

**Hinton Wood Products
A division of West Fraser Mills
Forest Management Agreement
FMA 8800025
O.C. 565/2007**

**Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Management Plan Amendment
Technical Report #2
- Yield Projections -**

April 30, 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Yield curves are required for use in the timber supply analysis that accompanies Forest Management Plan development. This report documents the development of yield curves for the Hinton Wood Products Forest Management Agreement area, for use in the 2009 Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Management Plan.

Contained in this document are detailed methodologies for creating volume-age yield curves, GYPHY based volume-age yield curves, including rules for stratification, plot attribute assignment, plot deletions, volume compilation methods, and modelling techniques. Resulting yield curves, volume tables, model parameters and fit statistics are also included.

Additional growth and yield - related FMP information including cull deductions, methods for development of piece size curves (trees/m^3), and calculation of regeneration lag is also provided.

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1. Overview

1.1 Background

The yield curves represent a requirement in the development of a Forest Management Plan as listed in the Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) Forest Management Planning Standard (SRD 2006). Yield curves are required for use in the Timber Supply Analysis that accompanies Forest Management Plan development.

This document describes the datasets and methods used to create volume – age yield curves for Hinton Wood Products (HWP) 2009 Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Management Plan (MPB FMP). The developed yield curves characterize both the contributing landbase, areas available for forest management, and the passive landbase, areas not currently available for forest management.

Accompanying this document is a Regulated Forestry Professional (RFP) checklist derived from the Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard, Version 4.1 (SRD 2006) relating to yield curve development and documentation deliverables as well as:

- Plot dataset with compiled individual tree and plot level volumes;
- Block datasets with compiled attributes for input in Growth and Yield Projection System (GYPSY 2009);
- All datasets used in the yield curve development. SAS programs used in the yield curve development can be provided to SRD upon request;
- Digital versions of the yield curves; and
- Data dictionaries for all datasets submitted.

1.2 Yield Stratification

The term “FMP Yield Stratum” refers specifically to yield stratification used in the 2009 MPB FMP. FMP Yield Strata are applied to all stands in the forested landscape (i.e., stratum assignments are made to forested polygons only).

FMP Yield Stratum assignment was based on several variables: AVI data, Base10 yield strata, contributing or passive landbase assignments, stand origin type, crown closure, and site. For fire origin stands and pre-1991 cutblocks, AVI overstory or AVI understory were used to determine the final yield stratum assignment. Stratum assignment was primarily based on overstory AVI attributes, with the following exceptions:

- Non-forested overstory with a forested understory (use understory AVI attributes);
- Stands with an A crown closure overstory and an understory with a crown closure equal to B, C, or D (use understory attributes);
- Stands with a deciduous overstory (A, B, C, or D in crown closure), an understory within the coniferous landbase with the crown closure equal to B, C, or D and no older than 1930 (use AVI understory attributes);
- Horizontal stands in which the understory proportion of the stand was greater than 50% (use understory attributes); and
- Horizontal stands in which the understory is the only valid forest cover group (use understory attributes).

The AVI layer used to characterize the polygon (overstory or understory) will be referenced as the story of primary management (SoPM). For blocks harvested since the start of the 1991 timber year, Yield Stratum assignment was defined by referencing regeneration surveys and silviculture stratum declarations (see Technical report #1 – Landbase Classification for a full discussion).

Twenty seven yield strata were identified for the 2009 MPB FMP using the above mentioned variables. A description of the FMP Yield Strata and the variables used to assign the strata are presented in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. FMP Yield Strata and yield curves for 2009 MPB Forest Management Plan.

Landbase	Stand Origin	Story Managed	BCG	FMP Yield Stratum	Description	Yield Curve Name	Total Net Area (ha)
Contributing		Overstory	D	1	Pure deciduous, A&B crown closure	E_B1_XL	11,251
			D	2	Pure deciduous, C&D crown closure	E_B1_XH	35,465
			DC	3	Deciduous leading (Pl) mixedwood	E_B2_XX	16,015
			DC	4	Deciduous leading(Sw or Sb) mixedwood	E_B3_XX	13,276
			CD	5	Coniferous leading (Sw or Sb) mixedwood	E_B4_XX	9,239
	Fire, Pre-91Cut blocks or Cut blocks without an opening number		CD	6	Coniferous leading (Pl) mixedwood	E_B5_XX	21,057
			C	7	Pure coniferous, Sw leading, poor and medium sites	E_B7_MX	43,671
			C	8	Pure coniferous, Sw leading, good sites, A&B crown closure	E_B7_GL	11,766
			C	9	Pure coniferous, Sw leading, good sites, C&D crown closure	E_B7_GH	6,866
			C	10	Pure coniferous, Pl leading, poor and medium sites, A&B crown closure	E_B8_ML	38,092
			C	11	Pure coniferous, Pl leading, poor and medium sites, C&D crown closure	E_B8_MH	131,841
			C	12	Pure coniferous, Pl leading, good sites, A&B crown closure	E_B8_GL	33,808
			C	13	Pure coniferous, Pl leading, good sites, C&D crown closure	E_B8_GH	103,589
			C	14	Pure coniferous, Sb leading	E_B9_XX	7,392
		Understory	D, DC, CD	15	Pure deciduous and all mixedwoods - characterized based on understory	E_UN_DM	15,843
			C	16	Pure coniferous - all, characterized based on understory	E_UN_CX	51,955
Contributing	Recent Cut blocks harvested since the start of the 1991 timber year with an opening number	ALL	D	17	Pure deciduous, managed stands post 91, A&B crown closure	E_B1_XL	6
			D	18	Pure deciduous, managed stands post 91, C&D crown closure	E_B1_XH	1,510
			DC	19	Deciduous leading (Pl) mixedwood, managed stands post 91	E_B2_XX	1,180
			DC	20	Deciduous leading (Sw or Sb) mixedwood, managed post 91	E_B3_XX	968
			CD	21	Coniferous leading (Sw or Sb) mixedwood, managed post 91	G_B4_XX	2,315
			CD	22	Coniferous leading (Pl) mixedwood, managed post 91	G_B5_XX	3,424
			C	23	Pure coniferous, Sw leading, managed post 91	G_B7_XX	12,336
			C	24	Pure coniferous, Pl leading, managed post 91	G_B8_XX	76,615
			C	25	Pure coniferous, Sb leading, managed post 91	E_B9_XX	682
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	650,163
Passive	ALL	ALL	D, DC, CD	26	Pure deciduous and all mixedwoods	E_PAS_D	25,086
			C	27	Pure coniferous - all	E_PAS_C	278,276
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	303,362

1.3 Yield Curves

A series of yield curves¹ were fit for each yield stratum. The following is a summary of the yield curves that were developed for the 2009 MPB FMP; detailed descriptions of yield curve development are provided in Chapters 2 to 4.

Natural Stand Yield Curves. Natural stand yield curves were developed for most FMP Yield Strata of the contributing and passive landbase. HWP's PGS provided the data for fitting both deciduous and coniferous volumes were fit as a function of stand age. FMP Yield Stratum and stand age were taken from the story of primary management.

Managed Stand Yield Curves. SRD's stand growth model (GYPSY version 1.0) was used to develop yield curves for four FMP Yield Strata – 21, 22, 23, and 24. Average projections of GYPSY 2009 using performance survey data from 2006, 2007, and 2008 were used to create the managed yield curves for the four strata. Due to a lack of data no specific managed stand yield curves were developed for the other five managed yield strata – 17, 18, 19, 20 and 25, instead the corresponding natural stand yield curves were used.

¹ The term yield curve is used to represent a set of three separate curves: a volume-age curve for coniferous volume, a volume-age curve for deciduous volume, and a volume-age curve for total volume.

Composite Yield Curves. Six composite yield curves (area-weighted yield curves) were developed for natural stands on the contributing landbase: four by broad cover group (i.e., D, DC, CD, and C), one to represent the combined coniferous (C/CD/DC) landbase, and one to represent the total landbase (C/CD/DC/D).

Piece Size Curves. Piece size curves were developed for all FMP yield strata. For the FMP yield strata 1 to 20, 25, 26, and 27 the number of trees per cubic meter was fit as a function of stand age for deciduous and coniferous species separately. FMP yield stratum and stand age were taken from the story of primary management. Piece size curves were also developed for strata 21, 22, 23, and 24 using the merchantable volume and merchantable density provided by GYPSY version 1.0.

2. Stratification

2.1 Overview

FMP Yield Strata are the basic units for forest management in the 2009 MPB FMP. Yield strata are also the units upon which yield curves are based; as such, plot data must be assigned to an FMP Yield Stratum for empirical yield curve development.

Since yield curves are applied to landbase polygons, the rules for assigning attributes to plots must be consistent with the rules used to assign attributes to the landbase. In order to maintain absolute consistency between plot attribute assignment and landbase attribute assignment, plots were linked spatially to the landbase to assign attributes.

Information on how plots were linked to the landbase is provided in Chapter 3. The landbase classification into the contributing vs. passive landbase, stand type assignment (natural and managed), as well as the landbase classification into FMP Yield Strata are discussed in ‘2009 Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Management Plan Technical Report #1 - Landbase Classification’ (HWP 2009).

As described in the ‘2009 Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Management Plan Technical Report #1 - Landbase Classification’ (HWP 2009) FMP Yield Strata were assigned using base10 yield strata, landbase type, stand origin, story of primary management, site productivity, and crown closure. Table 2-1 presents the variables used and the strata assignment.

Table 2-1. Assignment of FMP yield strata.

Landbase	Stand Origin	Story Managed	BCG	Leading Con. Sp.	Leading Dec. Sp.	Base10 Yield	Site Strata	CC Productivity Class	FMP Stratum	Yield Name	Curve Areas (ha)	Fire Origin	Managed Stands (ha)	Total Net Area (ha)
Contributing	Fire, Pre-91Cut blocks or Cut blocks without an opening number	Overstory	D	n/a	AW, PB	1	ALL	AB	1	E_B1_XL	9,174	2,078	11,251	
			D	n/a	AW, PB	1	ALL	CD	2	E_B1_XH	30,931	4,534	35,465	
		Understory	DC	PL	n/a	2	ALL	ABCD	3	E_B2_XX	11,880	4,135	16,015	
			DC	SW, SB, FB	n/a	3	ALL	ABCD	4	E_B3_XX	9,983	3,293	13,276	
			CD	SW, SB, FB	n/a	4, 6	ALL	ABCD	5	E_B4_XX	5,141	4,098	9,239	
			CD	PL	n/a	5	ALL	ABCD	6	E_B5_XX	14,170	6,888	21,057	
			C	SW, FB	n/a	7	PM	ABCD	7	E_B7_MX	28,336	15,336	43,671	
			C	SW, FB	n/a	7	G	AB	8	E_B7_GL	10,099	1,667	11,766	
			C	SW, FB	n/a	7	G	CD	9	E_B7_GH	5,713	1,153	6,866	
			C	PL	n/a	8	PM	AB	10	E_B8_ML	25,396	12,695	38,092	
			C	PL	n/a	8	PM	CD	11	E_B8_MH	121,277	10,565	131,841	
			C	PL	n/a	8	G	AB	12	E_B8_GL	17,672	16,136	33,808	
			C	PL	n/a	8	G	CD	13	E_B8_GH	79,758	23,832	103,589	
			C	SB	n/a	9	ALL	ALL	14	E_B9_XX	4,777	2,615	7,392	
			D, DC, CD	SW, SB, PL	AW, PB	1-6	ALL	ALL	15	E_UN_DM	15,843	0	15,843	
			C	SW, SB, PL	n/a	7, 8, 9	ALL	ALL	16	E_UN_CX	51,955	0	51,955	
Contributing	Recent Cut blocks harvested since the start of the 1991 timber year with an opening number	ALL	D	n/a	AW, PB	1	ALL	AB	17	E_B1_XL	0	6	6	
		D	n/a	AW, PB	1	ALL	CD	18	E_B1_XH	0	1,510	1,510		
		DC	PL	n/a	2	ALL	ALL	19	E_B2_XX	0	1,180	1,180		
		DC	SW, SB, FB	n/a	3	ALL	ALL	20	E_B3_XX	0	968	968		
		CD	SW, SB	n/a	4, 6	ALL	ALL	21	E_B4_XX	0	2,315	2,315		
		CD	PL	n/a	5	ALL	ALL	22	E_B5_XX	0	3,424	3,424		
		C	SW	n/a	7	ALL	ALL	23	E_B7_XX	0	12,336	12,336		
		C	PL	n/a	8	ALL	ALL	24	E_B8_XX	0	76,615	76,615		
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	442,103	208,060	650,163	
Passive	ALL	ALL	D, DC, CD	SW, SB, PL	AW, PB	1-6	ALL	ALL	26	E_PAS_D	22,426	2,660	25,086	
			C	SW, SB, PL	n/a	7, 8, 9	ALL	ALL	27	E_PAS_C	267,931	10,345	278,276	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	290,357	13,005	303,362	

3. Plot Attribute Assignment and Data Compilation

3.1 Overview

This section describes the plot data used to build yield curves for all FMP yield strata. This section describes the data sources and the initial number of plots and performance survey blocks used to develop the yield curves, as well as the method of assigning landbase attributes to plots and blocks along with dataset deletions. The methods for compiling gross merchantable volume (m^3/ha) for each eligible plot at different utilizations are described, as well as the methods for compiling inputs for GYPHY.

3.2 Data Sources

Both permanent sample plot (PSP) data and performance survey data were used to create the yield curves for the previously defined FMP Yield Strata. All data were collected within the HWP Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area.

Table 3-1 presents the total number of fire origin PSPs and the number of blocks used to create the yield curves for the FMP Yield Strata.

Table 3-1. Data sources used in yield curve development.

Data Source	Data Type	Sampling Program	Collection Ownership	Number of Plots
			Years	Natural Stands Managed Stands
HWP	PSP	PGS	HWP	1956-2008 3,119 n/a
HWP	TSP	Performance Survey	HWP	2006-2008 n/a 602
Total				3,119 602

The following sections provide a summary of the data collection protocols as they relate to use for yield curve development.

3.2.1 HWP PGS Data

HWP has been collecting growth and yield data from their FMA area since 1956 as part of their Permanent Growth Sample (PGS) program. Plots have been remeasured up to six times and provide a valuable source of information about changes in stand characteristics over time.

Data are stored in a Microsoft Access database called the “One Database”. The One Database includes data collected under a variety of research programs; each dataset is identified using an installation number to identify the different data collection protocols. PGS plots are identified as installations 1-8. Installation 1 represents the original PGS grid (established between 1956 and 1961). Installation 2 represents a supplemental “expansion” grid, established in 1988, to include areas added to the HWP FMA area. The remaining installations represent PGS plots established on a stratified (non-grid) basis, each with a specific research focus (e.g., mixedwoods, caribou lichen, young pine, etc.).

Current data collection protocols for PGS plots are identified in Hinton Wood Products’ Permanent Growth Sample Manual (v. 18, January 2008).

Grid-based PGS plots were established in clusters of four, with cluster centers established every two miles at the intersection of the Alberta Legal Survey grid section lines. Four PGS plots were established 100.6 m from the cluster center at bearings of 45, 135, 225 and 315 degrees. Plots were offset in order to ensure that the entire plot was located in a single stand (cover) type.

Main plot sizes are either 405 or 810 m². Generally, the 810 m² plot size is used for sampling fire origin stands. PGS plots were established in both fire origin and regenerated stands, with some regenerated plots reestablished in the same location as fire origin plots after harvesting. Subplots are used to capture sapling and regeneration data.

Tagging limits for sampling have changed over the years; the current protocol is that all trees (live and dead) ≥ 7.1 cm DBH are tagged and measured within the main tree plot. The tree data collection includes species, DBH, height, height to live crown, crown size, tree status and damage codes.

Only the last re-measurement of the fire origin permanent sample plots was included in the dataset used to develop the FMP yield curves. There were a total of 3,119 fire origin plots that had a last re-measurement. If the stand age at the last re-measurement was greater than 200 years then the plot was not used in the curve fitting. From this total, 836 plots were removed from the database due to landbase deletions (Table 3-4).

3.2.2 HWP Performance Survey Data

Compiled performance survey data were used as input in GYPHY in order to create FMP yield curves for managed stands for FMP Yield Strata: 21, 22, 23, and 24. The performance survey data were collected in three years: 2006, 2007, and 2008. The protocols for data collection were

changed from 2006 through to 2008, however the data collected and used for the yield curves' development remained largely similar.

Performance Survey Data Collected in 2006

The data collected in 2006 is comprised of 184 blocks surveyed in the 2006/2007 timber year based on a protocol effective since May 1st, 2006. The objective of the performance survey was to ensure adequate forest stocking, survival and growth rates (SRD 2006).

The survey is a rectangular grid based sample of the harvested block using perpendicular control and survey lines to locate at their intersection 10 m² circular plots (1.78 m in radius). The grid is spaced proportionally to the area of the block, with a minimum number of plots per opening or per hectare, depending on the size of the opening to be surveyed.

The 2006 performance survey protocols had the objective of identifying the number of stocked plots with a viable coniferous or deciduous tree. The entire block would be declared successfully regenerated based on the ratio between the number of stocked plots and the total number of surveyed plots within the opening.

There are 4 standards, one for each broad cover group: D, DC, CD, and C. For D and C standards only one crop tree per plot could be selected, coniferous tree for C standard and deciduous tree for D standard. A plot was considered stocked if the crop tree was from an acceptable species and met the minimum height.

Some additional optional information from this survey was used to compile the necessary inputs for GYPSY. Density of trees between 0.3 m and 1.3 m in height as well as greater than 1.3 m were collected by species in each plot. Every fourth plot, detailed plot, was expanded to 100 m² (5.64 m in radius) and one top height tree by species was measured for height, diameter at breast height, and total age. Density, total age, and top height as collected from this survey were compiled and used as inputs for GYPSY projections.

Performance Survey Data Collected in 2007

The surveys of the 158 blocks assessed in the 2007/2008 timber year had the same objectives as the performance data collected in 2006. However, the Free-to-Grow requirements for coniferous crop trees were removed. A plot was considered stocked if the measured tree (tallest tree in the basic plot) met certain criteria: species, age, origin, and was taller than a minimum height.

In the 2007 protocol there are two options for data collection: breast height and stump height option. The breast height option counts trees taller than 1.3 m in the basic plots, while the stump height option counts trees taller than 0.3 m in the basic plots. Both protocols were used by HWP to collect the 2007 performance survey data.

Total age, height, and diameter at breast height for top height trees by species were measured in the expanded detailed plot (100 m²). The top height, total age, and density information collected in 2007 were compiled and used as inputs in GYPSY projections.

Performance Survey Data Collected in 2008

The 260 blocks surveyed in the 2008/2009 timber year were based on the 2008 protocol which kept the same objectives as the previous protocols and collected similar data. The grid based survey was established in a similar manner to the previous surveys as well as the calculation of the number of plots required for sampling each block.

In all basic plots, trees, advanced and seedlings separately, were counted by species. The counts included trees greater than 0.3 m for the coniferous species and greater than 1.3 m for the deciduous species. Height of the tallest tree by species group was also recorded.

In the detailed plots the diameter of 3 coniferous trees by species group were measured at stump height. In the same plots, the diameter at breast height was measured for 3 deciduous trees by species group. Height was also measured and recorded for all the trees with a measured diameter.

In the expanded detailed plot (100 m^2) one top height tree was measured from each species group. Total age, diameter at breast height (deciduous) or stump height (coniferous), and total height were measured for each top height tree. Top height, total age, and density information were compiled and used as inputs for GYPSY projections.

3.3 Plot Attribute Assignment and Deletions

3.3.1 HWP PGS Data

Attribute Assignment

All PGS PSPs had spatial locations. The existing spatial coordinates were used to locate the plots within the landbase AVI polygons. The PGS plots were therefore linked spatially to the landbase AVI polygons. Each plot was assigned the FMP Yield Stratum and the stand age from the polygon where the plot was located.

Plot Deletions

Plots were eligible for natural stand empirical yield curves development if they were:

1. Within the contributing or passive landbase;
2. Established in natural stands (post-fire) that had not been burned since the last re-measurement, and had not been harvested either before or after the last re-measurement (still standing);
3. Establishment status of “F” (fire origin) in database;
4. Disturbed plots were eligible if the disturbance was a fire, the disturbed plot was still considered a fire origin plot; and

5. Only the last measurement was used with no restrictions on the number of years between the photo date and the last re-measurement year.

Several areas within the HWP FMA area were removed from the contributing landbase and considered unlikely to produce merchantable sawlogs at 15/11 utilization. Plots that fell within these areas were also removed from the dataset used to fit the FMP yield curves for the contributing landbase. Table 3-2 presents the hierarchy of the subjective deletions used to determine whether an area is not capable of producing merchantable sawlogs at 15/11 utilization.

Plots that were located in polygons deleted from the landbase or in subjectively deleted portions of the polygon (Table 3-2) were removed from the dataset used to fit the natural stand yield curves (MYS_DEL = 'Y').

Table 3-2. Deletion rules for plots used in yield curve development.

Del	Definition	Deletion Rule
OB	Area outside the FMA	Delete plot if it falls outside the FMA area
NN	Naturally non-vegetated	Delete plot if it falls in a "NN" polygon
NV	Naturally non-forested	Delete plot if it falls in a "NV" polygon
AN	Anthropogenic non-vegetated	Delete plot if it falls within an "AN" polygon
AV	Anthropogenic vegetated	Delete plot if it falls within an "AV" polygon
EP	Eastern Sloped Prime Protection Areas	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
DR	Disposition reservations	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
WT	Wet site	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
LR	Larch composition is 10% or more of the SoPM	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
EC	Unmerchantable ecosites	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
AO	Stand with an "A" overstory only	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
SB	Black spruce composition makes up 80% or more of the SoPM	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
PP	Potentially Productive	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
SS	Steep Slopes	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
WB	Watercourse Buffers	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata
CL	Seismic lines and cutlines	Used plot for passive landbase yield strata

Additional Deletions

Several additional plots were removed from the final dataset used to fit the FMP natural stand yield curves.

- 56 plots that were older than 200 years at the last measurement were not included in the yield curve fitting since the yield curve was fit between stand age 0 and 200 years;
- 6 plots had a negative calculated stand age and were removed from the curve fitting; and
- 2 plots with volumes larger than 500 m³ were removed from FMP yield stratum 5, coniferous – deciduous mixtures with white spruce, black spruce, or balsam fir leading species.

Table 3-3 presents the 64 plots that were deleted, the FMP stratum, and the reason for their deletions. Both coniferous and deciduous volumes were deleted.

Table 3-3. Deleted plots by FMP yield stratum and reason for deletion.

FMP Yield Stratum	Plot ID	Age	Merchantable Volume (m ³ /ha)			Reason for Deletion
			Coniferous	Deciduous	Total	
7	1-4010149-F-810	209	178.8	4.6	183.4	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-4010150-F-810	209	142.0	5.8	147.8	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-4010341-F-810	212	223.9	0.0	223.9	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-4010342-F-810	212	447.6	0.0	447.6	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010019-F-810	212	240.2	0.0	240.2	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010020-F-810	212	275.5	0.0	275.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010049-F-810	209	208.7	0.0	208.7	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010164-F-810	300	297.8	0.0	297.8	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010266-F-810	262	158.5	0.0	158.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010267-F-810	262	191.4	0.0	191.4	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010345-F-810	249	85.5	0.0	85.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010346-F-810	249	306.3	0.0	306.3	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010350-F-810	212	124.0	0.0	124.0	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010449-F-810	212	72.0	0.0	72.0	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010450-F-810	209	97.2	0.0	97.2	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010452-F-810	260	205.7	0.0	205.7	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010453-F-810	260	258.1	0.0	258.1	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010454-F-810	260	248.2	0.0	248.2	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010459-F-810	263	142.1	0.0	142.1	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010460-F-810	263	179.6	0.0	179.6	Stand age greater than 200 years
7	1-5010462-F-810	263	174.7	0.0	174.7	Stand age greater than 200 years
10	1-5010165-F-810	300	163.1	0.0	163.1	Stand age greater than 200 years
10	1-5010556-F-810	210	106.6	0.0	106.6	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010023-F-810	212	274.7	0.0	274.7	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010024-F-810	212	322.5	0.0	322.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010025-F-810	212	440.7	0.0	440.7	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010026-F-810	212	414.2	0.0	414.2	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010050-F-810	231	91.0	0.0	91.0	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010051-F-810	231	132.5	0.0	132.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010052-F-810	231	293.3	0.0	293.3	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010077-F-810	262	329.4	0.0	329.4	Stand age greater than 200 years
11	1-5010349-F-810	209	264.2	0.0	264.2	Stand age greater than 200 years
13	1-5010078-F-810	262	266.2	0.0	266.2	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-2010523-F-810	219	0.0	0.0	0.0	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-2010524-F-810	219	1.4	0.0	1.4	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-4010198-F-810	201	85.4	0.0	85.4	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-4010212-F-810	232	160.8	0.0	160.8	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-4010213-F-810	232	372.9	17.9	390.7	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010159-F-810	212	3.9	0.0	3.9	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010161-F-810	262	154.1	0.0	154.1	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010162-F-810	210	15.9	0.0	15.9	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010260-F-810	262	147.7	0.0	147.7	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010261-F-810	262	122.6	0.0	122.6	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010263-F-810	227	110.3	0.0	110.3	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010264-F-810	256	150.2	0.0	150.2	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010265-F-810	263	119.7	0.0	119.7	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010270-F-810	262	84.5	0.0	84.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010352-F-810	212	206.0	0.0	206.0	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010367-F-810	232	94.5	0.0	94.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010368-F-810	232	24.3	0.0	24.3	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010369-F-810	232	103.3	0.0	103.3	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010370-F-810	232	24.5	0.0	24.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010455-F-810	210	187.5	0.0	187.5	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010456-F-810	210	266.1	0.0	266.1	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010457-F-810	260	181.3	0.0	181.3	Stand age greater than 200 years
27	1-5010458-F-810	260	193.6	0.0	193.6	Stand age greater than 200 years
15	1-5010713-F-810	< 0	91.6	0.0	91.6	Stand age smaller than 0 years
16	1-2010121-F-810	< 0	143.0	0.0	143.0	Stand age smaller than 0 years
16	1-4010252-F-810	< 0	71.4	0.0	71.4	Stand age smaller than 0 years
26	1-2010355-F-810	< 0	101.5	23.9	125.4	Stand age smaller than 0 years
27	1-3010558-F-810	< 0	78.6	0.0	78.6	Stand age smaller than 0 years
27	1-3010559-F-810	< 0	2.5	0.0	2.5	Stand age smaller than 0 years
5	1-2010072-F-810	120	552.0	0.0	552.0	Con. volume greater than 500 m ³
5	1-2010725-F-810	125	519.9	54.1	574.0	Con. volume greater than 500 m ³

PGS PSPs Summary

Table 3-4 presents the distribution of eligible and ineligible fire origin PSPs by FMP yield stratum. Eligible plots are those used for curve fitting. Influential points were considered the 64 plots from Table 3-3, plots with negative ages, plots with ages greater than 200 years, and plots with high volumes for a particular stratum.

Table 3-4. Number of eligible, ineligible, and influential points for fire origin permanent sample plots by FMP yield stratum.

Landbase	FMP Yield Stratum	FMP Yield Curve	Number of Plots			
			Eligible	Influential	Ineligible	Total
Contributing	1	E_B1_XL	34	-	-	34
	2	E_B1_XH	104	-	-	104
	3	E_B2_XX	54	-	-	54
	4	E_B3_XX	34	-	-	34
	5	E_B4_XX	13	2	-	15
	6	E_B5_XX	44	-	-	44
	7	E_B7_MX	76	21	-	97
	8	E_B7_GL	35	-	-	35
	9	E_B7_GH	18	-	-	18
	10	E_B8_ML	69	2	-	71
	11	E_B8_MH	345	9	-	354
	12	E_B8_GL	70	-	-	70
	13	E_B8_GH	311	1	-	312
	14	E_B9_XX	25	-	-	25
	15	E_UN_DM	49	1	-	50
	16	E_UN_CX	173	2	-	175
Passive	26	E_PAS_D	63	1	-	64
	27	E_PAS_C	702	25	-	727
Unassigned			-	-	836	836
Total			2,219	64	836	3,119

3.3.2 HWP Performance Survey Data

Attribute Assignment

The 10 m² TSPs collected in each opening did not have spatial locations collected at the time of survey. Each opening was sampled using a variable number of TSPs proportional to the area of the opening. In the landbase classification process the harvested blocks were identified and attributes were assigned to each polygon. A detailed description of the process of attribute assignment to cutblocks was made in “2009 MPB Forest Management Plan Technical Report #1 – Landbase classification”.

The link between the polygon attributes and the TSPs surveyed in the opening was based on the ARIS unique opening number.

The TSPs were compiled at the opening level and the opening compiled characteristics were used as input in GYPSY (SRD 2009) to create yield projections used for the managed yield

curves. Each opening was assigned the FMP Yield Stratum and the stand age from the attached polygon attributes.

Block Deletions

Blocks were eligible for managed stand yield curves development if they were:

1. Within the contributing landbase.

If the polygons were not part of the contributing landbase, the performance survey blocks were not included in the dataset used to create the managed yield curves. No additional deletions were made to this dataset.

Performance Survey Blocks Summary

Since performance survey data were mainly distributed in several yield strata, managed yield curves were developed only for four FMP yield strata: 21, 22, 23, and 24 (Table 1-1). In these yield strata the number of blocks was sufficiently large to permit a managed yield curve to be developed. Table 3-5 presents the distribution of blocks by FMP Yield Strata for which managed yield curves were developed.

Table 3-5. Distribution of blocks by FMP Yield Strata.

Landbase	FMP Yield Stratum	FMP Yield Curve	Number of Blocks
Contributing	21	G_B4_XX	10
	22	G_B5_XX	16
	23	G_B7_XX	103
	24	G_B8_XX	450
Unassigned			7
Other Strata			10
Passive			6
Total			602

3.4 Age Assignment

3.4.1 HWP PSP Data

Stand age for the defining layer at the reference year (2008) was also already appended to plot data from linking plot locations to landbase polygons.

Stand age for each plot at the year of measurement was calculated as stand age in 2008 (the reference year) minus the number of years between 2008 and the year of the last re-measurement:

$$Age_{Obs} = Age_{2008} - (2008 - MmtYear)$$

Where : Age_{Obs} = stand age at year of last re-measurement

Age₂₀₀₈ = stand age in 2008

MmtYear = year of the last re-measurement

3.4.2 Performance Survey Data

Stand age was assigned to each block when the polygon attributes were appended to the block data from linking the landbase attributes with the surveyed block data.

The stand age for performance survey blocks was not used in the managed yield curves' development. The stand age was only used to calculate regeneration lag for the managed yield curves as described in section 6.3.

3.5 Volume and Data Compilation

3.5.1 Overview

The PGS PSPs and the performance survey data were compiled separately for different uses. The PGS PSP data were used to create volume – age yield curves, while the performance survey data were compiled to be input in GYPSY. However, two species, tamarack larch and white birch, were considered non-merchantable in the HWP FMA area and were removed from both datasets' compilation. Table 3-6 presents the merchantable and non-merchantable tree species for Hinton Wood Products.

Table 3-6. Merchantable and non-merchantable tree species on HWP FMA area.

Coniferous Species		Deciduous Species	
Merchantable	Non-Merchantable	Merchantable	Non-Merchantable
Black Spruce (SB)	Tamarack Larch (LT)	Trembling Aspen (AW)	White Birch (BW)
Engelmann Spruce (SE)		Balsam Poplar (PB)	
White Spruce (SW)			
Lodgepole Pine (PL)			
Balsam Fir (FB)			
Alpine Fir (FA)			
Douglas Fir (FD)			

3.5.2 PGS Data Volume Compilation

Each eligible PGS permanent sample plot was used to compile gross merchantable stand volume estimates. Gross merchantable volume indicates that no deduction for cull was applied to the volume compilation.

For each sample plot, both coniferous and deciduous volumes were also compiled to different utilization standards presented in Table 3-7. The first utilization (Utilization 1) was based for coniferous species on the height of the tree, a 15.0 cm stump height, a minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height, an 11.0 cm top diameter inside bark, and a minimum log length of 3.76 m. For deciduous species the first utilization is a cut to length with a target length

of 2.56 m and minimum log length of 1.78 m. The minimum diameter outside bark was 15.0 cm at 15.0 cm stump height and the minimum top diameter inside bark was 10 cm.

The second utilization (Utilization 2) for coniferous was the same as the first utilization with the exception of the top diameter inside bark that was changed to 13.0 cm. For deciduous the standards were the same as the first utilization with the exception of the minimum log length set to 2.56 m.

The third utilization for coniferous (Utilization 3) was cut to length with a 15.0 cm diameter at a stump height of 15.0 cm, a top diameter inside bark of 13.0 cm and the following allowable lengths: 4.98 m, 4.37 m, and 3.76 m. The tree was segmented, if possible, into logs of 4.98 m, with the last piece of 4.98 m. If the last piece was shorter than 4.98 m then a log length of 4.37 m was taken. If 4.37 m was not available then a log of 3.76 m was taken (Table 3-6). The deciduous merchantability criteria for utilization 3 are the same as the criteria for utilization 1 but only aspen is included in the compilation.

The merchantability criteria for the deciduous fourth utilization (Utilization 4) are the same as for utilization 2, however only aspen is included in the compilation: a minimum diameter of 15.0 cm at a stump height of 15.0 cm, a top diameter of 10.0 cm and a minimum log length of 2.56 m. Table 3-7 summarizes the utilization criteria for coniferous, while Table 3-8 summarizes the utilization criteria for deciduous.

Table 3-7. Coniferous minimum utilization standards.

Utilization Characteristic	Coniferous		
	UT1	UT2	UT3 ¹
Stump height	15.0 cm	15.0 cm	15.0 cm
Minimum log length	3.76 m	3.76 m	3.76 m
Cut to length	Tree Length	Tree Length	4.98/ 4.37/3.76 m
Minimum stump diameter outside bark	15.0 cm	15.0 cm	15.0 cm
Minimum top diameter inside bark	11.0 cm	13.0 cm	13.0 cm

¹ First log length and all subsequent are 4.98 m , if not available then 4.37 m, if not available then 3.76 m

Table 3-8. Deciduous minimum utilization standards.

Utilization Characteristic	Deciduous			
	UT1	UT2	UT3 ¹ (Aw only)	UT4 ¹ (Aw only)
Stump height	15.0 cm	15.0 cm	15.0 cm	15.0 cm
Minimum log length	1.78 m	2.56 m	1.78 m	2.56 m
Cut to length	2.56 m	2.56 m	2.56 m	2.56 m
Minimum stump diameter outside bark	15.0 cm	15.0 cm	15.0 cm	15.0 cm
Minimum top diameter inside bark	10.0 cm	10.0 cm	10.0 cm	10.0 cm

¹ Only aspen was used for deciduous compilation

Dead trees were removed from the dataset used to compile volumes. Trees with damaged conditions were kept in the dataset and their volumes were compiled and added to plot volume.

Calculations involved the iterative process presented in “Ecologically Based Individual Tree Volume Estimation For Major Alberta Tree Species” (Huang 1994b). Trees not meeting utilization limits were not included in the compilation.

For coniferous volume compilation for utilization 1 and utilization 2, the merchantable length of each tree was divided into 30 sections of equal length. The merchantable length was calculated as the bole length from stump height to the minimum diameter inside bark. Diameters were determined for the top, middle and bottom of each section using Kozak’s variable exponent taper equation (Kozak 1988) and ecoregion/tree species-specific coefficients for the province of Alberta (Huang 1994a). The equation was:

$$dib = a_0 DBH^{a_1} * a_2^{DBH} * X^{b_1 Z^2 + b_2 \ln(Z+0.001) + b_3 \sqrt{Z} + b_4 e^Z + b_5 \left(\frac{DBH}{H} \right)} \quad (\text{eq. 1})$$

Where: dib = stem diameter inside bark (cm) at height h (m)

DBH = diameter at breast height outside bark (cm)

H = total tree height² (m)

$$X = \frac{1 - \sqrt{h/H}}{1 - \sqrt{p}}$$

$$Z = h/H$$

h = stem height (m)

p = relative height of inflection point from the ground

$a_0, a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4, b_5$ = coefficients

For each tree, volumes for each section were calculated using Newton’s equation (Husch *et al.* 1982):

$$MV = \frac{ML}{10} * (0.00007854) * (d_0^2 + 4d_1^2 + d_2^2) \quad (\text{eq. 2})$$

Where: MV = merchantable volume (m^3)

ML = merchantable length (m)

² Recorded total height was used for volume calculations. Where heights were missing, nonlinear locally calibrated DBH – Height equations were used to calculate missing values (Huang 2009).

d_0 = diameter at bottom of section (cm)

d_1 = diameter at middle of section (cm)

d_2 = diameter at top of section (cm)

For the cut to length utilizations that include all utilizations for deciduous trees and utilization 3 for coniferous trees, the merchantable length and the minimum top diameter inside bark were calculated differently.

For deciduous trees, the bole was segmented into logs of 2.56 m with the last log of 2.56 m or 1.78 m depending on utilization. Using the Kozak's taper equation, the top diameter inside bark of the last log was calculated for each tree. The calculated top diameter became the minimum top diameter inside bark and the merchantable length for that tree and the cut to length utilization became the length from stump height (15.0 cm) to the calculated top diameter inside bark.

For the coniferous trees, the bole was segmented into logs of 4.98 m with the last log of 4.98 m. If 4.98 m was not available as the last log then 4.37 m was taken and if 4.37 m was not available then a log of 3.76 m was taken. Using the same approach as for deciduous trees, a top diameter inside bark was calculated for the last log of each coniferous tree. Merchantable length was calculated as the bole length from stump height (15.0 cm) to the newly calculated top diameter inside bark.

Once the merchantable length and the minimum top diameter inside bark were recalculated, each individual tree was divided into 30 sections. Diameters were determined for the top, middle and bottom of each section using Kozak's variable exponent taper equation (Kozak 1988) and ecoregion/tree species-specific coefficients for the province of Alberta (Huang 1994a). For each tree, volumes for each section were calculated using Newton's equation (Husch et al. 1982).

Gross merchantable tree volumes were then determined by summing individual section volumes for each tree. Tree volumes were converted to gross merchantable stand volume (volume per hectare) using the appropriate plot size expansion factor. Plots with no merchantable trees were assigned zero gross merchantable volume ($0 \text{ m}^3/\text{ha}$) and retained within the dataset.

For each plot and each utilization, the total coniferous gross merchantable stand volume was calculated by summing the m^3/ha estimates for each live coniferous tree within the plot. The total deciduous gross merchantable stand volume was calculated by summing the m^3/ha estimates for each live deciduous tree within the plot.

For deciduous utilizations 3 and 4 only the aspen trees were summarized to compile the deciduous volume in m^3/ha .

3.5.3 Performance Survey Data Compilation

The performance survey data were compiled at the opening level to obtain input variables for GYPSY. To obtain growth projections, GYPSY requires several input variables: total age, site index, density, percent stocking. Each of these variables was compiled for each opening using the TSP data collected during performance surveys from 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Total Age

Mean total age was calculated using only four individual species: lodgepole pine, trembling aspen, white spruce, and black spruce. The total age information collected in the detailed plots was used to calculate the mean total age by species.

Site Index

Site index was calculated using only information from four individual species: lodgepole pine, trembling aspen, white spruce, and black spruce. The trees selected as top height trees in the detailed plots were used to calculate the site index. The site index equations from the GYPSY version 1.0 released in December 2009 were used to calculate individual site index.

An individual site index was calculated for each tree if the measured total age was greater or equal to 10 years. All trees younger than 10 years were excluded from site index compilation. The individual site indices were averaged by species and opening to produce a mean site index for the opening. The mean site index by opening was used as input for GYPSY projections.

Density

Density was calculated using the tree counts in the basic plot. Both seedling and advanced trees were included in the density compilation. Lodgepole pine counts marked as affected by western gall rust (WGR = ‘Y’) were removed from the density compilation. Tamarack larch and white birch counts were also removed from the density calculations since both species were considered non merchantable. The species were grouped into four species groups and the density was calculated for each species group separately. Aspen species group (AW) included trembling aspen and balsam poplar, pine (PL) species group included lodgepole pine, white spruce (SW) species group included white spruce, balsam fir, and alpine fir, while black spruce (SB) species group included black spruce.

For the aspen species group only counts of trees greater or equal to 1.3 m were included in the density compilation. For the coniferous species groups (SW, SB, PL) all trees greater than 0.3 m were included in the compilation.

However, there are several exceptions to the rule of including all coniferous trees greater than 0.3 m in the density compilation. Based on the available guidelines at the time, the 2007 performance survey data were collected based on two different protocols: “Breast Height” protocol or “Stump Height” protocol. In the breast height protocol all trees, coniferous and deciduous, were recorded (counted) if they were greater than 1.3 m in height, while in the stump height protocols all trees greater than 0.3 m were counted. In the 2007 dataset out of 158

openings surveyed 115 were sampled using a breast height protocol and 43 openings were sampled using a stump height protocol.

As a consequence of the sampling protocols, the input coniferous density will be underestimated in some 115 openings. There is no difference in the input deciduous density.

The first step in the density calculations was to sum all the counts from all plots within the opening by species group. A second step was to expand the counts to per hectare values by multiplying each sum with 1000. Finally, the density by species group was calculated as the ratio between per hectare expanded sum counts and the total number of plots within the opening.

