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1986/87 Powered Disc Trencher Equipment Trial

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1986/87 Powered Disc Trencher Equipment Trial

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Abstract

An equipment trial took place in Saskatchewan utilizing TTS Delta and Donaren 180D powered disc trenchers in the summer of 1986. A total of 380 hectares and 78 hectares were site prepared by the TTS Delta and Donaren 180D respectively. The range of the trial encompassed the commercial forest belt from west to east covering four distinct site conditions, all of which were successfuly treated by the two implements. The quality of work completed ranged from a plantability of 68% with a net exposure of 80%, to 93% with a net exposure of 87%. This was based on a prescription of 2 metre by 1.8 metre spacing with net exposure being exposed furrow length versus total furrow length.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to the following field participants and support staff for their aid in the successful completion of the power disc trencher field trials.

Saskatchewan Department of Parks and Renewable Resources:

Dave Hanline Larry Slater Meadow Lake Regional staff

Saskatchewan Forest Products Corp.:

John Daisley Merl Fitchner Ronda Morris Gord Moffat

Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd. (formerly Prince Albert Pulpwood):

Roman Orynik Elder Bergen

Canadian Forestry Service:

Jim Johnston - Saskatchewan District Office
Kelly Bacon - " "
Ron Gorman - Northern Forestry Centre
Brad Sutherland - Great Lakes Forestry Centre

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Note: The exclusion of certain manufactured products does not necessarily imply disapproval nor does the mention of other products necessarily imply endorsement by the Canadian Forestry Service.

Introduction

During the winter of 1985/86, discussions took place hetween various silviculture equipment user groups and the Canadian Forestry Service staff (Sask. District Office), regarding problems and possible solutions to the limited regeneration successes on some of their sites. These sites had limitations such as poor drainage, heavy slash, deep duff, fine soils and advanced growth competition.

With these limitations considered, site preparation using powered disc trenchers was identified as a possible enhancement to present techniques. Powered disc trenchers are among the most recent technological advancements in the mechanized silviculture field and have been proven successful in field applications in the Canadian Boreal Forest. Developed in Finland and Sweden respectively, the TTS Delta and Donaren 180D were identified as the two pieces of equipment to be used in a 1986/87 summer equipment trial in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan participants, all information and pertinent data pertaining to the power disc trencher trial that was collected by all parties involved during the 1986 operating season. It may he noted that costs are not mentioned in the body of this report. This was due to the inavailability of all cost data incurred through the involvement of a great number of personnel from a number of organizations. Coupled with the complexities of the specifications in the contracts for both machines, costs experienced may be inflated in comparison to a conventional field project. Parties interested in cost comparisons may contact the Canadian Forestry Service (Saskatchewan District) for available information.

Goals and Objectives

The goals of this equipment trial are to expose the power disc trenchers to a large range of post forest harvest site conditions in Saskatchewan and to involve as many provincial silviculture groups as possible.

The operating goals set down co-operatively between all participants are as follows:

- a) two-metre spacing between furrows;
- b) consistant exposure of mineral soil;
- c) alignment of surface debris.

The objectives of this trial was to create the maximum quantity and quality of plantable microsites in a specific site. The width of the trench created as well as the depth of profile was to be determined by the individual participants on their sites. The assessment of quality was monitored on a daily basis at an approximate sample intensity of 0.5%.

Two of the sites prepared during the field trials were evaluated by the Canadian Forestry Service (Sask. District). Indepth sampling was done on pre-treatment site indicies, a time study during operation, and post-treatment disturbances. This information will be evaluated and formulated in a report in the next fiscal year.

Equipment Descriptions

The Donaren 180D and TTS Delta were made available to Saskatchewan groups through the Canada-Saskatchewan Forest Resource Development Agreement. Companies supplying the equipment were contracted by the Alberta Forest Service (Donaren 180D) and Supply and Services Canada (TTS Delta).

Table 1. Equipment specialties.

Description	TTS Delta	Donaren 180D
Fluctuating disc anglemechanical;	Yes	
Fluctating down loadinghydraulic;	Yes	Yes
Fluctuating powered disc rotationhydraulic;	Yes	Yes
Fluctuating disc spacingmechanical/hydraulic;		Yes

The Donaren 180D, supplied by Forest Lease Inc., was mounted on a 210 hp. hydrostatic drive Ardco 4X4 (Model K). The TTS Delta, supplied by Hakmet Ltd., was mounted on a 210 hp. direct drive 740A Turbo John Deere Skidder.

The Appendix contains the specifications for the Donaren 180D and TTS Delta as supplied by their North American distributors.

Participants

The following table summarizes the involvement of the parties participating in the equipment trial within Saskatchewan.

Table 2. Summary of participating groups by hours and hectares.

	TTS	Delta	Donarer	180D
Participant	Operating Hours	Completed Hectares	Operating Hours	Completed Hectares
Saskatchewan Dept. of Parks and Renewable Resources	201	175	-	-
Saskatchewan Forest Products	169	153	44	34
Prince Albert Pulpwood Company (now Weyerhaeuser)	50	51	62	45

Method

Schedule

The power disc trencher equipment trial took place in four different sites, from Meadow Lake in the western part of Saskatchewan, to the Sipanok Channel in the east (Figure 1).

The TTS Delta arrived on June 18, 1986, and began operating on the Meadow Lake site on June 19, 1986. The Delta operating sequence traveled east to Dore Mountain, Camp 2 and Sipanok Channel completing its designated contract total of 420 hours on August 5, 1986.

The Donaren 180D arrived on September 2, 1986, in the Dore Mountain area, began operating on September 3, 1986, moved to the Camp 2 site on September 12, 1986, and completed its work on September 21, 1986; a total of 108 production hours. The initial goal of 150 production hours was not met due to time restraints set out in the agreement with Alberta participants of the Donaren trial.

