

# **Quicker/Cheaper Stand Assessments<sup>1</sup>**

by

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## Table of Contents

	Page
Abstract	1
Sampling for <u>timber</u> attributes with variable-radius plots – A review	2
Why variable-radius plots?	2
Tree tally at a sample location	2
Relationship between plot size (for a tree) and tree size	2
Per acre timber characteristics	4
Computing a sampling error	4
What BAF to use?	5
How many sample locations are needed?	6
Is it ok to systematically spread out sample locations?	7
Field implementation	8
Data summary example	9
Double sampling for <u>timber</u> attributes with variable-radius plots	10
Motivation	10
Sampling plan	10
Tree tally and measurement	11
Volume per acre estimation	11
Estimation for categories (breakdowns) of interest	12
What BAF to use?	13
What should $n_L$ and $n_S$ be?	13
Another look at the double sampling, ratio-of-means estimator	13
Estimation for categories when extra data are collected on tally plots	14
Data summary example	16
The Big BAF method	17
Motivation	17
Sampling plan	17
Volume per acre estimation	17
Number of sample locations, number of measure trees, and implied $BAF_B$	18
Additional comments	19
Data summary example	20
A cruise exercise: Conduct and review	21
Role of volume tables/equations	22
Constant form factor volume equations	22
Volume table variation in VBARs	23
The origin of “shortcut formulas”	24
Eliminating tree measurement from timber stand assessments	24
Local (localized) volume tables	25

## Abstract

Sampling and measurement techniques exist for reducing the effort/cost associated with standard timber stand assessments depending on the quantities of interest as well as the volume table(s) being used. This paper will introduce and consider the application of standard variable-radius plot sampling, double (two-phase) sampling, a new technique called Big-BAF sampling, and assorted shortcut measurement and observation techniques as they apply to Lake States forestry practice. The relative efficiencies of the techniques are also discussed. The paper is written for individuals who supervise or plan or conduct timber stand assessments for their organization. A basic understanding of the conduct of timber stand assessments using standard methods (e.g. line-plot cruises) is assumed. The paper could be the basis for a short course; hands-on activities, including a field exercise, are suggested. Spreadsheet code implementing many of the calculations presented in the paper is also available.

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