Short Rotation Forestry in Ireland
lessons from the Pacific Northwest

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Forestry in Ireland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Forest Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>17%</td>
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</tbody>
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Forest Ownership

- Public: 54%
- Private: 46%

Sitka spruce
(Picea sitchensis)
52% of total forest area

- Strongly subsidized sector
Short Rotation Forestry (SRF)

- Single trees of **fast growing species** (e.g. *Eucalyptus* spp., *Populus* spp., *Alnus* spp.)
- **Reduced rotation** length (10-20 years) compared to conventional forestry
- Primarily for the production of **biomass or fiber**
Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) in Ireland

- Currently very **limited**
- Irish **policy** promoting SRF (Forestry Program 2014-2020. Forestry for Fiber Measure)
- Why developing SRF in Ireland?
  - **Renewable** energy targets: 16% by 2020 (8% in 2013)
  - Wood biomass supply **gap** forecast:

![Graph showing wood biomass supply gap forecast from 2011 to 2028]

- **Demand**
- **Available**
- **Gap**
Fellowship Objectives

1. Investigating **SRF market** development

2. Exploring **bucking optimization** techniques
How?

- Literature review
- Study tours
- Meetings
- Conferences
Findings: 1. SRF Market Assessment

Pulp

Sawtimber + veneer + biomass  Biofuels
Findings: 2. SRF Bucking Optimization

- Variety of models in the Pacific Northwest
- Value optimization from the forest to the mill
Lessons to Bring back to Ireland

• High value products and locally supplied are needed to develop SRF

• Higher value and/or profit of the land for alternative uses can stop the development of SRF

• Bucking optimization techniques can help to meet economic sustainability of SRF
Thanks a million!

¡Gracias!

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