19-R-39: Smart Software Meets Harvest Operations

by Jim Griffith & Taylor Griffith, TRACT

Introduction:

TRACT is an all-in-one forestry procurement, accounting, and logistics solution. Managing multiple crews, on multiple jobs, across hundreds of tracts, and communicating every day is a big undertaking. We’ve built apps that make running your timber business easier, faster, and more secure.

General Features:

Launched in January 2019, TRACT is web and app-based procurement, accounting, and logistics software. It serves landowners, consultants, loggers, wood suppliers, mills, and log trucking companies.

When we got started, it seemed like very few companies were pushing software innovation to help timber companies, and the gap between old and new software is lagging behind in this industry. So, we’re lifting the burden of tracking, settling, reconciling, managing, and reporting off the shoulders of administrators, foresters, and managers, so they can operate their businesses faster, easier, and more efficiently.

By adding smartphone apps to the supply chain, we can collect data without requiring loader operators and truck drivers to do anything differently than they normally would. This means training and onboarding happen more quickly and easily, and managers and operators get information in real-time.

Operation:

1. Administrators or foresters set up a job and upload all relevant contracts from any computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone.
2. Loader operators access the job on a tablet or smartphone and begin adding loads, which logs the GPS location of every load.
3. Then the truck driver takes a photo of the load upon pickup and the scale ticket upon delivery and the route is logged.
4. Foresters and managers now have real-time data on every job and know exactly what’s going on in the woods and at the mill.
5. Landowners, consultants, loggers, and trucking companies can securely log in and view up-to-the-minute load counts, mileage, and settlement information for their jobs.
Application:

Loader operators have told us, “Before your app, I’d get phone calls from office administrators saying they couldn’t read my load sheet or asking me what we’d done that day. Now they don’t even have to call me. If I had to go back to paper, I’d quit!”

By sharing data in real-time, operations are more efficient and loader operators are able to focus on sorting and processing wood. The office no longer has to wait a week to get a copy of the scale ticket. And the supply chain is transparent enough to meet the demands of the industry’s sustainability and certification programs.

There are several companies benefiting from TRACT’s innovative solutions today, from a wood supplier with thirty crews in Georgia to a large power company with land across the Southeast.

Specifications and Cost

Most people use the smartphone in their pocket, while other operations provide tablets. TRACT is
software-as-a-service (SAAS) and is just a few cents per unit volume charged monthly.

Authors:
Jim Griffith (<a href="mailto:jim@gettract.com">jim@gettract.com</a>) & Taylor Griffith (<a href="mailto:taylor@gettract.com">taylor@gettract.com</a>)
TRACT
Bremen, GA 30110
(478) 747-0812

<a href="http://www.gettract.com">www.gettract.com</a>

Reviewed by:
Rick Meyer
Appalachian & Southwide Regions Manager