Great Northern Paper Company has good timberland records.

Great Northern Paper Company made its first purchase in Pittston Township in 1901. In 1909, C. E. Gilbert cut 1700 acres, removing 5,578,000 FBM or an equivalent of 7.2 cords per acre. Spruce content was 17% under 10” D.b.h. and fir content was 28%. A small amount of pine and cedar was cut at the same time.

The photograph below, taken in 1959, shows part of Gilbert’s operating area.

The tract was cut over again in 1951 by Odilon Belanger for stumpwood, removing 9.94 cords per acre of spruce and fir. Fir volume this time was 66%. Yellow birch and maple logs have been cut throughout the area since 1950.

In the foreground of the photograph is a spruce and fir stand, where a permanent sample growth plot was established 36 years ago. The type at that time was mixed softwood, with raspberry bushes and grass for ground cover. There were 1200 spruce and fir trees per acre under the two-inch class. The over-story was yellow and white birch.

The plot area has been reviewed many times by foresters since 1924 and the plot was reserved during Belanger’s operations for further study. The latest plot review in 1957 showed 12.58 cords per acre of spruce and fir and the average annual increment for the previous five years had been .55 cords per acre.

Timberland records are invaluable in forest management.
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