

Taking a hard look at hardwoods.

For more than 100 years, wood has overwhelmingly been the best choice for crossties. And there is little doubt that wood will continue to be the predominant crosstie material.

However, only certain species of wood have been approved for ties. Other species, not formally tested and approved, have been used but only sparingly.

Now, with the increasing availability of such hardwoods as red maple, and with the development of new treatment methods and more sophisticated pro-



MSU Forest Products Laboratory,
Dorman Lake field exposure site.



duction methods, the need to examine the possibility of expanding the listing of approved hardwoods is significant.

Recognizing this need, the RTA has commissioned Mississippi State University to conduct a five-year study of treated hardwoods and the rate of preservative depletion within those woods. The R&D Committee of RTA will oversee the project and ensure appropriate input from RTA members.