Daily Assessment

The participants in the equipment trial monitored the quality of work being prepared in their areas in the following manner:

POWER DISC-TRENCHER TRIAL LOCATIONS

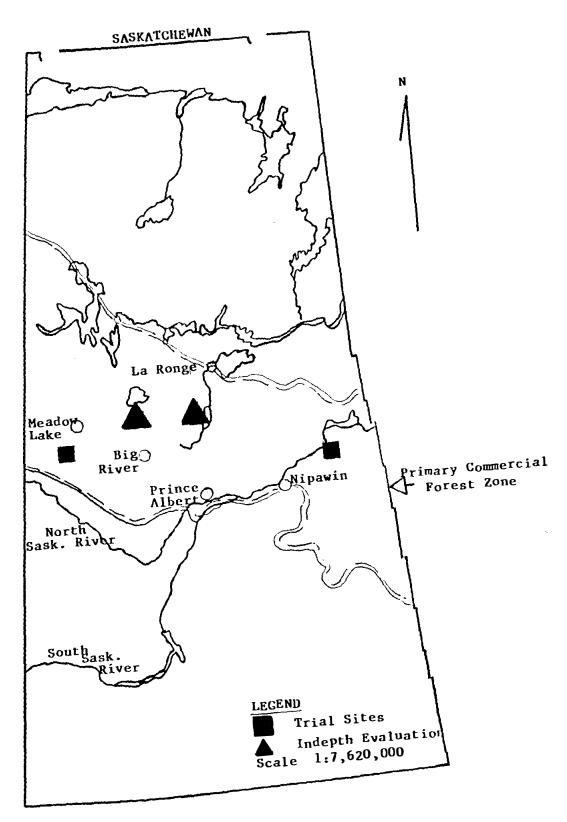


Figure 1.

- i) Transects were laid out perpendicular to furrows across all areas treated on which 50 m^2 circular plots were centered at a spacing to allow a coverage of one plot per hectare.
- ii) Within these 50 m² plots, the following furrow profile measurements were taken (Figure 2):
 - a) furrow lengths;
 - b) exposed mineral soil furrow lengths;
 - c) average width of exposed mineral soil/furrow;
 - d) plantable spots.
- iii) The above data is summaried by plot to give net M.S.E. (Mineral Soil Exposure), gross M.S.E. and plantable spots.
- iv) Coverage efficiency of the implements was monitored by the count of furrows on a 200-metre line perpendicular to pass direction.

Indepth Evaluation

An indepth evaluation was done on the Dore Mountain site and the Camp 2 site to compare variations of disc trenchers on similar site conditions. These equipment variations were divided as follows:

Camp 2

Donaren 180D	Donaren 180D						
TTS Delta with powered discs	TTS Delta without powered discs						
TTS Delta without powered discs							
TTS 35 - 2.4 metre							

Assessment Procedures

The data collected for indepth evaluation included the following:

i) Pre-treatment Assessment:

Dore Mountain

 intensive measure of all site variables influencing site preparation--slash depth, slash size, duff depth, soil depth, stump height and diameter, species, vegetation present and residual.

ii) Time Study:

- 100% sample of all time spent operating inside the trial area; broken down by actual production time.

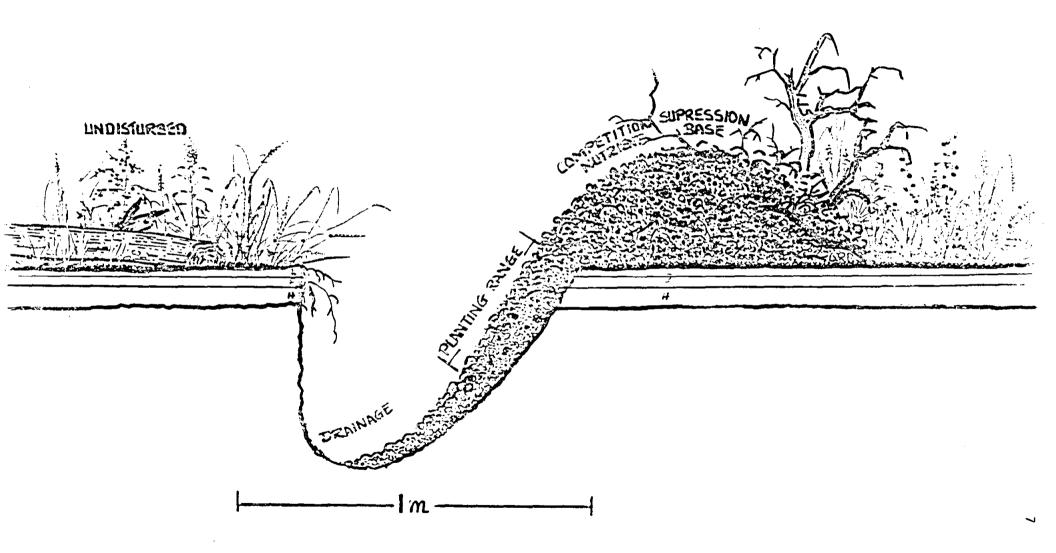


Figure 2. Cross-sectional profile of power trencher furrow.

iii) Post-treatment Assessment:

- intensive measurement of all site variables disturbed by site preparation implements and prime movers during the operation;
- plantable spot tally appraisal, tallied using provincial quality standards.

All data collected during this process is presently heing evaluated and a summary report of the findings will be produced in 1987. The data was collected using the Standard Assessment Procedures for Evaluating Silviculture Equipment; Sutherland, B.J. 1986.*

^{*} Sutherland, B.J. 1986. Standard Assessment Procedures for Evaluating Silviculture Equipment: A Handbook. Government of Canada.

Copies available from: Communications Services. Great Lakes Forestry Centre. Canadian Forestry Service. Government of Canada. P.O. Box 490, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. P6A 5M7.