Percent stocking

A plot is considered stocked with a certain species group if the species group has a count greater than 0 in that plot. Percent stocking for a species group was calculated as the ratio between the number of stocked plots with the species group and the total number of plots within the opening.

Additional Issues

Some modifications of data inputs were required for species groups that did not have a calculated total age or a calculated site index. Modifications were also required when the site index was missing or calculated with less than 3 observations or when the species group density was smaller than 55 stems per hectare.

- If the total age for a particular species group was missing (no top height trees sampled in the detailed plots) the following procedure was used to calculate the age for the missing species group.
 - The regeneration lag by species group and opening was calculated as the difference between the block age and the species group's mean total age;
 - The mean regeneration lag by species group and FMP Yield Stratum was calculated; and
 - The species group missing total age was calculated as the difference between the block age and the species group mean regeneration lag.
- If the number of observations used to calculate site index was smaller than 3 or if site index was missing, the mean site index by FMP Yield Stratum was used. If the mean FMP Yield Stratum site index was missing, then the mean site index for the entire dataset was used.
- If the density for a particular species was smaller than 55 stems per hectare then the density was set to 55 stems per hectare. GYPHY would not run if the density for a particular species group was smaller than 55 stems per hectare.

Utilization Criteria

The managed yield curves were created using the utilization criteria presented in Table 3-9 for coniferous species and in Table 3-10 for deciduous species.

Table 3-9. Minimum utilization standards used for coniferous species in the managed yield curves.

Utilization Characteristic	Coniferous		
	UT1	UT2	UT3
Stump height	15.0 cm	15.0 cm	15.0 cm
Minimum log length	3.66 m	3.66 m	3.76 m
Cut to length	Tree Length	Tree Length	Cut to Length
Minimum stump diameter outside bark	15.0 cm	15.0 cm	15.0 cm
Minimum top diameter inside bark	11.0 cm	13.0 cm	13.0 cm

Table 3-10. Minimum utilization standards used for deciduous species in the managed yield curves.

Utilization Characteristic	Deciduous
	UT1
Stump height	15.0 cm
Minimum log length	3.66 m
Cut to length	Tree Length
Minimum stump diameter outside bark	15.0 cm
Minimum top diameter inside bark	10.0 cm

4. Baseline Yield Curves

4.1 Overview

Natural stand empirical yield curves were developed for FMP yield strata 1 to 16 of the contributing landbase. Coniferous and deciduous volumes were fit separately as a function of stand age using nonlinear regression techniques. One set of yield curves was created for each utilization criteria. These yield curves represent the base natural yield curves for the contributing landbase of Hinton Wood Products.

Managed yield curves were created using GYPSY projections and performance survey data coming from post-harvest stands. Due to the limited distribution of data across the FMP yield strata, managed yield curves were only created for managed FMP yield strata 21, 22, 23, and 24. For the rest of the FMP managed yield strata: 17, 18, 19, 20, and 25, the natural stand empirical yield curves will be used (i.e. stand will regenerate back to itself).

The passive landbase was split in two yield strata, FMP yield strata 26 and 27 (Table 1-1). A natural base yield curve was developed for each of the passive landbase's yield strata. Coniferous and deciduous volumes were fit separately as a function of stand age using nonlinear regression techniques. One set of curves was created for each utilization criteria. These yield curves represent the base natural yield curves for the passive landbase of Hinton Wood Products.

Area-weighted composite yield curves were also developed for natural stands. Six area-weighted curves were developed for natural stands: four to represent each broad cover group (D, DC, CD, and C), one overall composite for the coniferous landbase (DC, CD and C combined), and one overall composite for the whole landbase (D, DC, CD and C combined). Curves were based on coniferous and deciduous utilization 1 natural stand yield curves, weighted by the proportion of area of natural stands that each FMP Yield Stratum currently represents within the contributing landbase. FMP Yield Strata 15 and 16 were not included in the composite yield curves since stratum 15 amalgamates broad cover groups D, DC, and CD.

A full list of baseline yield curves is provided in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Baseline FMP yield curves for both contributing and passive landbase.

FMP Yield Stratum	Natural Stands Yield Curves	Managed Stands Yield Curves
1	E_B1_XL	
2	E_B1_XH	
3	E_B2_XX	
4	E_B3_XX	
5	E_B4_XX	
6	E_B5_XX	
7	E_B7_MX	
8	E_B7_GL	
9	E_B7_GH	
10	E_B8_DL	
11	E_B8_MH	
12	E_B8_GL	
13	E_B8_GH	
14	E_B9_XX	
15	E_UN_DM	
16	E_UN_CX	
17		E_B1_XL ¹
18		E_B1_XH ¹
19		E_B2_XX ¹
20		E_B3_XX ¹
21		G_B4_XX
22		G_B5_XX
23		G_B7_XX
24		G_B8_XX
25		E_B9_XX ¹
26	E_PAS_D ²	E_PAS_D ²
27	E_PAS_C ²	E_PAS_C ²
COMPOSITE	ALL NAT UTI	

¹ Yield curves developed for the natural stands (fire origin) were used

² A single yield curve was developed for both natural and managed stands in each yield stratum

4.2 Natural Stand Yield Curves

4.2.1 Contributing Landbase Yield Curve Development

The PGS PSP dataset was used to fit natural stand yield curves for the contributing landbase (see Section 3 for information on data preparation). Baseline natural stand yield curves for the contributing landbase were fit for each of the coniferous and deciduous utilizations using one of two models:

2-parameter model (2P):

$$\text{Volume} = a(\text{Age})^b e^{(-a*\text{Age}^b)}$$

2-parameter model with constant (2P+k):

$$\text{Volume} = a(\text{Age})^b e^{\left(\frac{-\text{Age}}{k}\right)}$$

Where: $Volume = gross\ merchantable\ stand\ volume\ (m^3/ha)$

$Age = stand\ age\ at\ year\ of\ measurement$

$a, b, k = coefficients$

Conifer and deciduous volumes were modelled using one of the two equations. Where the constant k was required to achieve biologically reasonable curve form, values between 10 and 100 were tested to achieve the most biologically reasonable fit that also fit to the data. Total volume was calculated by summing conifer and deciduous volume.

The deciduous curve for utilizations 3 and 4 was created by fitting only the aspen volumes to stand age using non-linear regression techniques.

Model selection was qualitatively based on goodness-of-fit. Sample size, model form, coefficients and fit statistics (R^2) by yield curve are presented by utilization in Table 4-2 to Table 4-5. Yield curves for the contributing landbase using all four utilizations are presented in Appendix I.

Table 4-2. Model form and model coefficients, baseline natural stand yield curves for coniferous and deciduous UT1.

Stratum	FMP Yield Curve	FMP Yield Observations	Number of Species Type	Model Form	Model Coefficients			
					a	b	k	R^2
1	E_B1_XL	34	Coniferous	2P	0.01878708	2.25777036	40	0.12
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00003393	3.86655666		
2	E_B1_XH	104	Coniferous	2P	0.01076884	2.14961833	40	0.11
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00036483	3.43722564		
3	E_B2_XX	54	Coniferous	2P	0.02206213	2.33402026	20	0.04
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.29309946		
4	E_B3_XX	34	Coniferous	2P	0.02052723	2.33972955	30	-0.02
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00019631	3.64704336		
5	E_B4_XX	13	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.28751369	20	0.36
			Deciduous	2P	0.03082437	2.33884371		
6	E_B5_XX	44	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00046362	3.24136809	50	0.31
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	6.26379731		
7	E_B7_MX	76	Coniferous	2P	0.01654541	2.40773677	20	0.28
			Deciduous	2P	0.01437313	1.51585730		
8	E_B7_GL	35	Coniferous	2P	0.01672060	2.38190934	30	0.15
			Deciduous	2P	0.04753758	2.56889600		
9	E_B7_GH	18	Coniferous	2P	0.01676161	2.42678290	30	0.51
			Deciduous	2P	0.02787761	2.18907157		
10	E_B8_DL	69	Coniferous	2P	0.01576481	2.29519937	30	0.19
			Deciduous	2P	0.00992382	1.53762874		
11	E_B8_MH	345	Coniferous	2P	0.01175600	2.33335514	30	0.31
			Deciduous	2P	0.00685403	1.40519746		
12	E_B8_GL	70	Coniferous	2P	0.01611310	2.39287615	30	0.38
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.52811708		
13	E_B8_GH	311	Coniferous	2P	0.01159207	2.40493502	30	0.42
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.34279090		
14	E_B9_XX	25	Coniferous	2P	0.01234387	2.24980882	30	0.18
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.62824622		
15	E_UN_DM	49	Coniferous	2P	0.05066081	2.59009609	30	-0.04
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00044357	3.53382002		
16	E_UN_CX	173	Coniferous	2P	0.01938194	2.45518317	30	0.19
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.04557356	2.11729679		
Total		1,454						

Table 4-3. Model form and model coefficients, baseline natural stand yield curves for coniferous and deciduous UT2.

FMP Stratum	FMP Yield Curve	Number of Observations	Species Type	Model Form	Model Coefficients			
					a	b	k	R ²
1	E_B1_XL	34	Coniferous	2P	0.01792678	2.23126064		0.13
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00002822	3.90279115	40	0.43
2	E_B1_XH	104	Coniferous	2P	0.00996556	2.13632374		0.11
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00030698	3.47109786	40	0.30
3	E_B2_XX	54	Coniferous	2P	0.01965756	2.28940267		0.05
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.32103777	20	0.20
4	E_B3_XX	34	Coniferous	2P	0.02045628	2.32594351		-0.02
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00017169	3.67313867	30	-0.02
5	E_B4_XX	13	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.33636299	20	0.38
			Deciduous	2P	0.03055922	2.32965821		0.25
6	E_B5_XX	44	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00013381	3.49252756	50	0.33
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	6.30305809	20	0.11
7	E_B7_MX	76	Coniferous	2P	0.01609151	2.38280786		0.29
			Deciduous	2P	0.01364914	1.50030524		-0.01
8	E_B7_GL	35	Coniferous	2P	0.01632969	2.36534277		0.16
			Deciduous	2P	0.04734957	2.56120700		0.09
9	E_B7_GH	18	Coniferous	2P	0.01615681	2.40603711		0.49
			Deciduous	2P	0.02739995	2.18032205		0.00
10	E_B8_ML	69	Coniferous	2P	0.01371037	2.23339930		0.18
			Deciduous	2P	0.00955183	1.53186835		0.02
11	E_B8_MH	345	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00009895	3.50000739	50	0.29
			Deciduous	2P	0.00670905	1.40076612		0.01
12	E_B8_GL	70	Coniferous	2P	0.01518839	2.35898357		0.36
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.53806748	20	0.08
13	E_B8_GH	311	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00014428	3.51208960	50	0.41
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.34907970	20	0.04
14	E_B9_XX	25	Coniferous	2P	0.01035128	2.19137471		0.22
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.62716573	20	0.08
15	E_UN_DM	49	Coniferous	2P	0.04878980	2.55648427		-0.04
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00041172	3.54693612	30	0.29
16	E_UN_CX	173	Coniferous	2P	0.01870209	2.42573353		0.18
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.04364962	2.12374990	30	0.02
Total		1,454						

Table 4-4. Model form and model coefficients, baseline natural stand yield curves for coniferous and deciduous UT3.

Stratum Number	FMP Curve	Yield Observations	Number of Species Type	Model Form	Model Coefficients			R ²
					a	b	k	
1	E_B1_XL	34	Coniferous	2P	0.01749499	2.21228791		0.13
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000466	4.24945017	40	0.43
2	E_B1_XH	104	Coniferous	2P	0.00962977	2.12700245		0.11
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00006298	3.78496652	40	0.28
3	E_B2_XX	54	Coniferous	2P	0.01852322	2.26640933		0.06
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.44355079	20	0.15
4	E_B3_XX	34	Coniferous	2P	0.02019984	2.31389421		-0.02
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00103776	3.19276013	30	-0.04
5	E_B4_XX	13	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.36252620	20	0.39
			Deciduous	2P	0.03027134	2.30511621		0.21
6	E_B5_XX	44	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00009472	3.55520576	50	0.34
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.06867175	20	0.18
7	E_B7_MX	76	Coniferous	2P	0.01573144	2.36387606		0.30
			Deciduous	2P	0.01069433	1.32906671		0.00
8	E_B7_GL	35	Coniferous	2P	0.01623905	2.35457892		0.16
			Deciduous	2P	0.05009990	2.54551472		0.10
9	E_B7_GH	18	Coniferous	2P	0.01571637	2.39023393		0.48
			Deciduous	2P	0.03396610	2.17500460		0.00
10	E_B8_DL	69	Coniferous	2P	0.01320846	2.20961700		0.18
			Deciduous	2P	0.00366270	1.55847485		0.03
11	E_B8_MH	345	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00007454	3.53904892	50	0.29
			Deciduous	2P	0.00682604	1.33792166		0.01
12	E_B8_GL	70	Coniferous	2P	0.01485776	2.34080204		0.35
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	8.86325487	20	0.02
13	E_B8_GH	311	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00010574	3.56313704	50	0.40
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.47541245	20	0.04
14	E_B9_XX	25	Coniferous	2P	0.01019692	2.17034432		0.22
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.61146461	20	0.08
15	E_UN_DM	49	Coniferous	2P	0.04715050	2.52863612		-0.03
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00006381	3.95564735	30	0.30
16	E_UN_CX	173	Coniferous	2P	0.01853826	2.41001392		0.18
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.09960386	1.84046226	30	0.02
Total		1,454						

Table 4-5. Model form and model coefficients, baseline natural stand yield curves for coniferous UT3 and deciduous UT4.

Stratum Number	FMP Yield Curve	Number of Observations	Species Type	Model Form	Model Coefficients			R²
					a	b	k	
1	E_B1_XL	34	Coniferous	2P	0.01749499	2.21228791		0.13
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000384	4.28763316	40	0.44
2	E_B1_XH	104	Coniferous	2P	0.00962977	2.12700245		0.11
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00005295	3.81900116	40	0.28
3	E_B2_XX	54	Coniferous	2P	0.01852322	2.26640933		0.06
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.47653105	20	0.15
4	E_B3_XX	34	Coniferous	2P	0.02019984	2.31389421		-0.02
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00091227	3.21820837	30	-0.04
5	E_B4_XX	13	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.36252620	20	0.39
			Deciduous	2P	0.03013422	2.29846008		0.21
6	E_B5_XX	44	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00009472	3.55520576	50	0.34
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.09303204	20	0.18
7	E_B7_MX	76	Coniferous	2P	0.01573144	2.36387606		0.30
			Deciduous	2P	0.01060670	1.32382001		0.00
8	E_B7_GL	35	Coniferous	2P	0.01623905	2.35457892		0.16
			Deciduous	2P	0.05004839	2.54047031		0.10
9	E_B7_GH	18	Coniferous	2P	0.01571637	2.39023393		0.48
			Deciduous	2P	0.03282526	2.15902409		0.00
10	E_B8_DL	69	Coniferous	2P	0.01320846	2.20961700		0.18
			Deciduous	2P	0.00360470	1.55670615		0.03
11	E_B8_MH	345	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00007454	3.53904892	50	0.29
			Deciduous	2P	0.00671342	1.33324121		0.01
12	E_B8_GL	70	Coniferous	2P	0.01485776	2.34080204		0.35
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	8.83792403	20	0.02
13	E_B8_GH	311	Coniferous	2P+k	0.00010574	3.56313704	50	0.40
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.47849893	20	0.04
14	E_B9_XX	25	Coniferous	2P	0.01019692	2.17034432		0.22
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00000000	7.61016545	20	0.08
15	E_UN_DM	49	Coniferous	2P	0.04715050	2.52863612		-0.03
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00006112	3.96156995	30	0.30
16	E_UN_CX	173	Coniferous	2P	0.01853826	2.41001392		0.18
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.09535128	1.84743556	30	0.02
Total		1,454						

4.2.2 Passive Landbase Yield Curve Development

Yield curves for the passive landbase were also developed. The passive landbase was split into two yield strata as shown in Table 1-1. Using the PGS PSPs from the passive landbase two yield curves were created for the defined yield strata. Yield curves for the passive landbase will be used in the TSA to obtain merchantable volumes by species and to model other forest values (e.g. wildlife habitat).

Table 4-6 presents the passive landbase yield curves developed for each utilization criteria (utilization 1 to utilization 4). Yield curves for the passive landbase using all 4 utilizations are presented in Appendix I.

Table 4-6. Model form and model coefficients, passive landbase baseline natural stand yield curves – utilization 1 to utilization 4.

FMP Stratum	Yield Curve	Number of Observations	Species Type	Model Form	Model Coefficients			R ²
					a	b	k	
Coniferous and Deciduous UT 1								
26	E_PAS_D	63	Coniferous	2P	0.01684870	2.34557204		0.15
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00243778	3.05909490	30	0.02
27	E_PAS_C	702	Coniferous	2P	0.01777996	2.23822001		0.12
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00005932	3.17027056	30	0.00
Total		765						
Coniferous and Deciduous UT 2								
26	E_PAS_D	63	Coniferous	2P	0.01613651	2.32658937		0.15
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00206990	3.09170838	30	0.02
27	E_PAS_C	702	Coniferous	2P	0.01718106	2.18719782		0.10
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00005329	3.18741276	30	0.00
Total		765						
Coniferous and Deciduous UT3								
26	E_PAS_D	63	Coniferous	2P	0.01568090	2.31344408		0.15
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00001688	4.09766982	30	0.04
27	E_PAS_C	702	Coniferous	2P	0.01691095	2.16586978		0.10
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00007396	2.99116119	30	0.01
Total		765						
Coniferous UT3 and Deciduous UT4								
26	E_PAS_D	63	Coniferous	2P	0.01568090	2.31344408		0.15
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00001391	4.13667666	30	0.04
27	E_PAS_C	702	Coniferous	2P	0.01691095	2.16586978		0.10
			Deciduous	2P+k	0.00007107	2.99401736	30	0.01
Total		765						

4.3 Managed Stand Yield Curves

4.3.1 Yield Curve Development

Baseline managed yield curves were developed using compiled 2006, 2007, and 2008 performance survey data and Growth and Yield Projection System (GYPSY) version 1.0. The performance survey data compilation was presented in section 3.2.2. Due to the distribution of data, managed yield curves using GYPSEY were created only for FMP yield strata 21, 22, 23, and 24 (Table 3-5).

Model Used

GYPSY model version 1.0 released in December 2009 (SRD 2009) was used to create all projections using the compiled performance survey data. *GYPSY spatial without basal area* was used to create projections for all blocks. GYPSEY uses four species groups to project any given stand into the future from total age 0 years to any total age defined by the user, using the input variables to localize the growth trajectories. The projection length was set to 200 years for these managed yield curves.

Input Variables

The variables compiled by species group as described in section 3.2.2: site index, total age, percent stocking, and density, were used as inputs for the GYPHY projections. The projections represent 1 year increments of merchantable and total volume, basal area, density, and merchantable density by species group for all of the blocks projected.

Yield Curves Creation

Merchantable volumes by species group, 15/15/10 for Aw (Table 3-10) and 15/15/11, 15/15/13 tree length and 15/15/13 cut to length for Pl, Sw, and Sb (Table 3-9), were summarized by coniferous and deciduous species types. The coniferous and deciduous projected merchantable volumes by individual blocks were averaged by age and FMP Yield Strata to obtain the FMP yield stratum yield curve. Managed yield curves are presented in Appendix I.

The merchantable volumes 15/15/13 obtained from GYPHY represent the tree length volumes with 3.66 m minimum merchantable length. To create the 15/15/13 cut to length managed yield curves, the GYPHY merchantable volumes at tree length 15/15/13 had to be adjusted to merchantable volumes 15/15/13 cut to length. An adjustment factor was developed by species using the PGS fire origin data. A linear regression was used to describe the relationship between the merchantable volume tree length and the merchantable volume cut to length by species.

The relationships by species group used to calculate merchantable volume 15/15/13 cut to length from the GYPHY projected merchantable volume 15/15/13 tree length are presented below:

$$MV_PL1513_CTL = -4.090955 + 0.926404 * MV1513_PL$$

$$MV_SB1513_CTL = -0.721655 + 0.784748 * MV1513_SB$$

$$MV_SW1513_CTL = -1.783105 + 0.951375 * MV1513_SW$$

Where:

MV_PL1513_CTL = predicted merchantable volume 15/15/13 cut to length for pine

MV_SB1513_CTL = predicted merchantable volume 15/15/13 cut to length for black spruce

MV_SW1513_CTL = predicted merchantable volume 15/15/13 cut to length for white spruce

MV1513_PL = GYPHY projected 15/15/13 pine volume

MV1513_SB = GYPHY projected 15/15/13 black spruce volume

MV1513_SW = GYPHY projected 15/15/13 white spruce volume

These relationships were used to adjust the 15/15/13 tree length GYPHY yield curves and produce 15/15/13 cut to length managed yield curves.

4.4 Composite Yield Curves

4.4.1 Yield Curve Development

Composite yield curves provide an area-weighted estimate of volume over time across all natural stands within the HWP contributing landbase. These curves are useful to provide comparisons from one FMP to the next.

Composite yield curves were created for natural stands within the HWP contributing landbase using the base natural yield curves and utilization 1. Six area-weighted curves were developed for natural stands: four to represent each broad cover group (D, DC, CD, and C), one overall composite for the coniferous landbase (DC, CD and C combined), and one overall composite for the whole landbase (D, DC, CD and C combined).

Each natural stand yield curve was weighted by the proportion of the total area of natural stands within the contributing landbase. The total area of natural stands by FMP yield stratum used for area-weighting was obtained from the final landbase and is provided in Table 4-7. Composite yield curves were developed by averaging all area-weighted natural stand yield curves at each age. The composite yield curves are presented in Appendix II.

Table 4-7. Total area of natural stands by FMP yield stratum used in composite yield curves.

Landbase	Broad Cover Group	Stratum Number	Yield Curve	Natural Stands Area (ha)	Percent Area (%)
Deciduous	D	1	E_B1_XL	9,174	2.45
		2	E_B1_XH	30,931	8.26
Coniferous	DC	3	E_B2_XX	11,880	3.17
		4	E_B3_XX	9,983	2.67
	CD	5	E_B4_XX	5,141	1.37
		6	E_B5_XX	14,170	3.79
	C	7	E_B7_MX	28,336	7.57
		8	E_B7_GL	10,099	2.70
		9	E_B7_GH	5,713	1.53
		10	E_B8_ML	25,396	6.78
		11	E_B8_MH	121,277	32.40
		12	E_B8_GL	17,672	4.72
		13	E_B8_GH	79,758	21.31
		14	E_B9_XX	4,777	1.28
Total				374,307	100.0

5. Yield Curves for MPB FMP Timber Supply Analysis

This document has outlined the development of a number of yield curves. Table 5-1 lists the curves used to represent natural and managed stands in timber supply analysis. Managed stand yield curves were only developed for 21, 22, 23, and 24 FMP yield strata. The base natural yield curves from strata 1, 2, 3, 4, and 14 will be used to project the stands in the FMP yield strata 17, 18, 19, 20, and 25 respectively.

The utilization standards to be used in the MPB FMP are as follows (Utilization 1):

For coniferous species:

- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 11.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- minimum log length of 3.76 m.

For deciduous species (Aw & Pb):

- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 10.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- cut to length with a target length of 2.56 m and minimum log length of 1.78 m.

Table 5-1. Yield curves used in timber supply analysis by stand type and FMP yield stratum.

FMP Yield Stratum	Yield Curve Name	Comments
1	E_B1_XL	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
2	E_B1_XH	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
3	E_B2_XX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
4	E_B3_XX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
5	E_B4_XX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
6	E_B5_XX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
7	E_B7_MX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
8	E_B7_GL	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
9	E_B7_GH	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
10	E_B8_ML	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
11	E_B8_MH	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
12	E_B8_GL	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
13	E_B8_GH	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
14	E_B9_XX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
15	E_UN_DM	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
16	E_UN_CX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset)
17	E_B1_XL	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset, same as stratum 1)
18	E_B1_XH	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset, same as stratum 2)
19	E_B2_XX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset, same as stratum 3)
20	E_B3_XX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset, same as stratum 4)
21	G_B4_XX	Base managed yield curve (Performance dataset)
22	G_B5_XX	Base managed yield curve (Performance dataset)
23	G_B7_XX	Base managed yield curve (Performance dataset)
24	G_B8_XX	Base managed yield curve (Performance dataset)
25	E_B9_XX	Base natural yield curve (PGS dataset, same as stratum 14)

5.1 Alternative Regeneration Standards – Target MAI

MAI targets were developed by strata and broad cover group using the newly developed FMP yield curves and including the rounded regeneration lag (see Section 6.3). Table 5-2 summarizes the target coniferous and deciduous mean annual increment for the regeneration strata to be used in the timber supply analysis. For FMP yield strata 18 the deciduous culmination age was used (strata from the deciduous landbase), while for FMP yield strata 19-25 the coniferous culmination age was used to create the targets (coniferous landbase).

Table 5-2. ARS MAI targets by FMP yield strata

FMP Yield Stratum	Yield Curve Name	Yield Stratum Description	Species of Primary Management	Culmination Stand Age	Coniferous MAI (15/15/11 util. std. - UT1)	Deciduous MAI (15/15/10 util. std. - UT1)
18	E_B1_XH	Pure deciduous - high crown closure	Deciduous	100	0.71	2.20
19	E_B2_XX	Deciduous leading pine mixedwood	Conifer	64	1.34	0.35
20	E_B3_XX	Deciduous leading spruce mixedwood	Conifer	69	1.41	1.39
21	G_B4_XX	Conifer leading spruce mixedwood	Conifer	105	2.39	0.46
22	G_B5_XX	Conifer leading pine mixedwood	Conifer	94	2.98	0.67
23	G_B7_XX	Pure conifer - white spruce leading	Conifer	103	2.52	0.54
24	G_B8_XX	Pure conifer - pine leading	Conifer	90	3.23	0.35
25	E_B9_XX	Pure conifer - black spruce leading	Conifer	105	1.11	0.11

Table 5-3 summarizes the MAI targets by broad cover group. A weighted yield curve was built for each broad cover group using the newly developed FMP strata yield curves weighted with the managed area within each stratum (see Table 1-1 for areas by stratum). FMP yield stratum 18 was included in broad cover group D, strata 19 and 20 were included in broad cover group DC,

strata 21 and 22 were included in broad cover group CD, while strata 23, 24, and 25 were included in broad cover group C.

Table 5-3. ARS MAI targets by broad cover group.

Broad Cover Group	Species of Primary Management	Culmination Stand Age	Coniferous MAI (15/15/11 util. std. - UT1)	Deciduous MAI (15/15/10 util. std. - UT1)
D	Deciduous	100	0.71	2.20
DC	Conifeorus	66	1.37	0.82
CD	Conifeorus	97	2.73	0.59
C	Conifeorus	92	3.11	0.38

6. Additional Growth and Yield Issues

Although this document's primary purpose is to describe the development of volume-age natural yield curves and of managed yield curves for the HWP 2009 Mountain Pine Beetle Forest Management Plan, there are a number of related growth and yield issues that are also included herein. These are: cull, piece size curves, and regeneration lag calculations.

6.1 Cull Deductions

Cull deductions are applied to yield curves to reflect losses to cull (trees or portions thereof that are merchantable but are removed because of defect). The new Alberta Forest Management Planning Standard (SRD 2006) requires that cull be applied as a percent reduction to yield curves, rather than as a reduction to the harvest level in timber supply analysis. This section describes the methods by which cull was derived.

6.1.1 Methods

Cull was separated into two components: a solid wood defect component and a rot component. A study from 1997, “Conifer Cull and Defect Study” (The Forestry Corp. 1997) was conducted on the current HWP FMA area with the objective of quantifying percent rot for the coniferous species. This study, that randomly selected stands and trees within stands to quantify percent rot, was used to determine percent rot. The mean percent rot across the coniferous species identified in this report was 0.31%. A total 5% will be deducted from merchantable conifer volumes to account for the solid wood defect component and rot. This percentage will be monitored annually until the 2012/2013 timber year. The results from the monitoring program will inform deduction levels for solid wood defects in the 2014 FMP.

A deciduous cull study was completed on the Hinton FMA in 1990. The mean percent rot for deciduous species was found to be 13.2% (Fortrends Consulting Inc, 1990).

6.1.2 Results

A total 5% coniferous cull and 13.2% deciduous cull will be deducted from the merchantable volume of the coniferous yield curves in the TSA model.

6.2 Piece Size Curves

Piece size curves were required to provide an estimate of how piece size (number of trees per cubic meter of gross merchantable tree volume) changes over time. Piece size curves were developed for FMP yield strata using only Utilization 1 for both coniferous and deciduous. The piece size curves for the managed stands in FMP yield strata 21 to 24 were developed using the GYPSY projections while the rest of the piece size curves were developed using the PGS fire origin data. Since the fire origin yield curves in strata 1, 2, 3, 4, and 14 were used to represent FMP yield strata 17, 18, 19, 20, and 24, the piece size curves for strata 17, 18, 19, 20, and 24 were the same as those for the strata 1, 2, 3, 4, and 14.

6.2.1 Methods for Piece Curves Using PGS Fire Origin Data

The PSP dataset used in yield curve development was used for piece size curve development. The plots that were eligible for empirical yield curve development were used in piece size development. Plot attributes were the same as previously defined, and volumes compiled for yield curve development were retained for use in this analysis.

For each plot, trees per m³ were calculated, by dividing total number of merchantable trees in the plot by the gross merchantable plot volume. Some of the plots were removed from the dataset used to fit piece size curves:

- Plots with no volume were excluded, since piece size could not be calculated (dividing by zero).
- Plots with stand age smaller than 20 years were also excluded since it is rare for a stand younger than 20 years to generate merchantable volume at 15/11 or 15/10 specifications (utilization 1). Also, the low number of trees per m³ negatively impact the curve fit.

An equation to predict trees per m³ as a function of age was then fit directly using plot data:

$$\text{PieceSize} = a_0 + \frac{a_1}{\text{Age}}$$

Where: *PieceSize* = number of trees per m³ of gross merchantable tree volume

Age = age at year of measurement

a_0, a_1 = coefficients

The final number of plots by FMP yield stratum was different for coniferous and deciduous curves, since there could be plots with coniferous volume and no deciduous volume, or vice versa. The number of plots used to develop piece size curves is summarized in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1. Number of plots used for fitting coniferous and deciduous piece size curves.

Yield Stratum	Initial Number of Observations	Coniferous Curves				Deciduous Curves			
		Observations With Zero Volumes	Observations With Stand Age <20	Final Number of Outliers	Observations With Zero Volumes	Observations With Stand Age <20	Final Number of Outliers		
1	34	8		26	3			31	
2	104	15	1	88	5	2		97	
3	54	1	1	52	8	1		45	
4	34	2		5	27		5	29	
5	13	1			12	2		11	
6	44		2		42	7		37	
7	76	5	2		69	58	1	17	
8	35	2			33	19		16	
9	18	1			17	6		12	
10	69	2	1		66	55		14	
11	345	13	1		331	311		34	
12	70	6	1		63	42		28	
13	311	13	1		297	242		69	
14	25				25	23		2	
15	49	5	3		41	6		43	
16	173	3	7		163	104	2	67	
26	63	10			53	11	2	50	
27	702	102	13		587	587	2	113	
Total	2,219	189	33	5	1,992	1,489	10	5	715

6.2.2 Methods for Piece Curves Using GYPHY Projections

The yield curves for FMP yield strata 21 to 24 were developed using GYPHY version 1.0 released in December 2009. The model provides the number of merchantable trees at the user specified utilization criteria. The average merchantable density was calculated by FMP yield stratum and stand age. The piece size curves for FMP yield strata 21 to 24 represent the ratio between the FMP yield stratum average merchantable density and the average stratum merchantable volume at utilization 1 for both coniferous and deciduous species.

6.2.3 Results

Model coefficients for the piece size curves in natural stands (Section 6.2.1) are presented in Table 6.2. For FMP yield stratum 14 there are only 2 plots available, therefore there is no deciduous piece size curve. Piece size curves for the FMP yield strata are provided in Appendix III.

Table 6-2. Model coefficients for piece size curves.

Yield Stratum	Species Type	Model Coefficients	
		a_0	a_1
1	Coniferous	1.49957	168.84088
	Deciduous	-1.58885	461.29925
2	Coniferous	-1.68876	466.97305
	Deciduous	-1.82801	452.65931
3	Coniferous	-0.77412	348.79089
	Deciduous	-6.58736	874.60382
4	Coniferous	-0.11116	252.58429
	Deciduous	-1.73875	416.57435
5	Coniferous	1.29405	113.41908
	Deciduous	1.32157	216.06976
6	Coniferous	-3.61804	657.15361
	Deciduous	-0.27821	412.09486
7	Coniferous	2.24357	181.25913
	Deciduous	7.79098	157.14138
8	Coniferous	-1.28646	407.09350
	Deciduous	-7.28186	1135.24988
9	Coniferous	-0.10787	287.86144
	Deciduous	-4.25381	563.40469
10	Coniferous	3.02977	304.94409
	Deciduous	-3.32086	874.17927
11	Coniferous	1.37356	521.22481
	Deciduous	0.39520	398.23221
12	Coniferous	1.85482	214.19594
	Deciduous	-7.51522	1005.36556
13	Coniferous	0.06156	455.05628
	Deciduous	-0.98982	521.67181
14	Coniferous	4.86670	232.07293
	Deciduous	n/a	n/a
15	Coniferous	0.99683	166.65927
	Deciduous	2.28834	123.49487
16	Coniferous	3.24391	71.92641
	Deciduous	0.96257	152.91482
26	Coniferous	2.02981	146.01896
	Deciduous	-0.23186	313.70563
27	Coniferous	6.91756	67.05222
	Deciduous	3.37515	293.97554

6.3 Regeneration Lag

Regeneration lag (regen lag) is the time in years following harvesting that is required for the harvested area to become stocked with desirable tree species. Regeneration lag was calculated using the performance survey data from 2006, 2007, and 2008 by FMP Yield Stratum.

Regeneration lag will be applied during timber supply modeling as a shift to all yield curves representing managed stands used in the 2009 MPB FMP.

- The regeneration lag by opening was calculated as the difference between the block age and the oldest species group's mean total age;
- The FMP yield stratum regeneration lag was calculated as the average block regeneration lag from all the blocks within a particular FMP Yield Stratum.

The regeneration lag was calculated for all FMP Yield Strata that had at least one surveyed block. Regeneration lag and the number of blocks used to calculate the regeneration lag are presented by FMP yield strata in Table 6-3.

Table 6-3. Number of blocks and regeneration lag by FMP yield stratum.

FMP Yield Stratum	Number of Blocks	Non-rounded Regeneration Lag	Rounded Regeneration Lag
17	2	1.57	2
18			
19	3	1.55	2
20	4	2.37	2
21	10	1.72	2
22	16	2.19	2
23	103	2.35	2
24	450	2.04	2
25	1	2.00	2
Passive	6	-	-
Unassigned	7	-	-
Total	602	-	-

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Appendix I Yield Curves

- Baseline Yield Curves – Coniferous UT1 and Deciduous UT1 (these will be used in the MPB FMP Timber Supply)
- Baseline Yield Curves – Coniferous UT2 and Deciduous UT2
- Baseline Yield Curves – Coniferous UT3 and Deciduous UT3
- Baseline Yield Curves – Coniferous UT3 and Deciduous UT4

- **Baseline Yield Curves – Coniferous UT1 and Deciduous UT1**

Coniferous UT1 - all yield curves except strata 21-24:

- Species – live PL, SW, SE, SB, FB, FA & FD
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 11.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- tree length; minimum log length of 3.76 m.

Coniferous UT1 - strata 21-24:

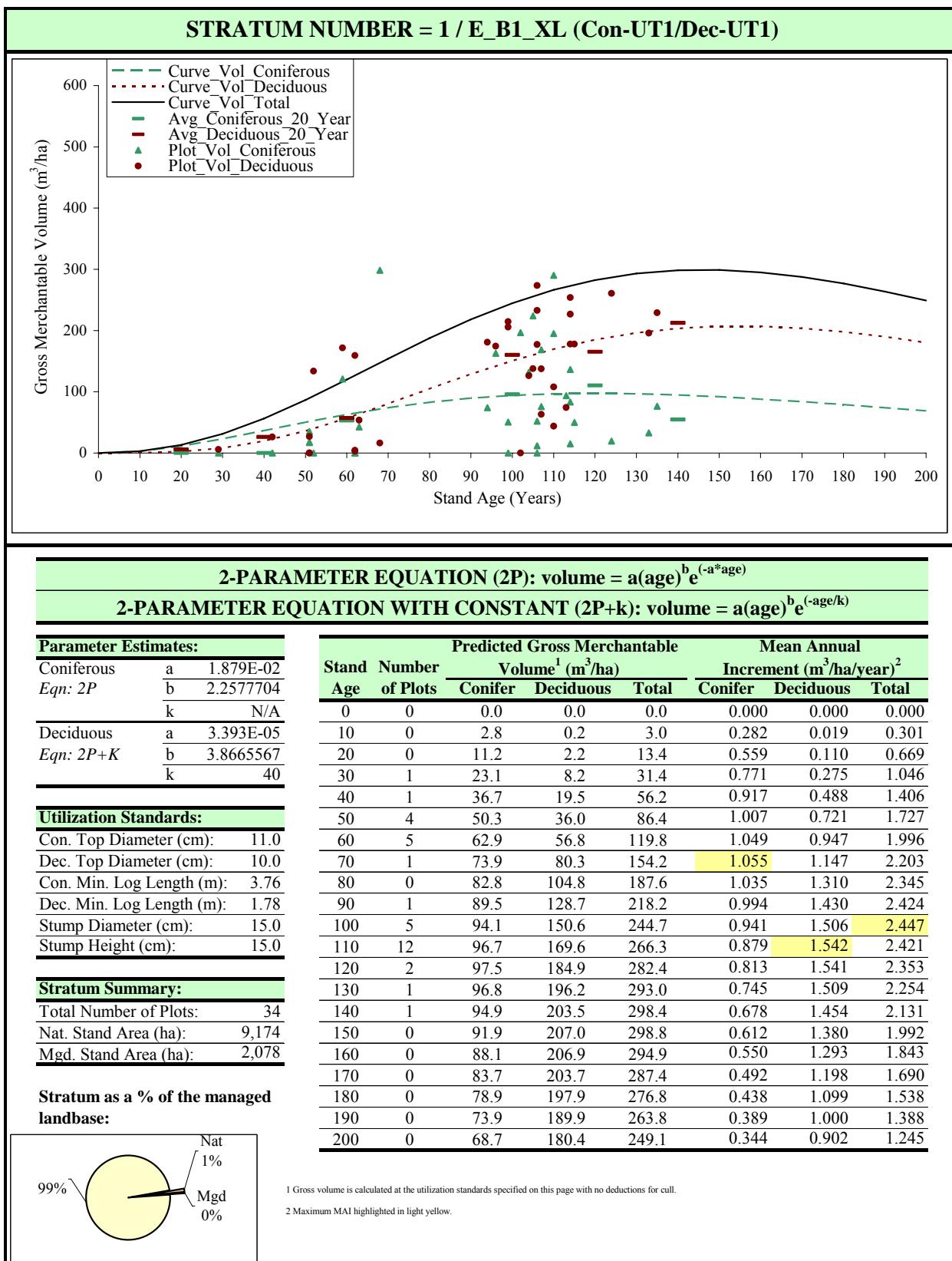
- Species – live PL, SW, SE, SB, FB, FA & FD
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 11.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- tree length; minimum log length of 3.66 m.

