

AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACT OF IMPROVED GENETIC MATERIAL ON CARBON SEQUESTRATION IN MANAGED LOBLOLLY PINE FORESTS

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Tree improvement's role in increasing productivity and the economic impact of tree improvement on the future value of the Southeastern US wood basket have been described in the *Journal of Forestry* by McKeand et al. 2006. In addition to timber production, managed forests are now being viewed as avenues for increasing carbon sequestration. This presentation will examine how forest genetics is impacting carbon sequestration rates. Five-year results from two studies designed to evaluate how enhanced genetics is impacting production and carbon sequestration will serve as the basis for making projections of genetic effects on rotation length carbon sequestration rates. The potential impacts on increased carbon sequestration that full scale deployment of enhanced genetics could have will be discussed.