

Forest Management Tech Tips

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NEW STYLE SCALING FREQUENCY CARDS

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INTRODUCTION

Scaling, a method of determining the volume (board feet) of lumber in logs, has long provided the Forest Service with accurate data on the amount of timber removed from federal lands. Peel-off scaling frequency cards have been used for years to select loads to be scaled for payment. The frequency with which the loads are selected for scaling varies according to the value and uniformity of the products being removed. Because the peel-off cards were causing problems for field personnel, San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC) was tasked to develop a more secure and user friendly frequency card.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

SDTDC solicited and evaluated suggestions from the field, concluding that scaling frequency cards should be:

- Easily recognized as Forest Service cards
- Water resistant
- Simple to identify scale loads
- Tamper-proof to prevent predetermination of scale loads
- User friendly to field personnel and customers.

Using the above criteria, SDTDC designed a new scaling frequency card similar to a lottery scratch-off ticket. Prototype cards were sent to the field for review and comments. After reviewing the comments received, SDTDC produced revised scratch-off cards for field testing.

TESTING AND RESULTS

Personnel from Regions 1, 3, and 4 tested the cards on active timber sales. Their suggested changes were incorporated into the final specification for the new cards.

Responses from purchasers, truck drivers, and mill sites were positive. The cards were easy to use; easily identifiable as Forest Service scaling cards; and were easy to read and match with the load that was to be scaled once the scratch-off foil next to the truck ticket number was removed. Some said this was the best card system they had used to date.

Scalers and Sale Administrators were pleased with the simplicity with which they were able to check and verify the loads to be scaled. The new card assures random selection of loads and the scratch-off foil provides effective tamper-proof security.

The cards are very durable and are printed on "write-in-the-rain" paper. A test card has been in the rain for more than six months with no signs of deterioration.

CONCLUSION

Both Washington Office and Regional timber representatives have approved the use of these new scratch-off cards for Forest Service use. Forests that scale forest products should consider ordering these new tamper-proof scratch-off cards at their earliest convenience. Field units may even need to consider replacing existing stock to take advantage of the new security features of the card.

Contact your regional representative with your needs. Printing runs and costs will be determined by volume ordered.



SAMPLE SCALING FREQUENCY CARD

FOREST SERVICE — REGION 1

Sale Designation _____ Scaling Point _____

Truck Ticket Numbers _____ No _____

Card No. _____ Sampling Frequency 1:2

WARNING
 This is a sample card for use only. It is not to be used for scaling. It is to be used for recording only. It is not to be used for scaling. It is to be used for recording only. It is not to be used for scaling. It is to be used for recording only.

1	SSSSS SSSSS	1	1	1	SSSSS SSSSS	1
2	SSSSS SSSSS	2	2	2	SSSSS SSSSS	2
3	SSSSS SSSSS	3	3	3	SSSSS SSSSS	3
4	SSSSS SSSSS	4	4	4	SSSSS SSSSS	4
5	SSSSS SSSSS	5	5	5	SSSSS SSSSS	5
6	SSSSS SSSSS	6	6	6	SSSSS SSSSS	6
7	SSSSS SSSSS	7	7	7	SSSSS SSSSS	7
8	SSSSS SSSSS	8	8	8	SSSSS SSSSS	8
9	SSSSS SSSSS	9	9	9	SSSSS SSSSS	9
0	SSSSS SSSSS	0	0	0	SSSSS SSSSS	0

Instructions: Lift tab opposite load receipt number. If letters (S) appear, it is a "sample" load and MUST BE SCALED. All other loads are "count" loads.

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Figure 1—Old style lift tab sealing Frequency Card. If they became wet or bent, it was possible to predetermine the scale loads.

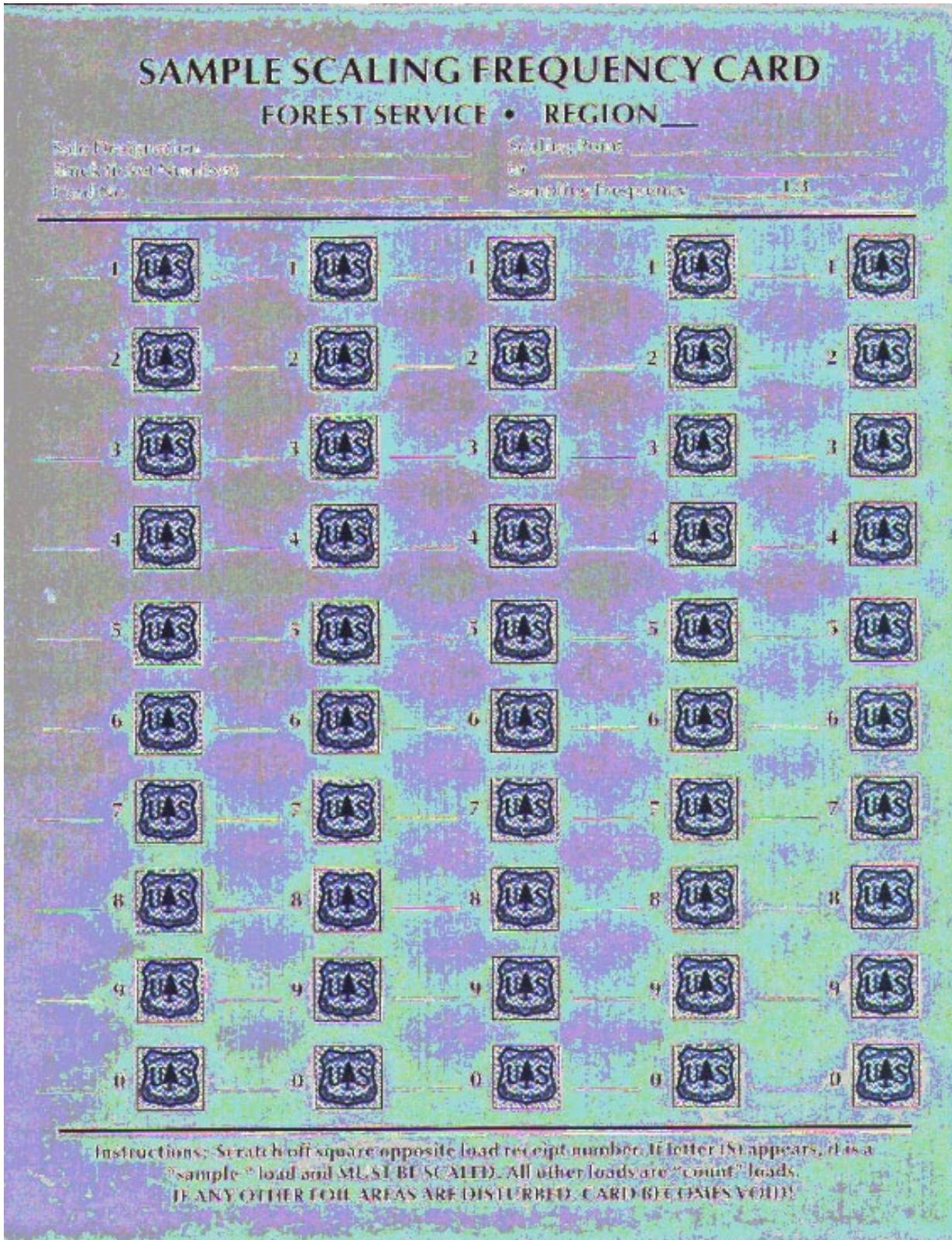


Figure 2—New style scratch-off Frequency Card, easily identified as Forest Service Frequency Card.