

Specialist forestry knowledge is useful in other areas

Author: Kees Weytmans

Forest Measurement NZ Limited is an example of a Gisborne-based company which specialises in providing quality information to forest resource owners. The company was established in 1994 under the name Forest Care by Kees Weytmans.

Undertaking MARVL forest inventories on the East Coast of the North Island and measuring research and development plots was the mainstay of the company for the first few years. But by 1996, the number of inventory crews had increased, more technical projects were undertaken, and clients asked for resource assessments throughout the North Island.

Specialise staff worked with sophisticated forestry software to construct yield tables, verifying volume and taper studies and undertaking pruned log index studies. In the late nineties we got involved with the updating of the stand records and stand details within the geographical information systems (GIS) of some of our clients.

The volume, and quality of that volume, is known through the MARVL assessment and the size of the area will be known by taking aerial photography, and ortho-rectifying it to minimize distortions.

Start photography early

Aerial photography, especially for forests larger than 10 hectares, should be undertaken at least three times during its rotation. The first aerial photograph should be taken before planting to form the basis for the forest management plan and to allow the establishment of a reliable budget. The next photograph should be taken after four years, but before the silvicultural operations start. This exercise will map out the existing gaps, and silvicultural contractors can therefore be paid on a real forest area. The last photograph should be taken just before harvest to establish an accurate area.

Customised geographical solutions

The spatial division of Forest Measurement has re-branded itself to GeoMetrics, and provides customized geographical solutions to asset owners and managers, as well as geographic analysis services and GIS system development.

Knowledge about the quality and quantity of your resource is essential to recover maximum value during harvest. Well-designed MARVL inventories, carried out by professional staff, can make accurate predictions about the recoverable volumes by log grade. But a well-designed MARVL inventory needs to have correct information to provide the resource owner with maximum value.

For further information you can call 06 8676519, or email kees@forestmeasurement.co.nz