Trial Site Summaries

Meadow Lake

Participant: Sask. Department of Parks and Renewable Resources

Pre-trial Disturbance: clear cut - 1985/86

softwood removal - 1980/81

Slash Loading: moderate to heavy

large poplar tops

Stumps: moderate spruce and poplar

range 30-50 cm in diameter

30 cm in height

Duff Depth: 15 cm

Soil: silty clay

Drainage: imperfect

Residual: - patchy

- some areas of moderate residual

(up to 400 stems/hectare)



Figure 3. Meadow Lake Site following 1985/86 hardwood harvest.

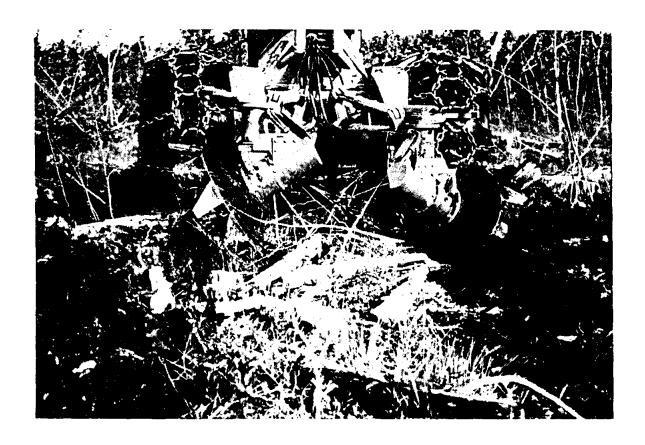


Figure 4. TTS Delta disc action creating furrows on Meadow Lake Site.

Note: Penetration of independent arm-disc configurations varying directly to ground resistance.

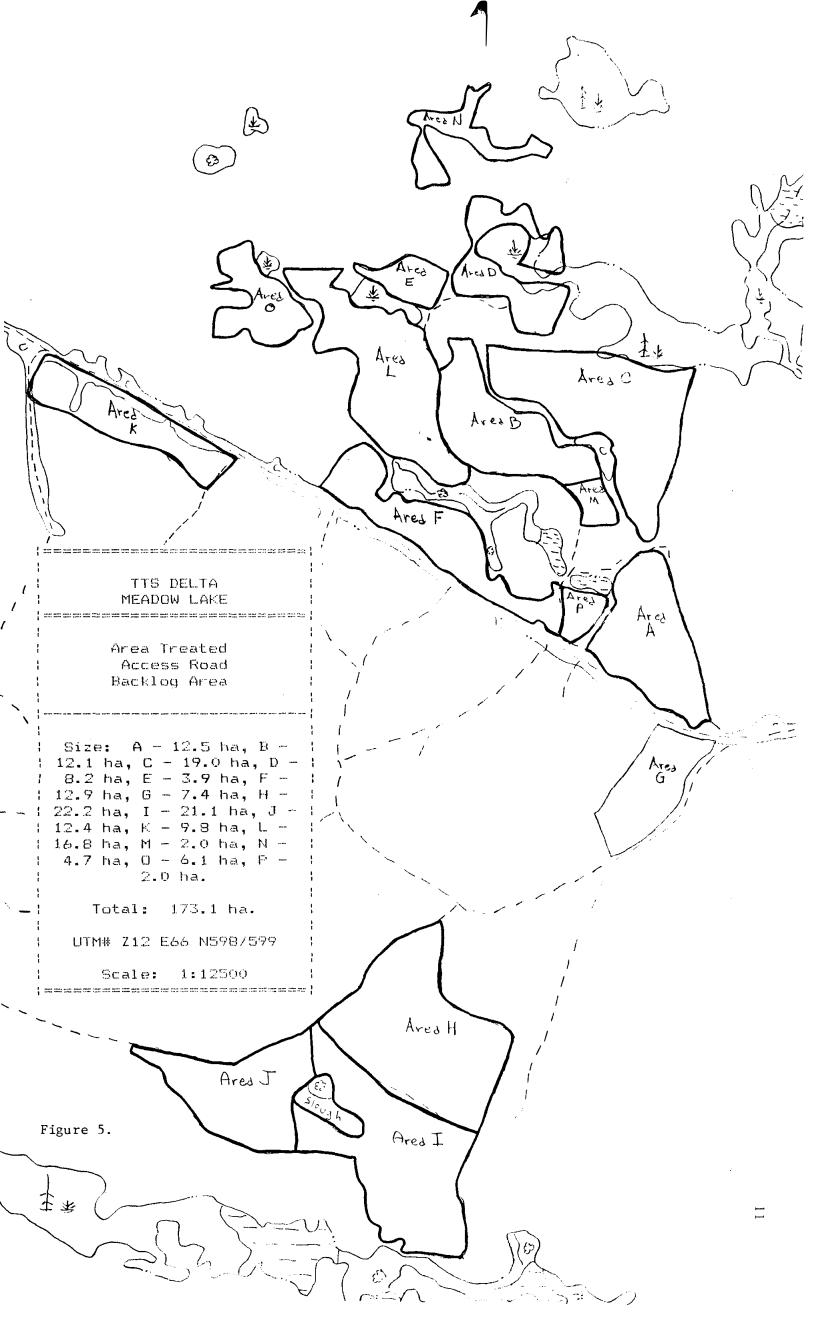


Table 3. Meadow Lake - TTS Delta Site Preparation Summary.

