

New Jersey Hardwood Industries Opportunities

Prospects for Enhancing Opportunities in the New Jersey Hardwood Industries

The Challenge

There has been a decline in the number of conventional sawmills and secondary forest-product facilities that operate in New Jersey over the last several decades. However, recent forest inventory data indicated that the volume and quality of timber per acre has continued to increase. Clearly, New Jersey's forest products industry was in a position to expand. In order for the New Jersey hardwood industry to capitalize on the opportunities that existed for turning high-value logs into custom-milled forest products, it first needed a review of the State's hardwood resources, the hardwood industry itself, and the innovative forest products and services it produced.

The Solution

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) provided funding to Charles Vail, Inc., to conduct a review of the primary and secondary hardwood industry in New Jersey from both historical and existing perspectives. The review first determined which tree species were growing on forest land in the State and the volume of growing stock available, then identified and characterized innovative products and services that were currently being offered or potentially offered in the not-too-distant future. It also examined the prospects for enhancing opportunities for specific hardwood industries to sustainably produce forest products. The review examined the outlook for expanding existing businesses or starting new ones based on New Jersey's hardwood resources. The reviewers developed a report that documents the information gathering process, analysis, findings, and conclusions.

Among the many uses of small-diameter, low-grade hardwoods, the review identified three uses that appear to be particularly appropriate for commercial development

Opportunities to develop innovative forest products from abundant hardwood resources exist throughout the State of New Jersey.



A worker loads sawlogs onto a logging truck during an urban forestry operation. (Photo courtesy of Stubby Warmbold and Citilog)

in New Jersey: products made from (a) wood-plastic composites such as decking and railings, (b) wood pellets used as a fuel for home heating, and (c) ethanol derived from woody biomass and used as motor fuel or a fuel additive. Further development of these products will create increased demand for the raw materials that are readily available from existing forests in the State and will help maintain New Jersey's primary and secondary hardwood industries.

Resulting Benefits

- The final report describes and identifies innovative products and services that primary and secondary hardwood industries in New Jersey can capitalize on to produce forest products over the long term.
- Report results can be easily applied to more densely populated areas of other States along the Atlantic seaboard.

Sharing Success

A user-friendly, how-to report was published and is available at http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/werc/p_search.cfm.



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