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Tree Survey Along a Chronosequence of Six Years of Selective Logging at The Tapajós National Forest

Hudson Silva, Universidade Federal do Pará, hsilvaus@yahoo.com (Presenting)
Rafael Tannus, University of Arizona, tannus@model.iag.usp.br
Paul Pepler, University of New Hampshire, ptd2@unh.edu
Michael Keller, USDA Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry, michael.keller@unh.edu

Raimundo Cosme de Oliveira Jr., EMBRAPA Amazônia Oriental, cosme@cpatu.embrapa.br

Long term permanent plots provide valuable data on growth and mortality of tropical forests. In Brazil, there are few long term plots established specifically to study logging impacts and fewer still dedicated to the study of reduced impact management. At the Tapajós National forest, a tropical forest, 83 km south of Santarém, Pará, Brazil, we surveyed 60 ha of forest that had been selectively logged with reduced impact management over 6 different years during the period 1997 through 2003. We measured diameter at breast height (dbh) for all trees above 35 cm and for a 5% sub-sample of the area for all trees > 10 cm. In addition, we registered data on canopy condition and crown integrity. Two control plots (10 ha) were also established for comparison to the logged sites. In the 70 ha, a total of 7261 trees were measured and tagged, separated into two size classes categories: trees > 10 cm DBH (3572 individuals), and trees > 35 cm DBH (3689 individuals). The average DBH for trees > 10 cm was 21 cm and 51.8 cm for trees > 35 cm at DBH. We will present additional data on the comparative structure of the plots. These studies offer the tools to develop more precise models about forest productivity and basin-scale carbon balance.

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