Bl o ck						Ouality	
	На.	На.	Prod. hours	Prod. ha./hr.	Gross exp. %	Net exp. %	Coverage %
A	12.5	14.35		16	87	N/A	
В	12.1	16.20		18	80	N/A	
C	19	22.30		1 5	76	80	
D	8.2	8.55		19	83	8.5	
E	3.9	4.45		1 1	62	N/A	
F,L,M	44.5	50.50		16	81	71	
N,O,P							
Ğ	8.6	6.5		18	89	7 1	
	22.6	23.45		13	75	63	
H I	21.8	19		15	81	7 2	
J	11.7	11.45		1 4	78	80	
K	9.8	8.1		1 4	8 5	80	
Totals	174.7	184.85					
Average			. 95	15	80	7.3	2218

^{*} Plantable spots per hectare based on 100% coverage of assessment plots - actual operational plantable spots will be approximately 15% lower.

Dore Mountain

Participant: Sask. Forest Products Corp.

Pre-trial Disturbance: clear cut 1983/84; 1984/85

white spruce and jack pine

Slash Loading: moderate to heavy

white spruce, jack pine, tops and limbs

Stumps: 1914/ha., average height 23 cm, diameter 20 cm

Duff Depth: 12 cm

Soil: deep sandy clay

Drainage: imperfect

Residual: scattered trembling aspen

Topography: flat to gently rolling



Figure 6. An example of one of the mixedwood blocks of Dore Mountain; John Deere 740A-TTS Delta in background.

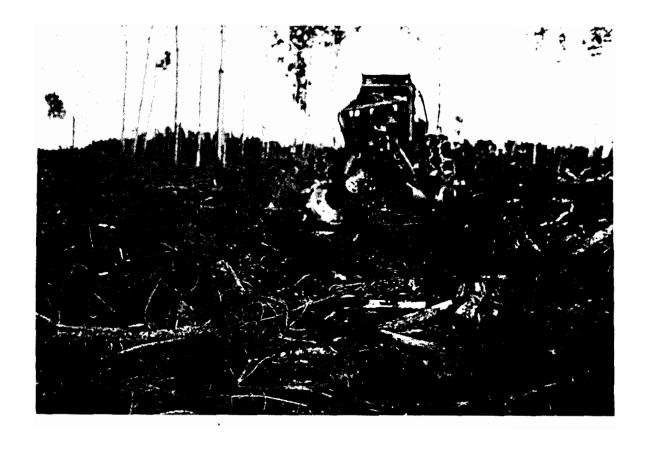


Figure 7. Donaren 180D operating on the Dore Mountain Site.

Note: Furrow profile created by downloading and disc rotation.

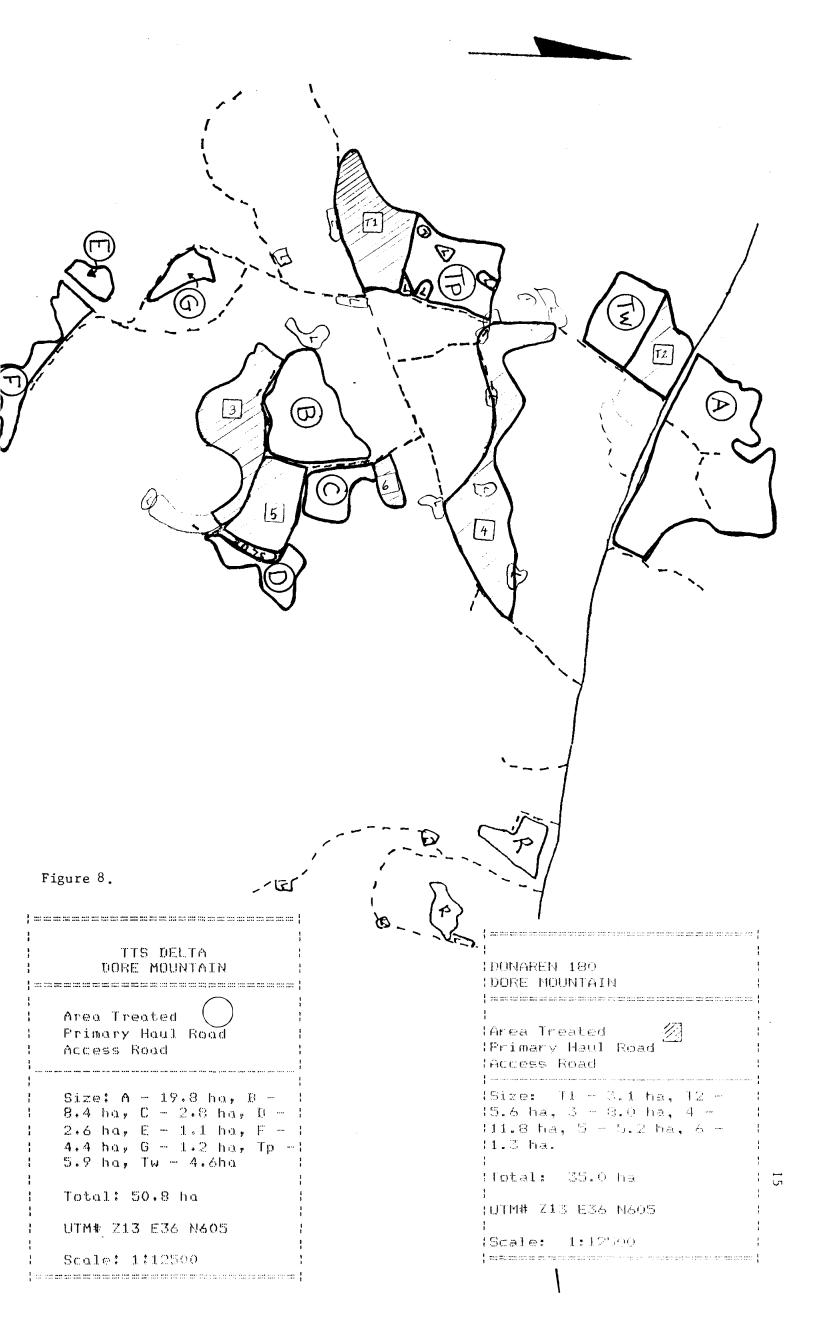


Table 4. Dore Mountain - TTS Delta Site Preparation Summary.

