FOREST RELATED BUSINESS IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT.—The Forest Products Laboratory’s (FPL) research program is aimed at overcoming some of the technical and economic barriers associated with value-added forest products from these removals. Since 1993, FPL’s research effort has focused on characterizing the small diameter and thinning material, identifying potential uses, and providing the technology that can help these rural forest-based communities create successful businesses from the “by-products” of ecosystem management. Some research projects are exploring the potential of using the small diameter material “in the round form” as a structural material, and identifying potential uses such as for bridges, boardwalks, trail structures, picnic shelters, storage sheds, and other rustic type buildings. Other research projects are evaluating the distribution of the lumber grades from this type of material. All projects are aimed at working with specific forest-based communities to create business opportunities.

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