & split if stored in the open during summer. Some mills have open sheds for summer log storage, which helps. Some just stop buying logs in summer and work their inventory down. End coatings are not used because of expense.

Debarking?

Only 1-2 mills debark and then only for air dried shaving

bolts. Home-made Rosser head type debarkers are used. Debarking green logs is difficult, but could yield a good return because the bark could be readily sold and a substitute for cypress bark. Bark slabs are chipped, ground, or shaved for poultry litter or animal bedding. Decorative mulch from ground slabs seems to be gaining popularity.

Sawing?

Most sawlogs are turned to take 4/4 lumber of the outside to produce a 4"-6" thick cant from the heart. Most cedar sawmills are not equipped to taper saw. Note: The heartwood is the most desirable portion of the log and average diameters don't produce much side lumber.

Grading Rules?

NHLA has a cedar rule which recognizes only #1 common and #2 common lumber grades. In the industry this rule is largely ignored. Most orders are place on the basis of boards being 4" & wider in 6,7,& 8' lengths and 90% free of major defects. Sound knots are permitted and the non-graded face may be mostly sap.

Eastern redcedar lumber grading is very inexact and loosely practiced in Missouri.

Saws?

There is really nothing special about the circular head saws commonly used in Mo. Carbide or Stellite teeth are not necessary. Logs are generally not muddy because they are not skidded long distances. Feed rates are slow and "F" style saws w/ 9/32" kerf are common. Lumber can have quite a lot of thickness variation, but this is generally due to the condition of the mill. Large, dry knots cause some blade deflection. Band saws sometimes increase hook angle up to 30 degrees with a very slow feed rate. This produces a very good quality lumber without much variation.

Lumber Storage?

Much lumber is stored in covered, but open, sheds in self-stickered bundles. Target MC for air drying is about 12%.

Lumber packaging?

rough lumber is stacked with random lengths & widths. T&G paneling is usually 'nested' in 1',2',3', & 4' all in the same package. (enough to cover 32 square feet). Cants are bundled separately into 4" thick X random widths or 6" thick X random widths.

Drying?

Quite a lot of T&G made from air dried stock (10-12% MC). Target for most kiln drying is 10% MC. Although most processors air dry before putting lumber into kilns, there is no problem with KD from green. Drying is done at relatively low temps (max 120 F.) w/ shallow depression. Drying is coordinated to the knots which dry somewhat faster than the board. Must keep knots tight, w/o splitting. Schedule for 1/2" lumber takes approx. 5 days for the novelty & gift item industry. Lumber packages for kilns are usually box piled (self stickered) to increase kiln capacity. There is not much 8/4 lumber produced from E. Redcedar, so no drying info was readily available for thick stock.

Planing?

Knife planing is usually done for rough sizing only. Slow lineal feed rates are used (15-40 fpm). Final sizing and finishing is commonly done with abrasive planing to minimize tear out around knots. I'm not aware of special tooling such as helical planer heads or 30 degree planer heads, but I believe such equipment could be used effectively.

Edge-glued panels?

There is some production of edge-glued panels. No special adhesives are required. White glues, especially those that dry clear are preferred in the novelty and gift item plants. (Squeeze out is less visible to consumer inside boxes, etc.) Joint strength is adequate for all purposes I am aware of. High solids content for max. gap filling. Note: a Missouri manufacturer has two stainless steel "Tote Tanks" that fit into pick-up truck for hauling adhesive or finish. These might be of interest to a small manufacturer as a way of saving shipping costs. If anyone is interested, please call me.

Finishing?

Resin bleed through can controlled w/ modern lacquers that have high solids content. Many plants achieve one coat coverage, others use two. Automatic spraying equipment is used with a 20-30 minute air drying time for handling. Complete curing requires 12-24 hours. Several plants use lacquers formulated by the Don V. Davis Company, 4200 N 2nd St.; St. Louis, MO. Others use an Eli Lilly or Sherwin-Williams product.

No penetrating stains or sealers are used. No pigmented finishes either. Natural color and color variation are featured in all products. Finishes are usually high gloss, but satin or flat is available. Finishing with varnish or

shellac is definitely not recommended.

Preservatives?

There has never been any serious pressure treatment of cedar posts to my knowledge. There are some cold soak treatment recommendations developed in the 1930's, but I have never heard of anyone using this method. Heartwood is resistant to rot and split posts are still commonly used in areas where cedar is abundant. Sapwood on outer portions of posts rots fairly quickly. There may be some preservative compounds in the heartwood which could be extracted for use as a preservative for other woods.

Decking, exterior paneling, and outdoor furniture are sometimes treated with water repellents, such as Copper Q.