Block						Ouality		
	На.	На.	На.	Prod. hours	Prod. ha./hr.	Gross exp. %	Net exp. %	Coverage %
Α	19.8	14.48		N/A	N/A	N/A		
В	8.4	11.17		N/A	N/A	N/A		
C,D	5.4	9.00		21	90	N/A		
E,F	5.5	5.83		20	7.5	N/A		
, G	1.2	1.92		31	88	N/A		
Tp & Tw	10.5	6.08		Indepth	n Evalua	ition Site		
Total	50.8	48.48						
Average			1.05	2.2	83		*2612	

Table 5. Dore Mountain - Donaren 180D Site Preparation Summary.

					Quality			
Block	На.	Prod. hours	Prod. ha./hr.	Gross exp. %	Net exp. %	Coverage %	Plantable spots/ha.	
A11	34	43.55	. 78	2 0	7.5	N/A	*2742	

^{*} Plantable spots per hectare hased on 100% coverage of assessment plots - actual operational plantable spots will be approximately 15% lower.

Camp 2

Participant: Prince Albert Pulpwood Company

Pre-trial disturbance: clear cut - 1985/86

mixedwood - primarily trembling aspen

Slash Loading: light with moderate patches

trembling aspen tops and logs

Stumps: moderate trembling aspen, some white spruce

average height - 20 cm, diameter 22 cm

Duff Depth: 12 cm

Soil: sandy loam

Drainage: moderately well

Residual: nil

Topography: gently rolling to moderate slopes up to 40%



Figure 9. Varying topography on Camp 2 Site.

Note: Pattern of site preparation created by TTS Delta.



Figure 10. John Deere 740A-TTS Delta site preparing Camp 2.

Note: Consistancy in coverage and disturbance created by TTS Delta.

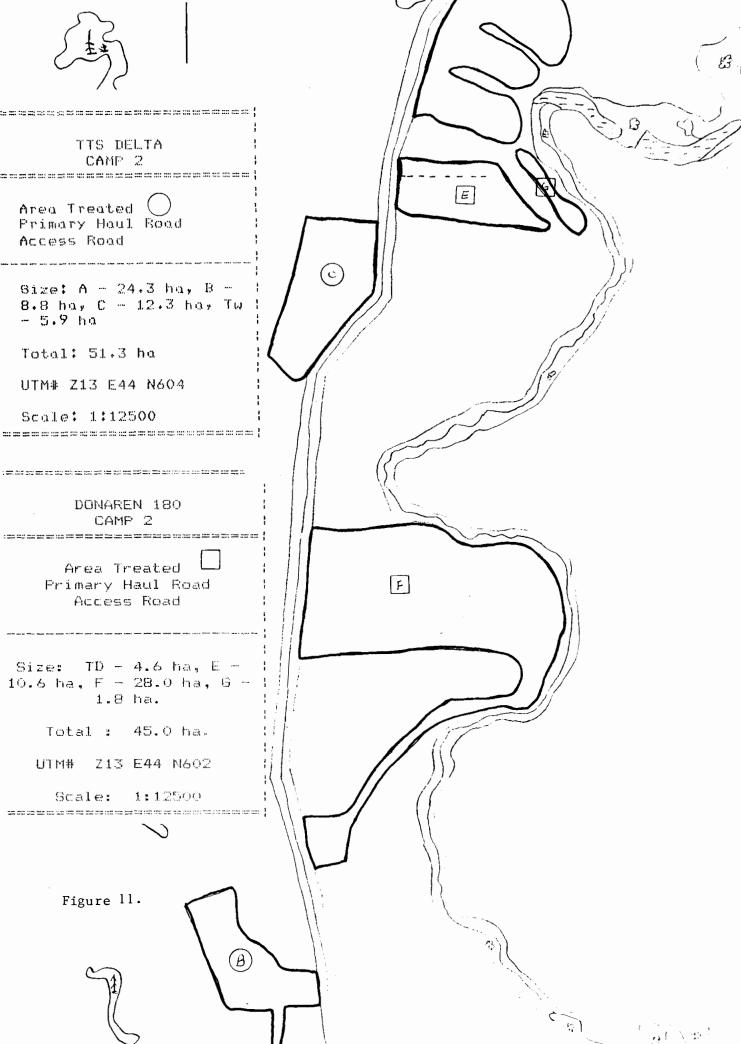


Table 6. Camp 2 - TTS Delta Site Preparation Summary.

Block						Ouality	
	На.	Prod. Prod. hours ha./hr.	Gross exp. %	Net exp. %	Coverage %	Plantable spots/ha.*	
Α	24.3	28.17		29	86	90	
В	8.8	8.00		2 4	8.0	9 2	
С	12.3	9.33		36	93	9.0	
Trial	5.9	4.58		Indepth	Evalua	ition Site	
Total	51.3	50.08					
Average			1.02	30	87	90	3019*

Table 7. Camp 2 - Donaren 180D Site Preparation Summary.

						Quality	
Block	Prod. Block Ha. hours		Prod. ha./hr.	Gross exp. %	Net exp. %	Coverage %	Plantable spots/ha.*
A11	44	62.25	.71	18	7 5	N/A	2 550

^{*} Plantable spots per hectare based on 100% coverage of assessment plots - actual operational plantable spots will be approximately 15% lower.

Sipanok Channel

Participant: Saskatchewan Forest Products Corp.

Pre-trial Disturbance: clear cut - 1981/82, 1982/83

white spruce/trembling aspen

Slash Loading: light with moderate patches

Ground Implements: heavy lower hrush vegetation

raspherry, hazel, poplar, birch

Stumps: approximately 600 per hectare

pre-dominately large white spruce

average height - 35 cm, diameter - 50 cm

Duff Depth: 25 cm

Soil: clay

Drainage: imperfect

Residual: patchy - scattered tremling aspen and white birch

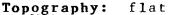




Figure 12. Profile of TTS Delta furrow in Sipanok Channel Site.

