

**Results of Transpirational Drying of Loblolly Pine at Roadside and in Bunches at
Multiple Locations in South Alabama**

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Abstract: In-woods drying of loblolly pine was evaluated on an operational scale on three different sites in south Alabama. Trees on Site 1 were felled, skidded, and delimbed at the landing with a Chambers Delimbinator, piled at roadside, and allowed to dry from October 31st, 2012 through January 23rd, 2013. Trees on Site 2 were felled and left whole-tree in skidder bunches throughout the stand and allowed to dry from April 2nd, 2012 through May 22nd, 2012. Site 3 was divided in half and trees from one-half of the stand were felled, skidded, and piled whole-tree at roadside. The remaining trees in the stand were felled and left whole-tree in skidder bunches. The drying period for Site 3 occurred from August 21st, 2013 through October 31st, 2013. Trees sampled on Site 1 from the outer location of the pile had a mean moisture content of approximately 32% (wet-basis). Trees sampled from the middle and bottom locations of the pile had mean moisture contents of 46% and 40%, respectively, compared to an initial moisture content of 51%. Trees on Site 2 had a mean moisture content of 35% at the end of the drying period, compared to an initial moisture content of 56%. Clean conventional and whole-tree microchips were also collected on this site and revealed moisture contents of 40% and 39%, respectively. Trees sampled from bunches on Site 3 at the outer, middle, and bottom locations had mean moisture contents of 24%, 24%, and 29%, respectively, with an overall average for the bunches of 26%. Trees sampled from the large pile at the outer, middle, and bottom locations had mean moisture contents of 28%, 40%, and 49%, respectively, with an overall average for the pile of 39%, compared to an initial moisture content of 58%.