What exactly are “Board-Feet?”

“Board-feet” is a measurement of timber that people use to describe how much usable lumber can be obtained from a cut tree. One board-foot is equal to a 12-inch by 12-inch by 1-inch piece of wood.

One mature Douglas Fir tree is equal to approximately 187.5 board-feet. This assumes that it is cut after 75 years of growth and that it grew in a healthy stand that had no more than 400 trees in each acre.

One average 2000 square-foot house takes approximately 20,000 board-feet of lumber to build. The cabinets usually add an additional 3,000 board-feet.

What does a timber harvest look like from above?

Aerial photo, South of Vernonia, OR