Note: Narrowing of trencher arms when lifted into transport position.



Figure 13. A TTS Delta furrow penetrating the heavy ground vegetation and deep duff associated with the Sipanok Channel Site.

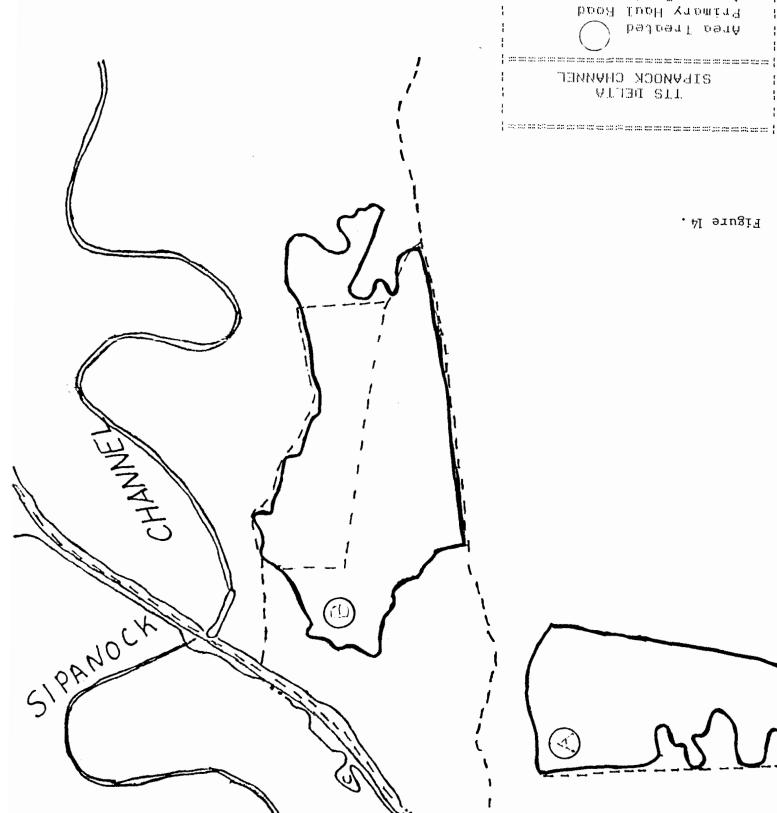


Figure 14.

SILVMOCK CHVMMEF IIS DEFIN

prog ssappy Primary Haul Boad Area Treated

Size: A - 31.1 ha, B - 71.1 ha,

tofof: 105.2 ha

NIM# X13 E62 N595

2cale: 1:12500

Table 8. Sipanok Channel - TTS Delta Site Preparation Summary.

Block				Ouality			
	На.	Prod. hours	Prod. ha./hr.	Gross exp. %	Net exp. %	Coverage %	Plantable spots/ha.*
A B	31.7 71.1	31.75 84.50		2 4 2 3	77 82	85 76	
Total	102.8	116.25					
Average			. 88	23	8.0	80%	2949

^{*} Plantable spots per hectare based on 100% coverage of assessment plots - actual operational plantable spots will be approximately 15% lower.

Trial Data Summary

The following tables summarize all areas site prepared by either the TTS Delta or the Donaren 180D during the 1986/87 equipment trial.

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Table 9. TTS Delta - Summary of all site preparation.

Site			Ouality				
	Total Area Ha.	Prod. Rate На./Нг.	Gross Exp.	Net Fxp. %	Coverage %	Plantable Spots/ha.*	
Camp 2	51.3	1.02	30	87	90	3019	
Dore Mountain	50.8	1.05	22	83	N/A	2612	
Sipanok	102.8	.88	23	80	79	2949	
Meadow Lake	174.7	. 95	15	80	73	2218	

Table 10. Donaren 180D - Summary of all site preparation.

Site	Total Area Ha.	Prod. Rate Ha./Hr.	Gross Exp.	Net Exp. %	Coverage %	Plantable Spots/Ha.*
Camp 2	44	.71	18	75	N / A	2550
Dore Mountain	34	.78	20	75	N/A	2472

^{*} Plantable spots per hectare are hased on 100% coverage of assessment plots - actual operational plantable spots will be approximately 15% lower.

Discussion

Throughout the duration of this equipment trial, the TTS Delta operated on four significantly different sites, with participation by three provincial client groups; the Sask. Dept. of Parks and Renewable Resources, Saskatchewan Forest Products and the Prince Albert Pulp Company (now Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.). The second machine, the Donaren 180D operated on two sites with participation by Saskatchewan Forest Products and the Prince Albert Pulpwood Company.

Both the TTS Delta and Donaren 180D were able to successfully create the prescribed microsite on all sites completed during the trial. Through their versatility in power loading, disc rotation and fluctuating disc angling (Delta only), the participating groups were able to try a great variety of combinations to accommodate minor and major site variations.

The Meadow Lake site (Delta only), which contained the most variability in site conditions allowed the Sask. Dept. of Parks and Renewable Resources to operate on wet, deep duffed, heavy advanced growth hardwood and heavy overstoried sites. Through their time and effort, diversity of this implement was tested thoroughly while allowing staff members to get acquainted with the Delta's mechanical and hydraulic abilities. A successful microsite with adequate planting access was produced on all sites. The Meadow Lake site was planted with 332,000 white spruce container stock in september of 1986.

