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DIMENSION LUMBER GRADES FROM WHITE FIR IN LAKEVIEW AREA

by

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Production of white fir lumber in the western pine region amounted to a little more than a billion board feet in 1954, or about 13 percent of the output of pine-region sawmills. Moreover, production of the white fir lumber is expanding, and it is important to know what grades of lumber can be expected so that timber and log values can be more accurately appraised.

During January 1955, a 1-day test run was made at the American Forest Products Corporation mill at Lakeview, Oregon to determine dimension grades of lumber that could be expected from white fir (Abies concolor) grown in southeastern Oregon. A total of 283 logs, having a gross scale of 54,640 board feet and a net scale of 48,220 board feet, were cut and they were considered to be a representative woods-run average for the area. These logs varied in size from 7 to 36 inches in diameter and from 10 to 16 feet in length. However, most of them fell in the 14- to 24-inch diameter class and the majority were 16 feet long.

Lumber from these logs was graded and tallied on the green chain according to Western Pine Association rules. Then the dimension lumber was kiln dried, resawn, surfaced, and graded behind the planer by a Western Pine Association grader. The 1,564 board feet of clear and common lumber was not sufficient to justify the cost of following it through to the dry surfaced stage. Therefore, the degrade data used for this small volume was that developed in a previous study.[1/] About half of the dry lumber produced was in the No. 2 common and better grades (table 1).

1/ Anderson, B. G. Study of change in grade and footage loss in kiln dried white fir lumber from the green chain to the car. Oregon Forest Products Laboratory, Corvallis, Oregon. November 19, 1954.

Table 1.--Lumber volume by grades obtained from 283 white fir logs

Thickness	Grade	Green chain		Dry lumber (shipping tally)	
		Bd. ft.	Percent	Bd. ft.	Percent
8/4	C Clear	40	.1	31	.1
8/4	D Clear	330	.5	332	.5
Total clear		370	.6	363	.6
4/4	No. 2 and Btr.	215	.3	258	.4
4/4	No. 3 Com.	553	.9	483	.8
4/4	No. 4 Com.	352	.6	223	.4
4/4	No. 5 Com.	74	.1	67	.1
Total common		1,194	1.9	1,031	1.7
8/4	No. 1 Dim.	14,770	23.2	8,241	13.7
8/4	No. 2 Dim.	14,450	22.6	21,672	36.0
8/4	No. 3 Dim.	18,454	28.9	18,631	30.9
8/4	No. 4 Dim.	14,562	22.8	10,266	17.1
Total dimension		62,236	97.5	58,810	97.7
Total all grades		63,800	100.0	60,204	100.0

The average 1954 lumber prices listed by the Western Pine Association for the grades produced in this study were:

Lumber grade	Selling price (Per M bd. ft.)
8/4 C Clear	$ 147.98
8/4 D Clear	124.85
4/4 No. 2 & Btr. Com.	71.99
4/4 No. 3 Com.	60.21
4/4 No. 4 Com.	52.38
4/4 No. 5 Com.	34.59
8/4 No. 2 & Btr. Dim.	68.87
8/4 No. 3 Dim.	52.87
8/4 No. 4 Dim.	27.73

Applying these prices to the grades produced at this sawmill gave an average lumber realization of $57.10 per thousand. For timber appraisal purposes it is customary to increase the average lumber value by the amount of overrun to convert to a log-scale basis. Overrun amounted to 25 percent. Therefore, the average lumber realization on a log-scale basis amounted to $71.37 per thousand board feet.