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LOGGERS WITH A PLAN

Logger Education Programs: forest management

June 2000

INTRODUCTION: Logger training and education has taken on new meaning. Most, if not all, forested states are developing programs to provide information for loggers that is practical and meaningful. Evaluations indicate that loggers are interested but often dislike the idea of lectures and sitting for long classroom sessions. In an effort to transfer the valuable subject matter in a form that is stimulating and engaging, Maine's Certified Logging Professional (CLP) program has introduced the group job site layout plan exercise.



Fig. 1: Group of five loggers collaborates on a harvest plan to meet assigned objectives.

The certification program consists of 24 hours of classroom instruction and eight hours of outside felling training. The layout plan's objective is to help loggers bring all the information they have received from guest speakers, lectures, and written materials together in a logical working harvest plan.

OPERATION: The exercise begins with separating the class of 20 to 24 loggers into groups of four or five. Each group receives a blank harvest map, each having a different landowner objective and harvest plan. Loggers must rely on information previously obtained from the guest speakers and lectures to design their plans. Information critical to the success of the project may be harvesting laws, Best Management Practices, fish and wildlife considerations, aesthetics, road and trail layout, and so on. Loggers, many from different backgrounds, are joined at random to produce a harvesting plan that optimizes everyone's creativity and resources.

APPLICATION: Workshop leaders provide the loggers at least an hour to develop their plans. The

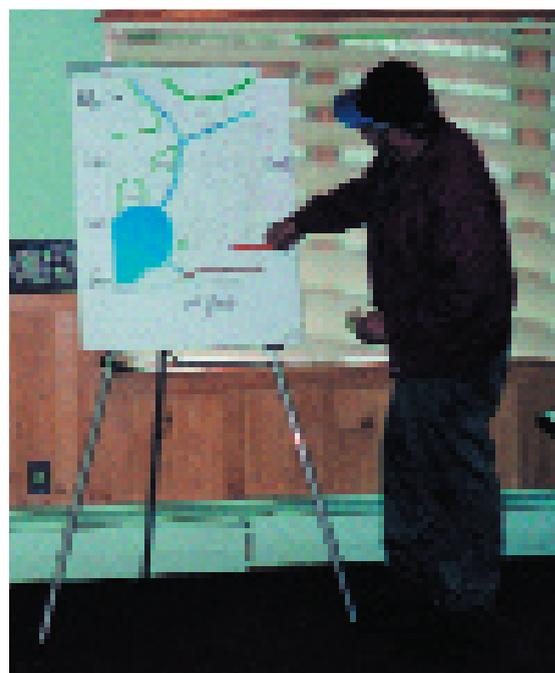


Fig. 2: Group leader presents the plan to the entire class.

groups or loggers usually designate one or two individuals to lead, but excellent discussion and group participation usually occurs.

Once plans are complete, a representative from each group reviews that group's plan with the class. The different landowner objectives and harvest presumptions stimulate discussion.

During 1999, all 23 certification classes, totaling 427 loggers, included this layout exercise, and participants rated it an overwhelming success. The exercise allows loggers the following opportunities.

- 1) Loggers get an opportunity to combine all the information passed on to them in the lectures and to apply it in a practical form.
- 2) Loggers have the opportunity to work in small groups as a team.
- 3) Loggers have a chance to stand up and move around.
- 4) The team spokesperson has the opportunity to speak in front of a group to present the final product — an excellent confidence builder.

SPECIFICATIONS AND COST: The CLP program offers four categories of certification and is available to Maine loggers or anyone interested in the Maine logging industry. The cost is \$500 per person for the four-day program. Scholarship money is available through the Maine Forest Service. For information on the CLP program, contact the Certified Logging Professional program at 573 Main Street, Jackman, Maine 04945, or call 1-800/668-3078.

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REVIEWED BY:

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