

# REMSOFT

## CASE STUDY

Hancock makes management plans SFI® compliant. Remsoft Analytics enables TIMO to show responsible stewardship.



- Certification and Compliance
- Transparent and defensible planning
- Strategic and tactical plans
- Responsible stewardship

### THE CLIENT

Hancock Timber Resource Group (HTRG) was founded in 1985 and is based in Boston, Massachusetts. They develop and manage globally diversified timberland portfolios for public and corporate pension plans, high net-worth individuals, and foundations and endowments. As of June 30, 2008, assets under management totaled \$9.1 billion. These assets are located in North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil.

### THE CHALLENGE

The timberlands—primarily pine plantations—are managed as a financial investment on behalf of various private and institutional investors. And while maximizing return is a priority, sound stewardship is also important.

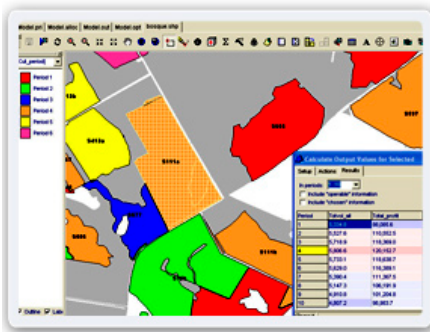
Hancock has chosen to third-party-certify its lands via the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program, agreeing to show that all management activities meet responsible stewardship guidelines and achieve performance measures.

### THE REMSOFT SOLUTION

To balance these objectives, Jason Reynolds, forest planning analyst, began using Remsoft software, to create models and develop strategic and tactical management plans in early 2003. He first learned of the software from HTRG forest planners who have used the software to develop and review forest management plans for various timberland portfolios.

The system offers two distinct advantages for Hancock's needs; LP programming means that planners can optimize plans according to their objectives while spatial resolutions helps them to ensure that those solutions are SFI®-compliant, particularly with regard to adjacency requirements and green-up delays.

To determine what activities will take place and when, Mr. Reynolds builds the Remsoft model for a 50-year planning horizon, optimizing for timberland value. Based on this, five-year tactical plans are formulated to implement the strategic plan at the stand level.



"We are taking what the Remsoft model tells us straight up and we look at the planned activities. I work with the area foresters to decide 'How can we best implement the model on-the-ground?' This is done by looking at the first five years of the model results to develop our tactical plan and then examine the solution through a GIS-interface to see that it is SFI®-compliant," Reynolds says.

Hancock conducts reforestation harvests on approximately 13,000 acres/year and conducts commercial thinning along with other integrated management activities on additional acres.

"When we map the tactical plans, we can see where stands are, when they are scheduled for harvest, and what is next to them, so we can reassign polygons to another year for operational reasons, or split them in two if a given polygon is too big to meet green-up delays and reassign the remainder of the polygon to another period."

Hancock uses Remsoft software to assign actions and a time period to each polygon. Once tactical plans have been revised manually Hancock extracts the information from the updated maps and updates the model's LP schedule and area files so that the strategic model has the most current and accurate data.

He then reruns the updated Remsoft models to derive an accurate long-term plan that is SFI®-compliant at the stand level.

## THE RESULT

"So far we've applied this approach on 70,000 acres and it has been very effective at planning our harvest over time, without spatial conflicts," Mr. Reynolds explains.

Hancock Timber Resource Group is the world's largest timberland investment manager for institutional investors with more than 3-million acres under management in North America and Australia. For more information about Hancock Timber Resource Group please visit: [www.htrg.com](http://www.htrg.com).

Remsoft creates the world's leading software for resource management and planning. For over 15 years, Remsoft technology has enabled clients to meet objectives while ensuring the viability of the world's natural resources and related ecosystems.

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