Overview of The Plantation Management Research Cooperative (PMRC)

Mike Kane, PMRC
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
University of Georgia
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PMRC Overview Outline

- Mission
- Big Picture
- Field Trial Program
- Key Products
- Strategic Priorities
- New Projects
- Membership Info
- Contact Information/More Info
What is the Mission of the PMRC?

“Create value for its members by improving knowledge of southern pine plantation performance under different silvicultural regimes and by developing growth and yield systems and decision support tools that result in improved silviculture, management, and valuation of the plantation resource”
PMRC Big Picture

- Long record of significant contributions
- Strong fundamentals
  - Committed members
  - Skilled PMRC/Warnell staff and faculty
  - Substantial UGA Warnell support
  - Excellent database and comprehensive field trial program
  - Products of value to forestland investors
- Clear future direction to create value
  - Strategic Plan completed in 2007
Future Success

- Create value for current members
- Demonstrate value proposition for potential members
- Produce value for Warnell/UGA
PMRC Members

Full Members
- Foley Timber & Land
- Forest Capital Partners
- GMO Threshold Timber
- Hancock Forest Management
- MeadWestvaco
- Molpus Timberlands Management
- Plum Creek Timber
- Potlatch
- Rayonier
- Resource Management Service
- The Campbell Group
- Weyerhaeuser

Associate Members
- BASF
- Cellfor
- Dow AgroSciences
- Smurfit-Stone Container

Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

Ownership represents about 50% of plantation acreage in US South.

Current full membership leverages $50 for every $1 in dues
PMRC Warnell Team

- Core Faculty – Borders, Cieszewski & Kane (Director)
- Associated Faculty – Clutter, Daniels +, +…
- Research Professionals (RP) - Harrison, Rheney, Zhao
- Field Crew – Lowe (RP) and 4 technicians
- Grad. Students – 2 MS (Purvis, Mayo), 2 PhD (Volfovicz, Yatich)
Field Trial Program

- South’s most comprehensive series of field trials to quantify impacts of silvicultural treatments and complementary growth and yield plots
- Singly strong database and field trial program in:
  - Planting density
  - Competition control
  - Intensive silviculture
  - Treatment combinations and regimes
  - Loblolly and slash pine
- Developing singly strong database and field trial program in:
  - Planting density, culture and thinning
  - Mid-rotation regimes of thinning, release, and fertilization
  - Enhanced genetics (MCP, varietal)
Field Trial Program

● Field testing emphasis is on true region-wide analysis to insure widest applicability of resulting management tools

● PMRC crews do 95% of field work
  – Insures standardization and quality
  – Members’ time requirement lessened
Field Trial Program

- Field program is south-wide
  - Significant Western Gulf efforts with culture x density x thinning series and planned new mid-rotation series

- Field program and database allow PMRC to develop silviculture and growth and yield technology applicable to a wide array of management objectives – from biomass to sawtimber.
# PMRC Field Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiation Period</th>
<th>Project</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976-1977</td>
<td>Growth and yield (Active)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976-1984</td>
<td>Mid-rotation competing vegetation studies (terminated)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Loblolly/slash species comparison (terminated)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980-1984</td>
<td>HWC duration and area of control (terminated)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980-1986</td>
<td>Site preparation/complete vegetation control (active)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986-1987</td>
<td>Planting stock/vegetation management (active)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986-1990</td>
<td>Loblolly HWC and early release (active)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988-1994</td>
<td>Complete vegetation control and/or annual fertilization (active)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990-1992</td>
<td>Shrub control and HWC (active)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-1997</td>
<td>Bedding, chem. SP, and HWC (active)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-1997</td>
<td>Lob/slash culture x density (active) x thinning (lob only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2003</td>
<td>Loblolly Western Gulf culture x density x thinning (active)</td>
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PMRC East Region Studies
Key PMRC Products

- Technical Reports on Designed Field Trials
  - 2007
    - 8-yr UCP/Pied Culture Density; 21-yr UCP/Pied Site Prep; 26-yr Slash Site Prep; Site Prep & HWC in LCP; Modeling Mortality
  - 2008 (planned)
    - 21-yr Improved Planting Stock – Competition Control; 12-yr CP Culture Density; 10-yr UCP/Pied Culture Density
Value Creation
Planting Density x Culture
Create Very Different Stands

SAGS Culture/Density Installation #20
Placing Density x Culture x Thinning - Eastern Lower Coastal Plain Results

- Ability to evaluate stocking management and cultural intensity for objectives ranging from biomass to sawtimber
- Singularly valuable field studies

Loblolly Pine

Slash Pine

PMRC Overview, June 2008
Key PMRC Products

- Growth and Yield System Updates
  - Slash Pine (2005)
Key Products
Growth and Yield Systems

- Distinguishing Attributes
  - Driven by wealth of PMRC data with complement of non-PMRC data
  - Whole stand approach
  - Compatible system of equations
  - Comprehensive
    - Whole stand attributes, diameter and product distributions
    - Allows flexibility in stand conditions and silvicultural regimes
  - Base models with adjustments in dominant height and BA/ac made for silvicultural treatments
  - Hardwood basal area is an independent variable in base model for Upper Coastal Plain and Piedmont G&Y system
Growth & Yield System: Treatment Response Modeling

- Comprehensive system of response models for dominant height and basal area often provide more realistic response estimates than using only site index adjustments.
- Model forms relate to biological response patterns.
- Ongoing research to make models as data driven and biologically correct as possible.
## PMRC Strategic Priorities for 2008-2010 Period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mid-Rotation Modeling</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Trt Response Models</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>G&amp;Y Models</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Collaboration w/Coops</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Expanding Membership/Geographic Scope</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Decision Support/Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Inventory Quality</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Enhanced Genetics</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Data Mgt Systems</td>
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Mid-Rotation Technology
Planting Density x Culture x Thinning

- Thinning treatments are imposed on stands established at different planting densities with operational and intensive culture.