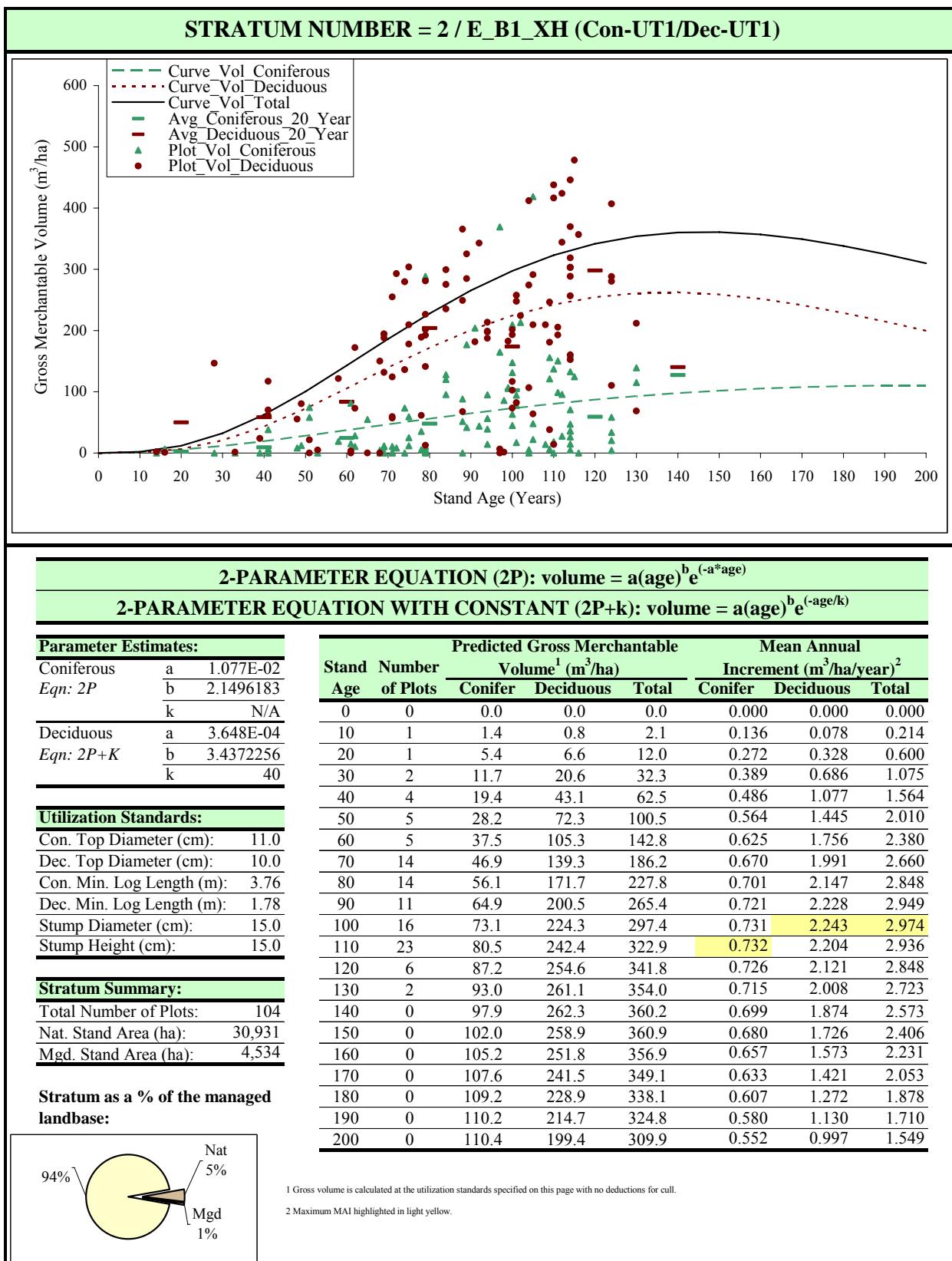
Deciduous UT1 – all yield curves except strata 21-24:

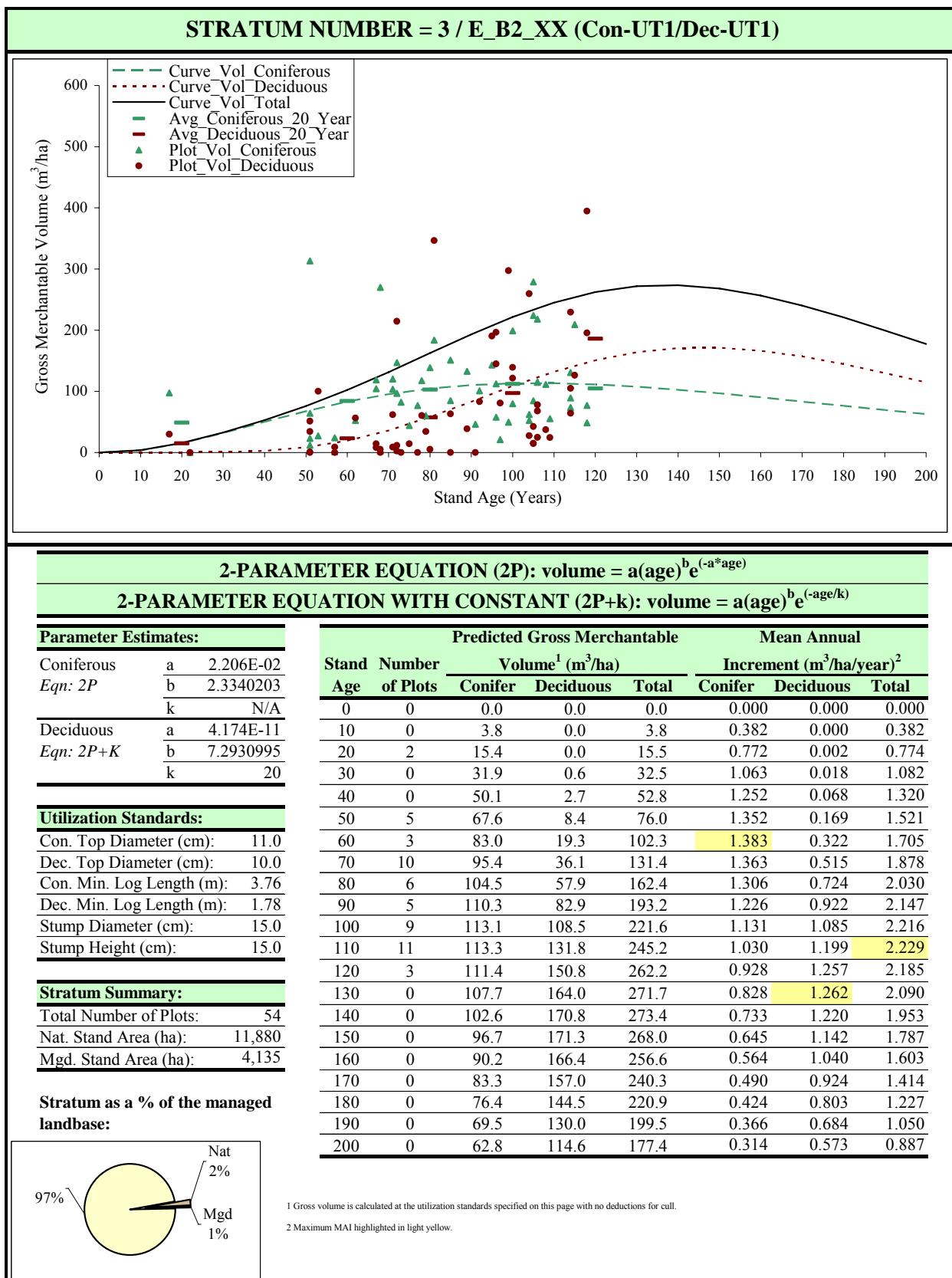
- Species – live AW & PB
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 10.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- cut to length; target length of 2.56 m and minimum log length of 1.78 m.

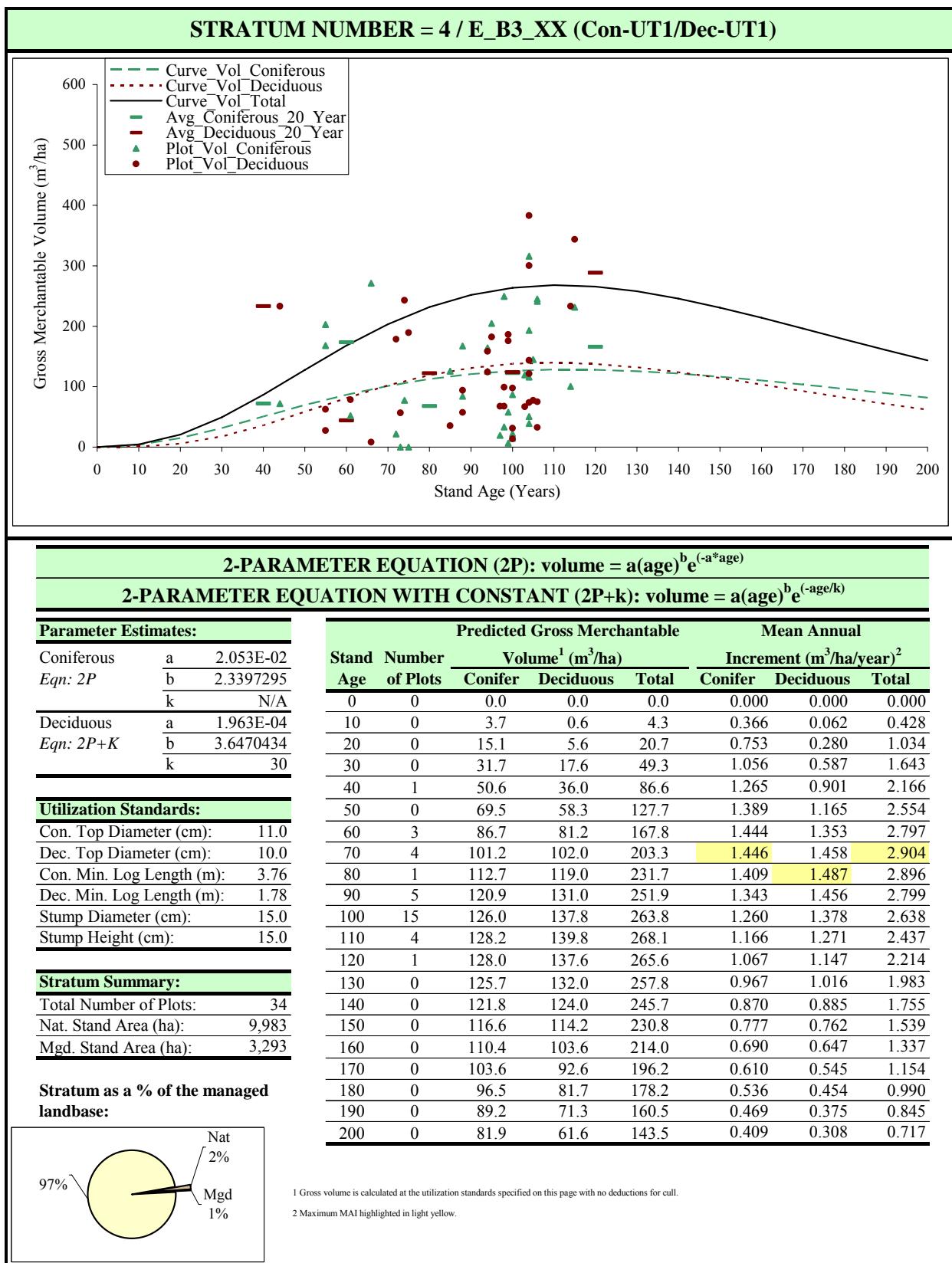
Deciduous UT1 –strata 21-24:

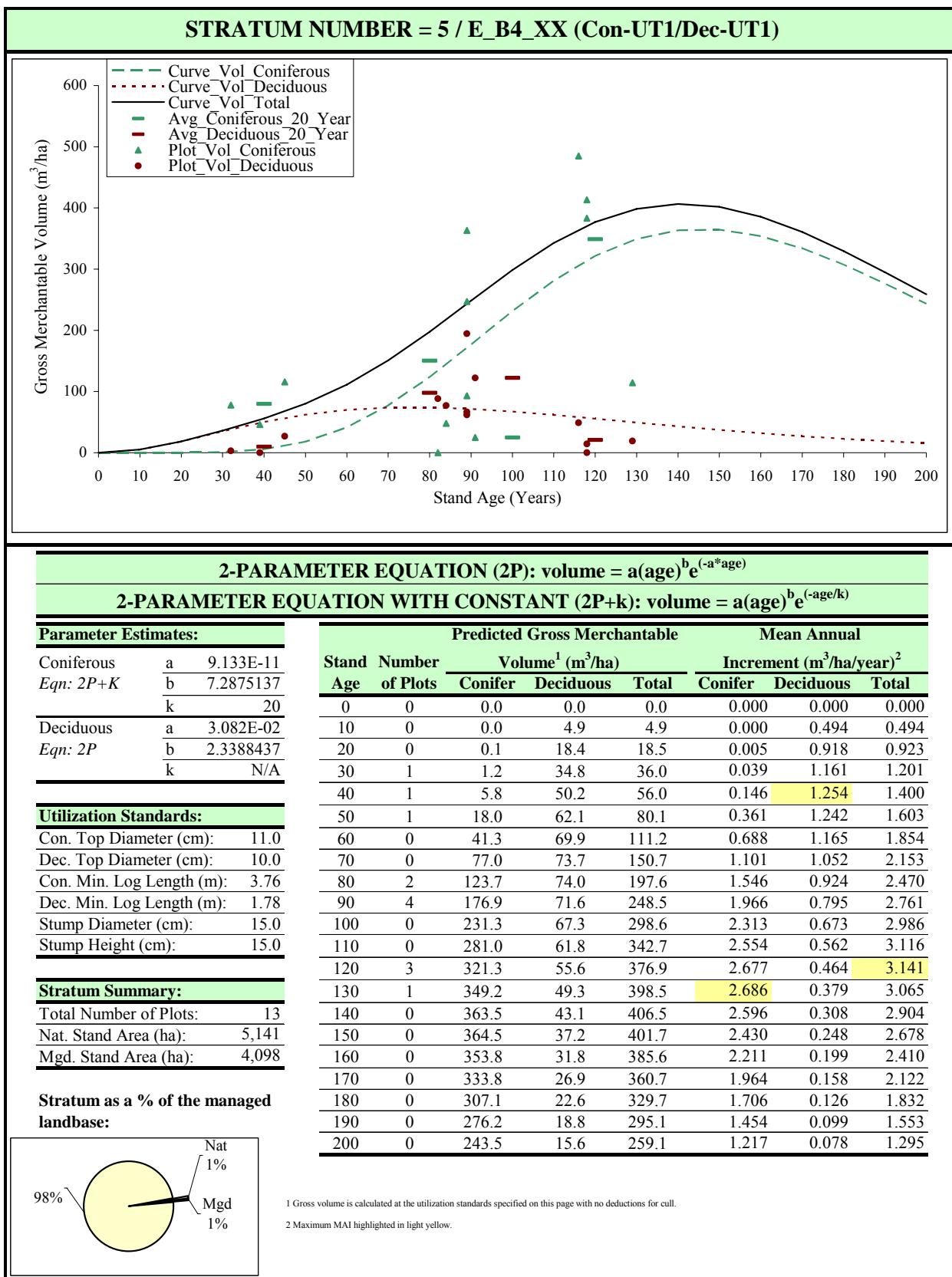
- Species – live AW & PB
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 10.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- tree length; minimum log length of 3.66 m.

