

FIBER VISION—TOTAL UTILIZATION FROM SMALL DIAMETER TREES

Duane Vaagen

Vaagen Bros. Lumber, Inc. has been a family owned forest products company in the Colville, Washington area for 50 years. We have a vision of the future for small diameter stands of trees and what is possible with small log conversion. Our area has vast capacities and markets for small diameter timber. The forest should be thinned to improve health, vigor, and to remove fuels. In our area, at least 30,000 acres per year should be treated. Healthy forests lead to healthy communities and to healthy environments. The last two years have been the toughest markets in a decade; however, Vaagen Bros. has managed to accept logs continuously. We accomplished this by contacting over 600 miles for supply and treating over 50,000 acres of small diameter stands. Forest management needs continue to change. We need to act swiftly and diligently or we will lose our options. The current forest health crisis requires that the forest receives proper and timely treatment. This cannot occur unless forest industry has the capacity to handle materials generated from these forests. We know the problems and we have the cure; the question is will there be action to solve these problems.

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