The Saskatchewan Forest Products site at the Sipanok Channel area presented the TTS Delta with deep duff, heavy lower vegetation, extreme stump sizes and an extremely fine textural soil type. Through varying the width of the disc angle and increasing the down loading, a successful microsite for tree planting was prepared on the majority of the area. The stumps imposed an ergonomical problem during the operation with minor influence on the disc operation. Residual white birch, trembling aspen, and balsam fir were also present on this site and although coverage was influenced, the Delta disc action was not significantly impeded.

The site at Camp 2 and Dore Mountain incorporated work by both the TTS Delta and Donaren 180D for a direct comparison. The indepth evaluation was completed on these sites for analysis and final reporting in the next fiscal year. The data summaries will be available for scrutiny by the participants preceeding the final publication on request.

The site preparation by both the Delta and Donaren on the Dore Mountain sites were completed on comparable ground conditions with fairly comparable quality. The major limitations on this site was moderate to heavy slash loading and a stump number range of 1,500 to 2,800 per hectare. Although the Donaren required interpass disc slash-clearing on the heavily slashed

areas, both machines aligned the slash and exposed an adequate amount of mineral soil for a quality planting microsite. The participating staff from Sask. Forest Products found few if any limitations in the ability of both the Donaren and Delta implements themselves. The size of the prime mover required to accommodate a hydraulic disc trencher in comparison to the conventional TTS-35 was questioned in regards to economic limitations. This is of major importance in Saskatchewan as there are few skidders of sufficient horsepower and hydraulic capacity outside of Weyerhaeuser Can. Ltd., for compatibility with the hydraulic trenchers.

The operation of both the TTS Delta and Donaren 180D on the Camp 2 site were influenced mainly by the steepness of the topography. Slopes of up to 35% were traversed by the machines although limitations in speed and coverage were noted. objective in operating on these steep sites was to test furrow consistency and production. Although the abilities of the prime mover is the most influencial part of site preparation on steep slopes, the powered trenchers play a role in stability on side slopes, and possess an edge over conventional site preparation implements in that loading can be removed while operating to allow ease in upslope operation. The disc rotation in the direction of movement also aids in upslope traction. As noted on the summary tables, the gross and net exposure of the TTS Delta is higher in comparison to the Donaren. The ability of the TTS Delta to adjust its disc angle as well as the different disc tooth configuration allow a wider and more consistant trench in these cases.

The comparison of the two machines' site preparation quality in the Dore Mountain site is less extreme while showing a slight edge to the Delta.

Let it be noted that an operator's ability to manipulate the prime mover/implement configuration in a positive manner will also vary the quality of site preparation. The comparison of the two prime movers in this trial was not taken into consideration as we were advised by the distributors that the site preparation implements were working in an acceptable manner.

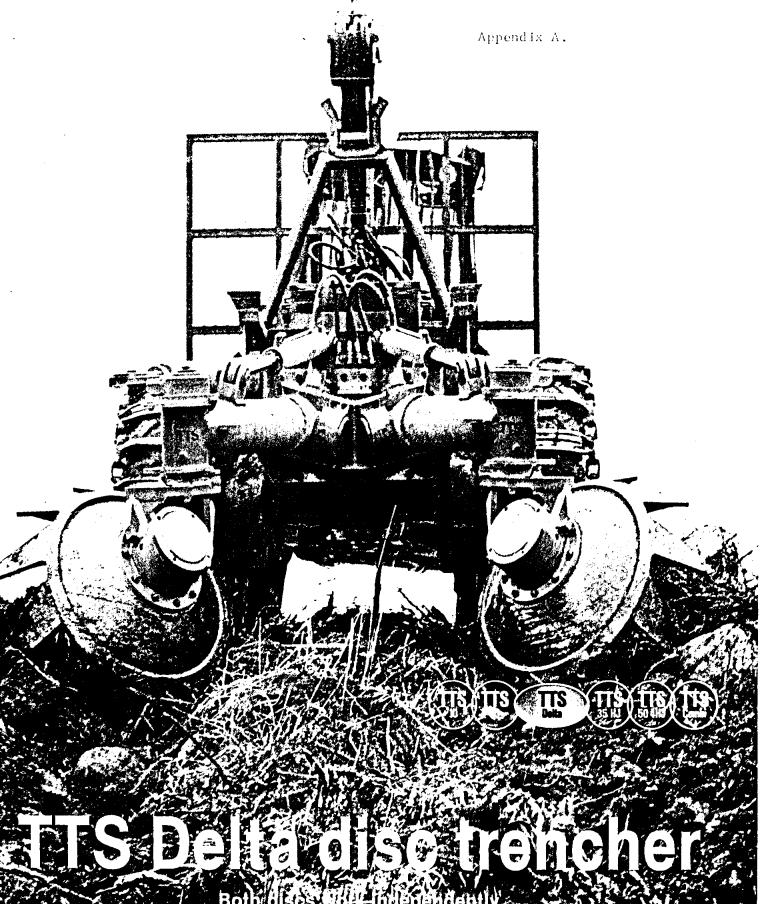
Production on all of the sites was approximately one ha./hr. for the Delta and .8 ha./hr. for the Donaren. This is very significant in that the Donaren was actually slowed down to create the microsite removing doubt that the prime mover was detrimental to the production.

Summary

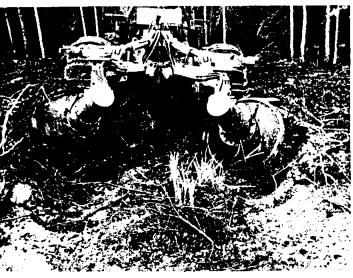
Throughout this equipment trial the site preparation quality as well as the operational properties of both the TTS Delta and the Donaren 180D indicate that both machines have a diverse application, favorable to todays' needs in Boreal silviculture operations. While problems were encountered with the Donaren's Ardco prime mover, serviceability while in Saskatchewan of both site preparation implements was quite acceptable for field operations of this nature.