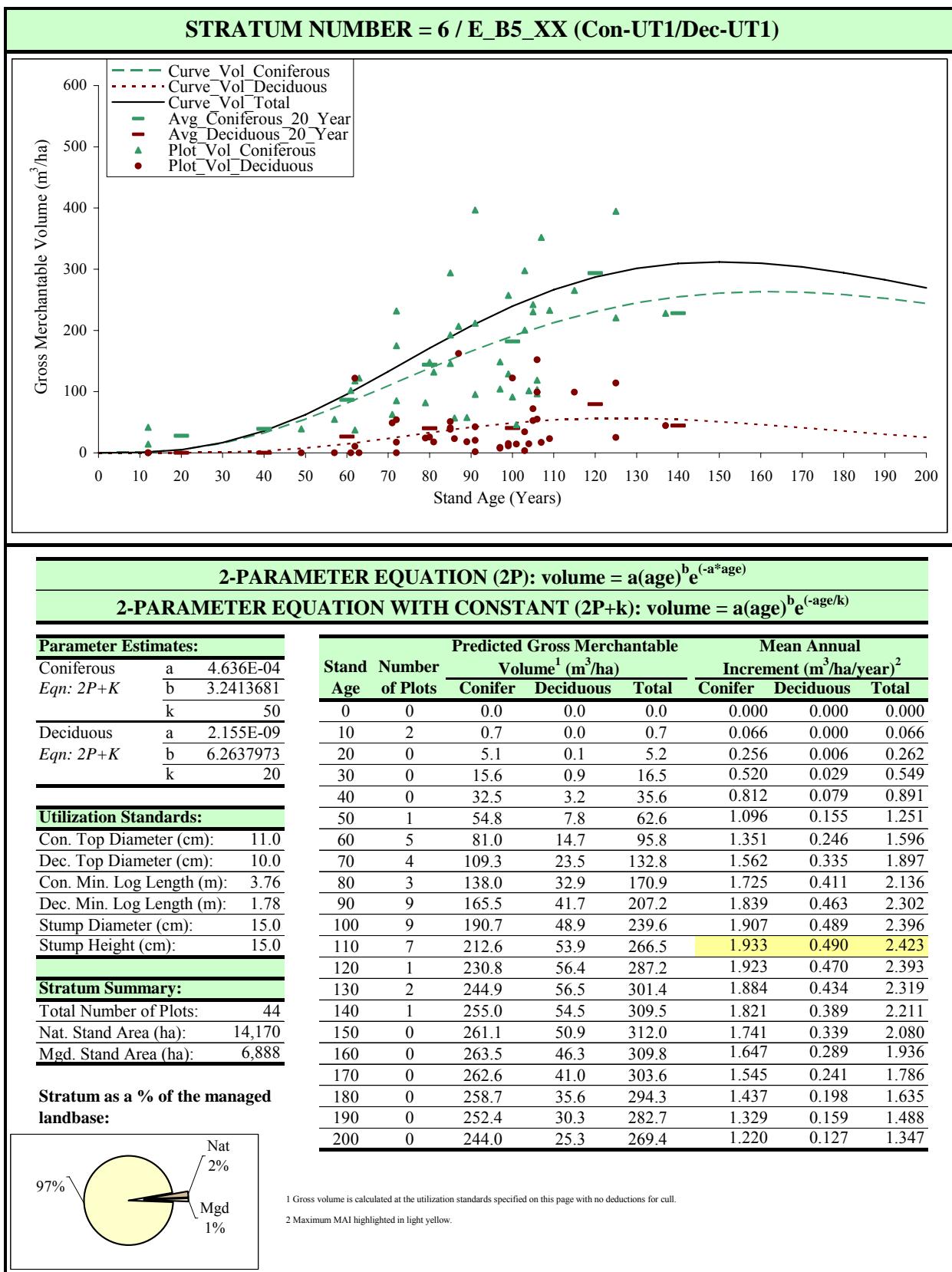


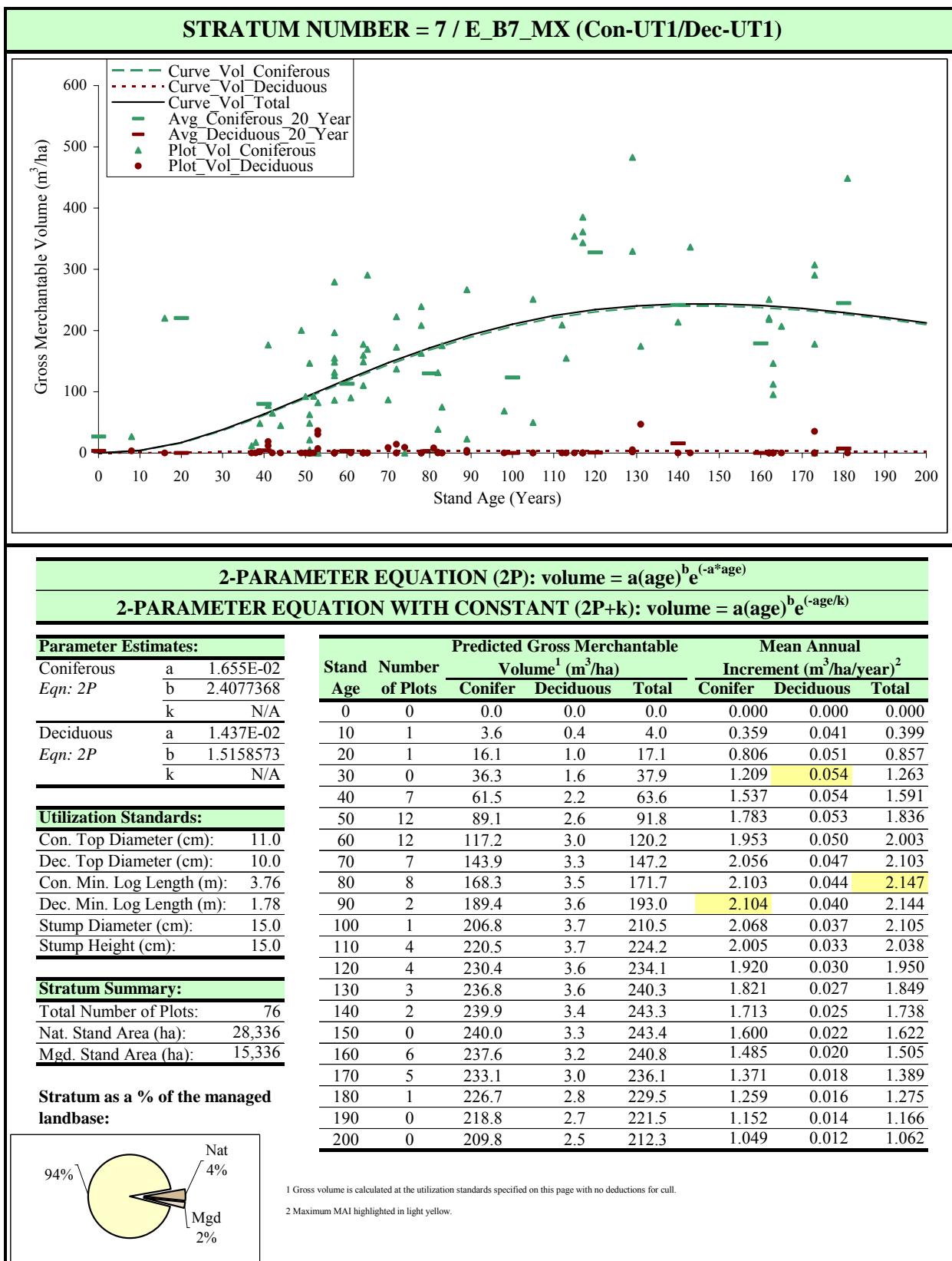


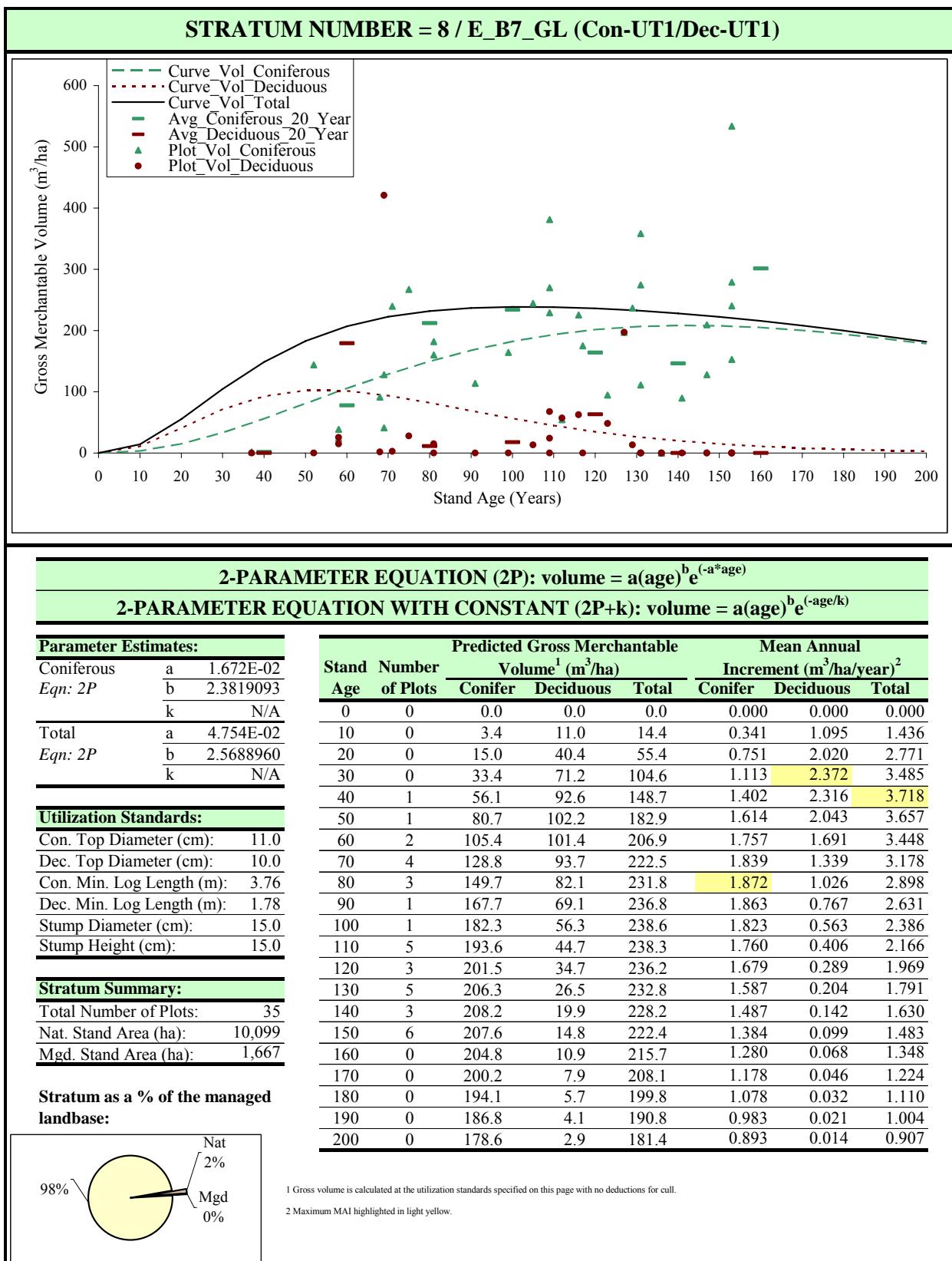


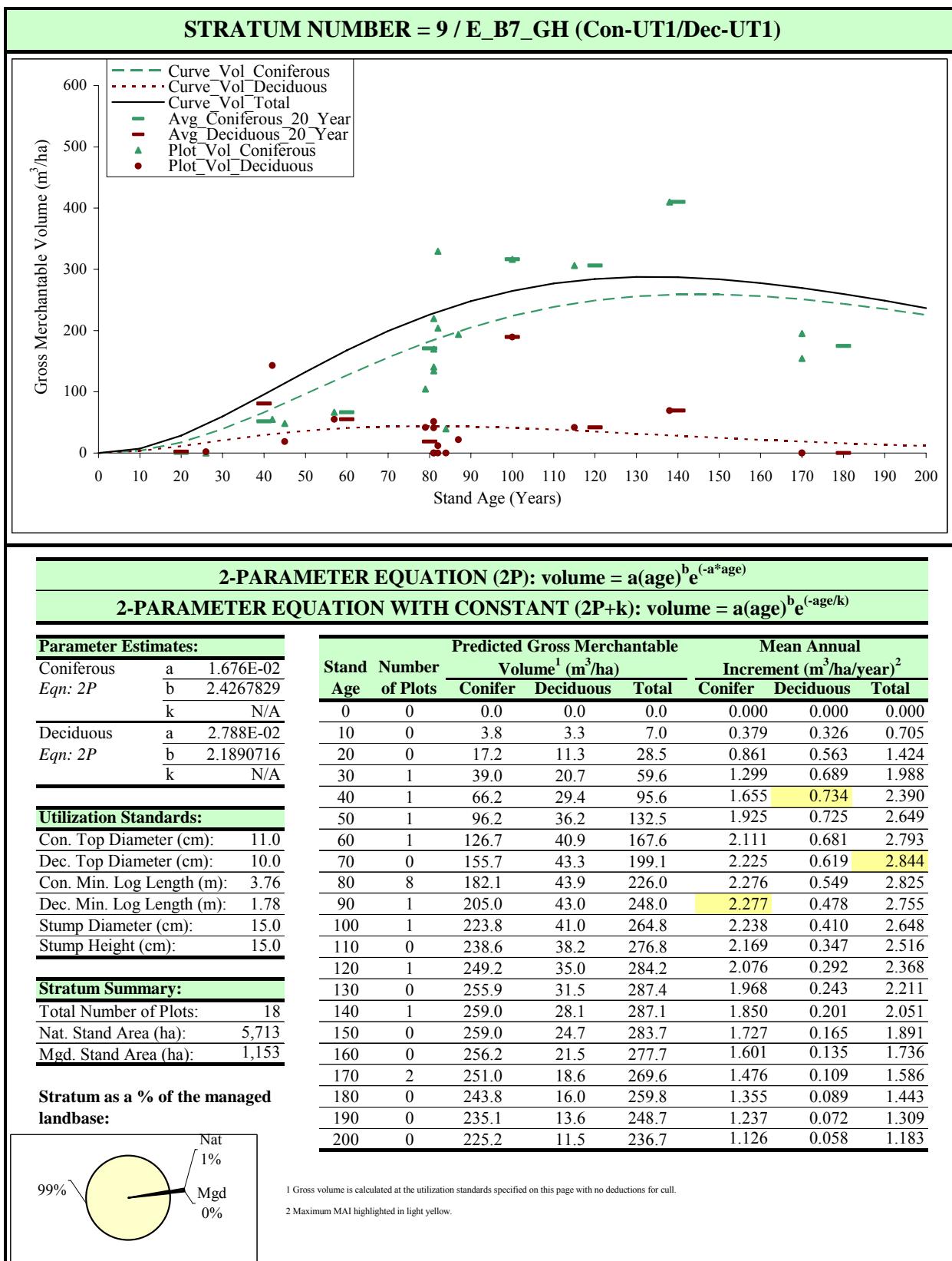


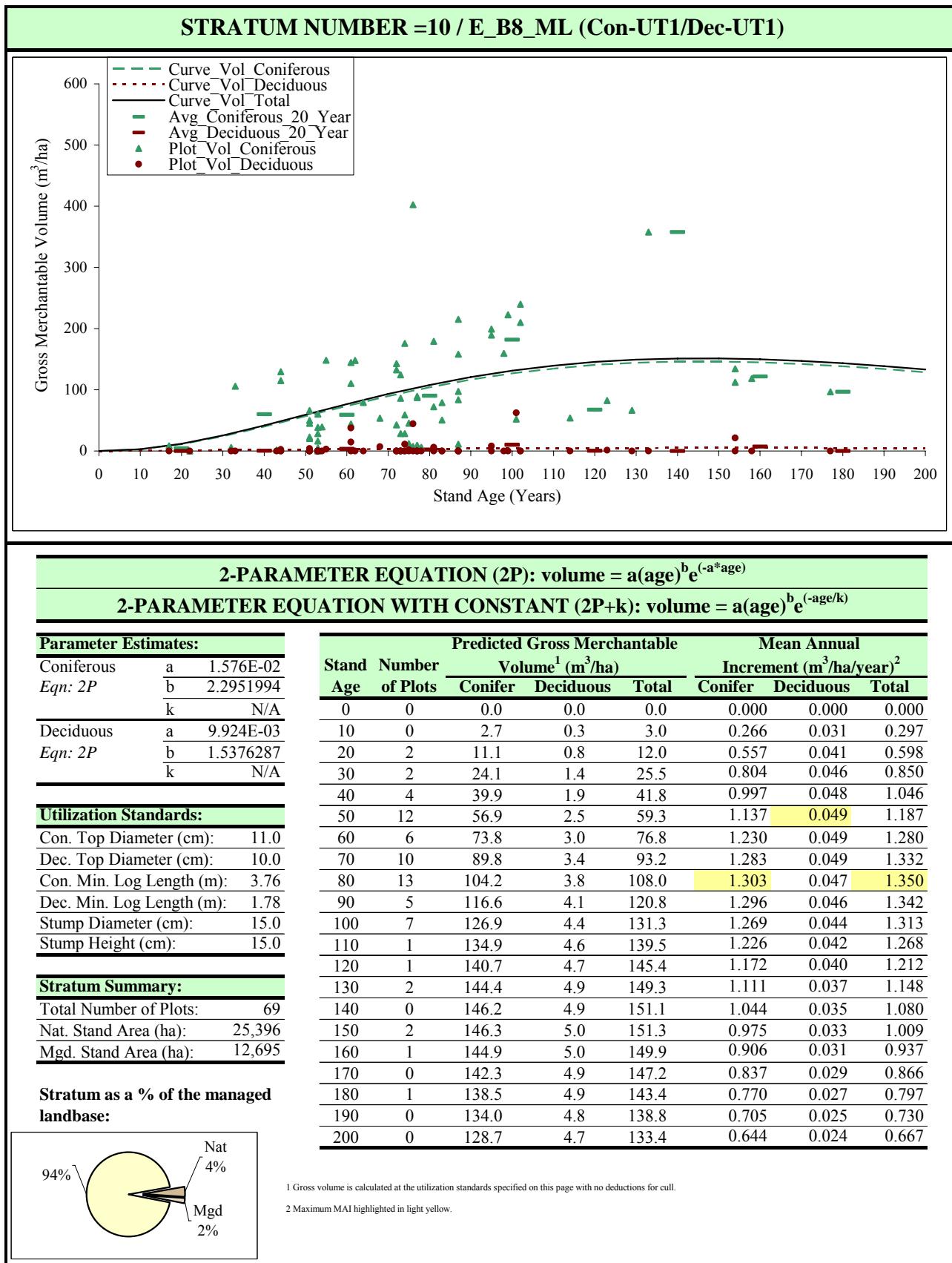


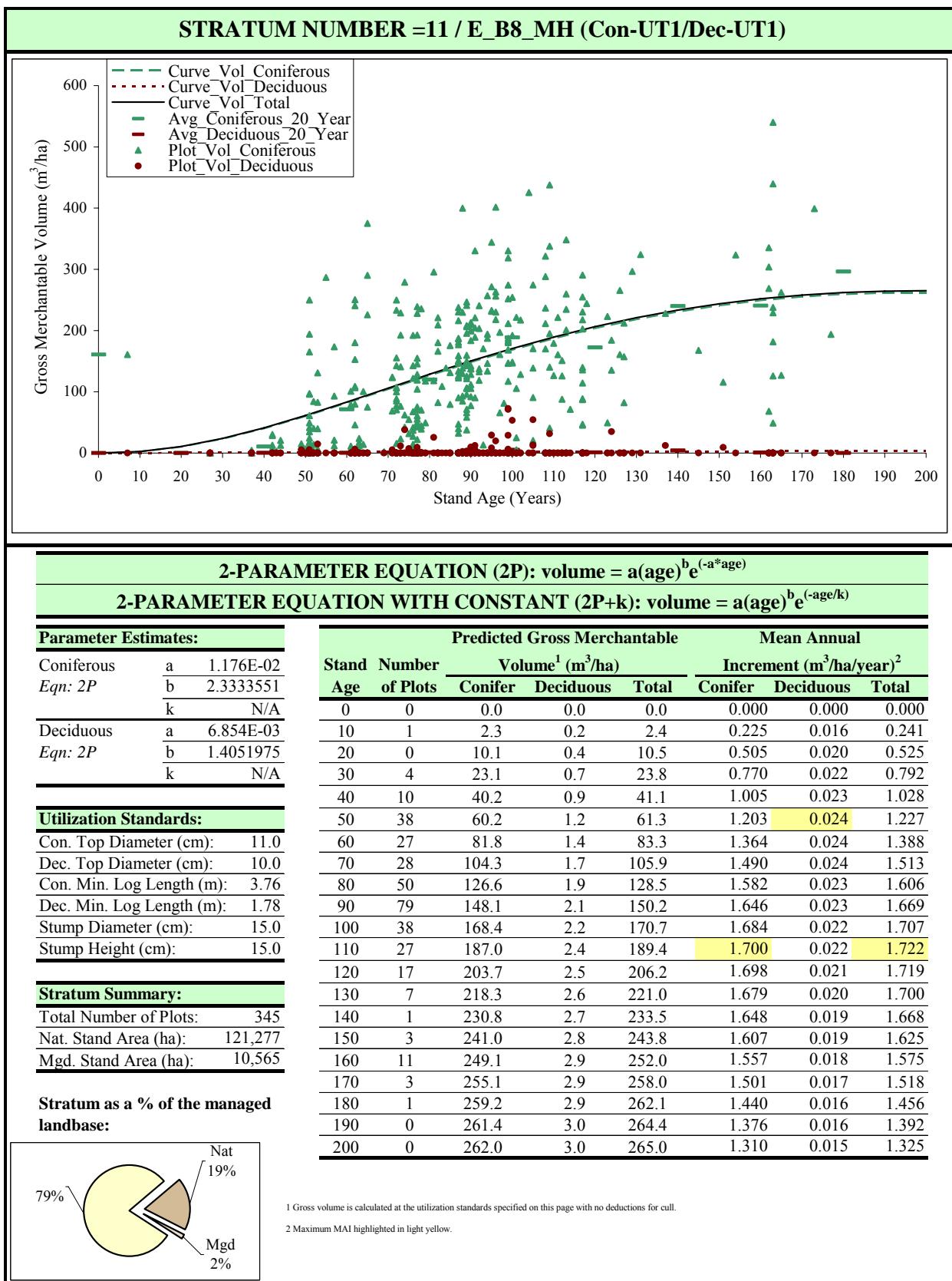


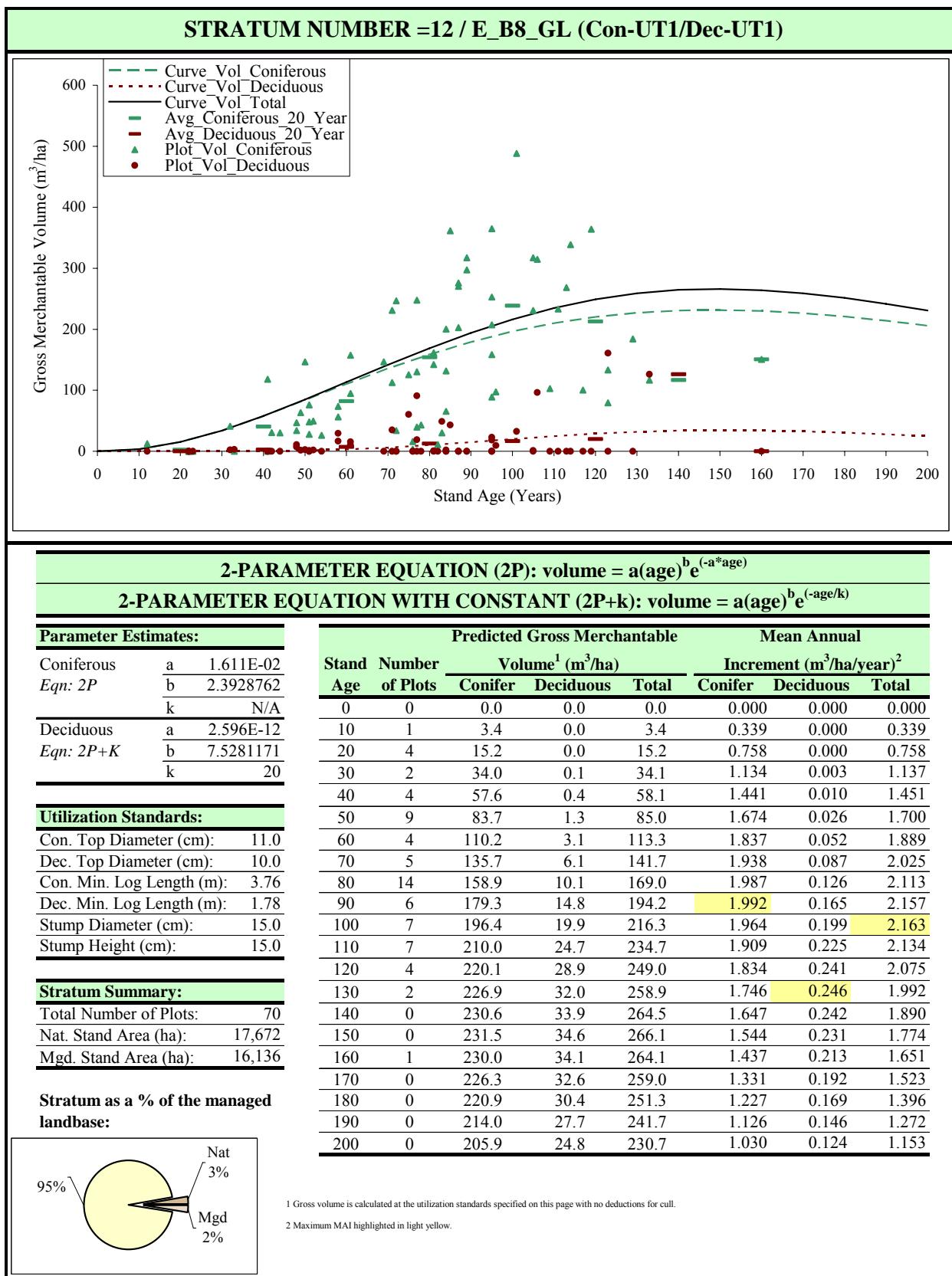


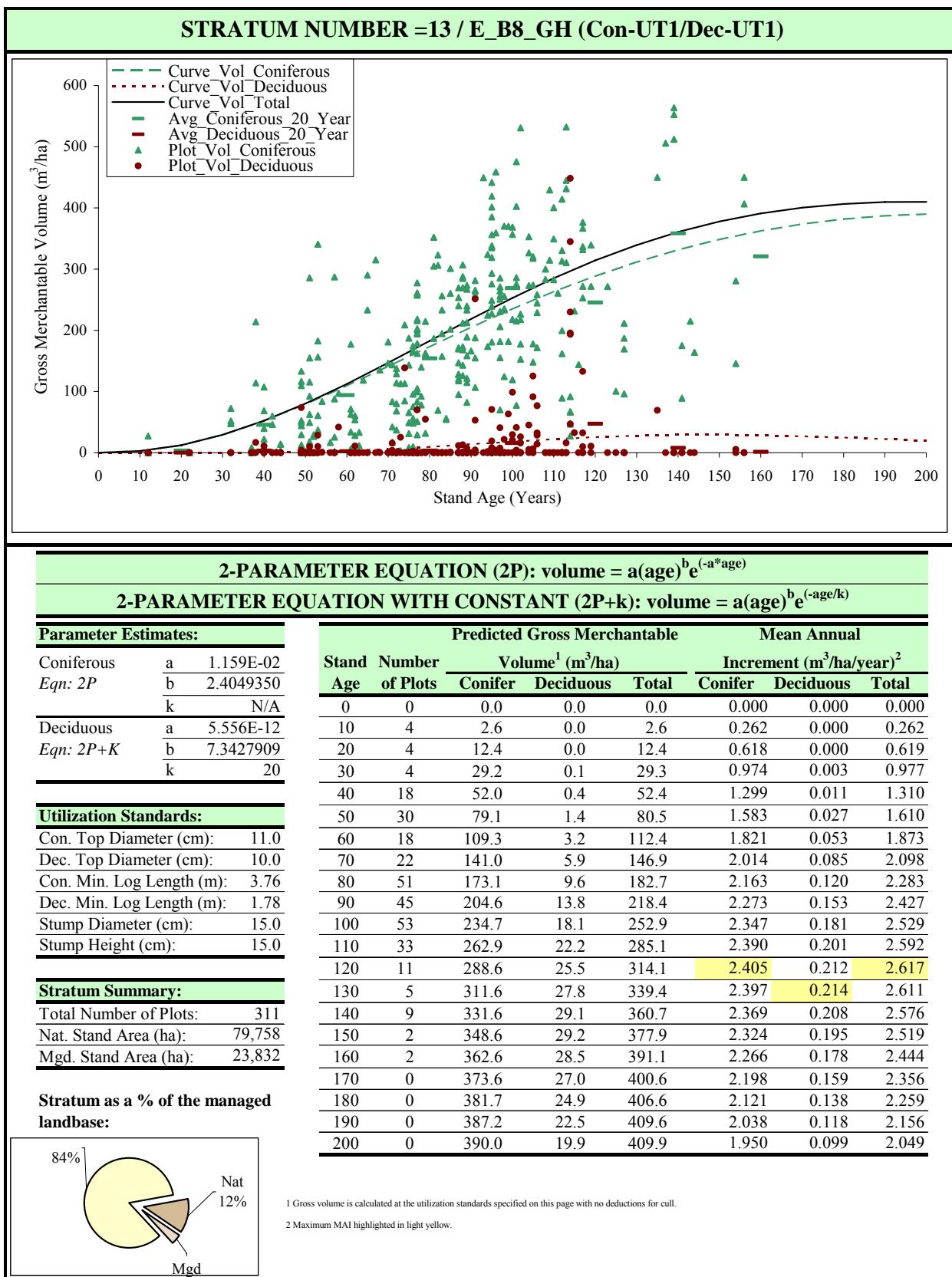


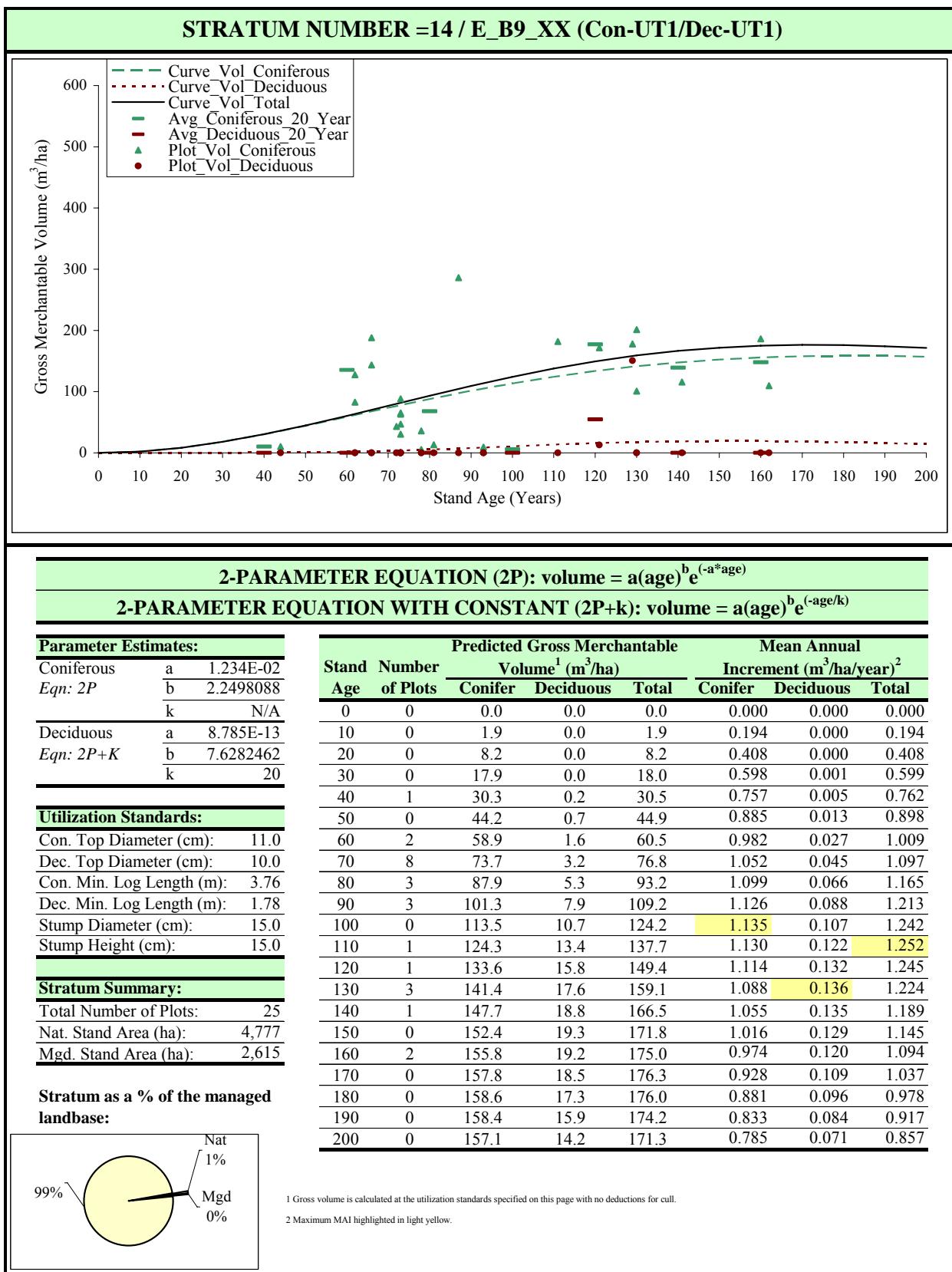


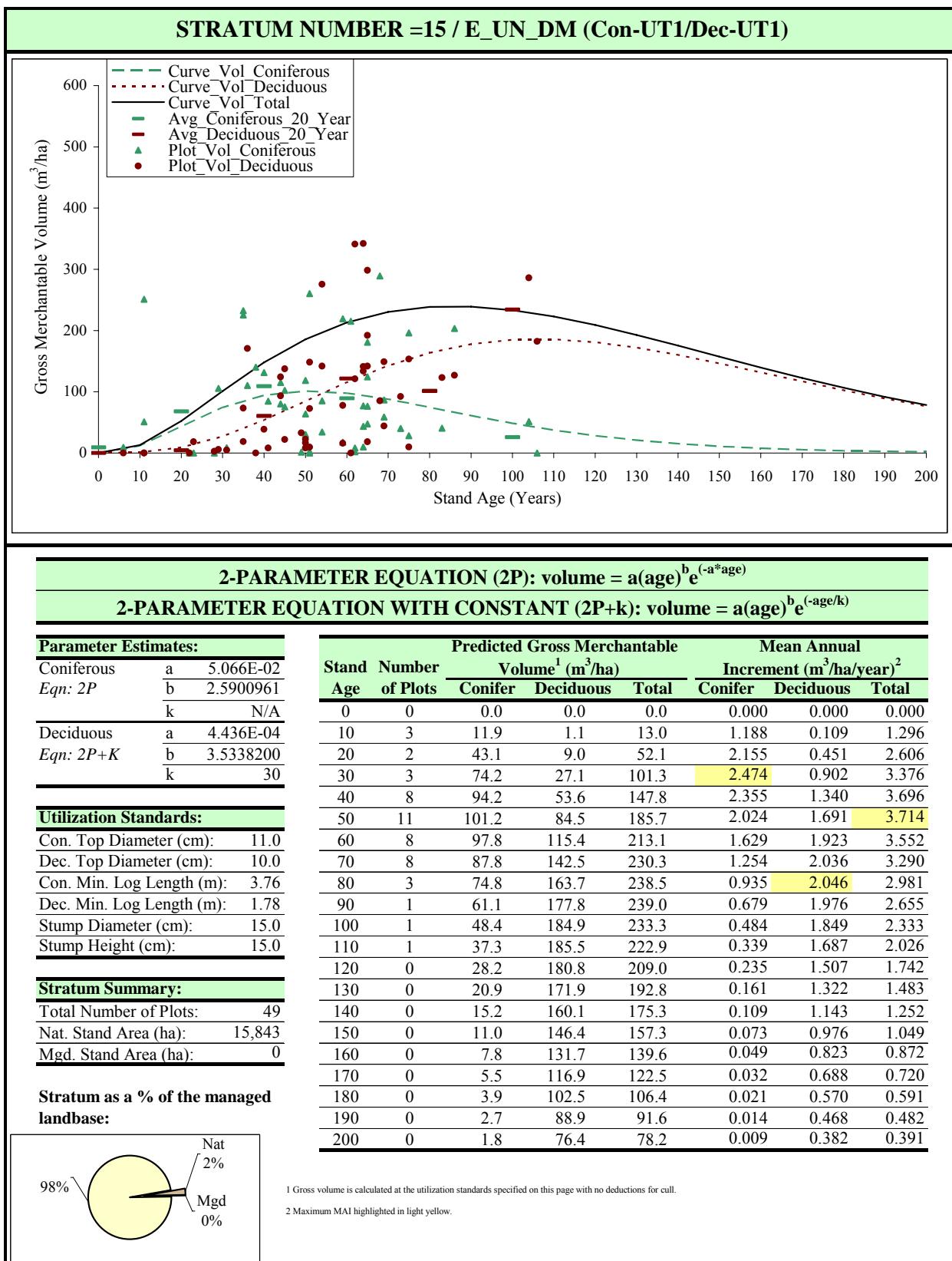


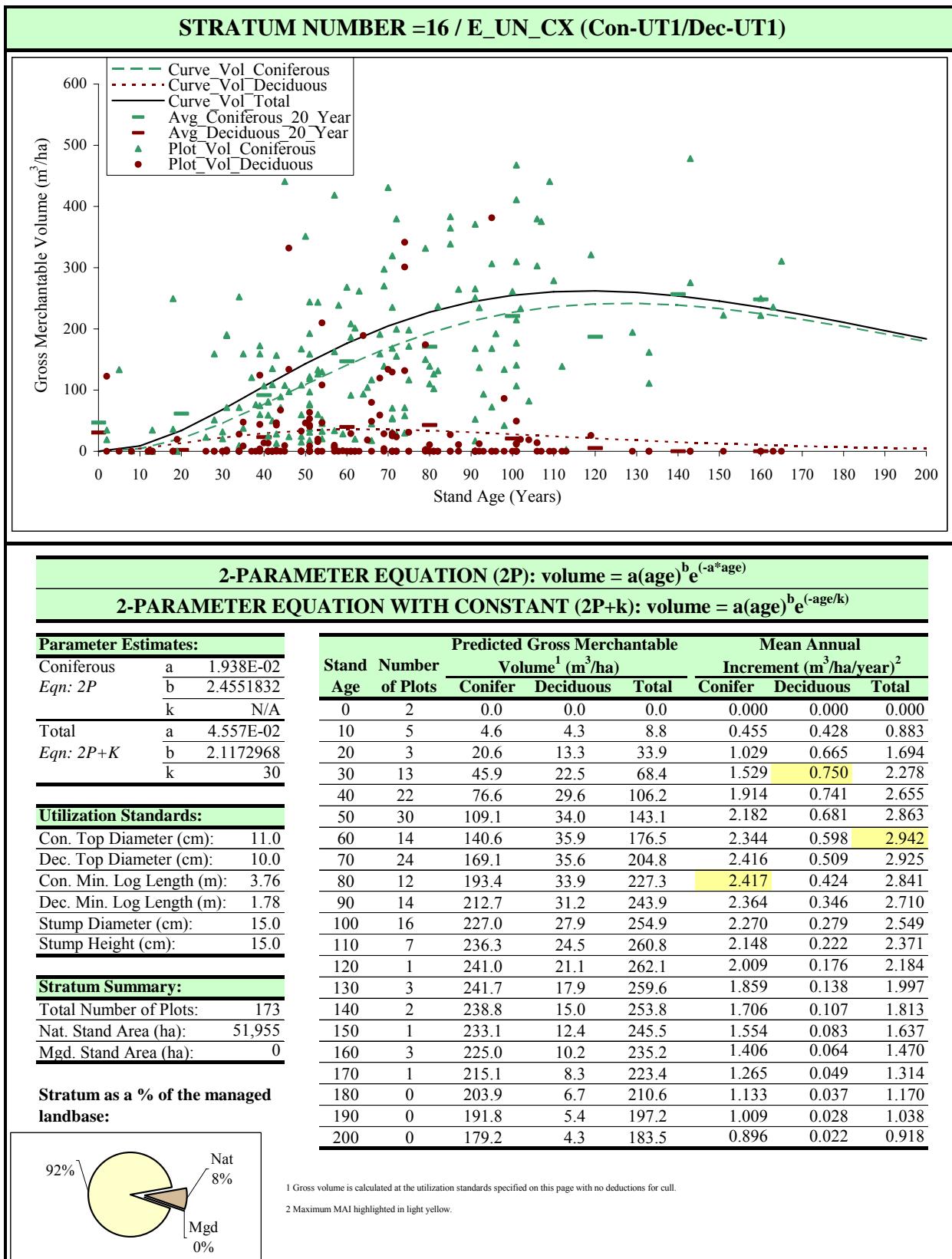


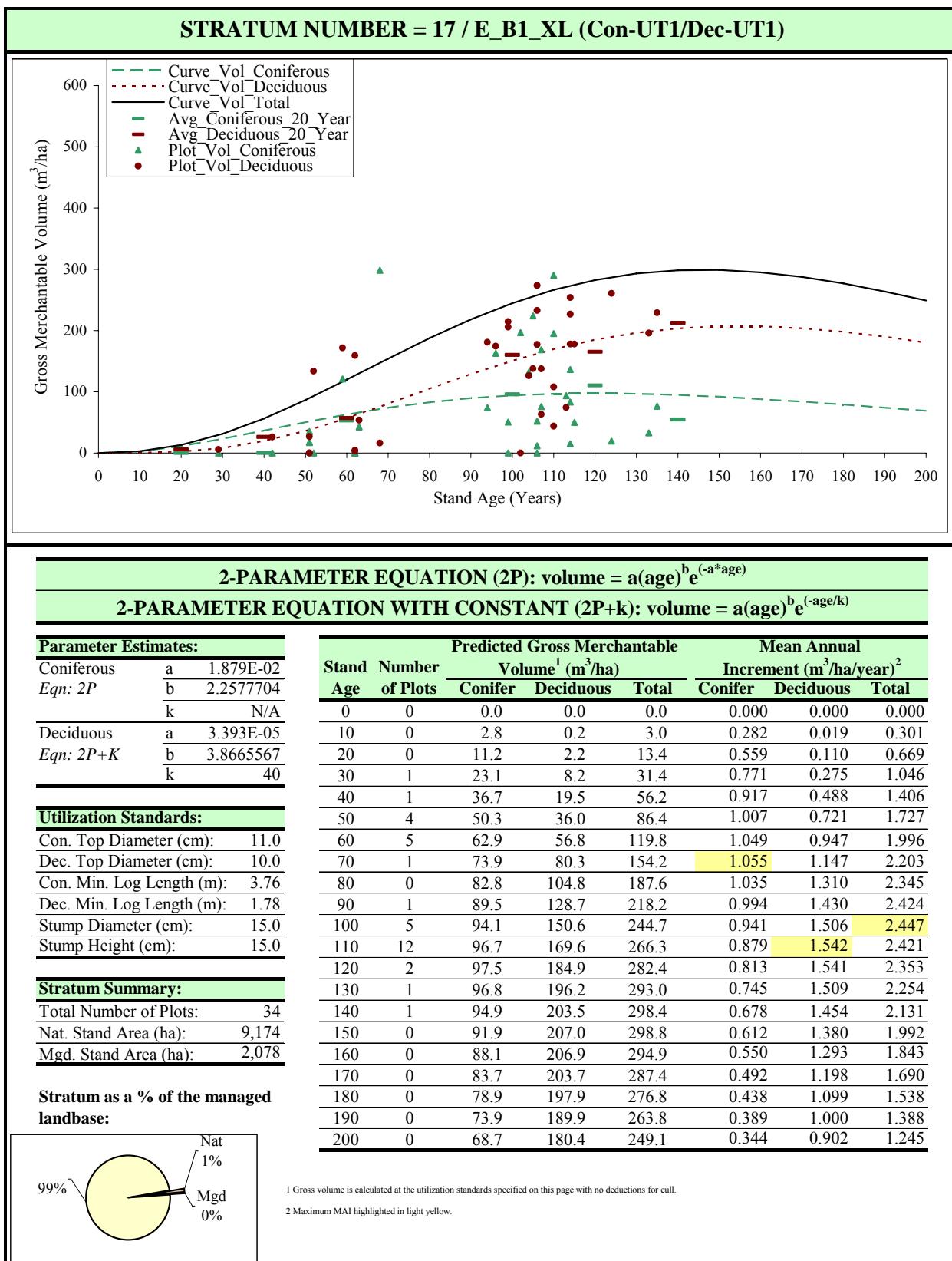


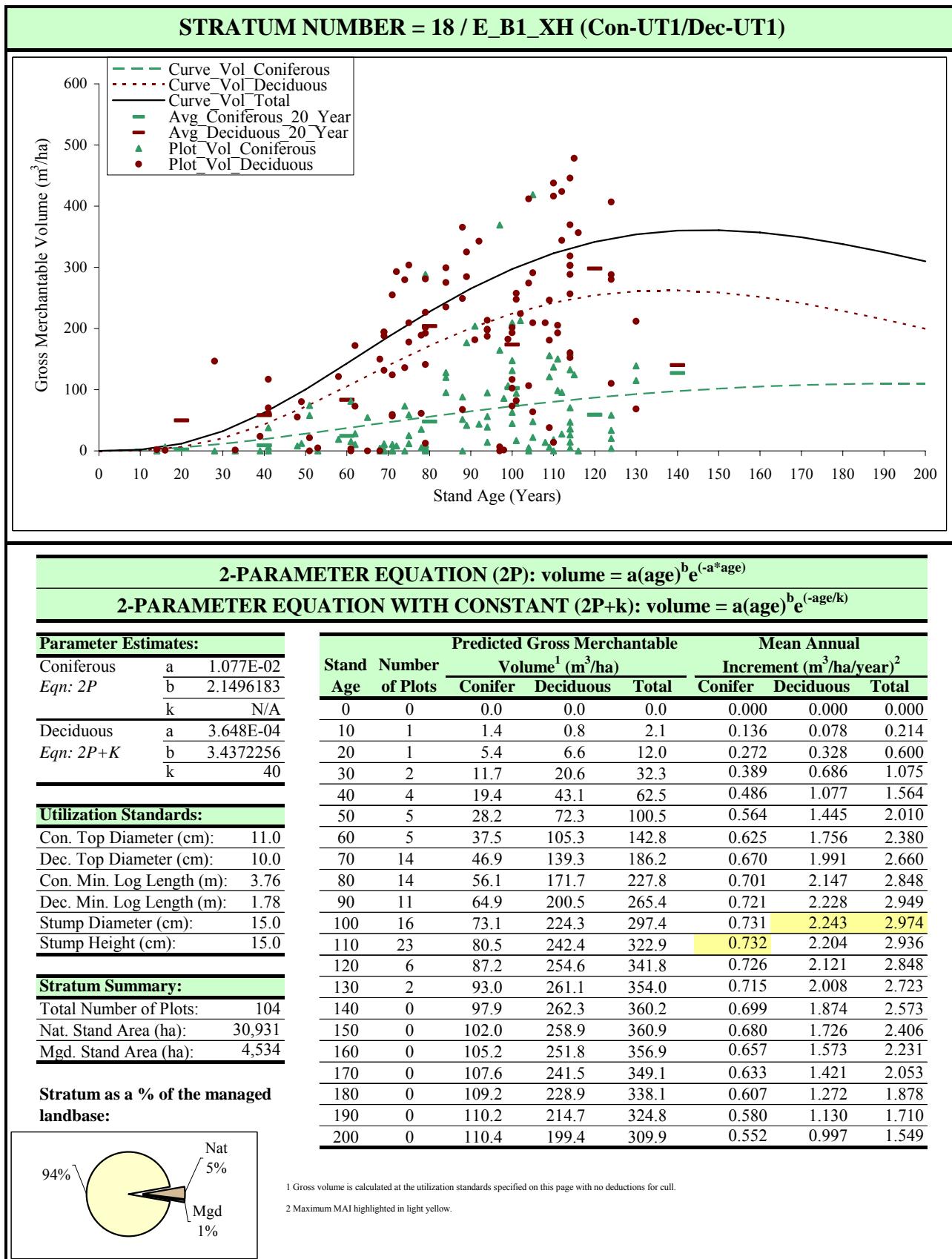


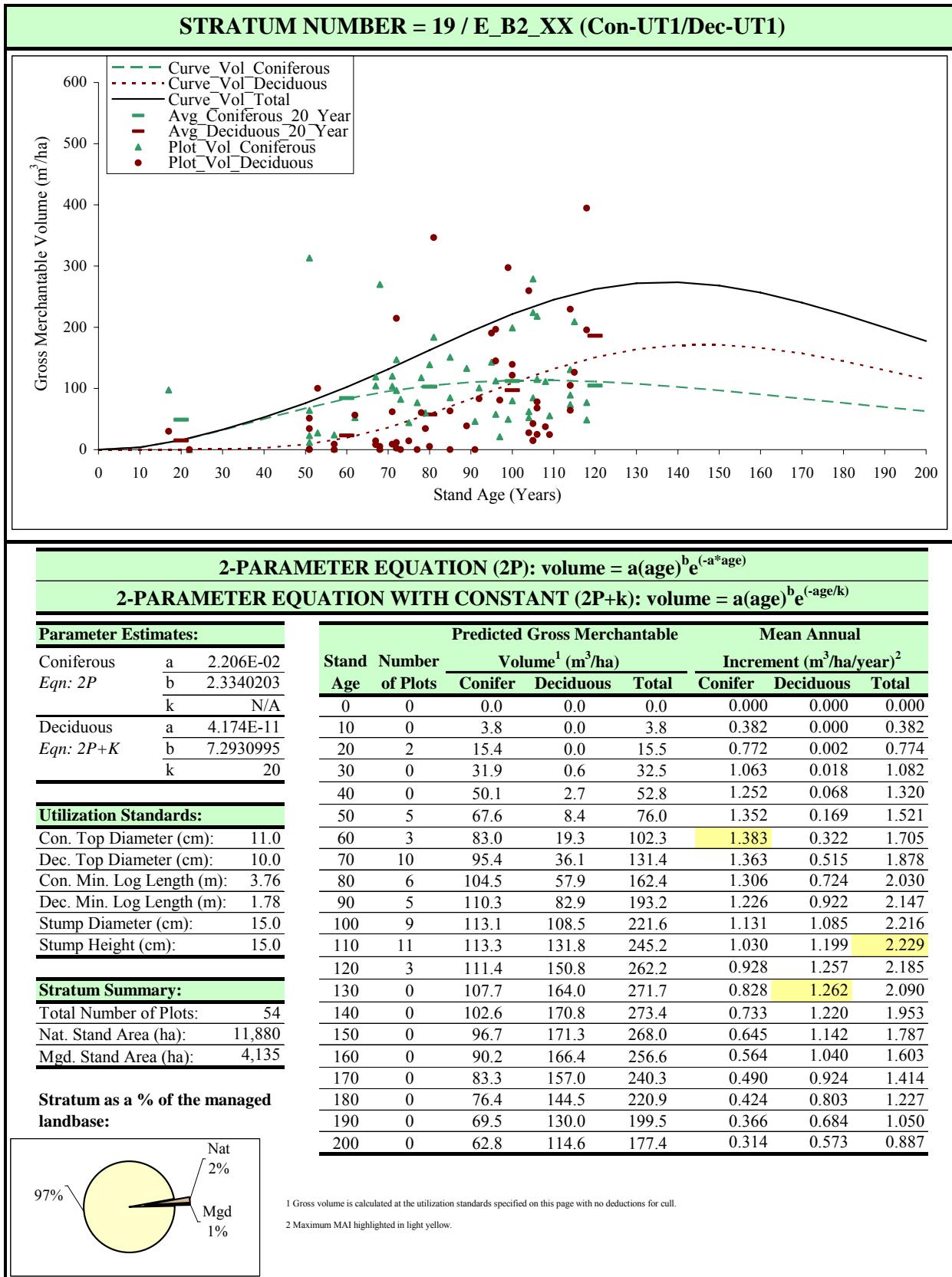


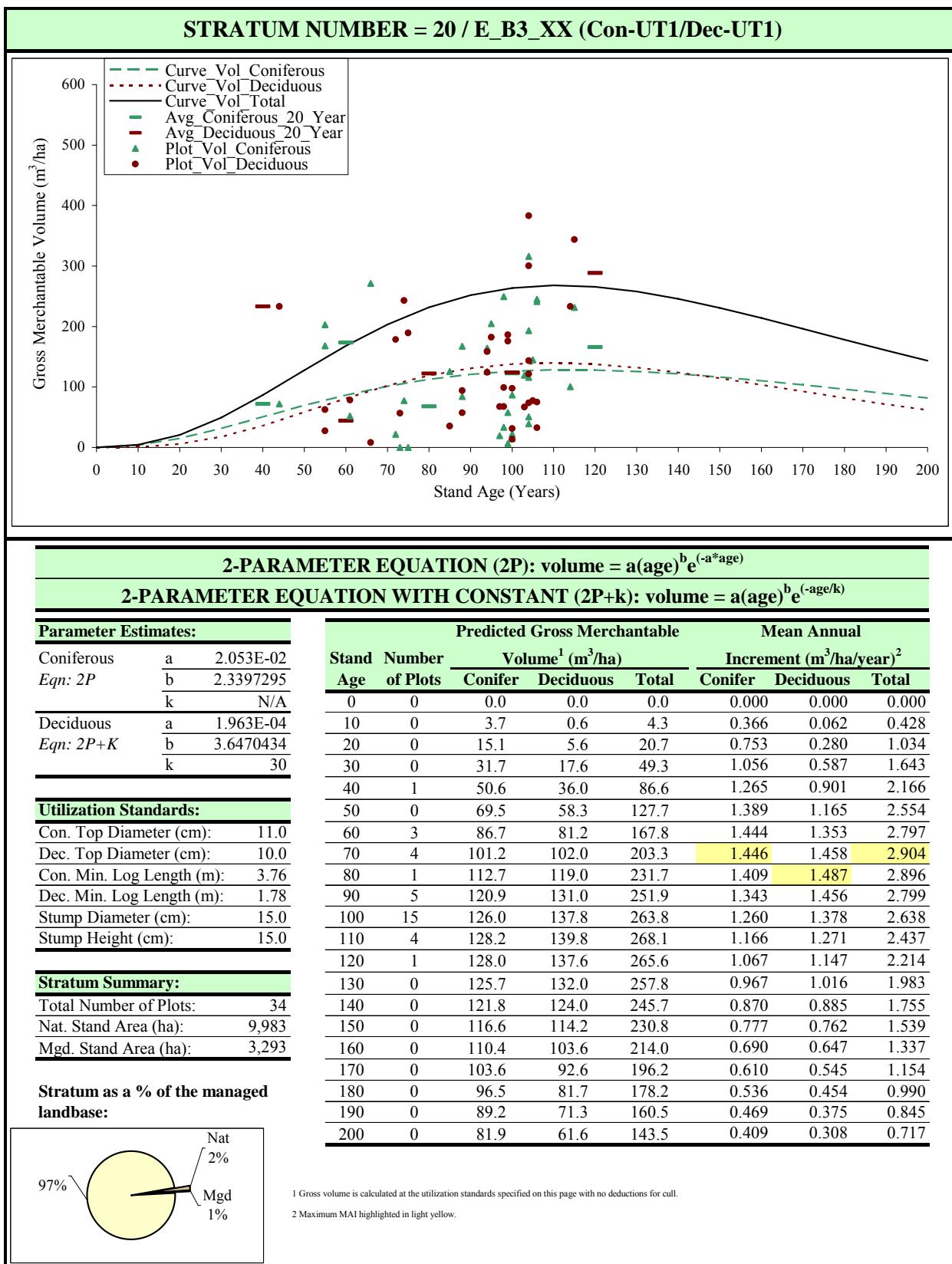


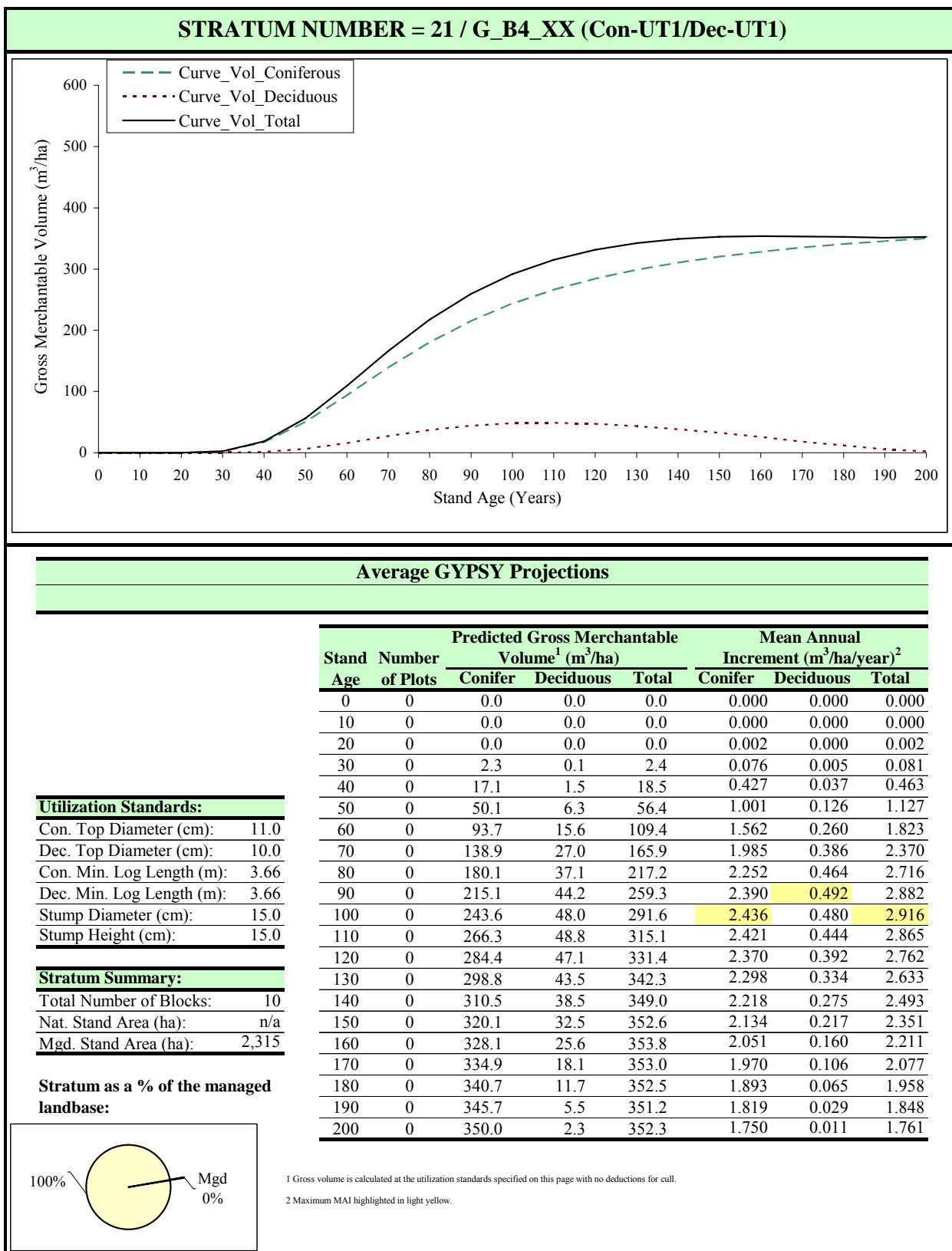


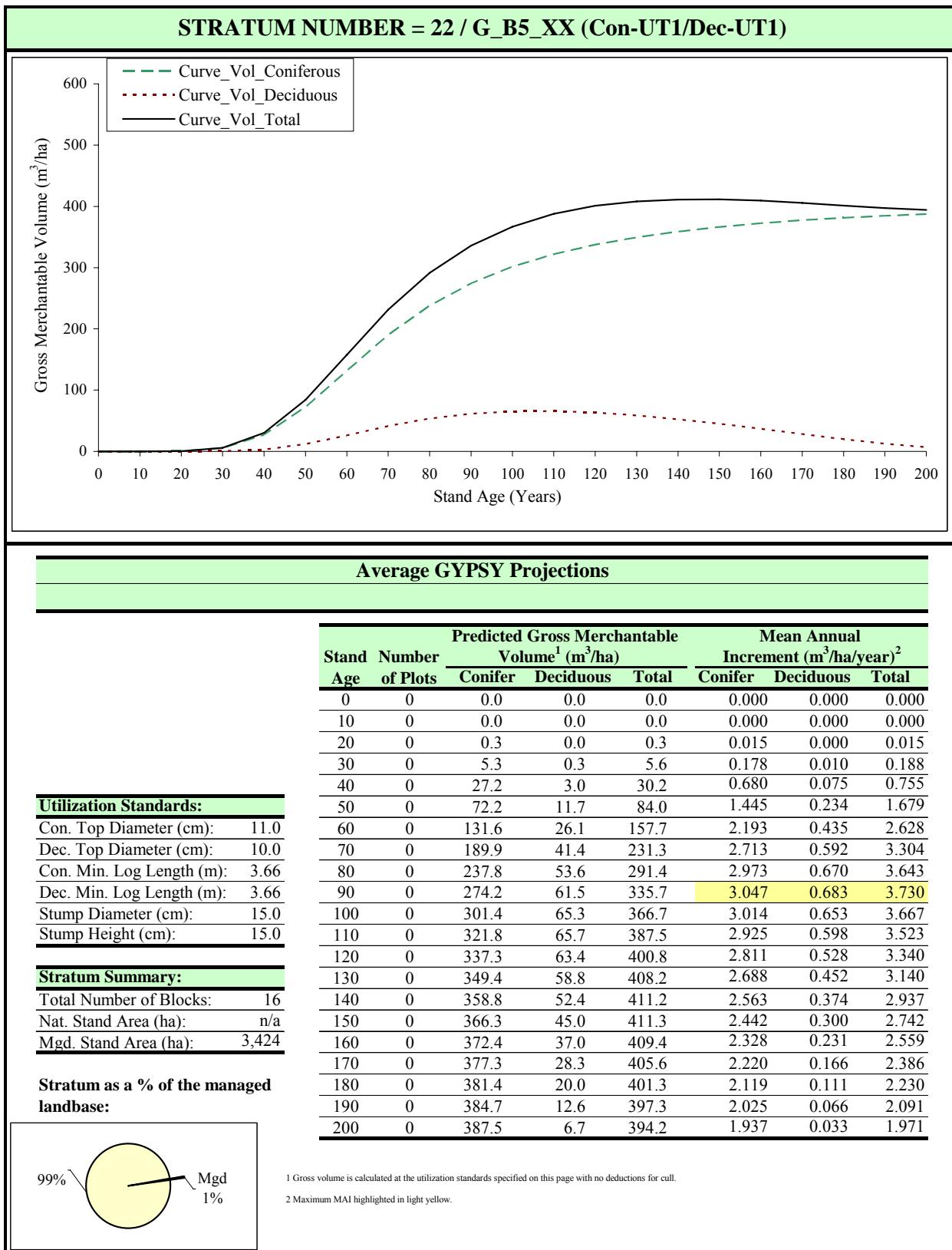


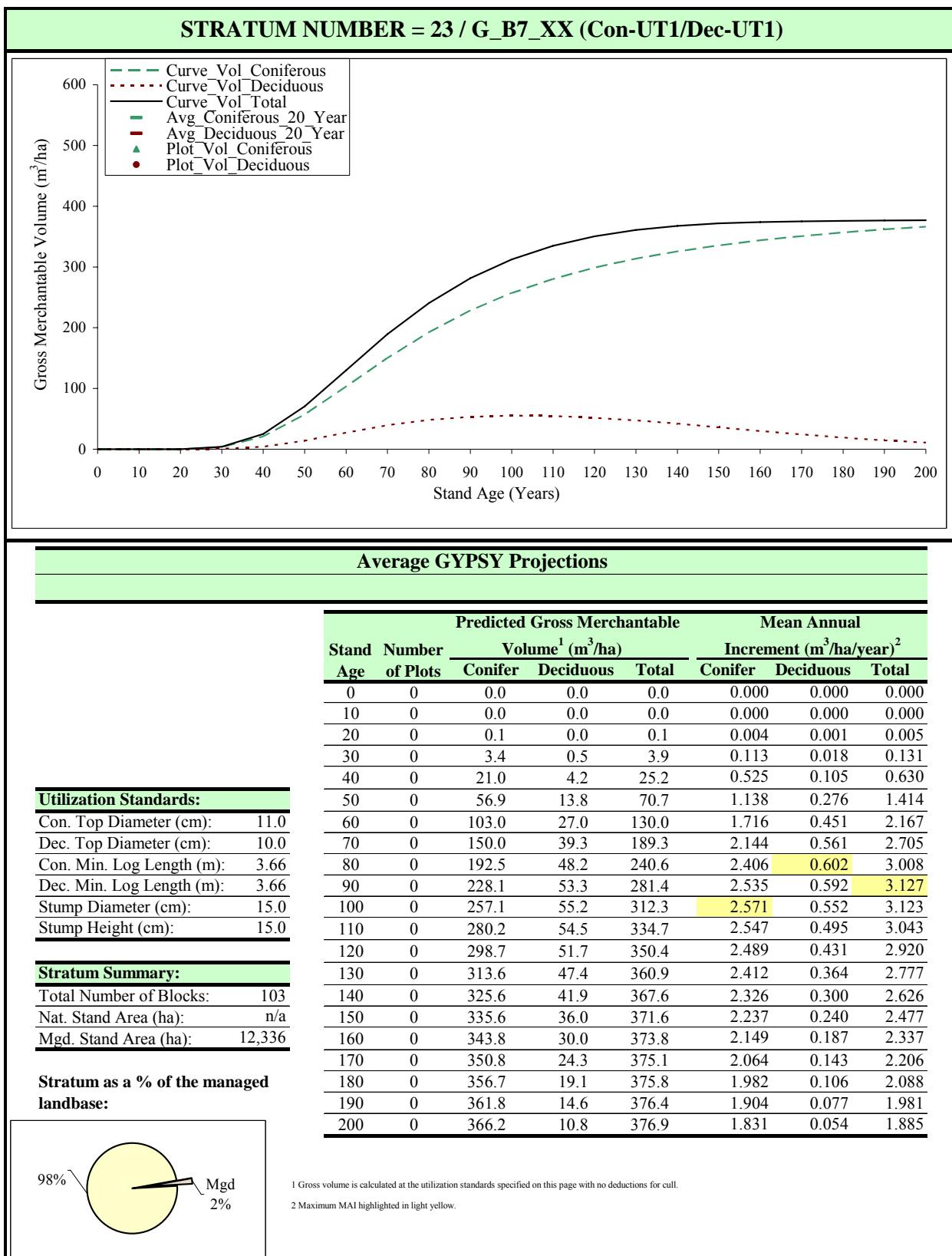


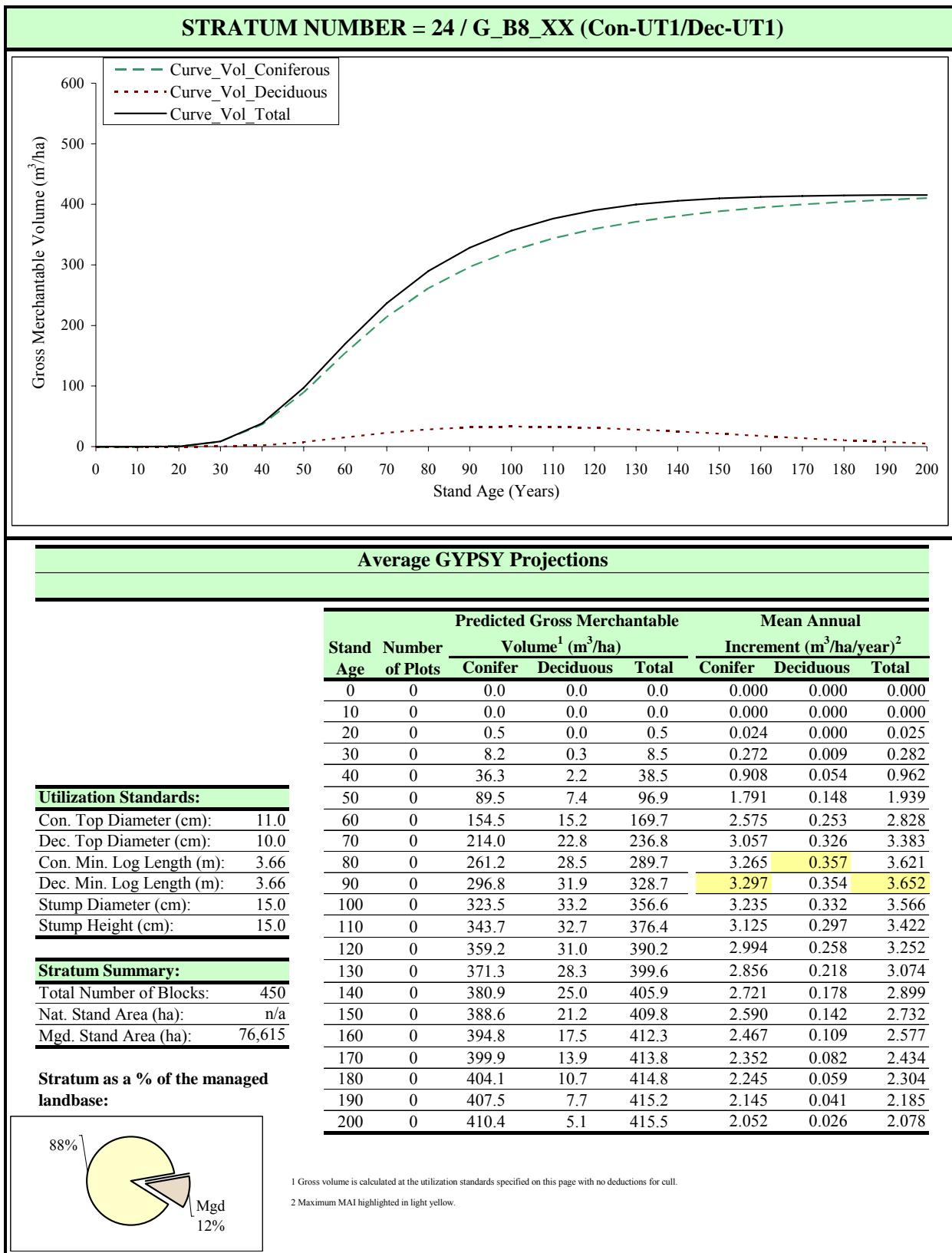


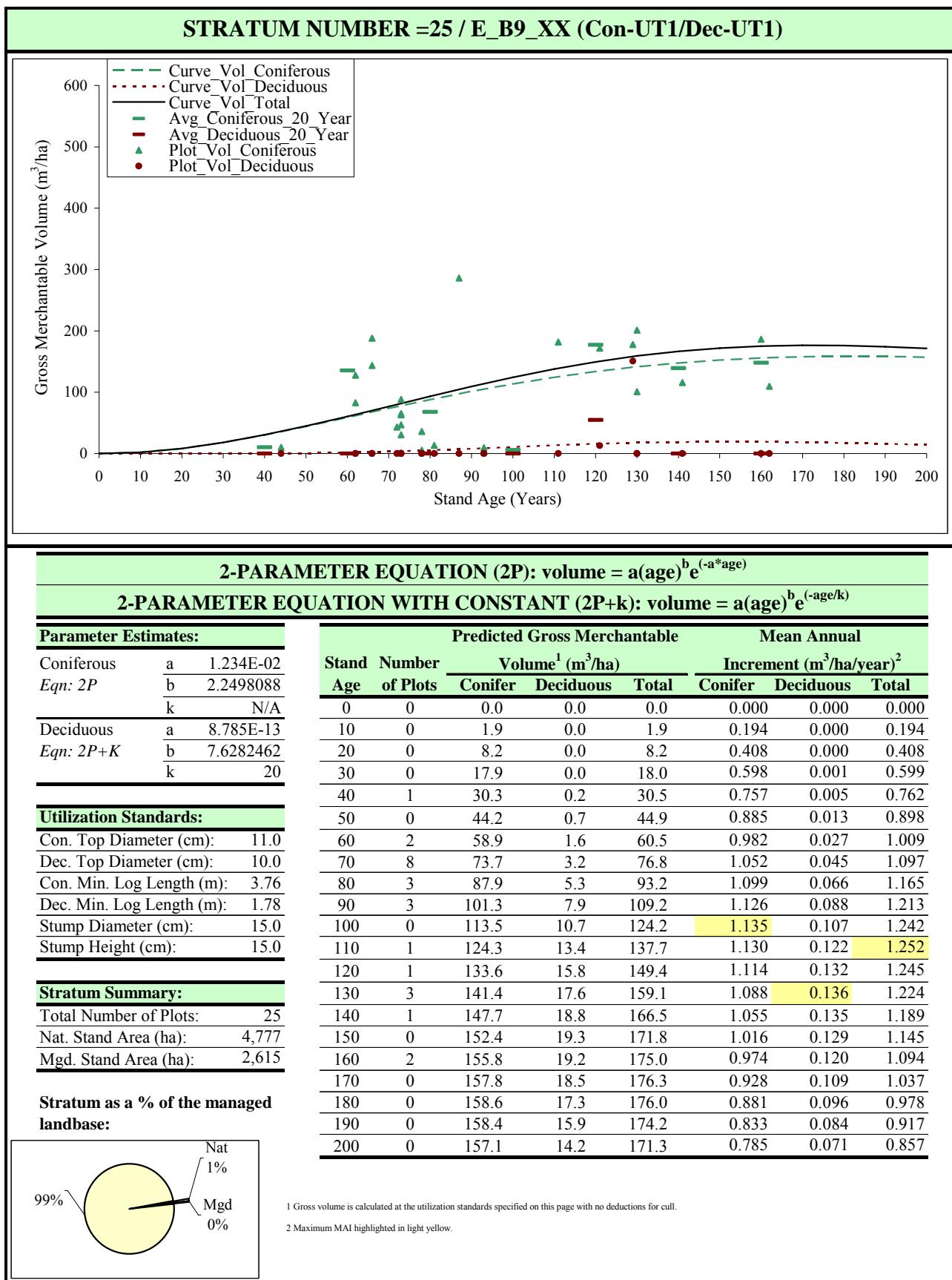


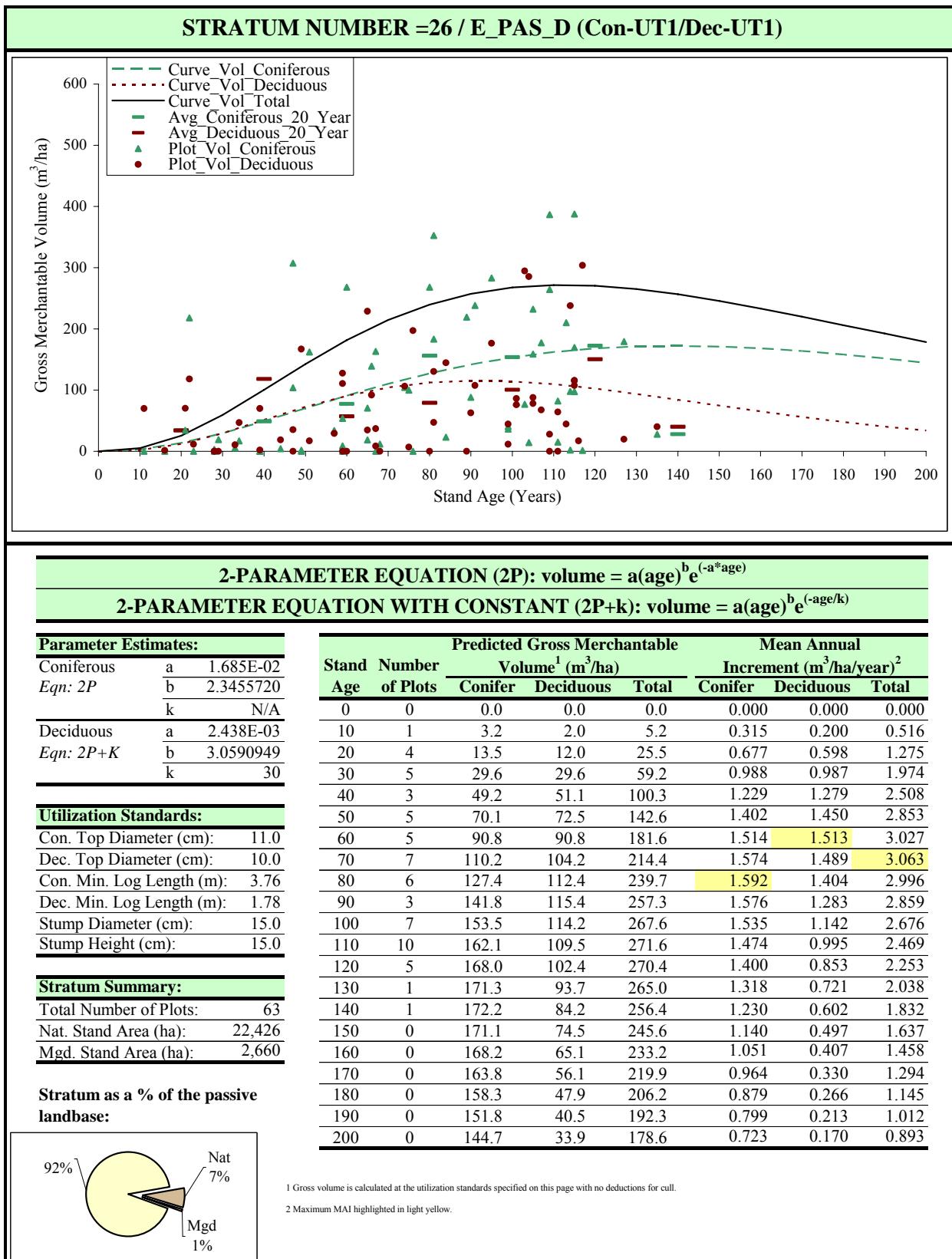


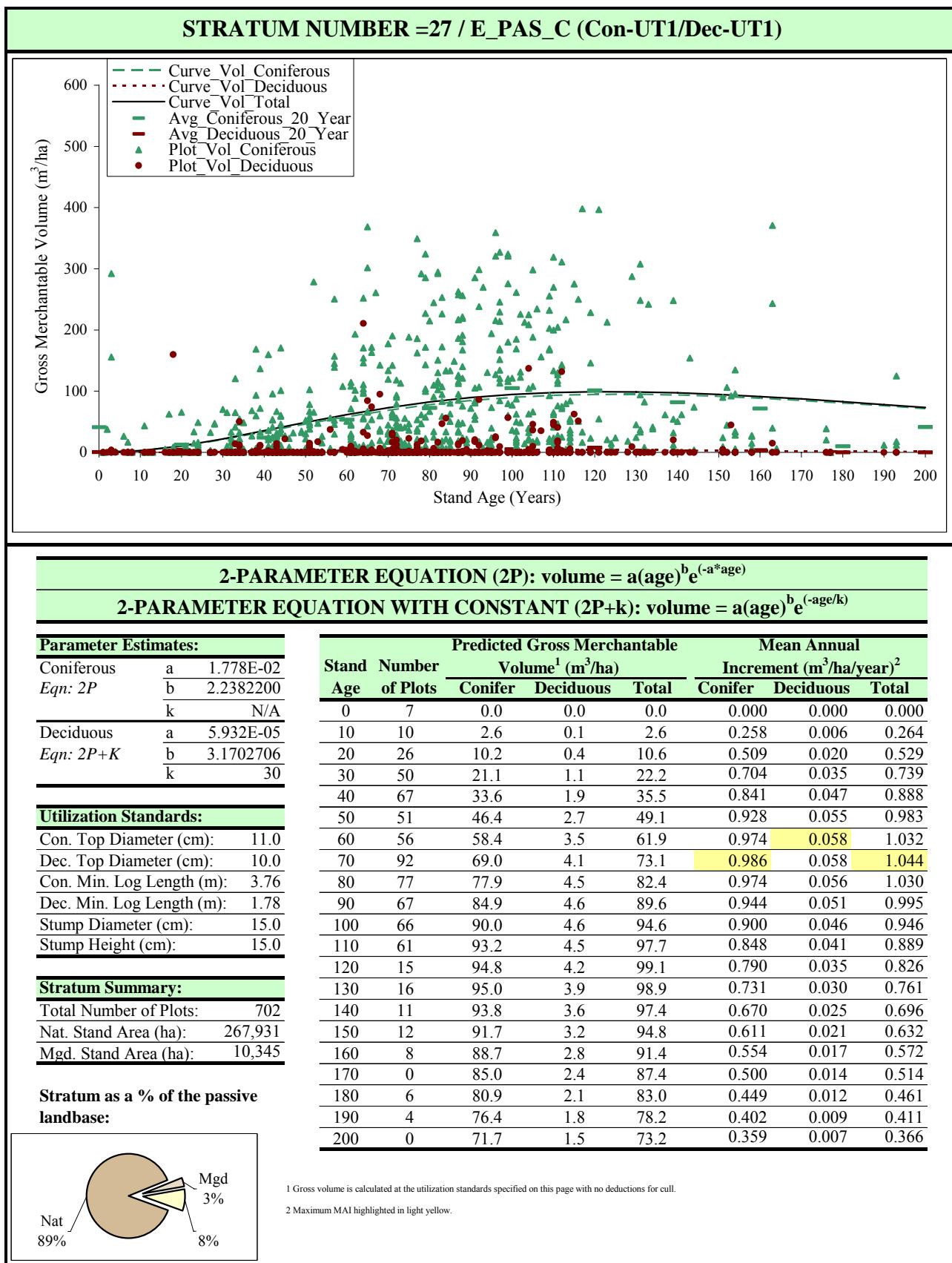












- **Baseline Yield Curves – Coniferous UT2 and Deciduous UT2**

Coniferous UT2 – all yield curves except strata 21-24:

