

Table 1. Pre-commercial thinning guidelines for some PNW species*.

Species	Age	Height	Trees/ac	Spacing (ft)	Ingrowth potential	Sunscald problems
Douglas-fir	10-15	10-15	360	11x11	low	moderate
ponderosa pine	10-25	10-20	260	13x13	low	low
western larch	8-15	10-15	300	12x12	low	low
grand fir	15-20	15-20	300	12x12	moderate	high
lodgepole pine	10-25	10-20	600**	6x6**	moderate	high
western hemlock	10-15	15-25	430	10x10	high	high

Excerpted from "Using precommercial thinning to enhance woodland productivity", OSU publication EC 1189. Available on-line at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1189/>

*Assuming that first commercial thinning occurs when average stand diameter is 10" d.b.h.

**Lodgepole will need to be thinned more than once as they tend to retain many branches if spacing is too far apart. Final spacing for a 10" average d.b.h at first commercial thinning would be 13x13 or greater.