**Salvage Wood Program Collaborator and Student Statements**

**Morgan Holtz- Finish Carpentry**

When trees become available because they are scheduled for removal or come down from natural causes, I make a recommendation to Sara [Sara Shores: Urban Forest Specialist; Grounds Management] if any of the logs will be good candidates for turning into lumber. I usually give a recommendation of what lengths we want them cut and where they can deliver the logs. Then I need to tag the logs with the number that identifies where they came from on campus. I also take measurements and photos and put them into an inventory spreadsheet.

The next step is typically to select logs to be milled for a specific future projects or to restock our lumber inventory. Sometimes this decision is driven by the amount of time the logs have been sitting in our log inventory, as some species will start to rot if not processed quickly. Once we have the logs selected, we cut them on the mill and record the approximate dimensions of each piece of lumber we cut. We also tag each piece with the tree number, species, and date it was milled. The waste from the milling process usually goes into the compost, but we are now working with the UW Farm and I’m hoping they can use most of it in the future for their own projects.

The stacks of lumber get moved from the sawmill to our air-drying lumber area nearby via forklift. Once stacked there the info about the slabs is added to an inventory spreadsheet for air-drying lumber. The lumber usually air-dries for 1-3 years in this area and then it is ready to go into our solar kiln. When we move lumber out of the air-dry storage to the kiln we update the inventory spreadsheet. It can take 1-6 months to dry lumber in the kiln, depending on the season and the species of wood we are drying.

When the wood is dry enough, we move it into the storage area in our shop in the Plant Services Building and add it to our kiln-dried inventory. This is the inventory that is available for purchase for facilities projects as well as students in the architecture program. As purchases are made we update the inventory of kiln-dried lumber and add it to the inventory of lumber sold.

I think our biggest problem is the lack of dry lumber storage space in our shop. This has forced us to keep wood sitting in the air-dry area longer than it should. We recently added a rack in our shop for lumber storage, which will help a little. It will also help if Architecture is able to create a storage area and stock it with campus lumber. There will always be lumber lost during the drying process because of wood movement and defects that existed in the tree, but we will improve the amount of usable lumber we get if we can move it through the drying process on schedule.

I also think working on keeping an updated and accurate inventory will help us by making it easier to plan projects with known quantities of lumber. I’m still working on smoothing out the process of making tags for lumber and keeping that info tracked through the different stages of drying in our inventory.

**Raenna Moore- Director, Fabrication Labs; College of Built Environment**

As Director of the Fabrication Labs, I facilitate and oversee the day to day operations of the wood, metal and digital shops that serve students and faculty at the College of Built Environments, which includes Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning, Construction Management and Real Estate. We have a wide variety of projects that are constructed here, from small scale models and fine furniture to larger design build installations and tiny house construction. Our students are becoming increasingly more interested in the source and sustainability of the materials they work with and want more transparency in the process. This opportunity to utilize more sustainable wood is incredibly exciting to students, staff and faculty!

My immediate role in this developing project is to help design and fabricate a humidity controlled storage shed with the assistance of students where the wood could be safely stored and made available to students for purchase. Once this shed is constructed, I will be involved in connecting the students with the wood for purchase, offering high quality lumber at a much more accessible price than traditional lumber yards. I will work with the UW Lumber Mill and the Carpentry shop to maintain the correct levels of inventory, keep track of the wood sold and process payments. I will also be working with CBE faculty to let them know about this fantastic resource and find ways that they can incorporate salvage lumber into their teaching structure.

**Sara Shores- Urban Forest Specialist; Grounds Management**

The role of the salvage wood program has expanded since inception. Products and lumber created from UW trees add awareness to UW’s sustainability program and intrinsic value to everything our carpenters create. Recently relationships with the UW farm and UW classes allow the carpenters to make wood available to these organizations that otherwise would have been recycled. These products include seating benches and wood for the outdoor oven and lumber for the UW woodworking class.

The wood drying process (kiln) is the limiting factor on how much lumber UW can feasibly produce. Logs and slabs (depending on species) have a limited time before the wood begins to rot and become unusable.

The backlog of wood to enter the kiln is rising. This backlog limits the number of logs we salvage. A new or larger kiln, possibly with a power source to dry the logs faster than our solar kiln would add a lot of capacity to the salvage program.

**Marlee Theil- Integrated Pest Management and Sustainability Coordinator; Grounds Management**

As the graduate appointee for Grounds Management, I have both a personal and professional interest in guiding the Salvage Wood Program to reach its full potential of contributing to UW’s Sustainability Action Plan. I will continue to monitor the program’s success, track expenses, coordinate with collaborators, and communicate with CSF throughout advancements. A crucial aspect of my role is to be involved in outreach opportunities for students and faculty to learn about UW’s sustainable initiatives. I have showcased the Salvage Wood Program at campus events during Earth Day and the Sustainability Fair. It is apparent that the program bolsters excitement and interest. With this additional funding, the program can reach a wider audience, encourage more involvement, and have a greater ecological impact.

**Joanna Chen- Landscape Architecture Masters Student**

I had the opportunity to work with salvaged wood sourced from UW campus in the LA furniture studio course. Not only was it great to have the cost burden taken off students to source supplies for this studio, but the variety of tree species that were available afforded a lot of creative freedom in choosing unique textures and designs to complete our furniture pieces. I built a plant stand out of salvaged sycamore wood, a material that I had previously never seen before, and was amazed at how well the texture and coloring of the wood complemented the concept of my furniture piece.

**Liz Forelle- Landscape Architecture Masters Student**

Being able to see the process of how slabs of wood are dealt with on campus was extremely helpful in my learning journey. I have never worked with wood before and really appreciated being able to see every step it takes to process wood - from the tree getting turned into slabs at the UW Mill, to how it is stored at the Carpentry shop. We had access to unique types of wood, which then allowed for very unique pieces. This was a great exercise in learning how to work with the knots and imperfections of the slabs. I feel much more confident about my understanding and ability to fabricate furniture in the future because of this process.

**Autumn Davis- Dual Masters of Architecture and Landscape Architecture Student**

My experience at the landscape furniture studio was absolutely fantastic, thanks to the opportunity to work with salvage wood from the UW Mill. Witnessing the entire process of how wood is processed and prepared before working with it in the wood shop gave me a deeper understanding of the material. I am thrilled to have had the chance to work with material that originated from campus, making my final design even more special.