- Species – live PL, SW, SE, SB, FB, FA & FD
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 13.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- tree length; minimum log length of 3.76 m.

Coniferous UT2 – strata 21-24:

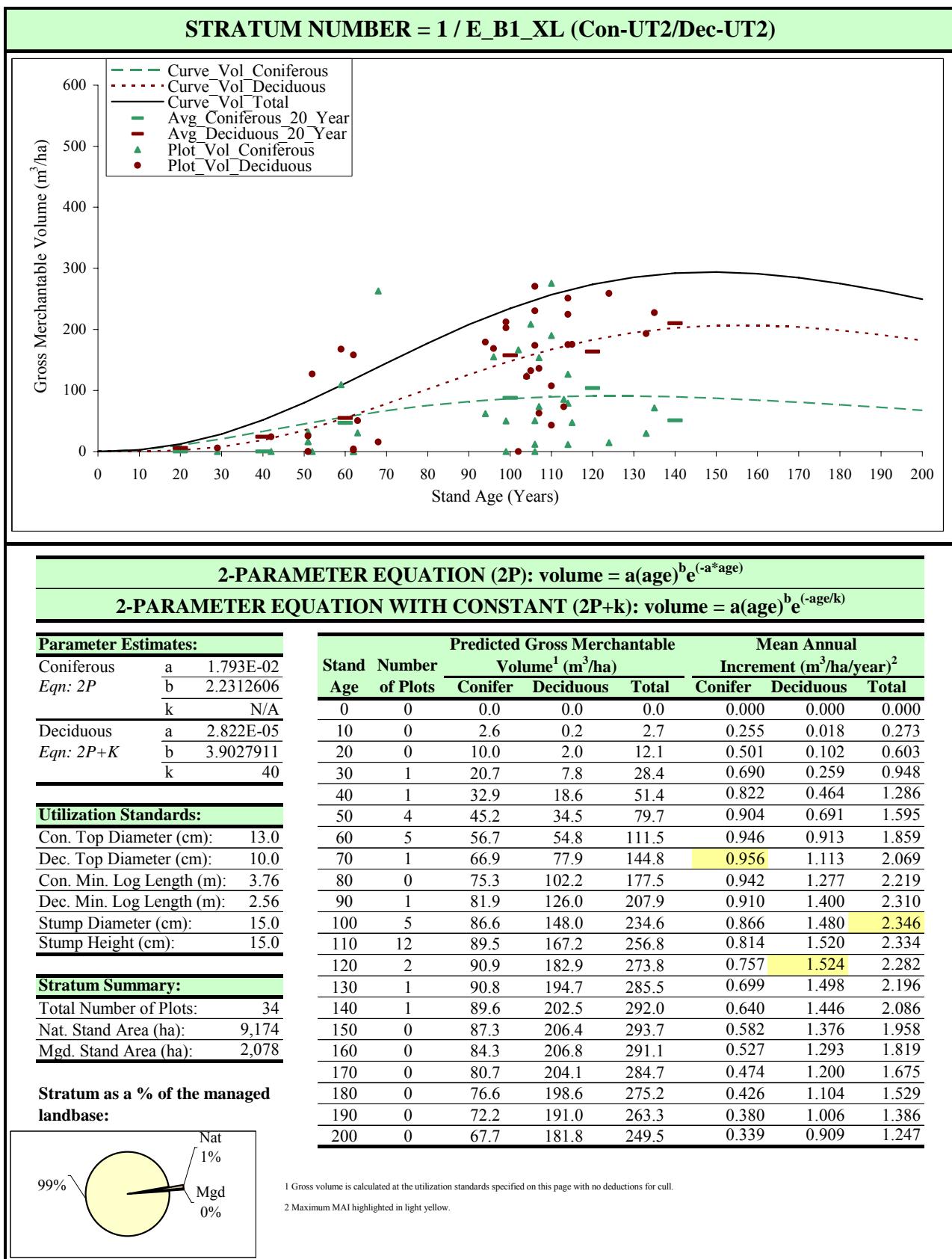
- Species – live PL, SW, SE, SB, FB, FA & FD
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 13.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- tree length; minimum log length of 3.66 m.

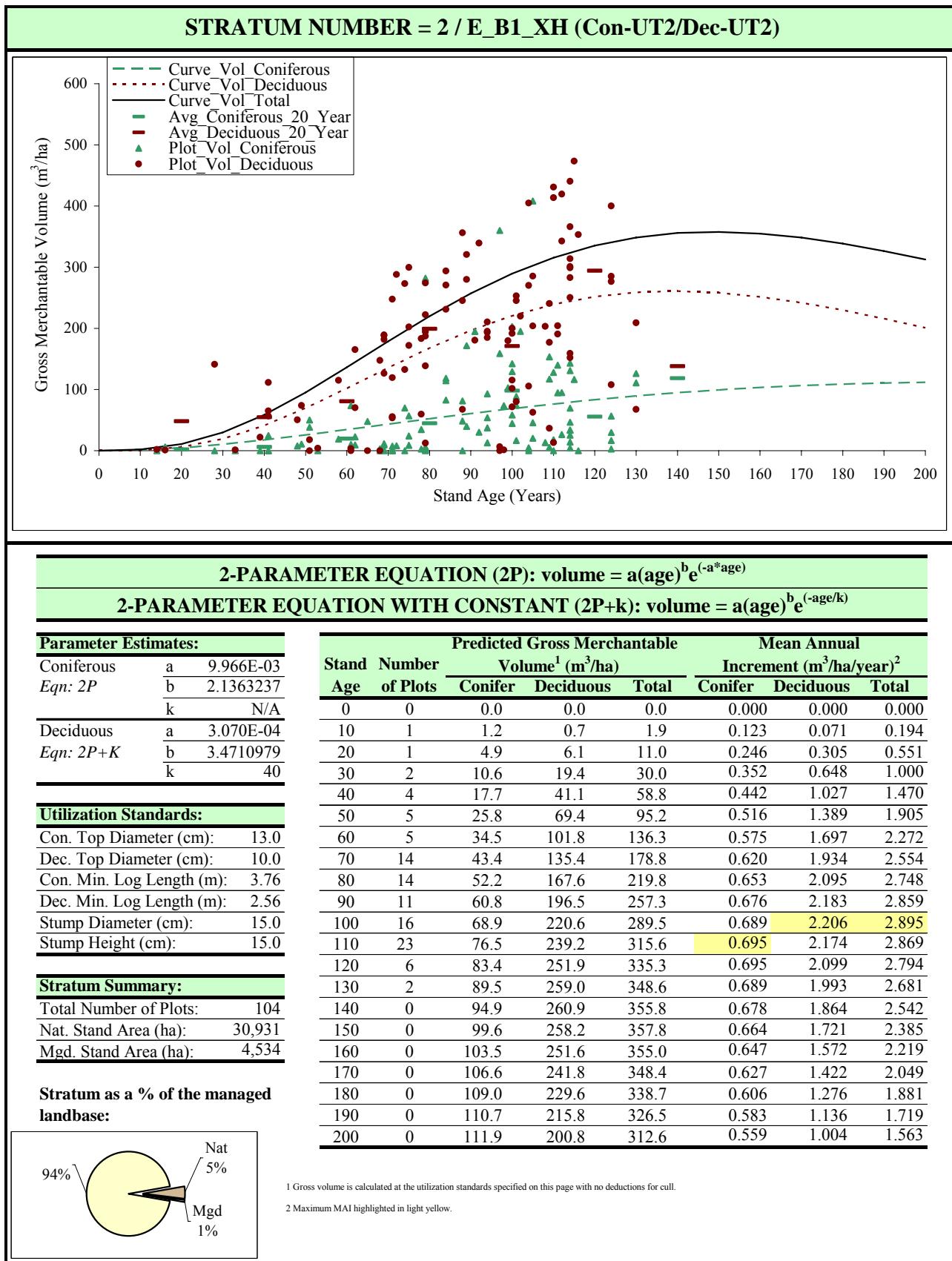
Deciduous UT2 – all yield curves except strata 21-24:

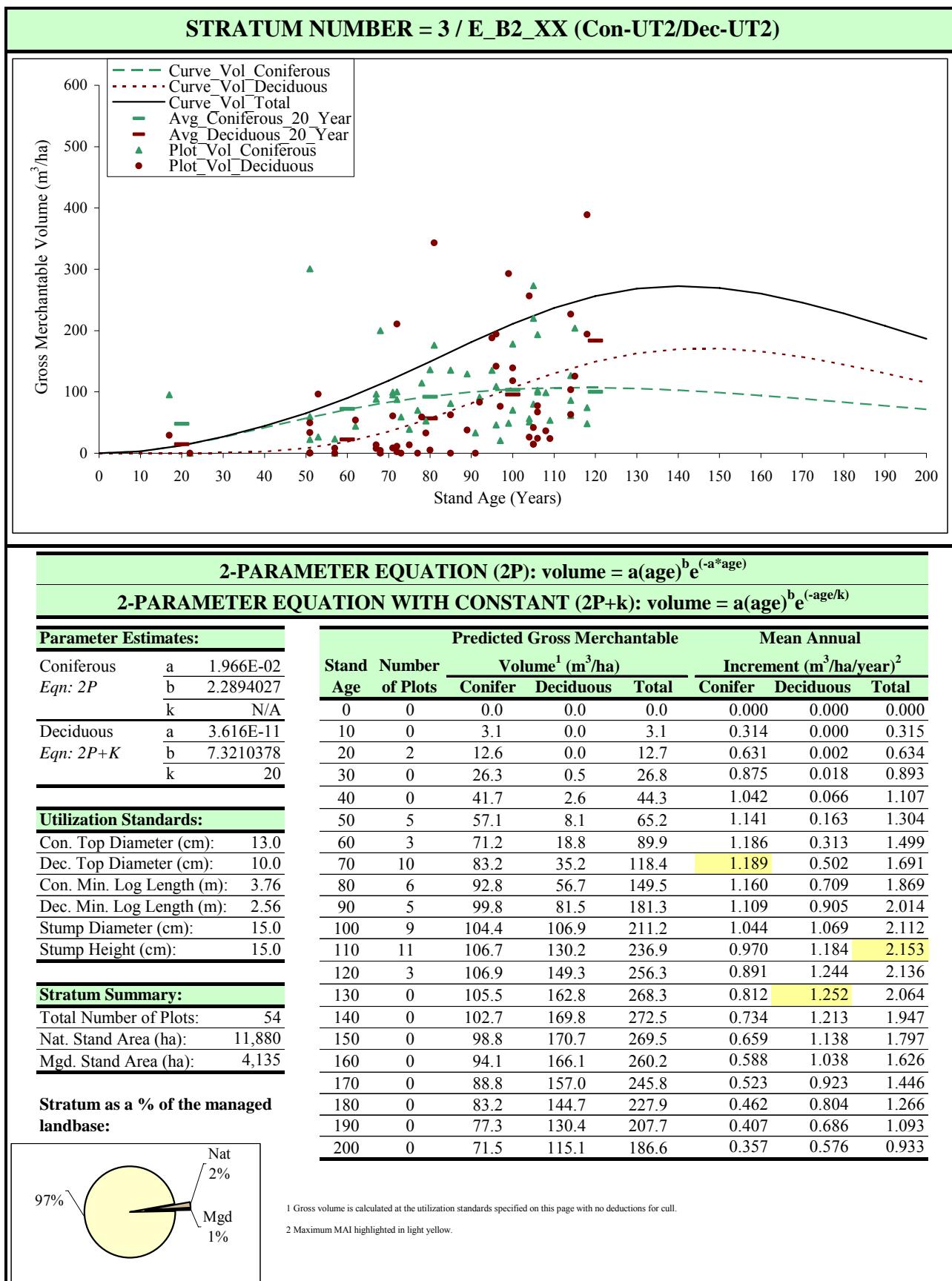
- Species – live AW & PB
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 10.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- cut to length; target length of 2.56 m and minimum log length also of 2.56 m.

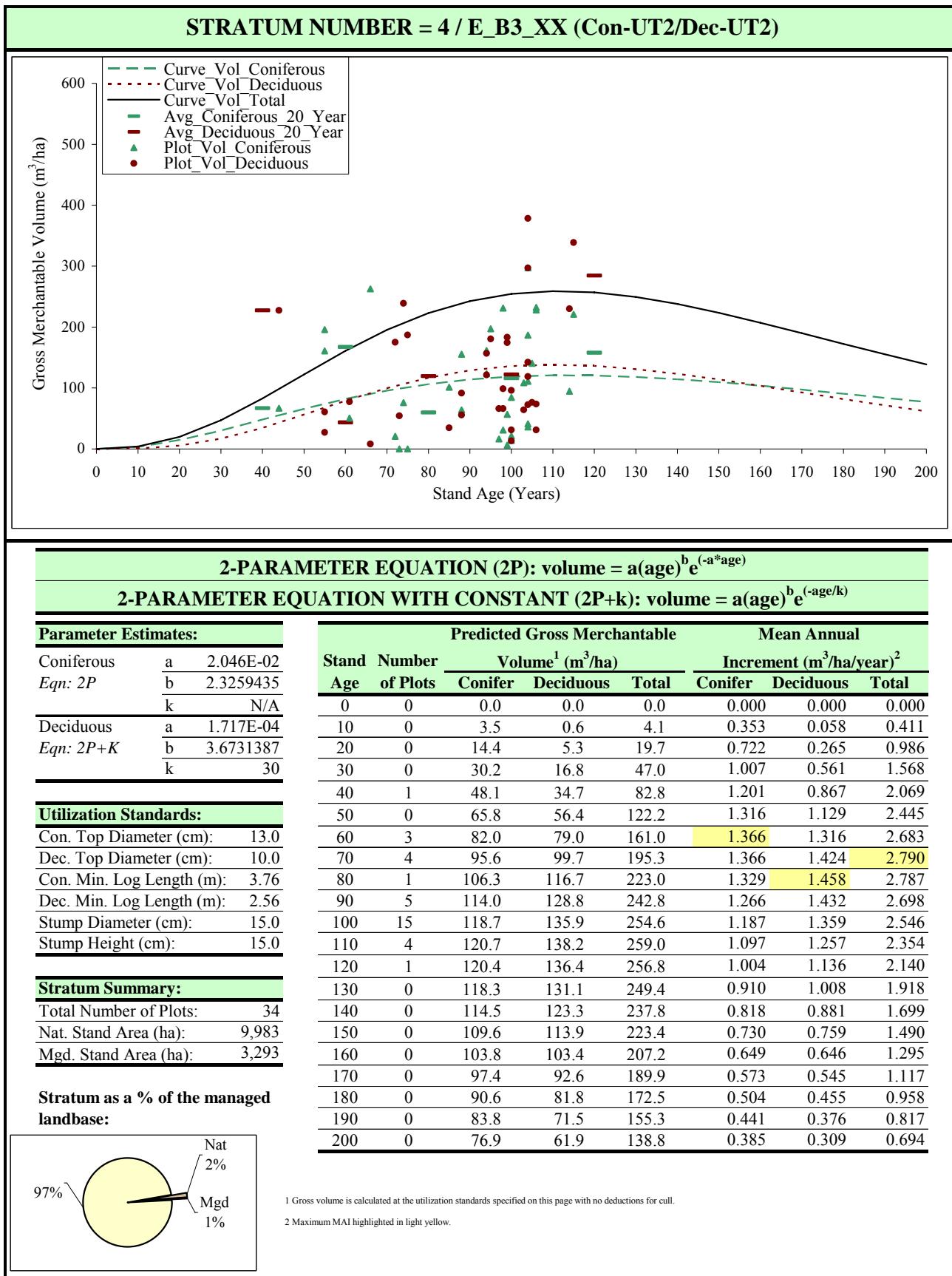
Deciduous UT1 – strata 21-24:

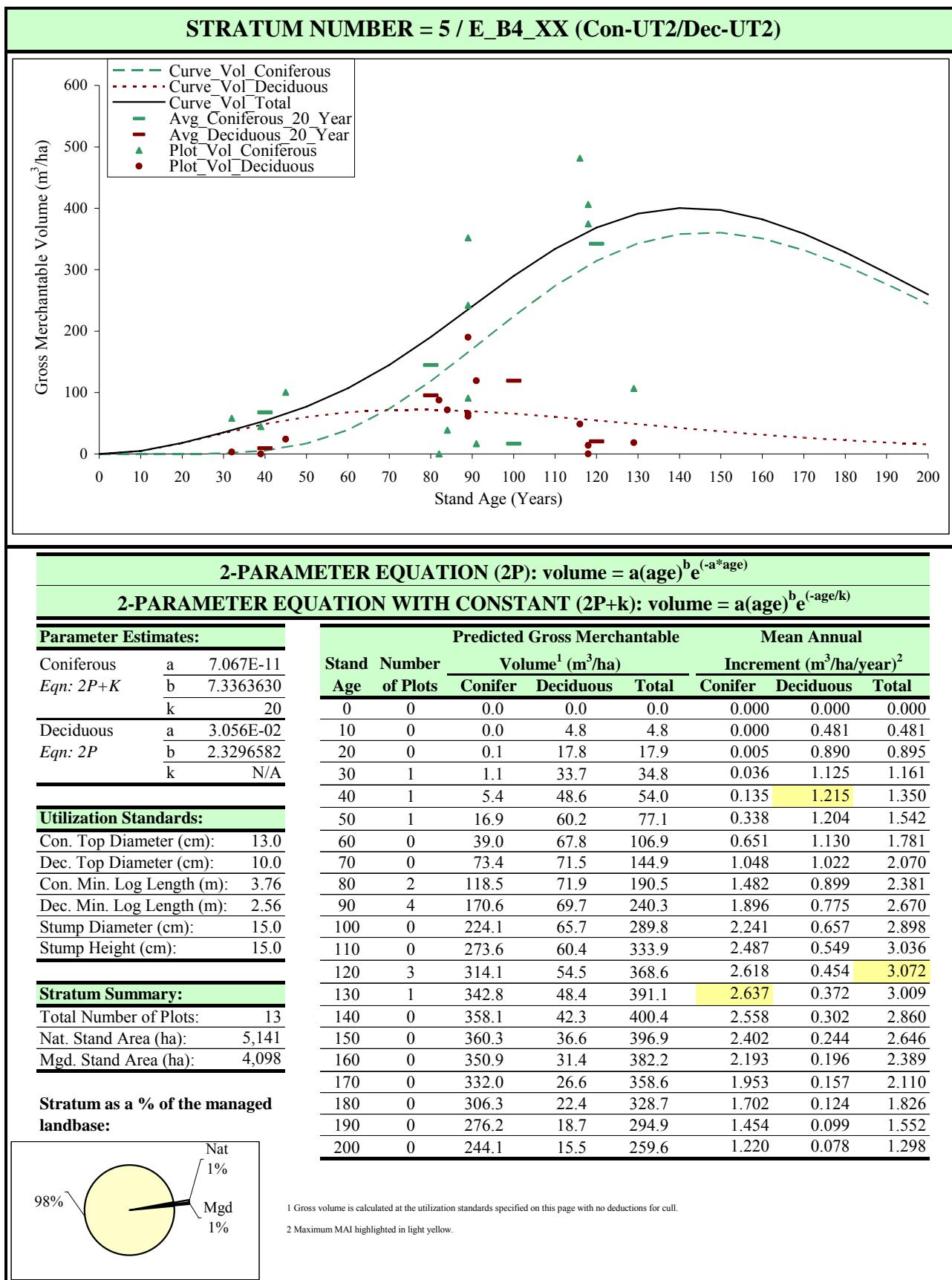
- Species – live AW & PB
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 10.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- tree length; minimum log length 3.66 m.

