

Shot from Brad
Douglas. Very first
stem pulled

Woodleigh Forest





A hauler crew is in its third week in Woodleigh. Douglas Logging made a start right at the front gate. We have a small group of settings for them to start on with proven roads for winter. If all goes to plan, we will have the front logged which will give us a sizable continuous cutover for planting next winter.

Although still in the honeymoon period, Douglas Logging have shown a very high level of professionalism. Pete and Brad Douglas have built up a large operation by being good loggers as well high performing contractors. Douglas 071 is their 8th crew. They are a northland-based company and with some key personal wishing to move home to the CNI the stars aligned and now we are clearfelling Woodleigh. Because of the scale of Douglas Logging sending a skidder down this summer should be no problem so we hop to finish off the remaining roadline.

071 has a refurbished Madil 124 swing yarder running a grapple and camera. The mobile tailhold is a Cat 330 bucket digger. This model 124 has only two guy ropes so one machine is used for guy rope anchor. A very large Cat 558 with a woodsman processing head clears the chute and processes logs. Two Cat 538 Loaders fleet and load trucks. A Tigercat LX870D arrived on Monday to join up with the 'just out of the shop' EMS modified Komatsu PC300 tether. Because of the terrain, just over half the volume in Woodleigh is/will be set up for two stage using an 8x8 truck. An extra loader and a Scania 8x8 truck will turn up when required for this volume. The gear is all new and purpose built which makes for safe high production mechanised logging.

Log Cartage is being done by several cartage contractors. Forbes and Dahm have contracted 6 loads a day combined. They are Tokoroa based contractors. The other 6 loads are being carted by Toia Logging. Beau Waters is the mastermind of this arrangement. He is a start up contractor and it is a good opportunity for him to get going and get some more trucks under his belt. CFG are currently not taking prune at Tauranga so we are looking for a home for the prune volume. It suits in a way because the cart to the port is long and trucks struggle to get two rounds, a short domestic cart is a good option for utilisation.

Woodleigh earthworks is slowly grinding to a halt. With the last of the road formation done in May there will only be road maintenance left, a big operation in itself given some of the grousers on the new crews gear...

With two very high calibre contractors now in Woodleigh, the grass seed and ink weed covering up the past, it is becoming a pleasant operation to be apart of, providing the trucking keeps up, touch wood.

Douglas Logging gear lined up waiting for the hauler to arrive at Woodleigh