



## Training notes from the woods & the classroom

October 2007

### Timber Cruising for Loggers

With funding from the Blandin Foundation, MLEP worked with the University of Minnesota to design and deliver a workshop on timber cruising for loggers. This full day classroom and field workshop familiarized participants with the various tools and techniques used to assess standing timber. The workshop was designed primarily for loggers and natural resource professionals with little to no experience in timber cruising and forest measurements.

During the workshop, participants learned how to accurately and efficiently cruise standing timber and calculate useful stand level information. Participants also learned how to calculate timber stand value from cruising data.

In order to prepare participants to construct and implement their own timber cruises, the following tools and skills were addressed in the workshop: finding and using aerial photos, plat books, compasses, prisms, and Biltmore sticks. In addition, participants were provided with and taught how to use a dot grid, a forest management map template, a Cruz-All angle gauge, and an Excel worksheet, on CD, to calculate timber stand volume and value estimates.



**Learning objectives:** After completing this workshop, participants:

1. Were familiar with common terminology and concepts related to timber cruising
2. Had experience with basic airphoto interpretation
3. Knew how to use a dot grid to calculate stand area and volume
4. Knew the length of their pace, and how to calculate it
5. Knew how to use a compass to navigate between cruise plots
6. Were able to measure tree diameter and height
7. Knew how to estimate stand-level information, such as timber volume and value, from plot data.



### **Evaluation**

Comments during the workshop and on the evaluations indicated that most of the participants felt the workshop exceeded their expectations. One participant commented that “this was the best course I have attended since MLEP started.” This workshop will be offered again in 2008.

### **Workshop Materials**

Copies of the workshop materials including agenda, exercises, spreadsheet and handouts can be accessed on our website at: <http://www.mlep.org/trainingmaterials.htm>

### **Instructors**

Grant Domke  
Research Fellow  
Department of Forest Resources  
University of Minnesota

Angela Gupta  
Extension Educator  
University of Minnesota Extension

### **Contact Information**

Dave Chura, Executive Director  
Minnesota Logger Education Program  
301 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street; Suite 510  
Duluth, MN 55802  
218-722-5442 · [dchura@mlep.org](mailto:dchura@mlep.org) · [www.mlep.org](http://www.mlep.org)

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