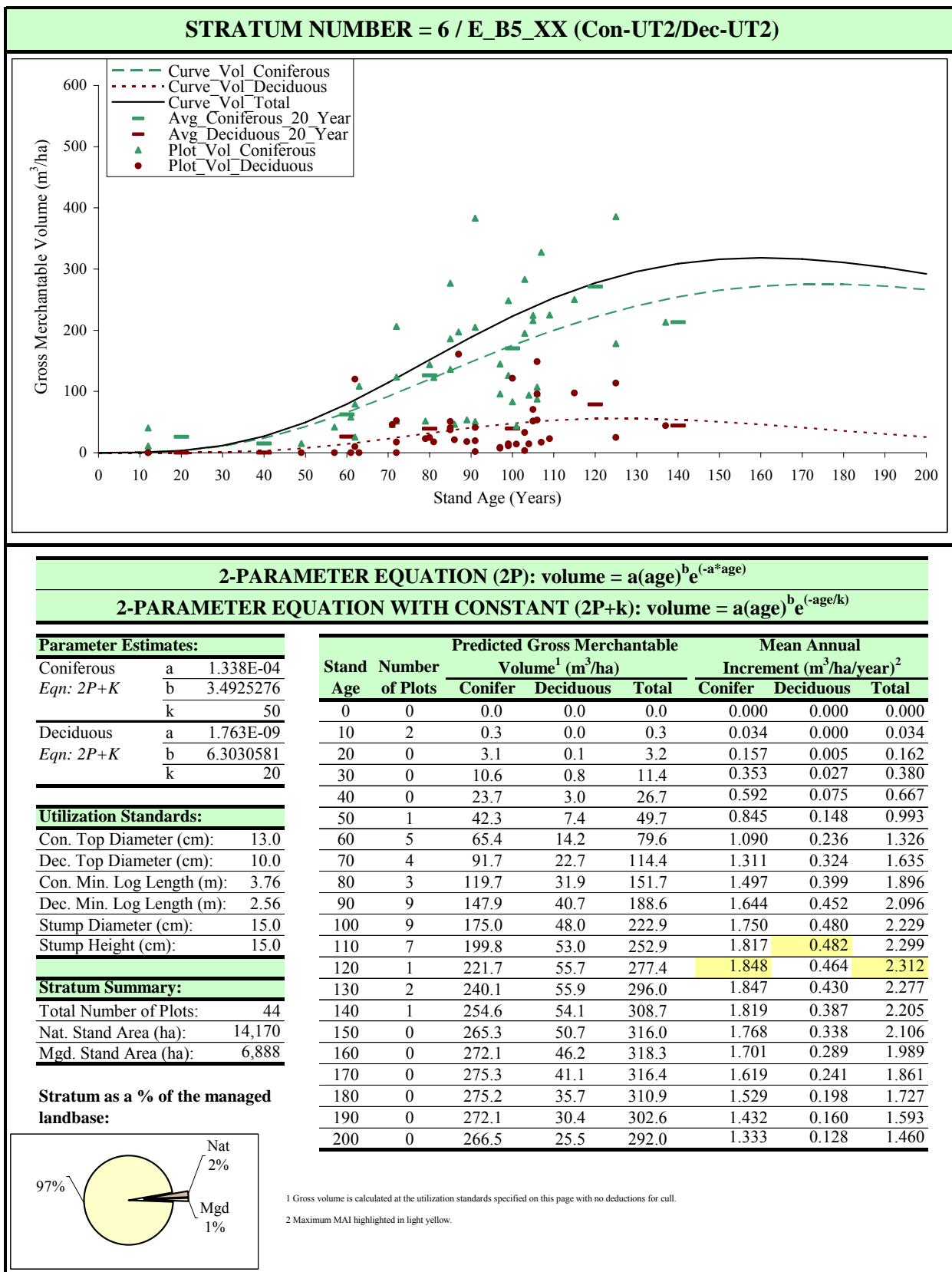


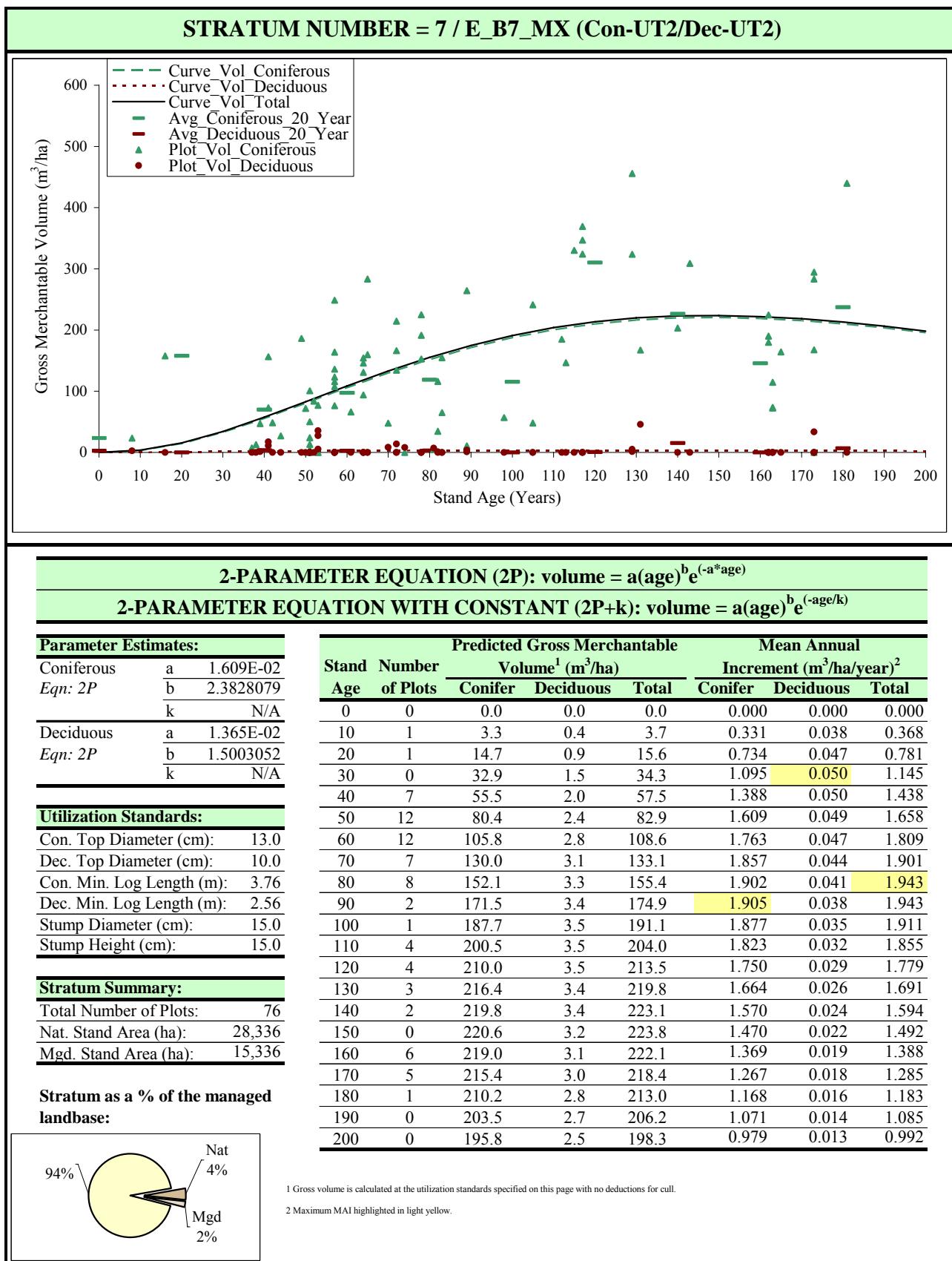


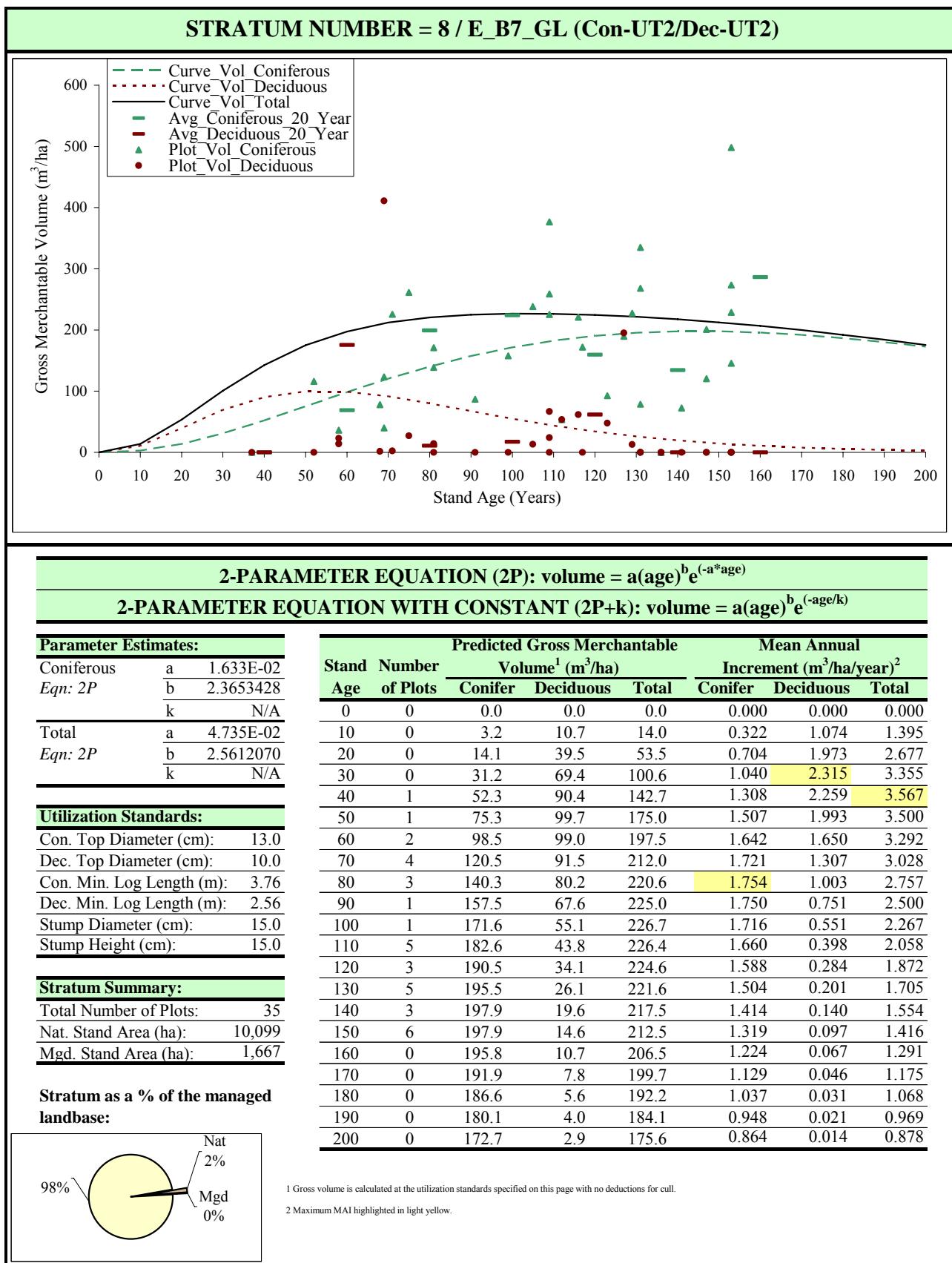


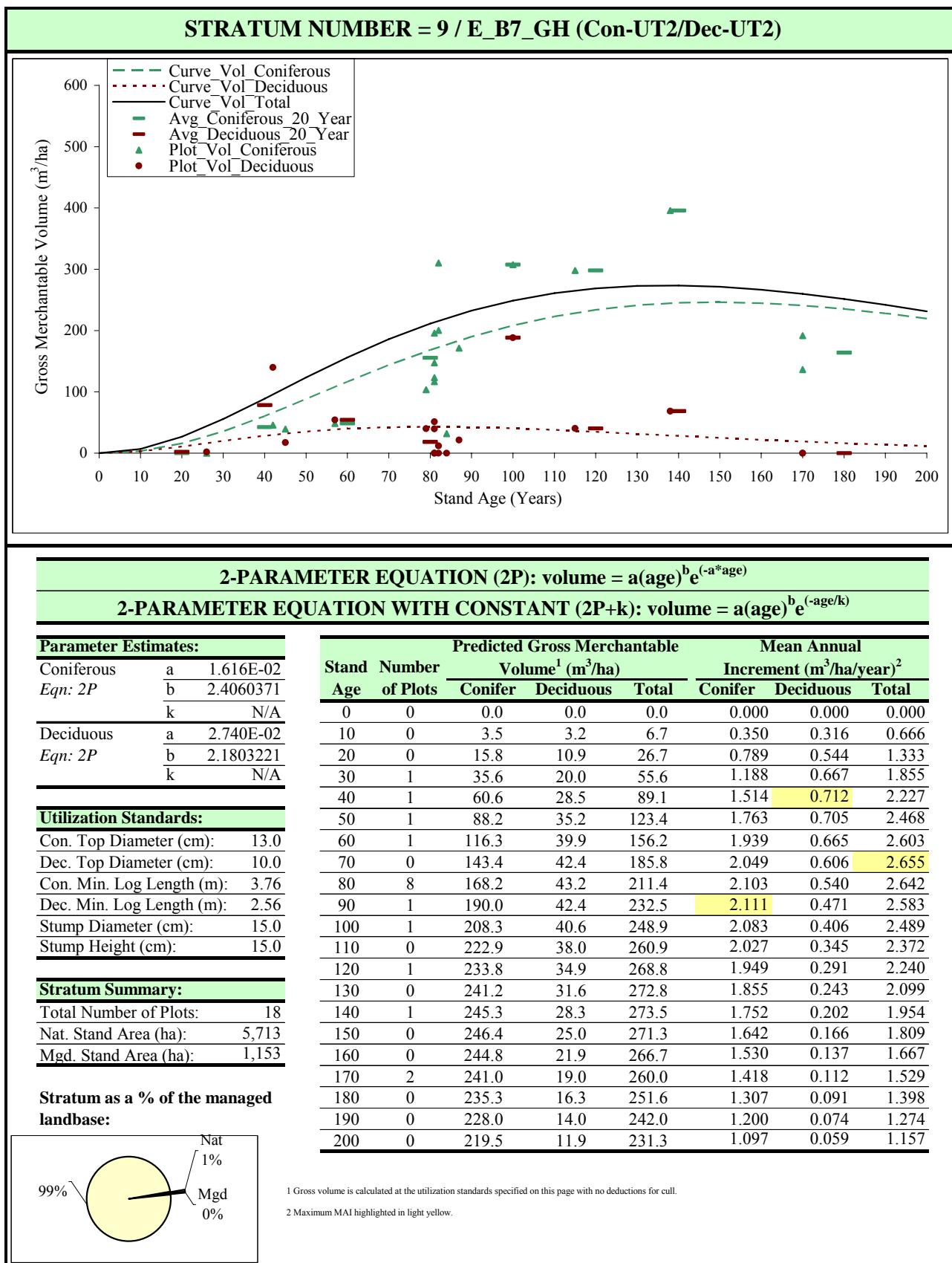


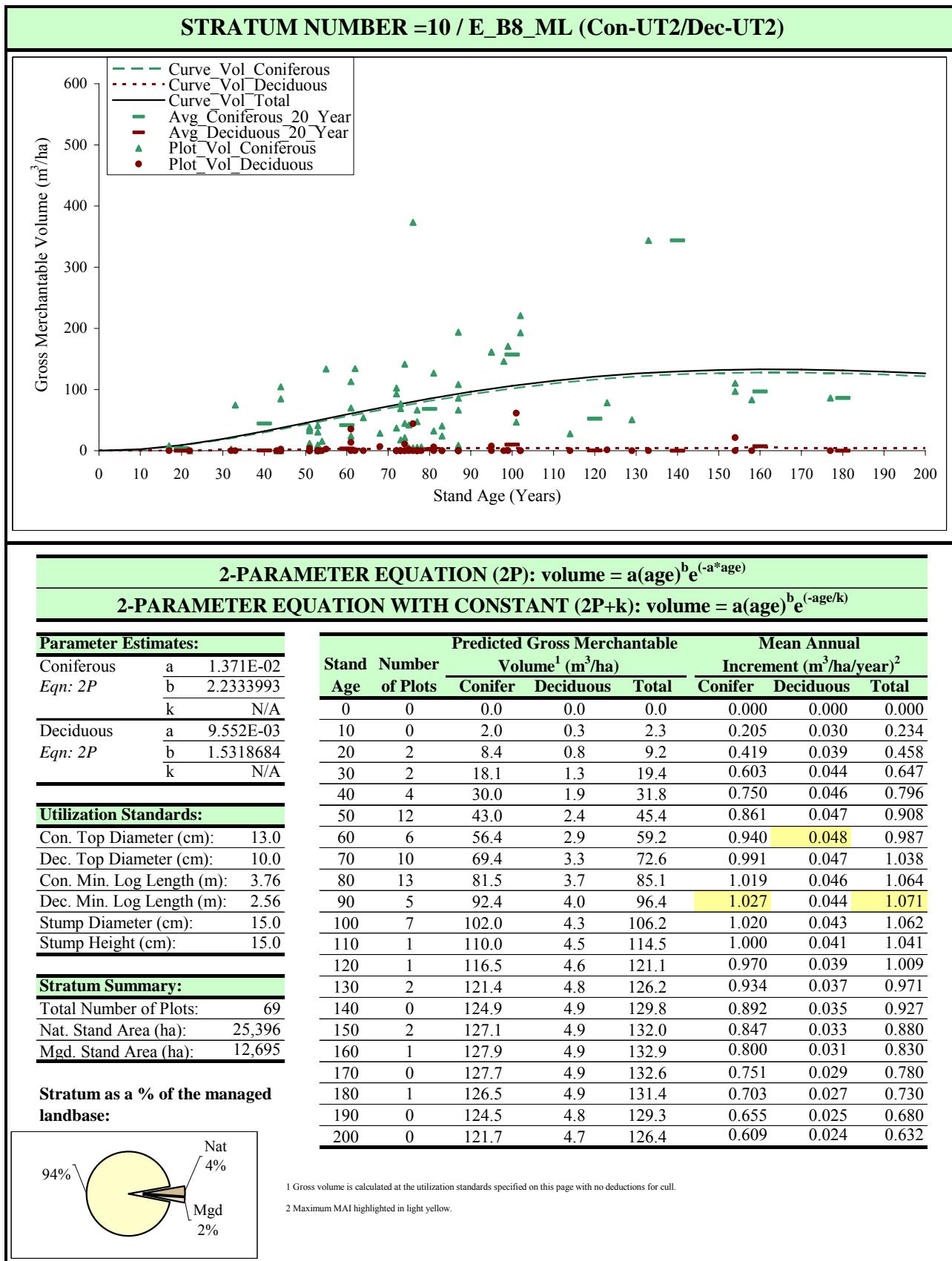


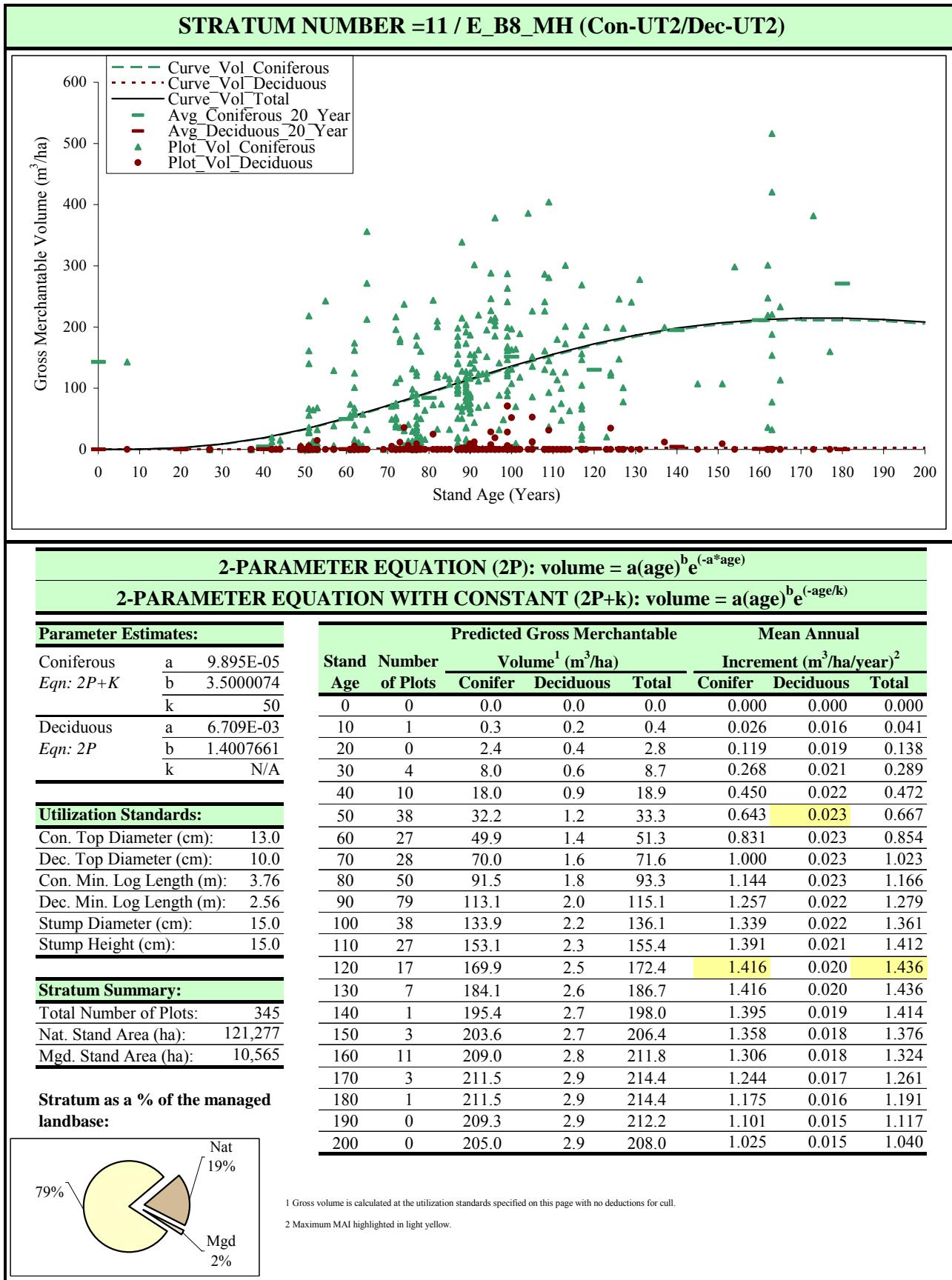


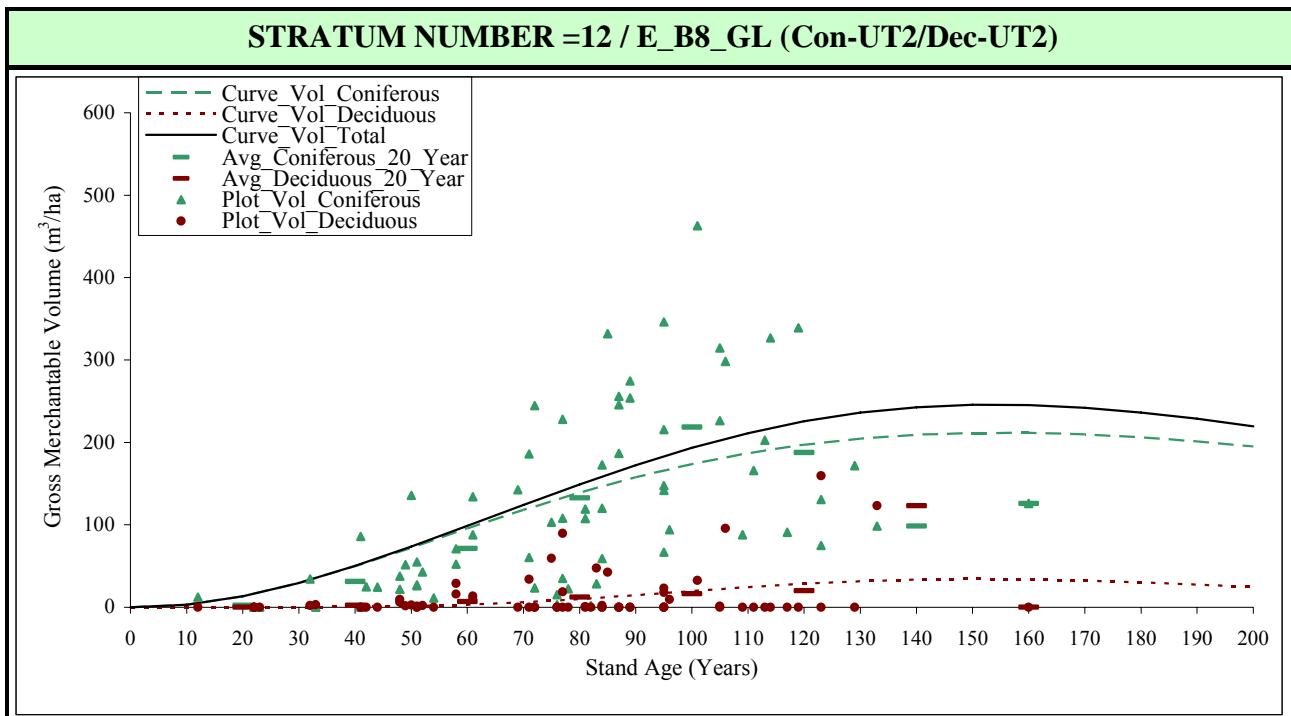












2-PARAMETER EQUATION (2P): volume = $a(\text{age})^b e^{(-a*\text{age})}$

2-PARAMETER EQUATION WITH CONSTANT (2P+K): volume = $a(\text{age})^b e^{(-\text{age}/k)}$

Parameter Estimates:

Coniferous	a	1.519E-02
	Eqn: 2P	b
		2.3589836
		k
Deciduous	a	2.440E-12
	Eqn: 2P+K	b
		7.5380675
		k
		20

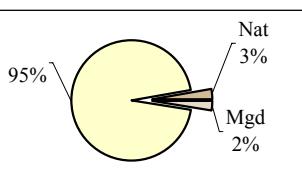
Utilization Standards:

Con. Top Diameter (cm):	13.0
Dec. Top Diameter (cm):	10.0
Con. Min. Log Length (m):	3.76
Dec. Min. Log Length (m):	2.56
Stump Diameter (cm):	15.0
Stump Height (cm):	15.0

Stratum Summary:

Total Number of Plots:	70
Nat. Stand Area (ha):	17,672
Mgd. Stand Area (ha):	16,136

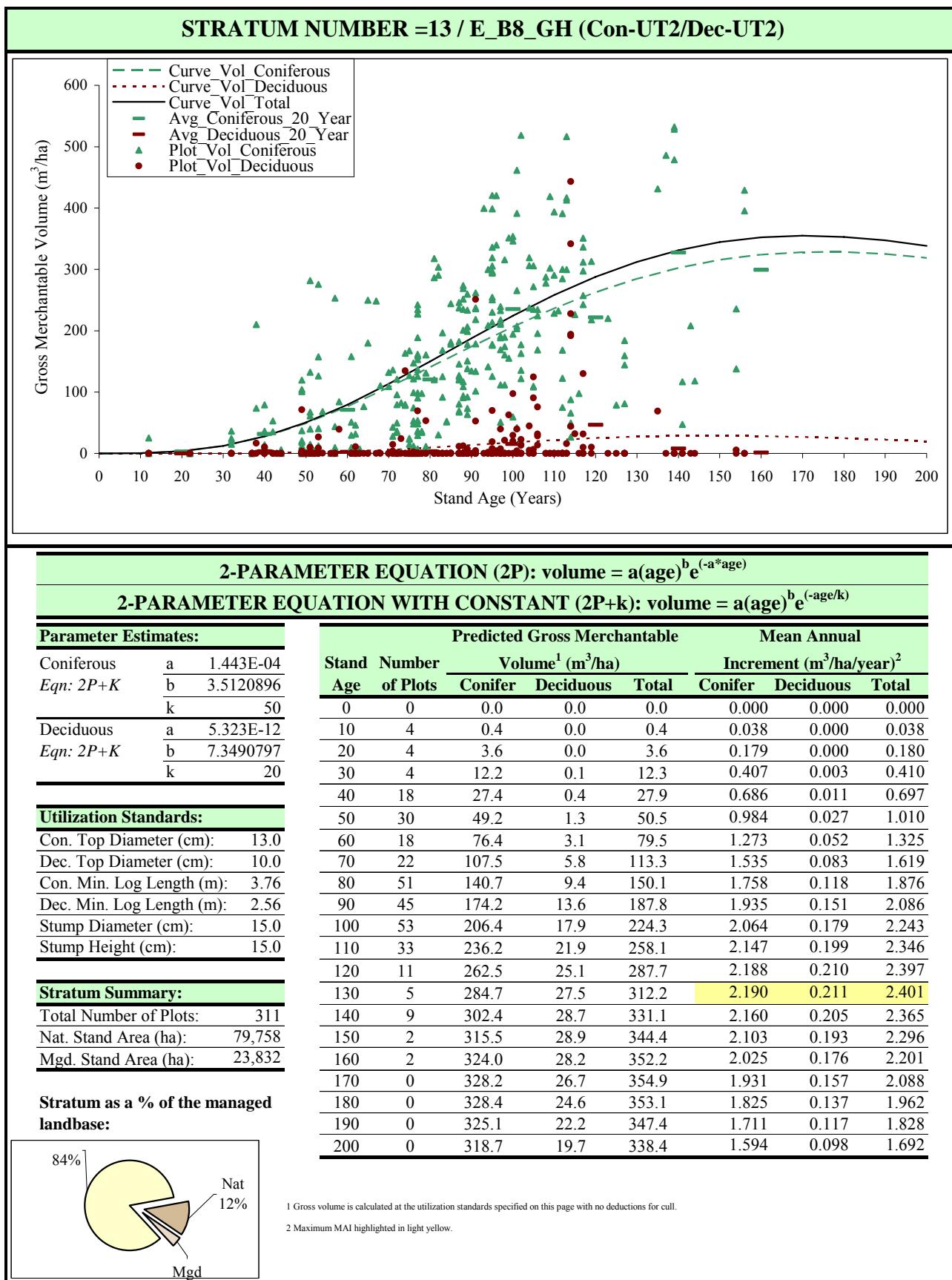
Stratum as a % of the managed landbase:

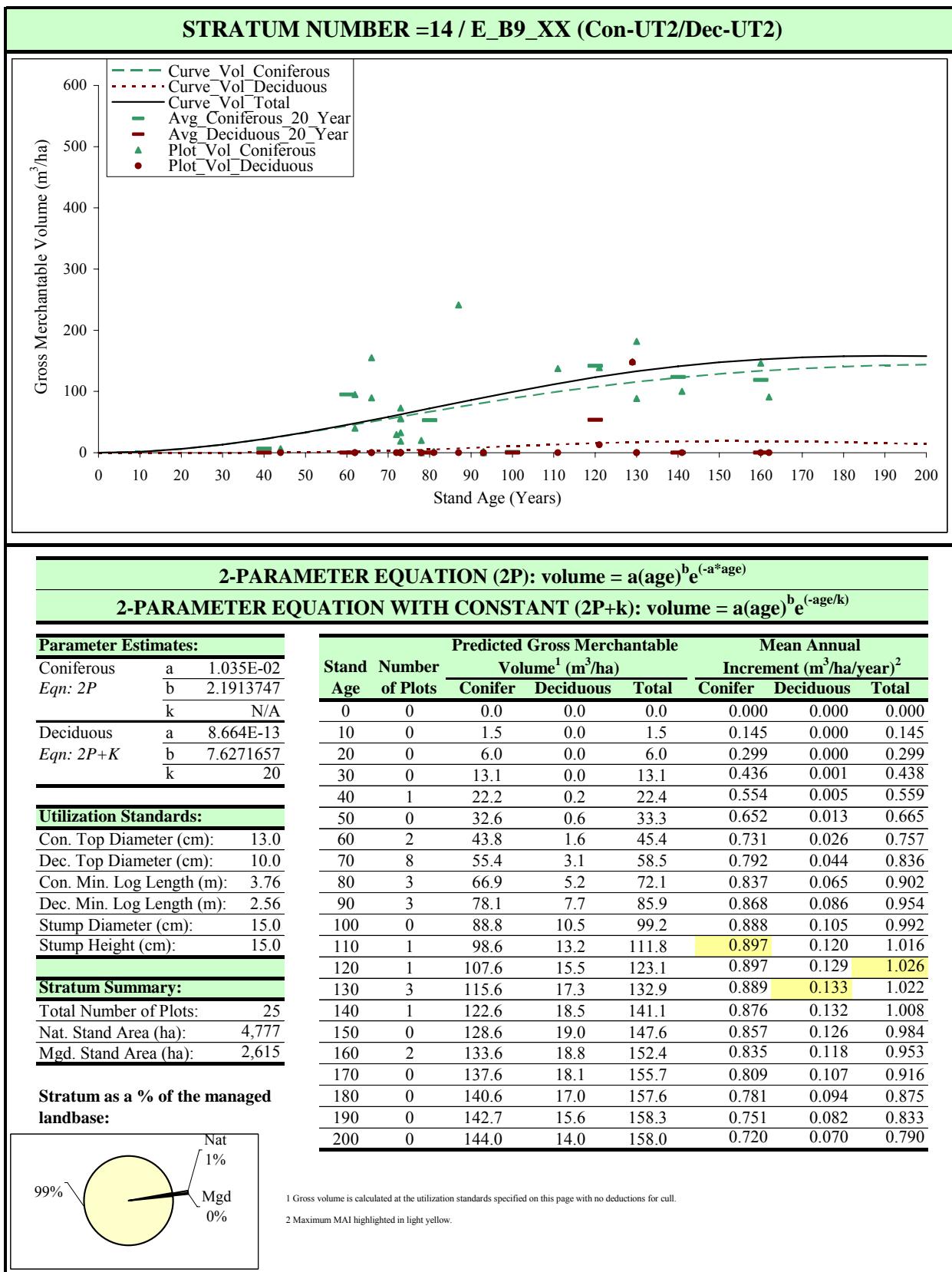


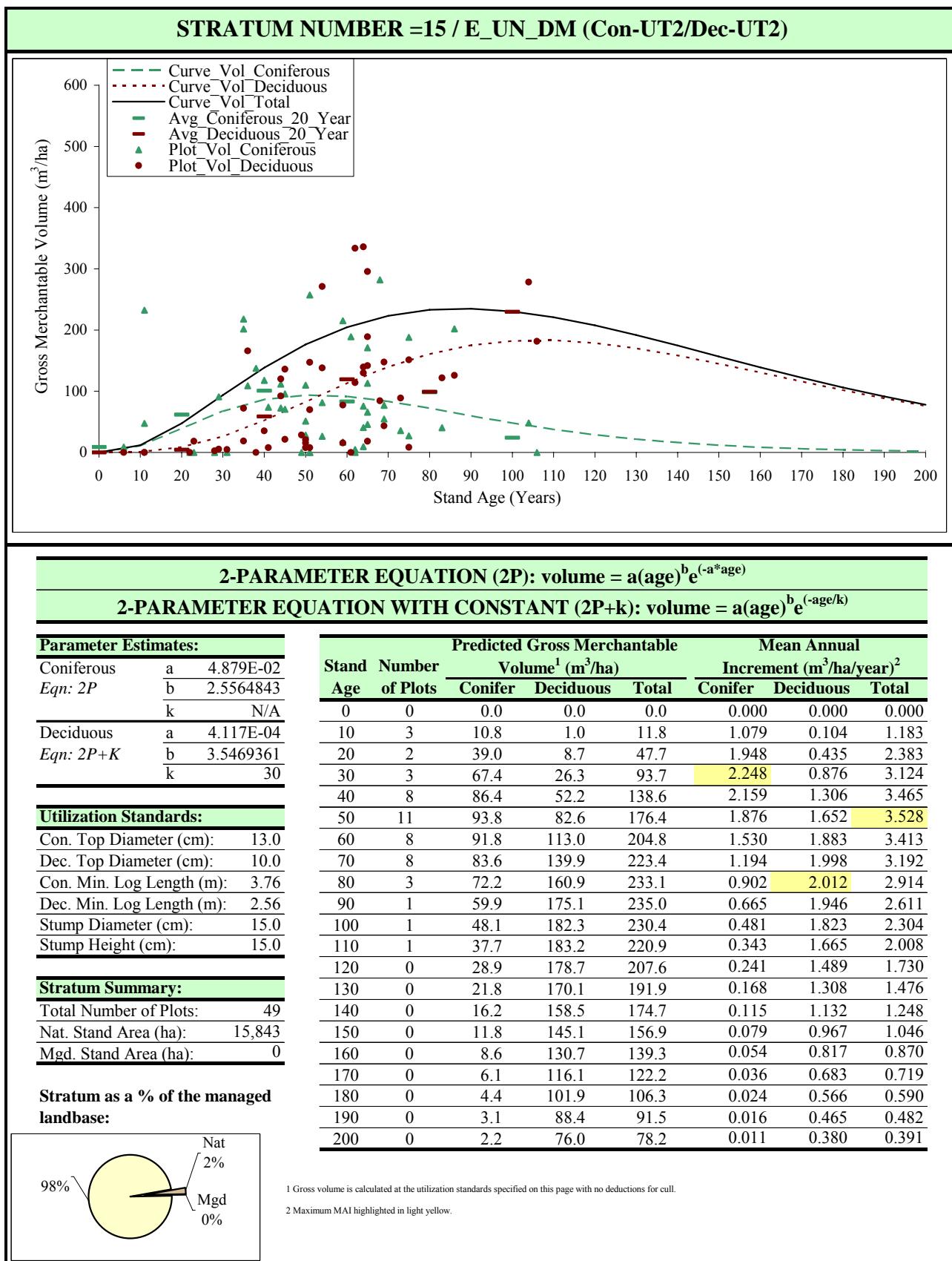
1 Gross volume is calculated at the utilization standards specified on this page with no deductions for cull.

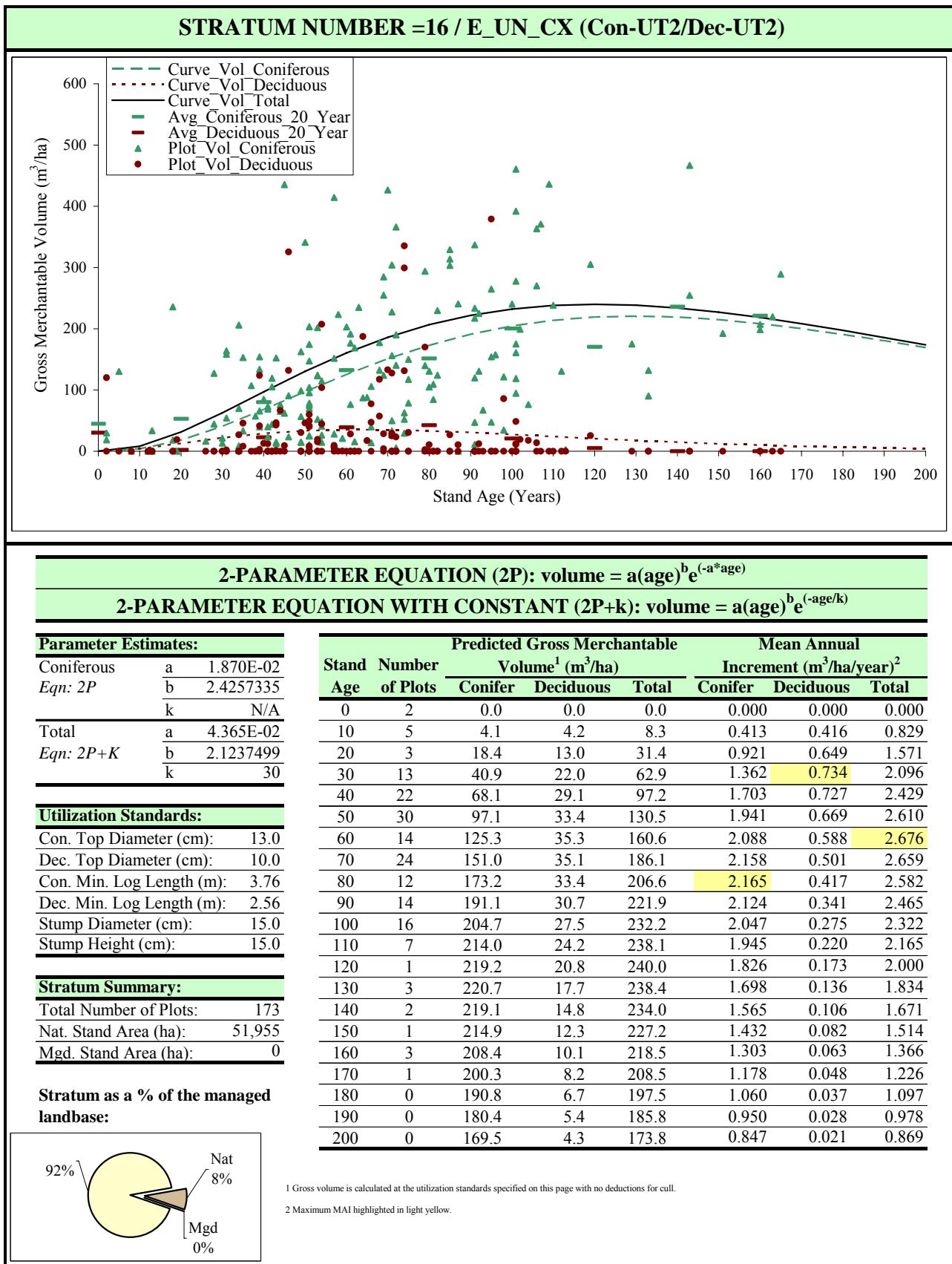
2 Maximum MAI highlighted in light yellow.

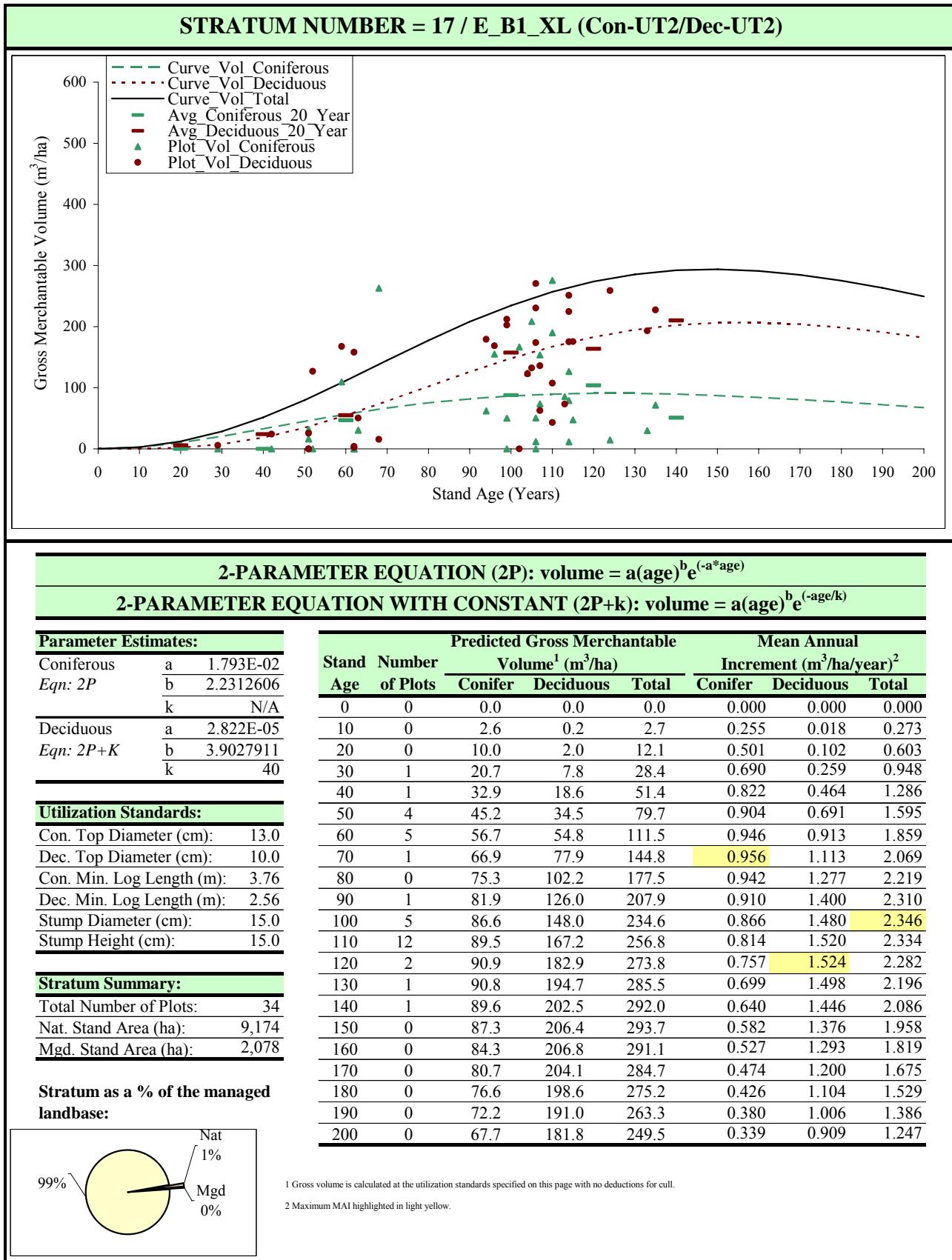
Stand Age	Number of Plots	Predicted Gross Merchantable Volume ¹ (m³/ha)			Mean Annual Increment (m³/ha/year) ²		
		Conifer	Deciduous	Total	Conifer	Deciduous	Total
0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	0.000	0.000
10	1	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.298	0.000	0.298
20	4	13.1	0.0	13.1	0.657	0.000	0.657
30	2	29.4	0.1	29.5	0.980	0.002	0.982
40	4	49.8	0.4	50.2	1.244	0.010	1.254
50	9	72.4	1.3	73.7	1.447	0.026	1.473
60	4	95.6	3.1	98.7	1.593	0.051	1.644
70	5	118.1	6.0	124.1	1.687	0.085	1.773
80	14	139.1	9.9	149.0	1.738	0.124	1.862
90	6	157.7	14.6	172.3	1.752	0.162	1.915
100	7	173.7	19.6	193.3	1.737	0.196	1.933
110	7	186.9	24.4	211.2	1.699	0.222	1.920
120	4	197.1	28.5	225.6	1.643	0.237	1.880
130	2	204.5	31.6	236.1	1.573	0.243	1.816
140	0	209.3	33.5	242.8	1.495	0.239	1.734
150	0	211.6	34.2	245.7	1.410	0.228	1.638
160	1	211.6	33.7	245.4	1.323	0.211	1.534
170	0	209.8	32.3	242.1	1.234	0.190	1.424
180	0	206.2	30.1	236.4	1.146	0.167	1.313
190	0	201.3	27.5	228.7	1.059	0.145	1.204
200	0	195.1	24.5	219.7	0.976	0.123	1.098

