



HAND THINNING

What is Hand Thinning?

Hand thinning is performed by crews that use chainsaws to cut smaller trees. Generally, because of the tree size, hand thinning does not produce merchantable wood products. Depending on the location, felled trees may either be removed for firewood or piled for later burning.



"Chainsaw" used to hand-fell trees

Capabilities

- Can be performed during most times of the year.
- Can be completed on a site before future harvesting activities.

Limitations

- More time consuming than mechanized harvesting methods.
- Does not remove slash (branches and tree-tops).
- Steep slopes can be difficult to operate on, and greatly increase safety concerns.

Advantages

- Best suited for small acreage sites where mechanized equipment would have difficulty operating.
- Wood may be made available as firewood to local residents.
- Generally requires less planning and logistical support.

Costs

- Less than cable logging.
- Much less than helicopter logging.

FWPP Project

- Approximately 680 acres (8% of treated acres) is planned for hand thinning.



"Slash Piles" made from a hand crew



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