Some limitations which may deter power trencher use in Saskatchewan are lack of maintenance expertise and limitations in prime mover availability. Sites which may inhibit successful applications of the powered disc trenchers are excessive advanced vegetation growth, extremely deep duff and/or sod layers, and sites of extreme wetness requiring a drastic increase in elevated microsite manipulation.

The complete power disc trencher equipment trial has received rave reviews from all parties involved, therefore enticing the idea for co-operative ventures of this type to continue where credible proposals arise.

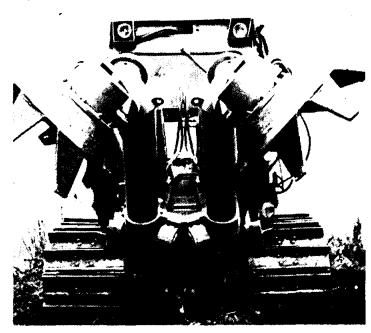


Both discs work-independently
Load can preside the diffrigulation of the control of the control

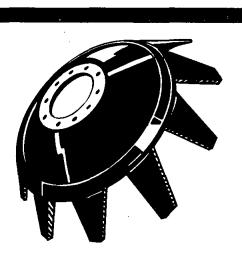


ITS Delta discs can be equipped with a hydraulic motor and a speed reduction gear.

When raised into transport position the TTS DELTA becomes narrower, thus enabling easy and safe transportation on narrow roads. The trencher is raised hydraulically.

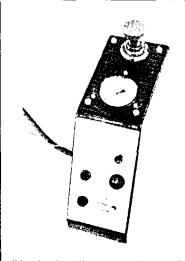


In the picture as a prime mover a crawler.

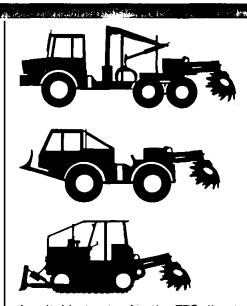


Canaca discs:

3 1200 mm, 9 teeth, teeth length 270 mm 3 1300 mm, 10 teeth, teeth length 270 mm 3 1400 mm, 8 teeth, teeth length 390 mm



The hydraulic control panel is in the cabin. The operator may adjust the load according to tilling conditions during the operation.



A suitable tractor for the TTS disc trencher is a skidder, forwarder or crawler.

ADVANTAGES OF THE TTS-35 H DELTA

- Automatic hydraulic loading
- Load can be controlled from the cabin during the operation. When the area is difficult to till, the load is increased and where it is easy, the load is decreased or removed.
- The disc arms work independently and follow the variations of the ground.
- A new arm system eliminates peaks in the pulling resistance. The plowing angle is easily adjustable.





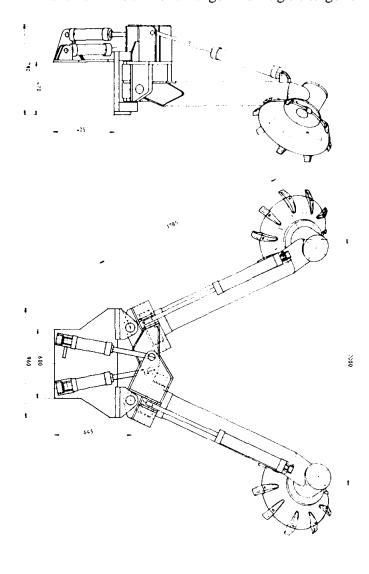
DONAREN 180

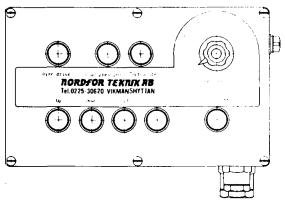
The Disc Trencher with Unique Combination Features

The hydraulically driven discs combined with stepless, fully adjustable loading pressure on the arms gives the DONAREN 180 better results on all processable areas.

The short, light-weight DONAREN 180 with these new combination features achieves a higher planting level, an improved working result in logging residue and an increased number of good planting or seeding spots.

The DONAREN 180 with standard equipped arms is prepared for mounting on a hydralic attachment from which the discs may derive propulsion. From the control panel in the driver's cabin, suitable working positions can be easily selected. The special assembly of the DONAREN 180 to a vehicle not only gives better accessibility to once hard-to-get areas but also better manoeuverability. The DONAREN 180 can be installed on most makes and models of forest machinery. Spare parts, service and installation can be arranged through the general dealer and Nordfor.





Technical Data:

Measurement:

Disc diameter 950 mm (37,4")
or 1050 mm (41,3")
Outer measurement, tooth edge or 1250 mm (49,2")
Track spacing 1500—2750 mm(59,0"—108,2")
Track width 600—800 mm (23,6"—31,5")
Maximum movement up: 1200 mm (47,2")
above horizontal position

down: 1250 mm (49,2'') below horizontal position

Weight:

Gross weight: 2300 kgs (5070 lbs.)

Discs

Number of replaceable teeth/disc 10 Discs and teeth are designed for automatic slash removal.

A -m

The arms have three (3) work positions:

- Work position with stepless loading pressure 0-40 bar (0-580 psi)
- Floating position with 0-pressure.
- Transport position.

The arms and disc bearings are strongly built and are designed to give extensive moveability both upwards and to the side.

Hydraulic System:

Required hydraulic pressure: Max. 170 bars (2470 psi)
Required flow 70 1/min. (19 gals)
Variable disc rotation (driven version): Between 15-30 rpm

Hydraulic motors for the driven dises can be driven in three ways:

- 1 directly from the tractor's pump.
- 2 from a separate pump mounted on the shaft from the power take-off.
- 3 from a separate diesel motor with a pump.

Electrical System:

Current - 24 or 12 V

Electrical control panel conveniently placed in the driver's cab for desired working positions.

Power Requirement

Engine power required is approximately 90-115 kw.



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