# THE FUTURE OF OUR RAW MATERIAL... LOG MARKETS

#### JAN WIEDENBECK, USDA FOREST SERVICE



### TODAY'S RESOURCE SUPPLY CHAIN

### Information on harvests

- In OH and WV 60 harvest operations visited in 2009-2011
- Selection cut and clearcut percentages slightly higher than for the broader data just shown by Bill
- Forester involved in 66% of sales
- 85-90% contract or independent loggers
- In OH, a combination of markets and terrain allows for more tree length logging/hauling ... an opportunity to optimize
- Log brokers???



### LOG BROKER SERVICES ... WHAT SAWMILLS DEMAND VS. WHAT BROKERS PERCEIVE DEMAND TO BE



Brokers perceive higher demand for species procurement, end waxing, and S-ironing

### LOG <u>GRADES</u> COMPARED: SAWMILLS VS. BROKERS



Brokers trade in higher grade logs

#### **1** = major negative effect, **3** = no effect, **5** = major positive effect



#### = major negative effect, **3**= no effect, **5**= major positive effect





Figure 2-1b: Major US Timberland Owners/Managers (Current)



From Goergen et al., 2013 "The State and Future of U.S. Forestry and the Forest Industry."

### THE LOGS FROM OUR FORESTS IN YEARS TO COME

### Maple-beech-birch forest type will increase

- But under climate change scenarios oak will be more resilient
- In PA, black cherry decline on Allegheny Plateau with black birch coming in

Land-use change in the North expected to cause reduced acreage

- Overall, 13% of total "removals" due to land use change
- In some states this will exceed 50% in coming decades (NJ, MD, RI, MA)

### THE LOGS FROM OUR FORESTS IN YEARS TO COME

## Forest area dominated by older timber

- Larger trees will be widely available
- But will we have markets for the smaller timber?
  - Based on 60 harvest operations in WV/OH only 2% of sawlogs have SEDs <10 in</li>
  - About 23% of scragg logs have SEDs <10 in
  - In clearcut operations, 31% of butt logs have SEDs <10 in
  - In selection cuts, 26% <10 in
  - In diameter-limit cuts, 8% <10 in

Insect and disease caused tree mortality will continue to increase



USFS disease risk map for 2013-2027

### WHAT WE MIGHT LOOK FOR IN THE FUTURE FOR LOGGING

- Connected equipment on the logging job site enhances machine utilization and safety
- Digital monitoring of equipment utilization rates, fuel consumption, tire pressures and wear, other maintenance needs...
- GIS tagging of highest value trees during pre-harvest survey ensures those trees are not damaged, overlooked, or misallocated
- Log truck tracking systems incorporated into smart road networks alert other drivers of on-coming trucks to improve safety on public roads
- Social media used by loggers to network with other loggers enabling cooperation on various activities (e.g., operator sharing, maintenance assistance, bulk purchasing of chain/fuel)