- This creates a wide variety of stocking and crown conditions and an excellent dataset for modeling thinning response.
# New PMRC Projects

<table>
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<th>Initiation Period</th>
<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2006-2010</strong></td>
<td><strong>Loblolly enhanced genetics growth and yield</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>● Current network of varietal block plantings</td>
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<td>● Expert growth and yield system to be developed</td>
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<td>● Possible new field studies to examine stand dynamics</td>
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<td><strong>2008-2010</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thinning, release, and fertilization</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Study plan developed, phased implementation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Major effort of field program during next 3+ years</td>
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<td>● South-wide trial with modeling emphasis</td>
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<td>- First or second thinning for a range of site indices</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Range of pre-thin and post-thin basal area</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Release and/or fertilization</td>
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<td>- Initial emphasis on second thinning of loblolly in UCP</td>
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PMRC regional trials with loblolly:

- Productivity gains from genetic improvement in block plantings were similar to that estimated from row plot progeny tests
- Effects of genetic improvement and vegetation control are additive
Enhanced Genetics - Stand Dynamics and Value

- Mass controlled pollinated and varietal stock promises significant improvements in productivity, quality, and uniformity
- PMRC focus is to quantify enhanced genetics impacts on stand dynamics, value, and uniformity
- Working closely with FNC, FBRC, and VPILPG&T to coordinate efforts
- Three legs to PMRC enhanced genetics stool:
  - Current network of block plantings with enhanced genetics, access to designed field trial data
  - Expert growth and yield system to be developed
  - Stand dynamics examined in targeted new field trials

Impact of uniformity of stand development, performance and value
Needs:
Thinning and Mid-Rotation Treatments

- **Thinning**
  - Current thinning models (PMRC and others) were developed with data from 1960s (slash) and 1970s (loblolly) vintage plantations.
  - Limited validation indicates reasonable basal area projections for “normal” first thin conditions.
  - Significant questions regarding second thinnings, ranges of initial stocking and thinning intensities, responses given new genetics/silviculture and combinations of release and fertilization.
New Regional Trial: Thinning and Mid-Rotation Treatments

- Phase 1 of new study series study to be installed during 2008-2010 period.
- Examine loblolly plantation performance across a matrix of site index, initial pre-thin basal area and residual basal area with and without release, fertilization and their combination.
- Phase 1 consists of establishing 12 installation throughout the UCP
- Each installation will contain one plot for each of the following treatments:
  - No second thin, no treatment
  - Second thin to target BA/Ac, no treatment
  - Second thin to target BA/Ac + release
  - Second thin to target BA/Ac + fertilization
  - Second thin to target BA/Ac + release + fertilization
Decision Tools and Technology Transfer

- Past approach
  - PMRC G&Y systems and results from field series reported at annual meetings/field meetings and documented in PMRC Technical Reports
  - Cooperators developed applications (software) in-house or with technology providers
Decision Tools and Technology Transfer

- New emphasis on PMRC decision tools/workshops
  - Identified as strategic priority; working on details
  - Decision tools - Vegetation management first priority
  - Workshops - Vegetation management, planting density and thinning, and growth & yield system first priorities
  - Tailored workshops and visits per cooperators’ requests
PMRC and Grant Funding

- PMRC associated faculty at Warnell seek grant funding to expand the scope of research related to southern commercial plantations.
- We currently have two projects funded through grants from the State of Georgia
  - Refining silvicultural treatment response models
  - Improving inventory quality
Refine Silvicultural Treatment Response Models – Georgia Funded Project

- Chemical site prep, HWC, release, tillage, and establishment fertilization responses being valued; Funded through June, 09
- Example below is for responses to operational HWC

PMRC Overview, June 2008
Inventory Quality – Georgia Funded Project

- Improving stand level timber estimates using new on the ground sampling methods in conjunction with aerial imagery.
## Membership Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Class*</th>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>2009 Dues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full</td>
<td>Owns or manages more than 200,000 acres</td>
<td>$17,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting</td>
<td>Owns or manages 50,000 to 200,000 acres</td>
<td>$11,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing</td>
<td>Owns or manages less than 50,000 acres</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>Does not own or manage forest land.</td>
<td>$ 8,750</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Consultant organizations join as one of the defined Membership categories. Membership will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis including the array of benefits to be received by the consultant.
Want More Information on PMRC?

- Contacts
  Dr. Michael Kane
  PMRC Director
  Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia
  Phone: 706-542-3009
  Email: mkane@warnell.uga.edu

  Mr. Randy Taylor
  Chair of PMRC Executive Committee
  Plum Creek Timber Company
  Phone: 706-583-6702
  Email: randy.taylor@plumcreek.com

- Public Website
  http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/pmrcpub/

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