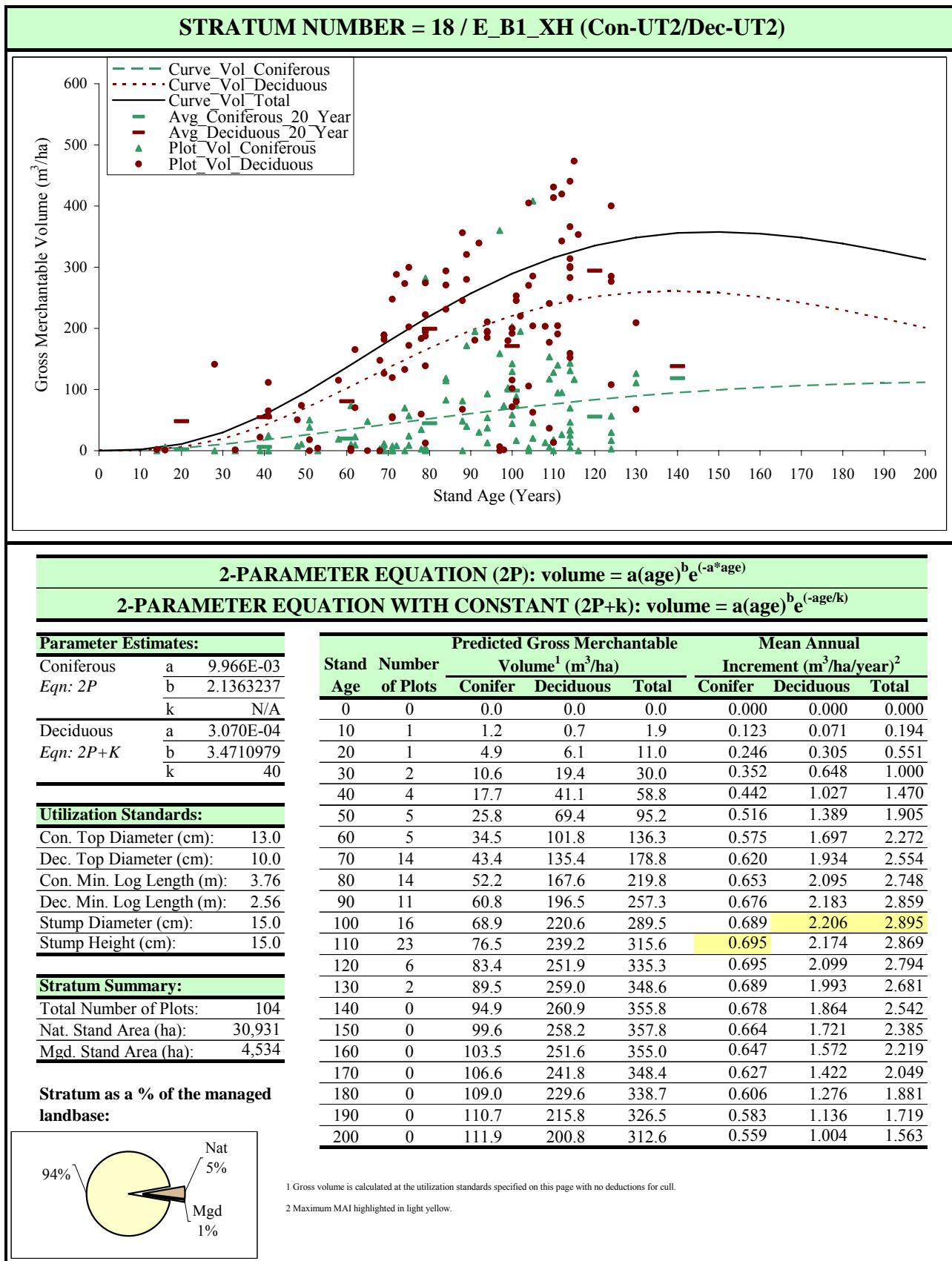


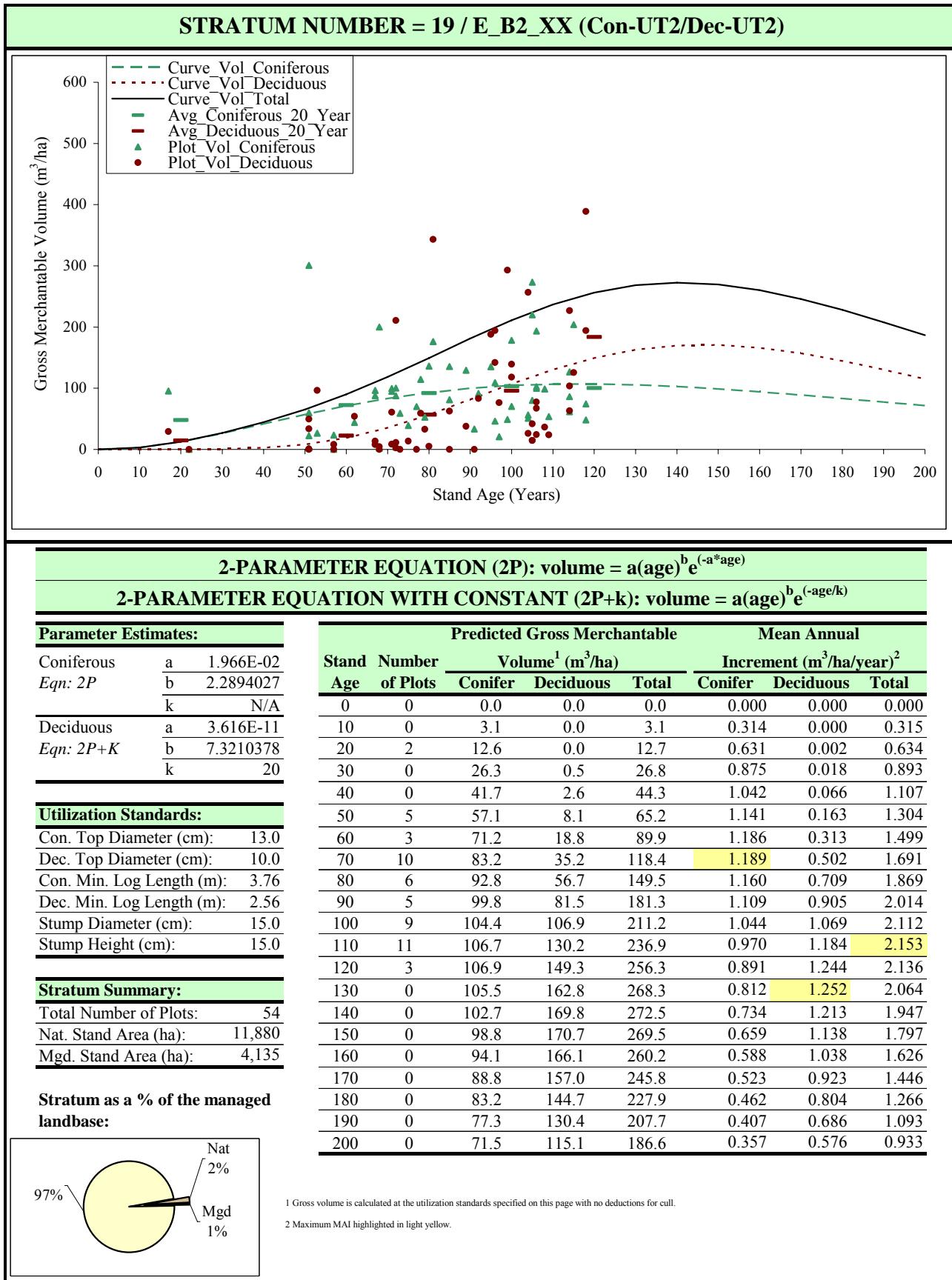


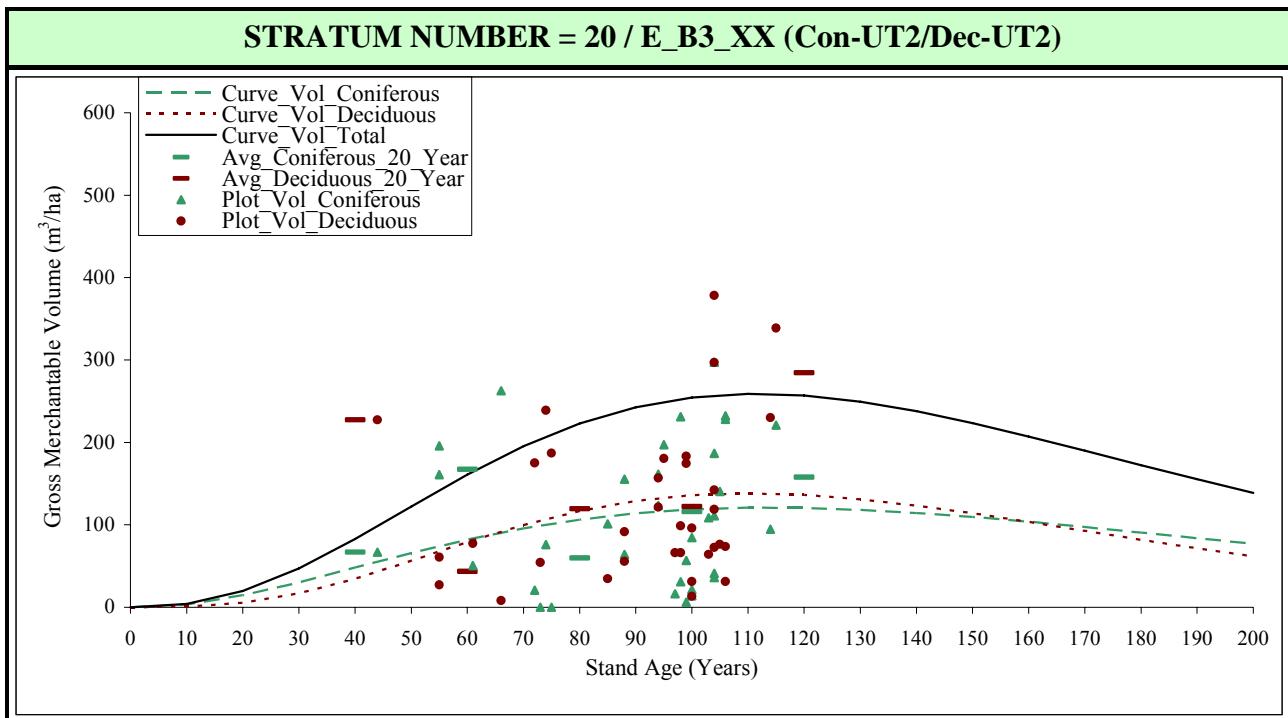






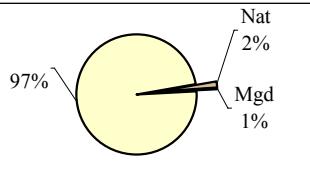


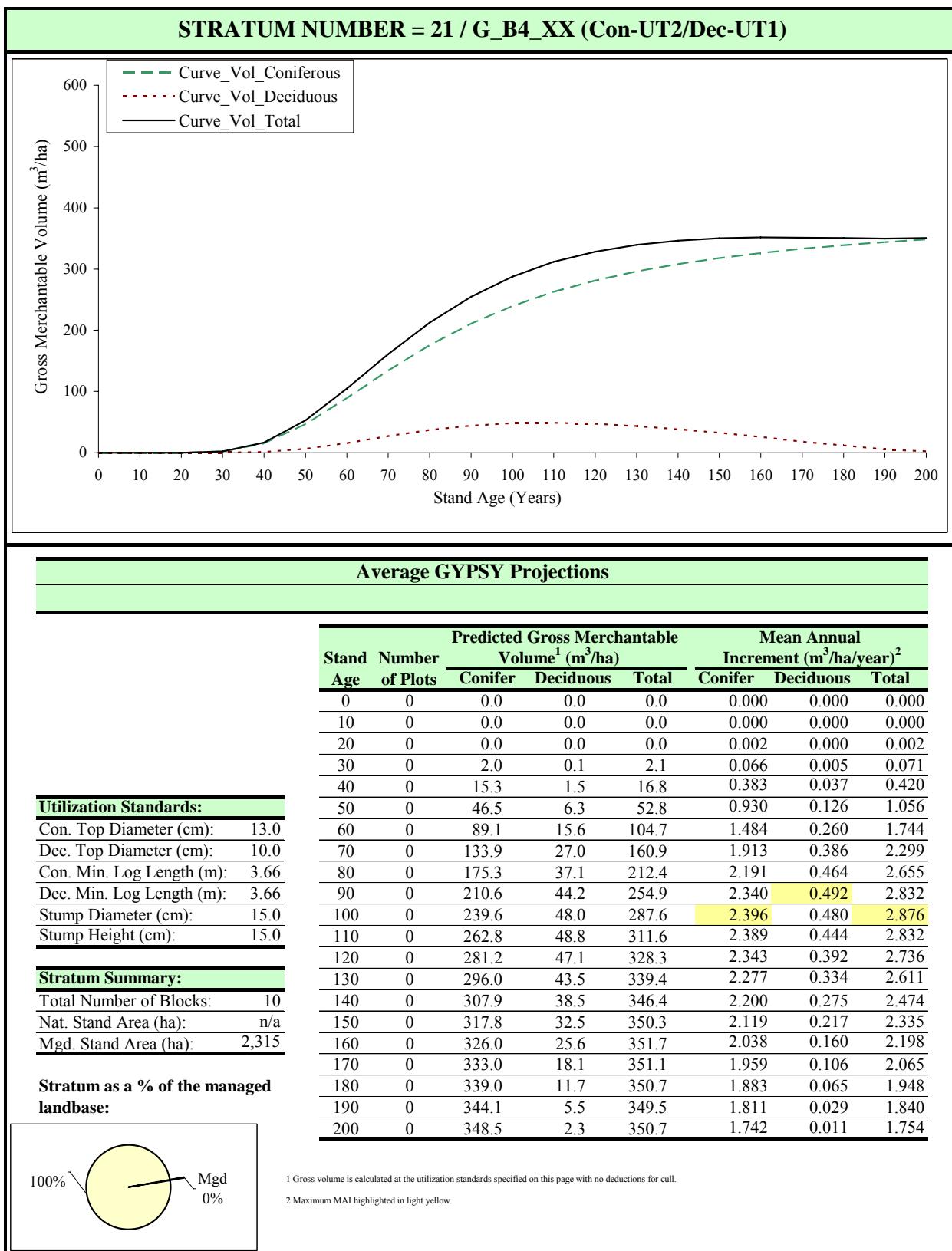


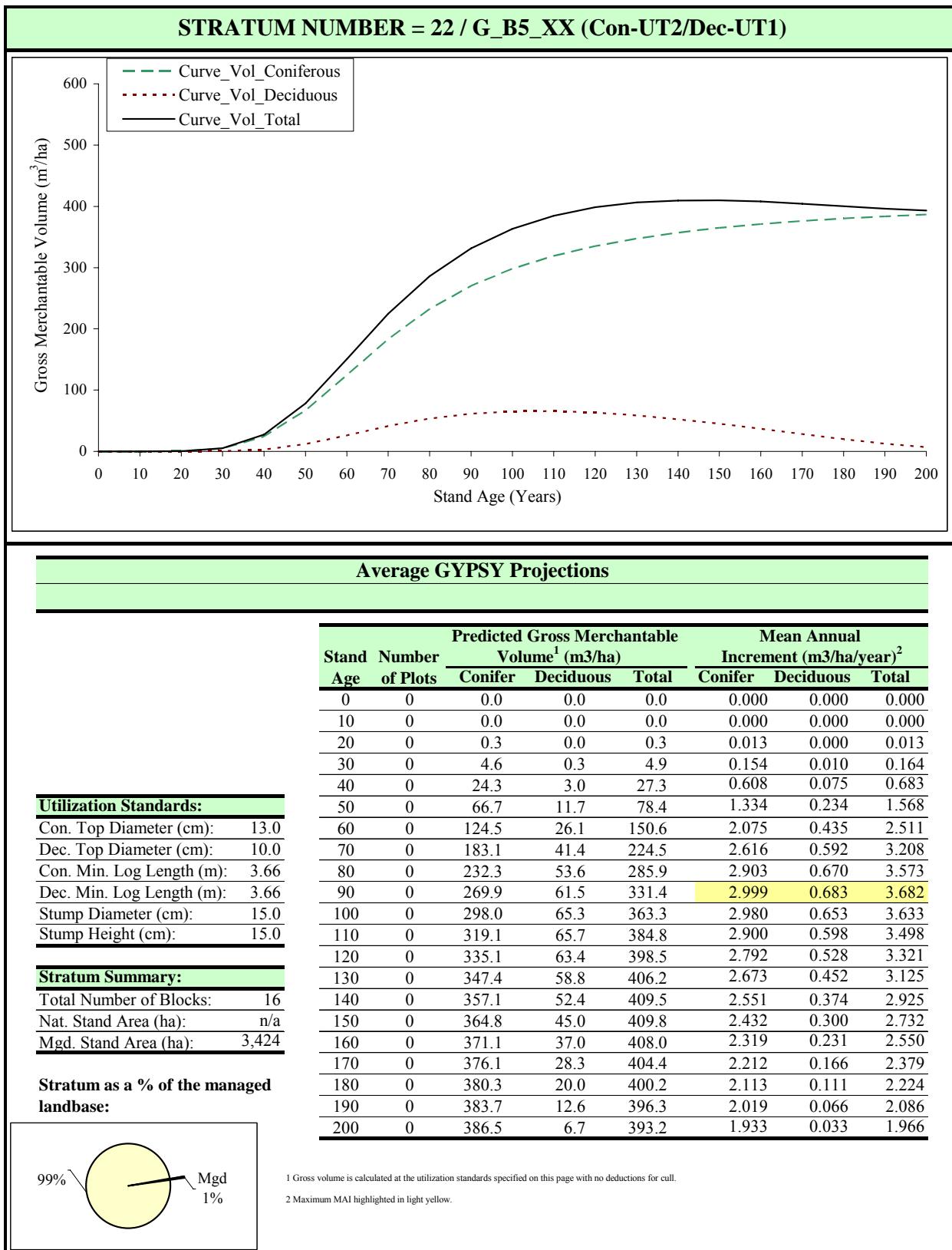
**2-PARAMETER EQUATION (2P): volume = a(age)^be^(-a*age)****2-PARAMETER EQUATION WITH CONSTANT (2P+k): volume = a(age)^be^(-age/k)**

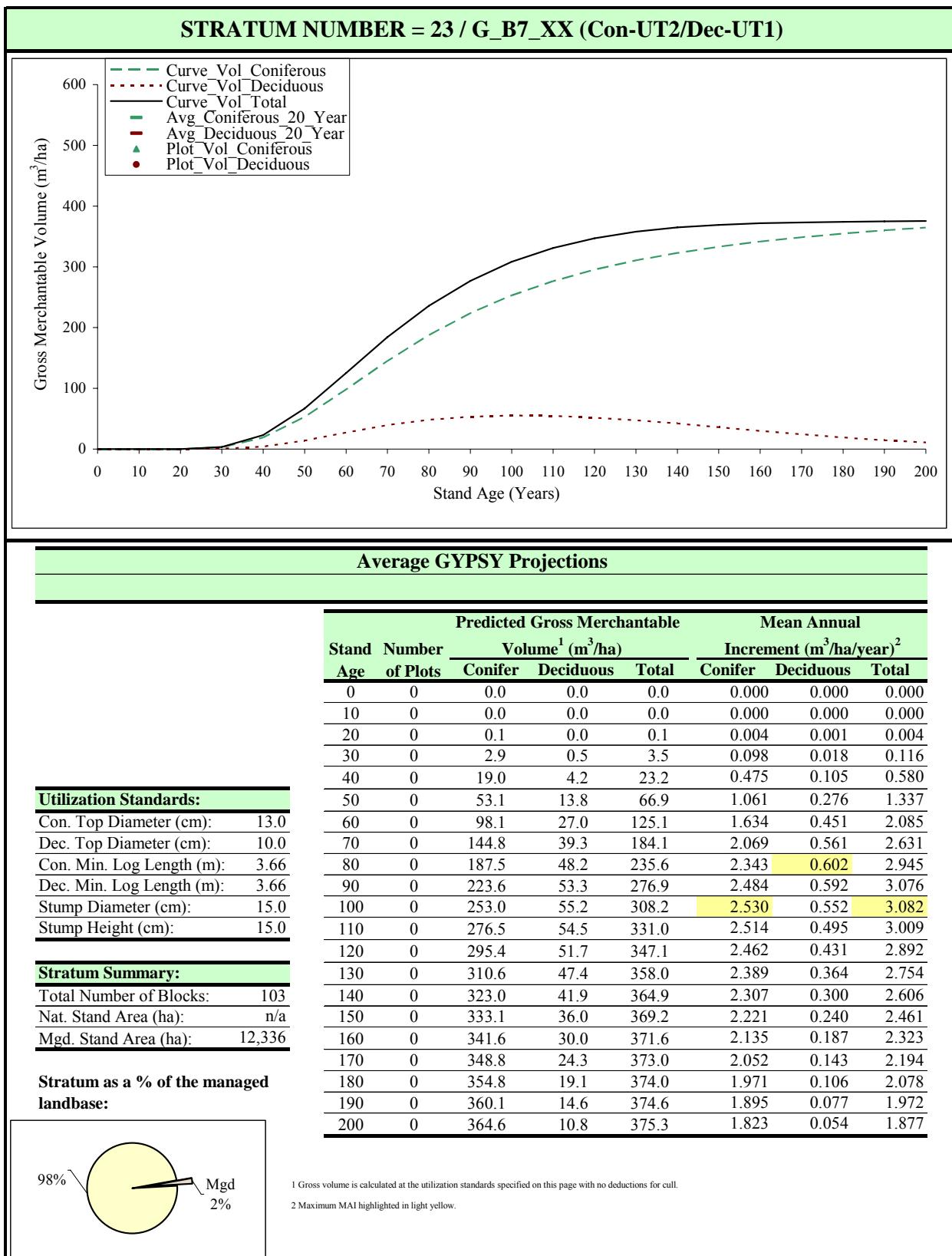
Parameter Estimates:		
Coniferous	a	2.046E-02
Eqn: 2P	b	2.3259435
	k	N/A
Deciduous	a	1.717E-04
Eqn: 2P+K	b	3.6731387
	k	30

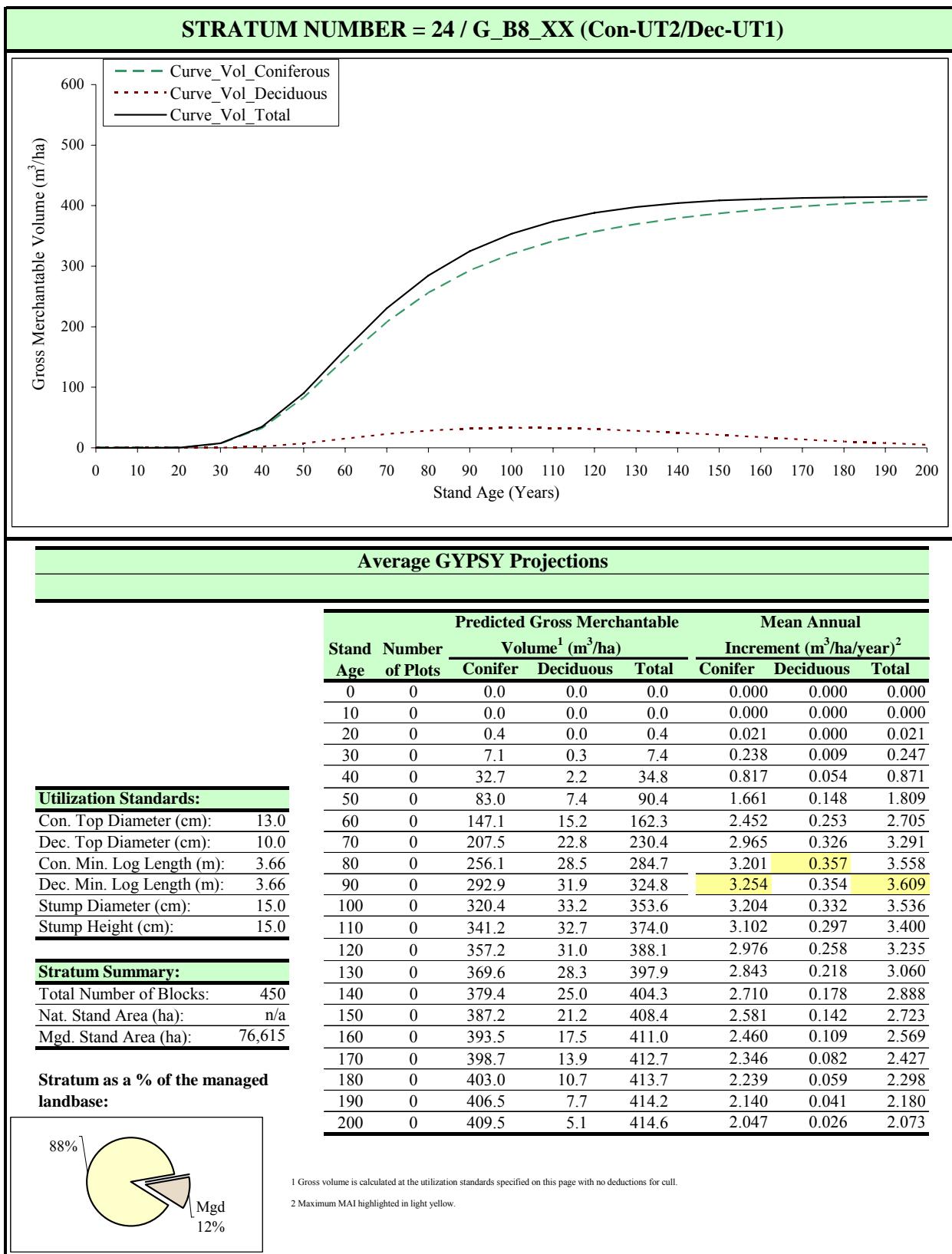
Stand Age	Number of Plots	Predicted Gross Merchantable Volume ¹ (m³/ha)			Mean Annual Increment (m³/ha/year) ²		
		Conifer	Deciduous	Total	Conifer	Deciduous	Total
0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	0.000	0.000
10	0	3.5	0.6	4.1	0.353	0.058	0.411
20	0	14.4	5.3	19.7	0.722	0.265	0.986
30	0	30.2	16.8	47.0	1.007	0.561	1.568
40	1	48.1	34.7	82.8	1.201	0.867	2.069
50	0	65.8	56.4	122.2	1.316	1.129	2.445
60	3	82.0	79.0	161.0	1.366	1.316	2.683
70	4	95.6	99.7	195.3	1.366	1.424	2.790
80	1	106.3	116.7	223.0	1.329	1.458	2.787
90	5	114.0	128.8	242.8	1.266	1.432	2.698
100	15	118.7	135.9	254.6	1.187	1.359	2.546
110	4	120.7	138.2	259.0	1.097	1.257	2.354
120	1	120.4	136.4	256.8	1.004	1.136	2.140
130	0	118.3	131.1	249.4	0.910	1.008	1.918
140	0	114.5	123.3	237.8	0.818	0.881	1.699
150	0	109.6	113.9	223.4	0.730	0.759	1.490
160	0	103.8	103.4	207.2	0.649	0.646	1.295
170	0	97.4	92.6	189.9	0.573	0.545	1.117
180	0	90.6	81.8	172.5	0.504	0.455	0.958
190	0	83.8	71.5	155.3	0.441	0.376	0.817
200	0	76.9	61.9	138.8	0.385	0.309	0.694

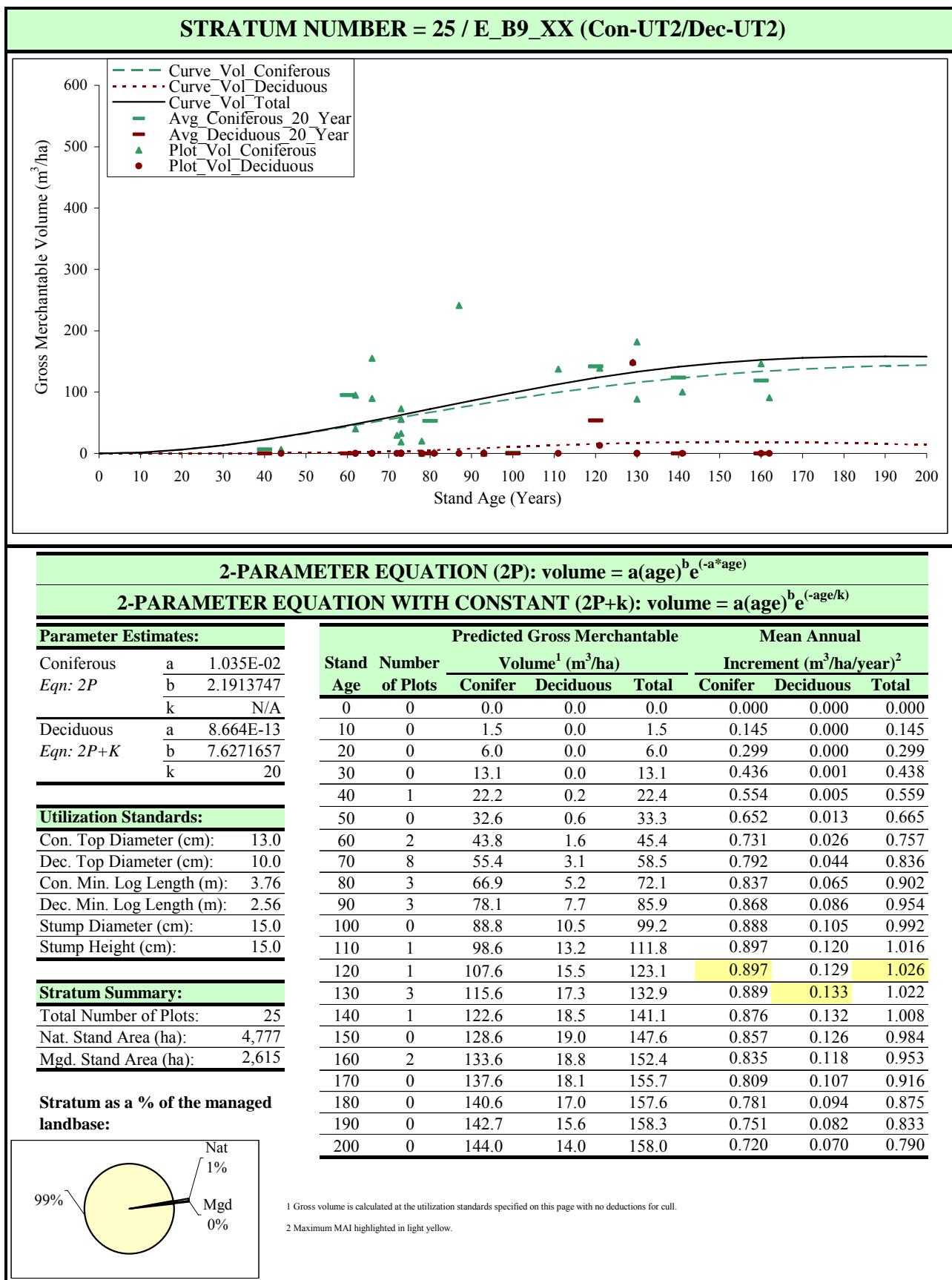
¹ Gross volume is calculated at the utilization standards specified on this page with no deductions for cull.² Maximum MAI highlighted in light yellow.

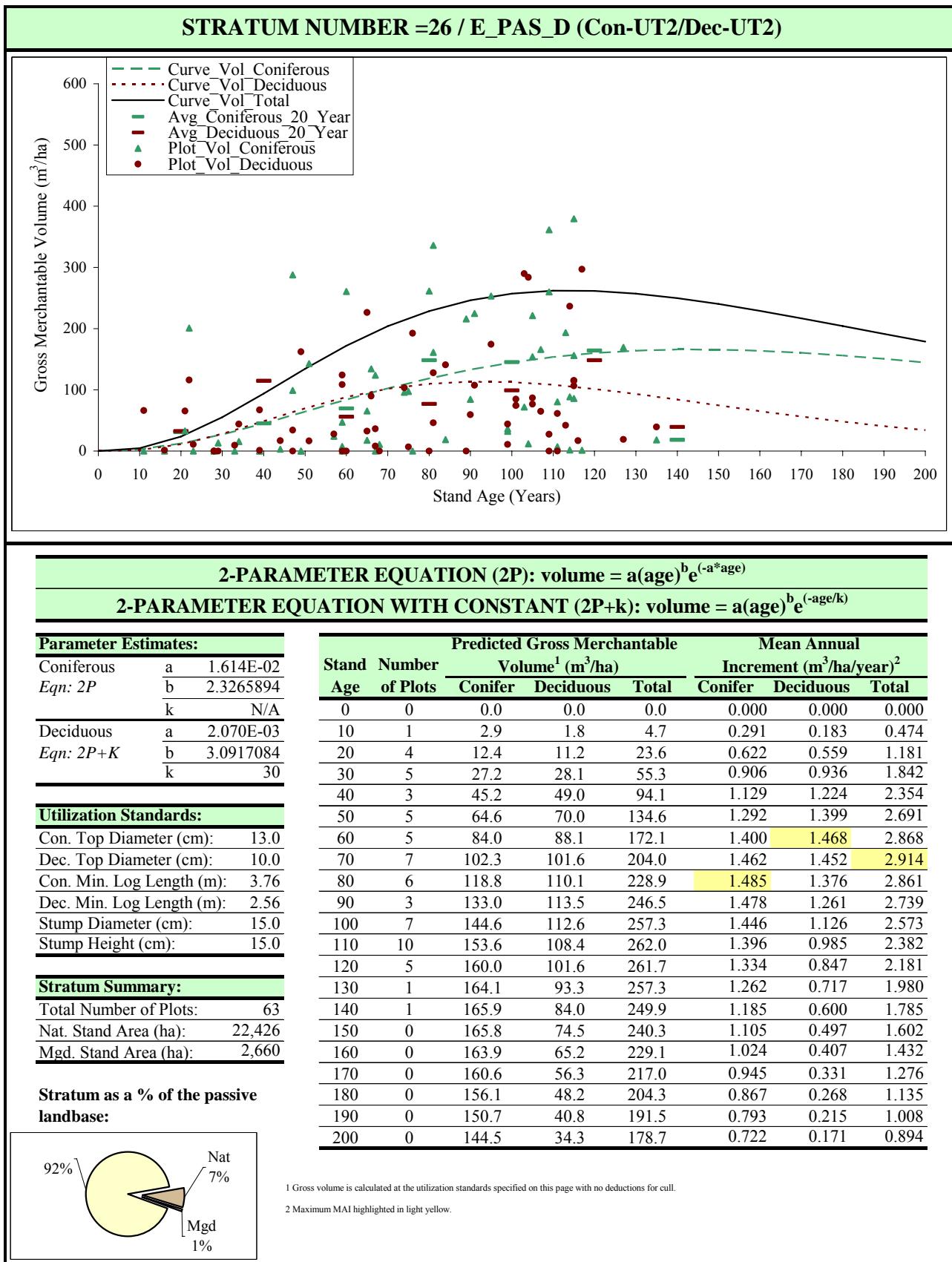


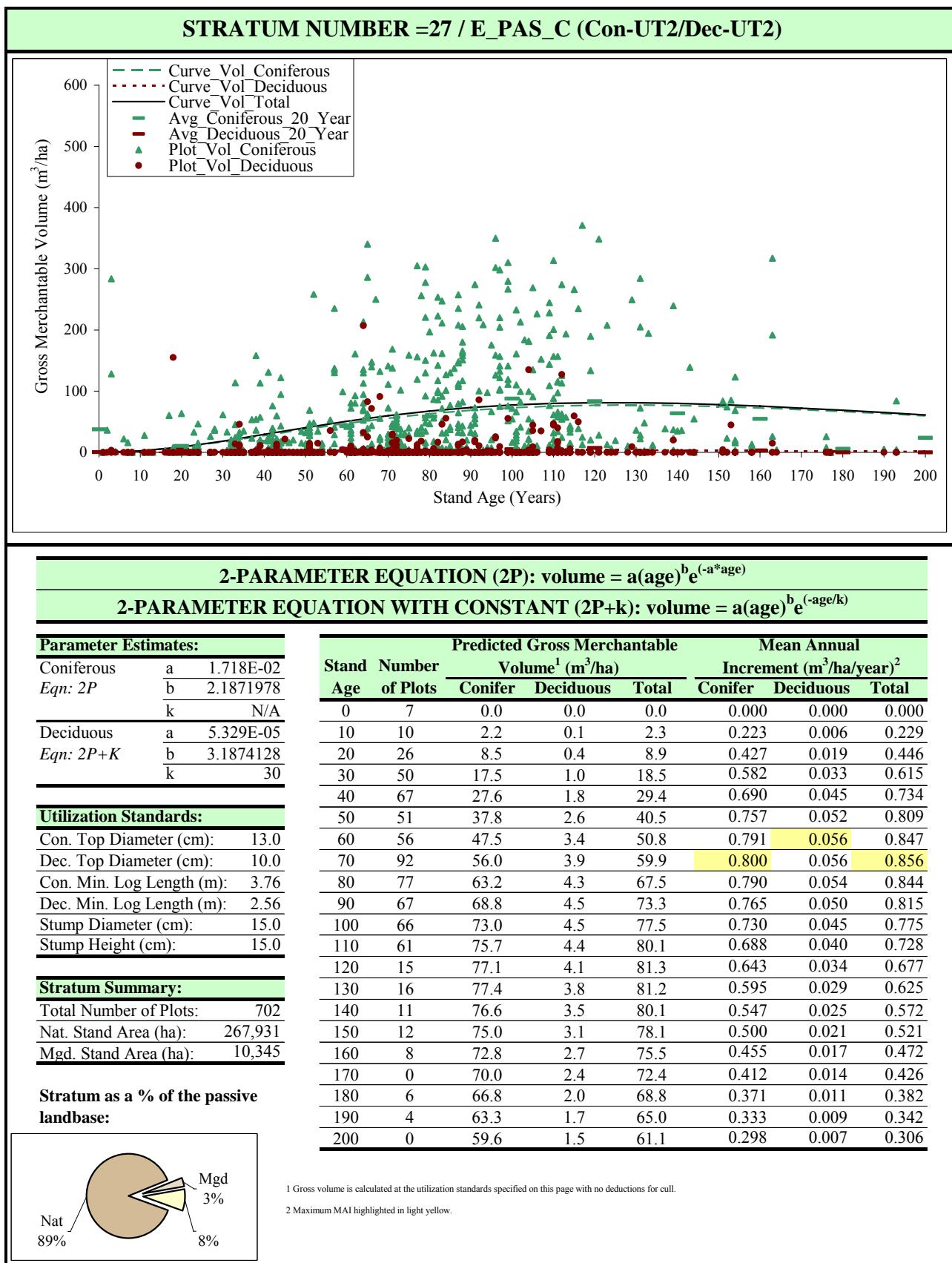












- **Baseline Yield Curves – Coniferous UT3 and Deciduous UT3**

Coniferous UT3 – all yield curves:

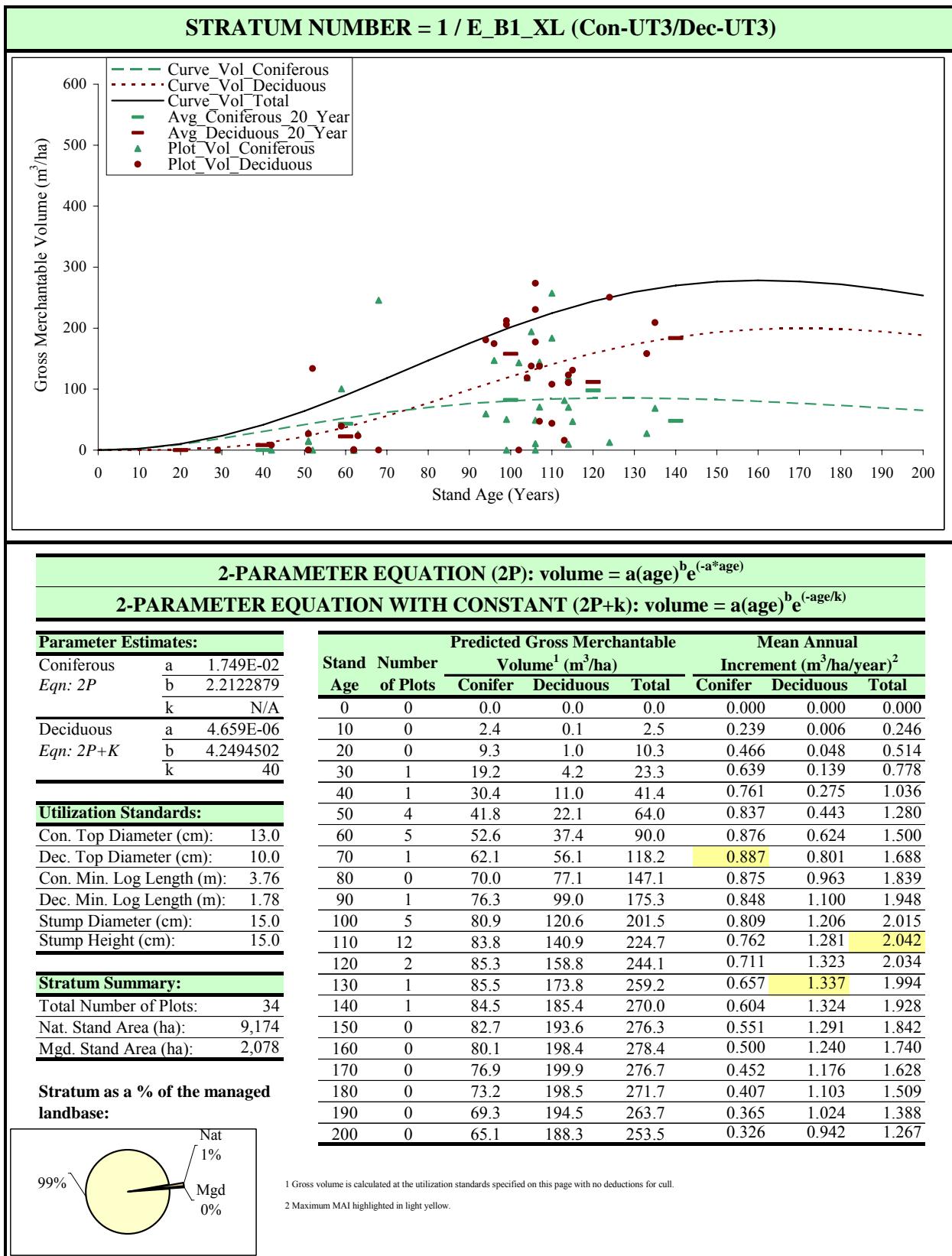
- Species – live PL, SW, SE, SB, FB, FA & FD
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 13.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- cut-to-length; target length of 4.98 m, then 4.37 m, then a minimum log length of 3.76 m. No lengths other than those specified are acceptable.

