




# YUROK TRIBE - FORESTRY


Council recently requested a report outlining the cumulative volume, net scale, of all timber harvested from Tribal and allotted lands held in trust status for the Tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The report was to include all volume harvested since the inception of the Forest Program in 1994, the estimated volume of the timber sales we are currently working on, the value of all timber harvested to date, the total volume the Tribe is allowed to harvest over the life of our current Forest Management Plan, and a summary of how the Tribe's Annual Allowable Cut of net conifer sawtimber is calculated. As we felt it is information that is vital, we are presenting a version of that report in to this year's Annual Report. Prior to listing the total volume harvested from Program inception to present, a few pieces of information are critical.

1) Forest Management Plan (FMP): The FMP, initially prepared and approved by the BIA in 1995, was granted a 5-year extension in 2004. The FMP is set to expire on December 31, 2009. At that time, the Tribe will submit an update to the BIA for review and approval. Briefly, key FMP elements that must be addressed prior to carrying out timber harvest activities on land held in "trust" status for the Tribe are the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC), the need to generate income for the landowners, the need to create employment opportunities for the general membership, and the need to enhance those properties deemed to be culturally and environmentally significant. While a majority of those elements are fairly easily defined to the general membership, the method behind arriving at the AAC needs to be expanded for you.

1.1) AAC: Prior to the Tribe taking over all Forest functions from the BIA's Northern California Agency (NCA) in the mid-1990's, the BIA NCA was responsible for carrying out all federal trust functions on Tribal lands. One such federal mandate was that all timber tribes must have an approved FMP in place and said FMP must include language explaining how much volume, net scale, the tribe is allowed to harvest each year. In order to determine how much volume is available for harvest (basically, how much the trees grow each year), a series of plots are strategically placed on a map of the landholdings. These plots are then transferred to real land. Each plot is a 5<sup>th</sup> acre in size (approximately 50' in any direction from the center of the plot). Within that plot, each commercial tree species is measured (height, diameter, age, overall grade). Also noted are the presence

of non-commercial tree species, brush species (huckleberry, willows, rhododendron, etc.), and all herbaceous ground covering (ferns, salal, blackberry, etc.). Once all species have been measured/noted, the cruisers move on to the next plot. Once all plots have been visited, the data is combined and a total volume per species is arrived at. The data is then expanded to include all of the tree species on all of the land; including land that did not fall within the plots (it is not economical to measure every single tree on the Yurok Indian Reservation (YIR)). The BIA established and measured 50 plots in 1987. In 1997, the Tribe established and measured a total of 197 plots across Tribal and individual allotments within the boundaries of the YIR. This year, we are currently re-measuring those 197 plots. The data from the 1987 plot measurement showed that the trust land grows at least 2.23 million board feet (MMBF) of net conifer (redwood, Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce, western red-cedar, Port-Orford cedar, incense cedar, western hemlock, pine, etc.) each year. In 1997, the plot re-measurements also showed that the trust land was growing timber at the same rate. Based upon those measurements, the BIA allows the Tribe to harvest that much each and every year as long as the Tribe had an approved 10-year FMP in place. One note is that the BIA does allow a tribe to determine if they wish to harvest all 10-years of AAC in a single year or spread it out across the 10-year period (to allow the landowner to capitalize on high market years and avoid selling timber during poor price years). So, in a nutshell, the Tribe is allowed 2.23 MMBF of net conifer volume each year (for reference, a log truck load on the road has approx. 5 MBF (thousand board feet) of net conifer scale; 2.23 MMBF is approx. 250 loads of logs each year. Now, to the timber sale data.





Timber Sale	Gross Vol. (Million bd ft)	Net Vol. (million bd ft)	Bid Rate (thous. bd ft)	Tot Value*
1) Cappell Ck Salvage	1.799	1.620	\$ 387.01	\$ 628,552.48
2) Cappell Ck "A"	2.901	2.181	\$ 451.08	\$ 989,248.25
3) Cappell Ck "B"	11.272	8.412	\$ 557.25	\$ 4,736,803.25
4) Jane Young Allotment**	0.958	0.878	\$ 437.76	\$ 384,563.40
5) Pine Creek "40"	2.064	1.496	\$ 601.00	\$ 898,951.76
6) Two Snakes	1.847	1.399	\$ 375.00	\$ 524,778.75
7) Weitchpec Boundary "A"	4.16	3.085	\$ 407.19	\$ 1,247,943.70
8) Luddington Allotment**	2.076	1.635	\$ 292.00	\$ 477,297.38
9) Bear Ck "A"	3.843	2.826	\$ 362.00	\$ 1,023,127.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30.924</b>	<b><u>23.532</u></b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$10,911,266.81</b>

\* This column includes \$ paid for Select Cull and Utility Pulp products. The volume, scaled as "gross," does not count against the AAC so it is not recorded.

\*\* This sale was an allotment thus, all value was to individuals and not the Tribe.

For comparison purposes, listed are three timber sales that could be harvested through 2009. The data only includes estimated net volume and quoted bid rate we received from local log buyers.

Timber Sale	Net Volume (Million bd ft)	Est. Bid Rate (Per net thousand bd ft)	Total Value
1) West Bear	2.600	\$ 220	\$ 572,000
2) Essenpries	1.600	\$ 250	\$ 400,000
3) Blue creek	4.500	\$ 230	\$1,035,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>8.700</u></b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$ 2,007,000</b>

