

Remeasurement of DBH

Field Guide:	Section:	5.0 Page:	Contact:	Original Posting:	Last Modified:
4.0, 5.0	5.9	113	James Blehm	1/18/2011	N/A

ISSUE

There was recent concern on when to move a previously measured DBH. The question was in relation to “if the previous DBH was in a questionable location, should the current crew move the DBH to follow the current Field Guide rules or move to a more correct location in order to represent the tree more accurately?”

As a general rule, the **DBH location should NOT be moved unless:**

- 1) The current location will not continue to give a representative growth measurement.
- Or
- 2) If the location goes against the rules of the Field Guide.

We are looking for ‘Growth over Time’. If the DBH is moved, we lose all historical diameter data and have to start over as ‘new’ with the tree.

When determining if the location should be moved, if there is some type of damage or abnormality in the location of the current DBH, take into consideration how the tree will grow in the future. If the location appears that it will continue to grow at the same normal rate as the rest of the bole, then it makes more sense to leave the DBH in the current location. If there is excessive swelling, potential for excessive swelling, or a major reduction of the current DBH, it might warrant the DBH to be moved.

When determining if the DBH needs to be moved on a forked tree in relation to the pith location, give the previous crew the benefit of the doubt in many occasions. Often times, moving a DBH on a forked tree will result in a tree being added or dropped. This is a major adjustment in the estimates that get reported. If the previous crews call was borderline and could possibly go either way then it should be left as is. If the previous crew clearly made a mistake in applying the rules, make the correction to ensure future measurements are correct.

With all situations where DBH is in question and may be confused by either the next crew or the QA crew, **WRITE A NOTE EXPLAINING THE SITUATION.** It will not only cover you if the plot is chosen as a QA plot, but it will also assist the next crew in determining what was done in the past and why.

RESOLUTION

- Only move DBH if:
 - 1) There is abnormal growth in current DBH location.
 - OR
 - 2) The location clearly goes against DBH location criteria in manual.
- Write a note explaining the situation if location seemed off but you kept the location OR if location was blatantly off and you moved the location.

RECOMMENDED TEXT FOR NEXT FIELD GUIDE

Add the following as an NRS Note:

As a general rule, the **DBH location should NOT be moved unless:**

- 1) The current location will not continue to give a representative growth measurement.
- Or
- 2) If the location goes against the rules of the Field Guide.