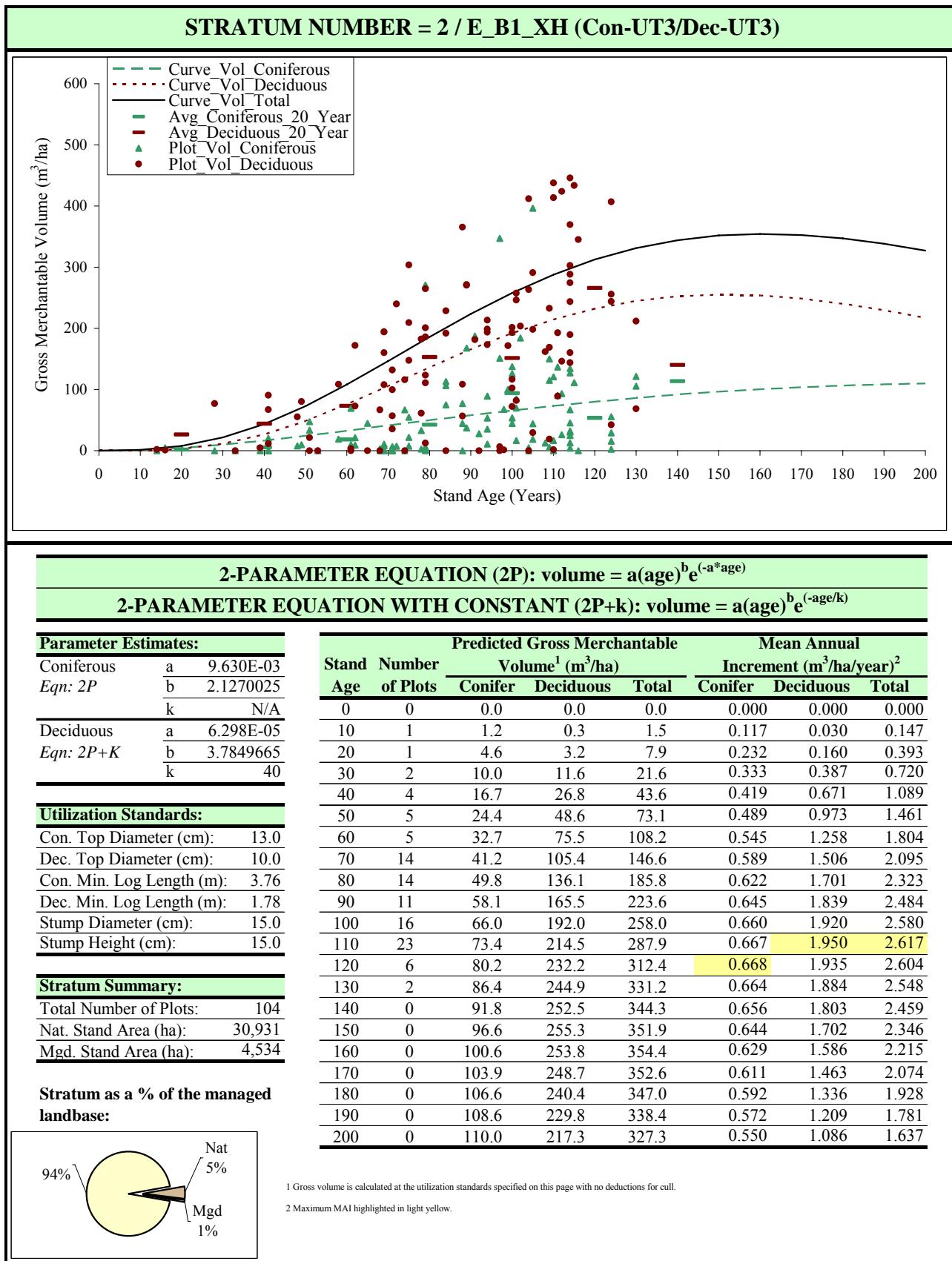
Deciduous UT3 – all yield curves except strata 21-24:

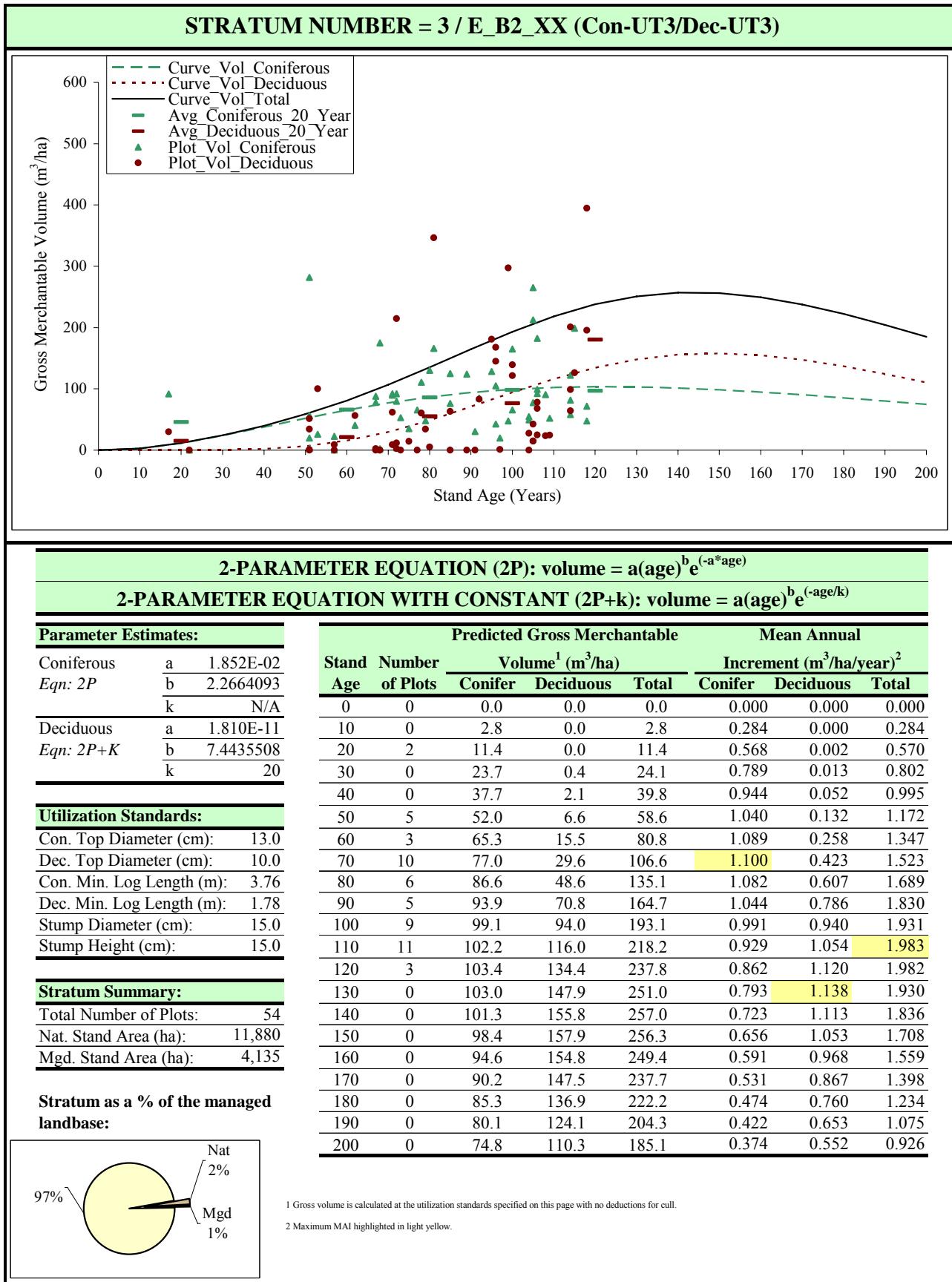
- Species – live AW only
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 10.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- cut to length; target length of 2.56 m and minimum log length of 1.78 m.

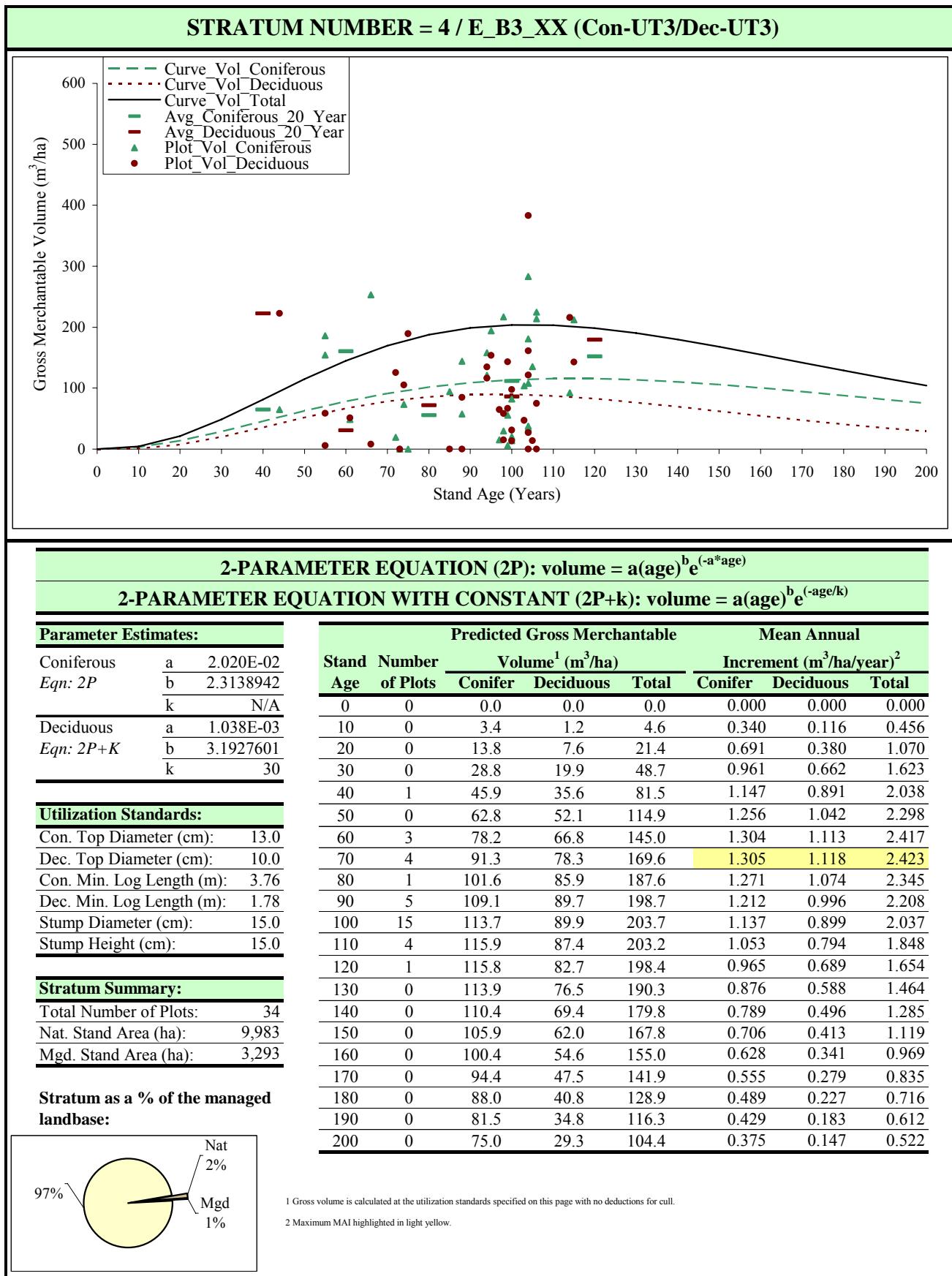
Deciduous UT1 – strata 21-24:

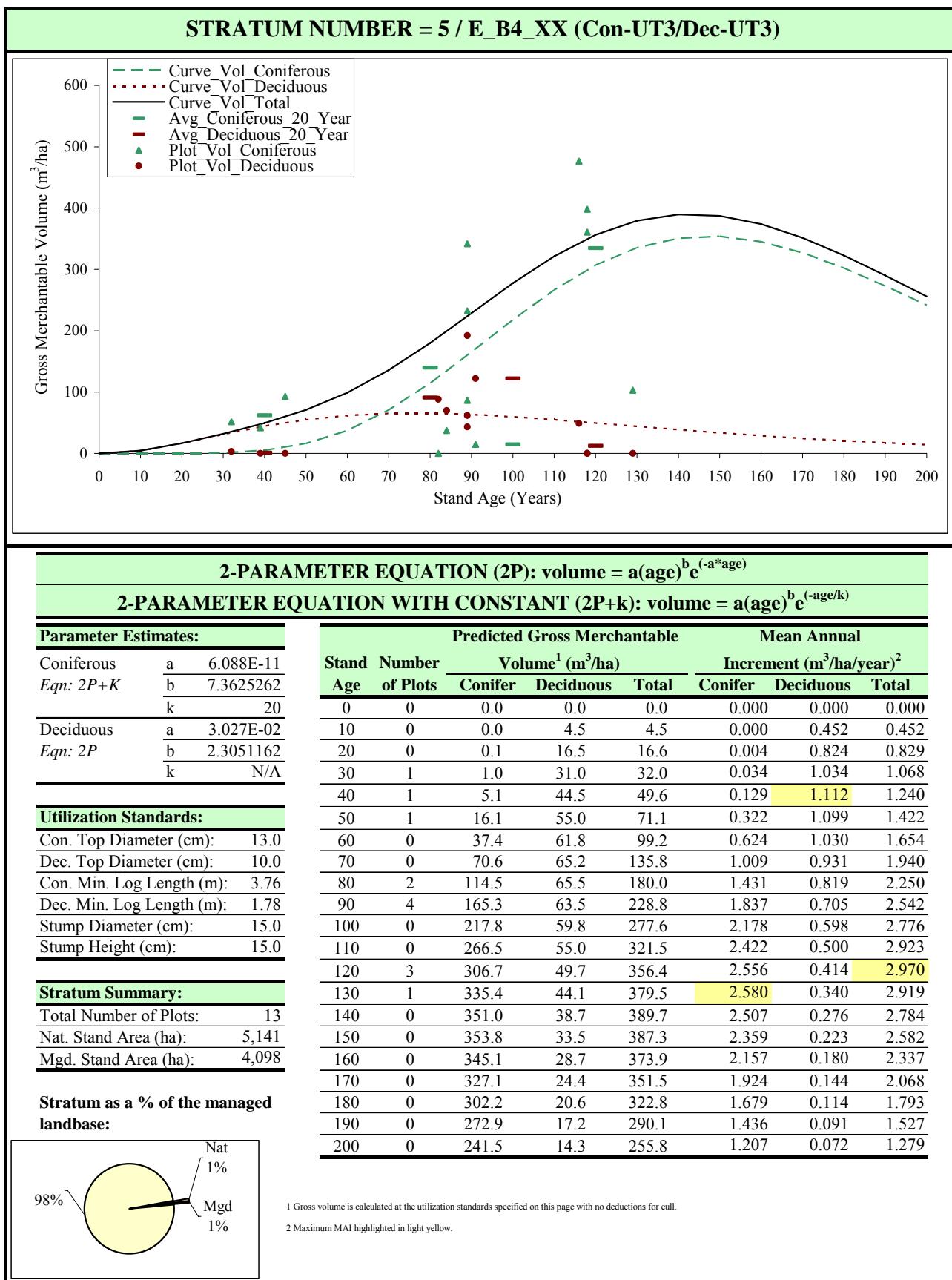
- Species – live AW & PB
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 10.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- tree length; minimum log length of 3.66 m.

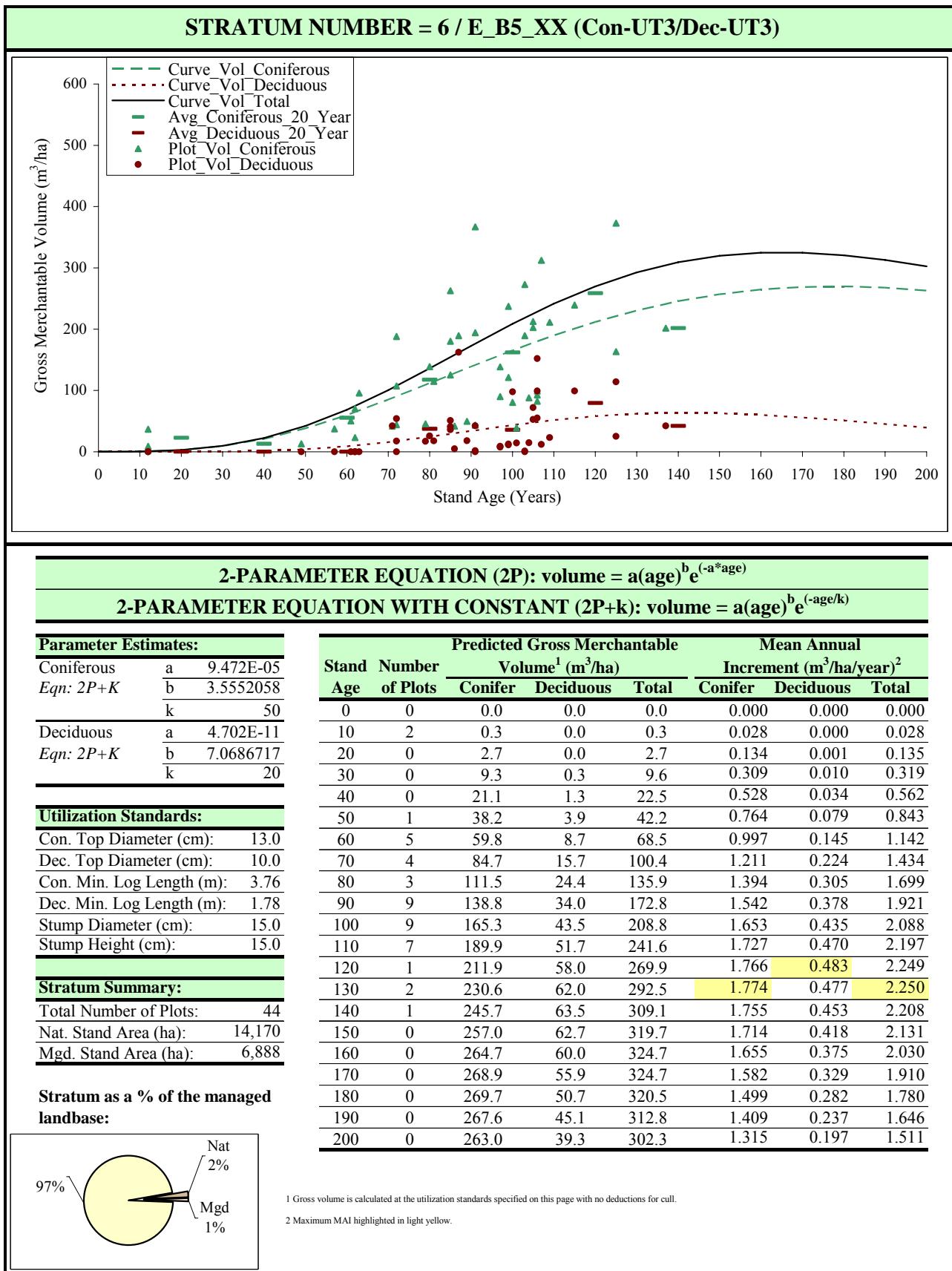


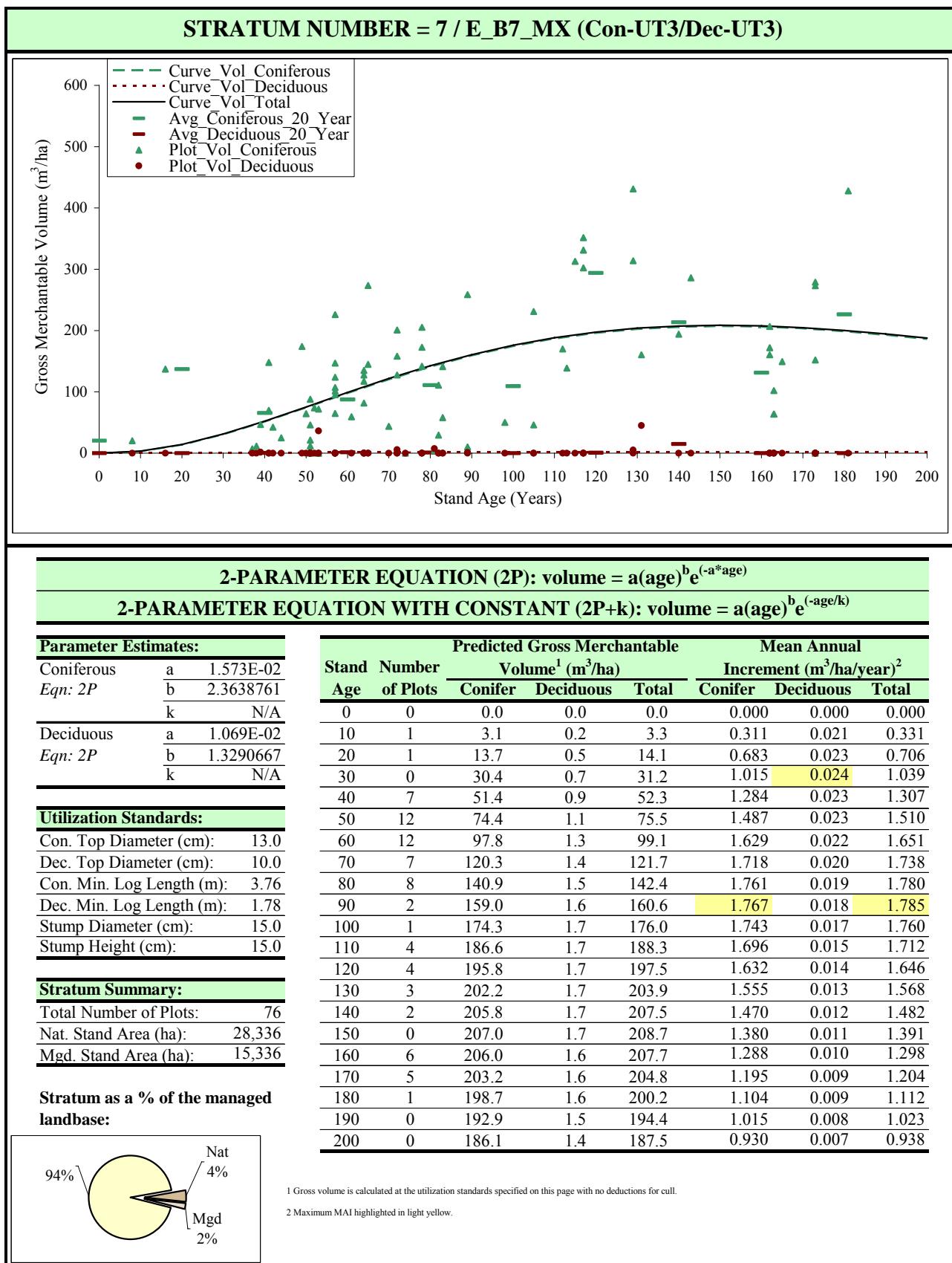


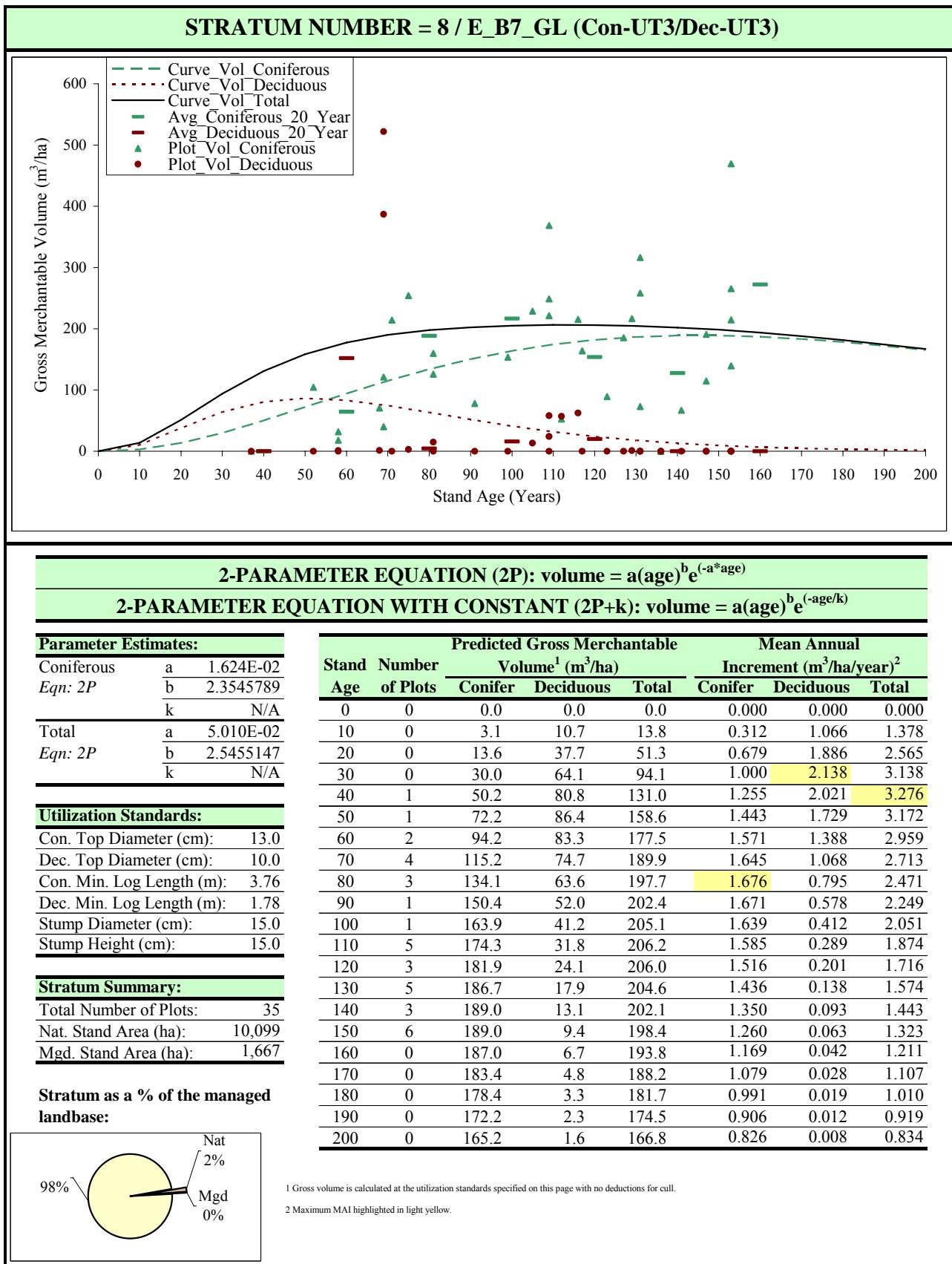


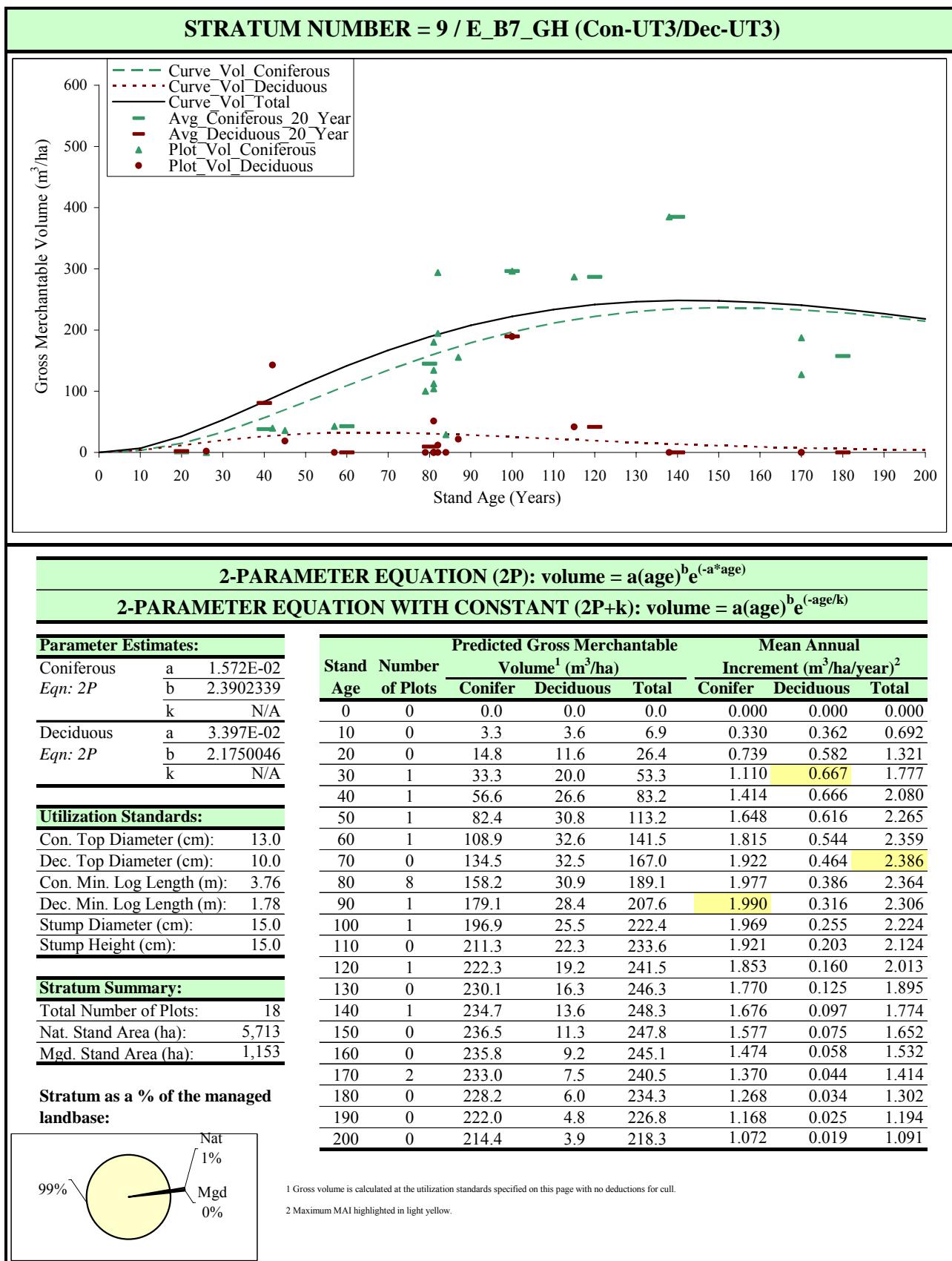


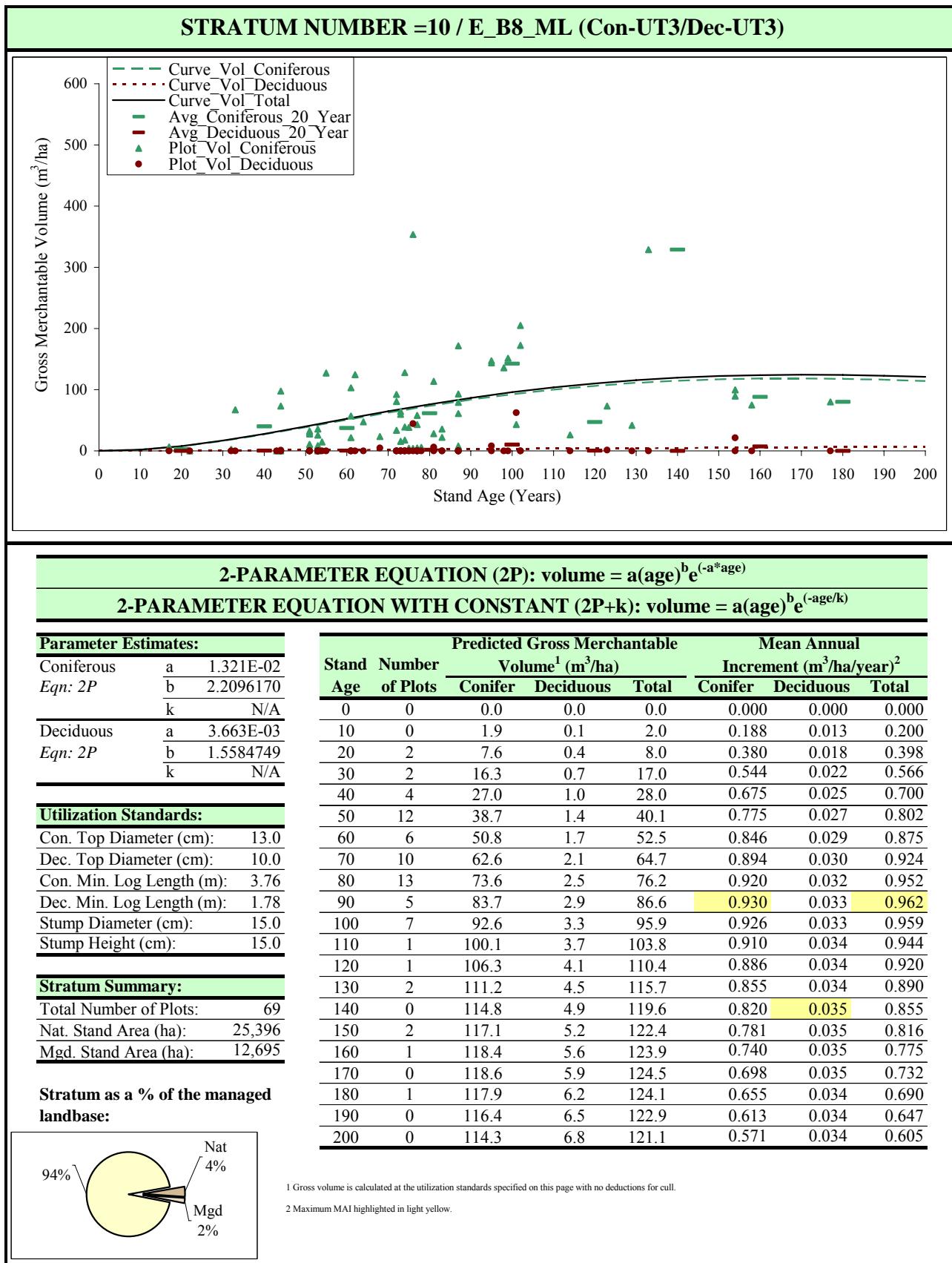


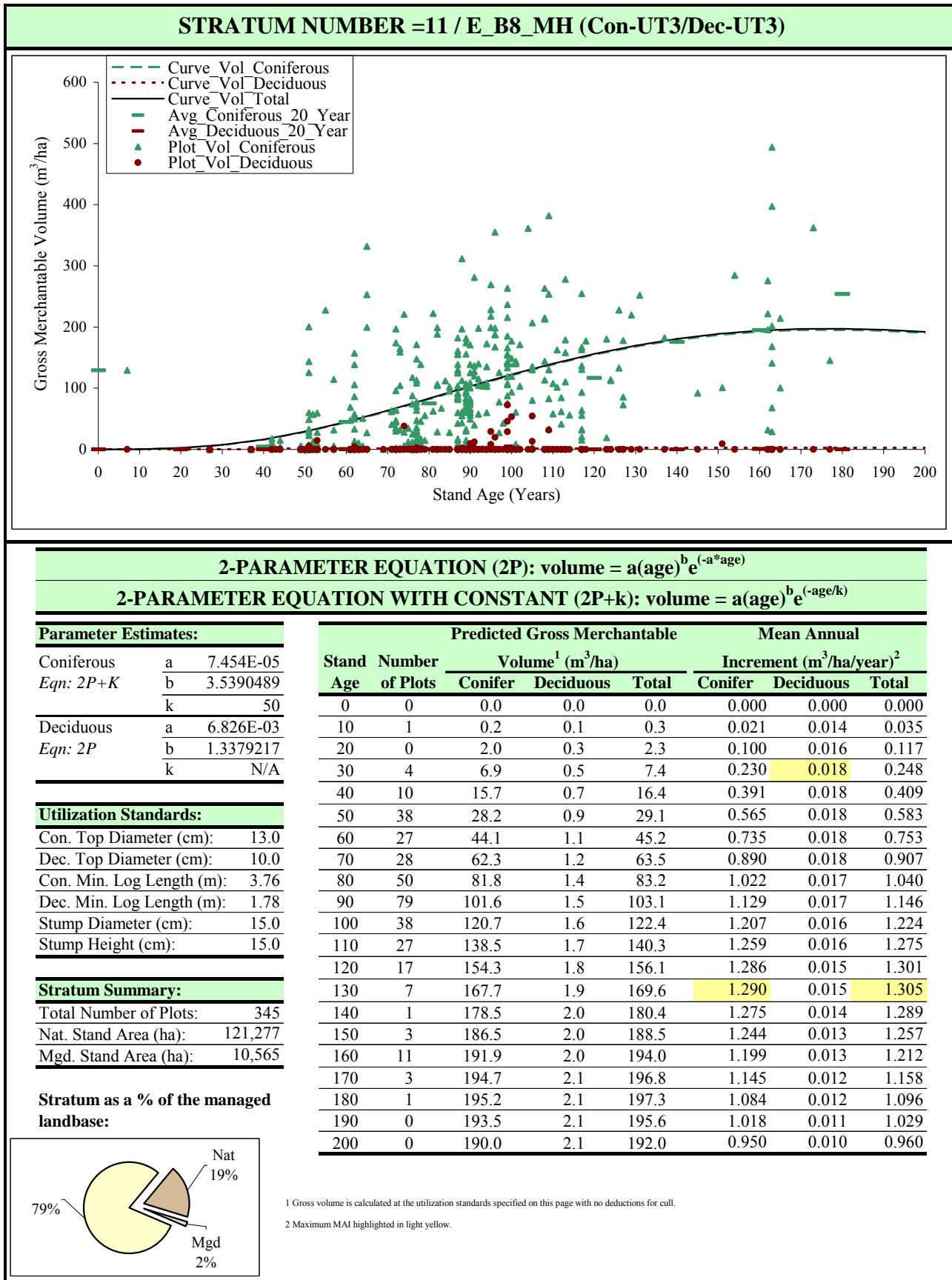


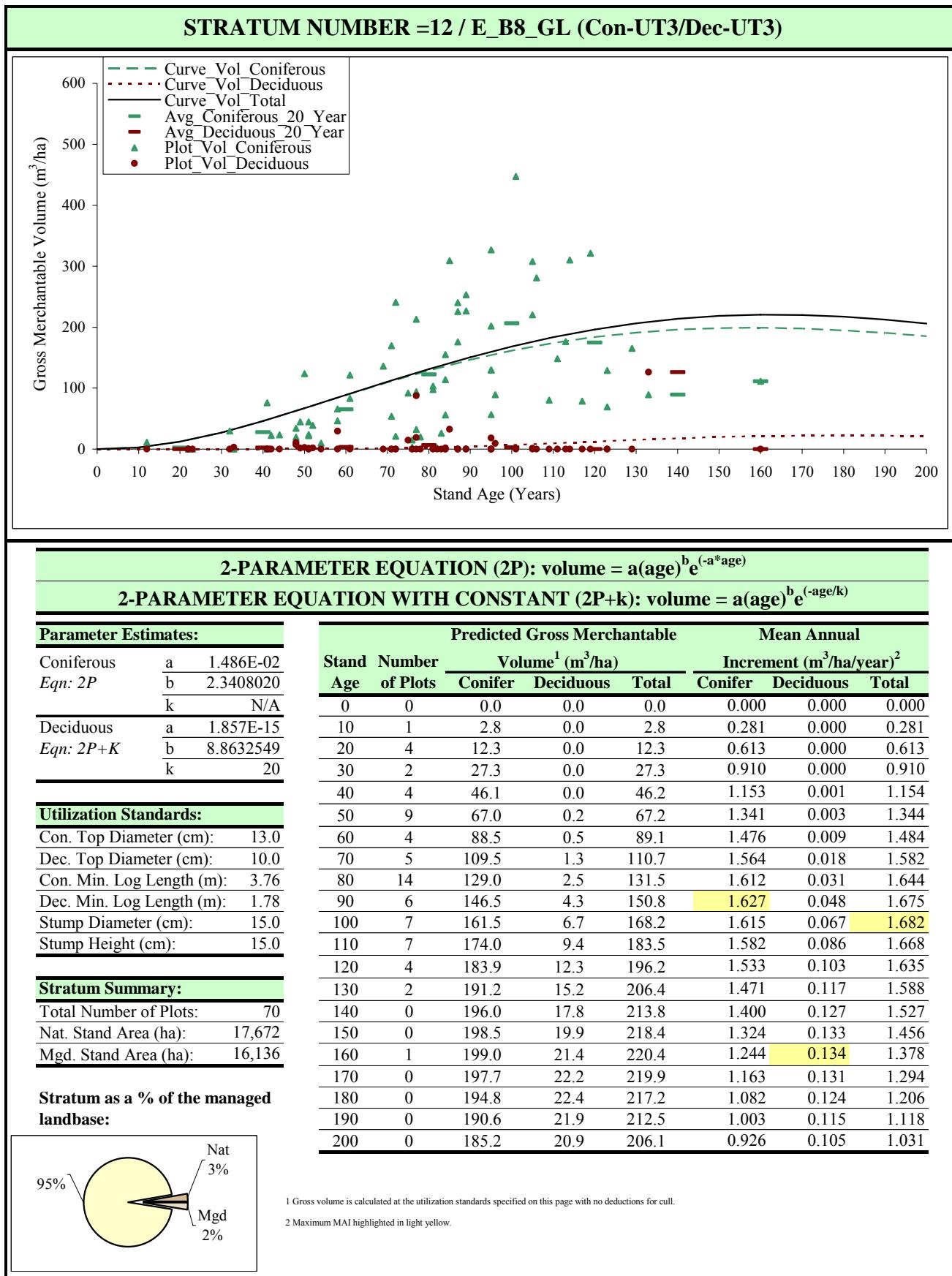


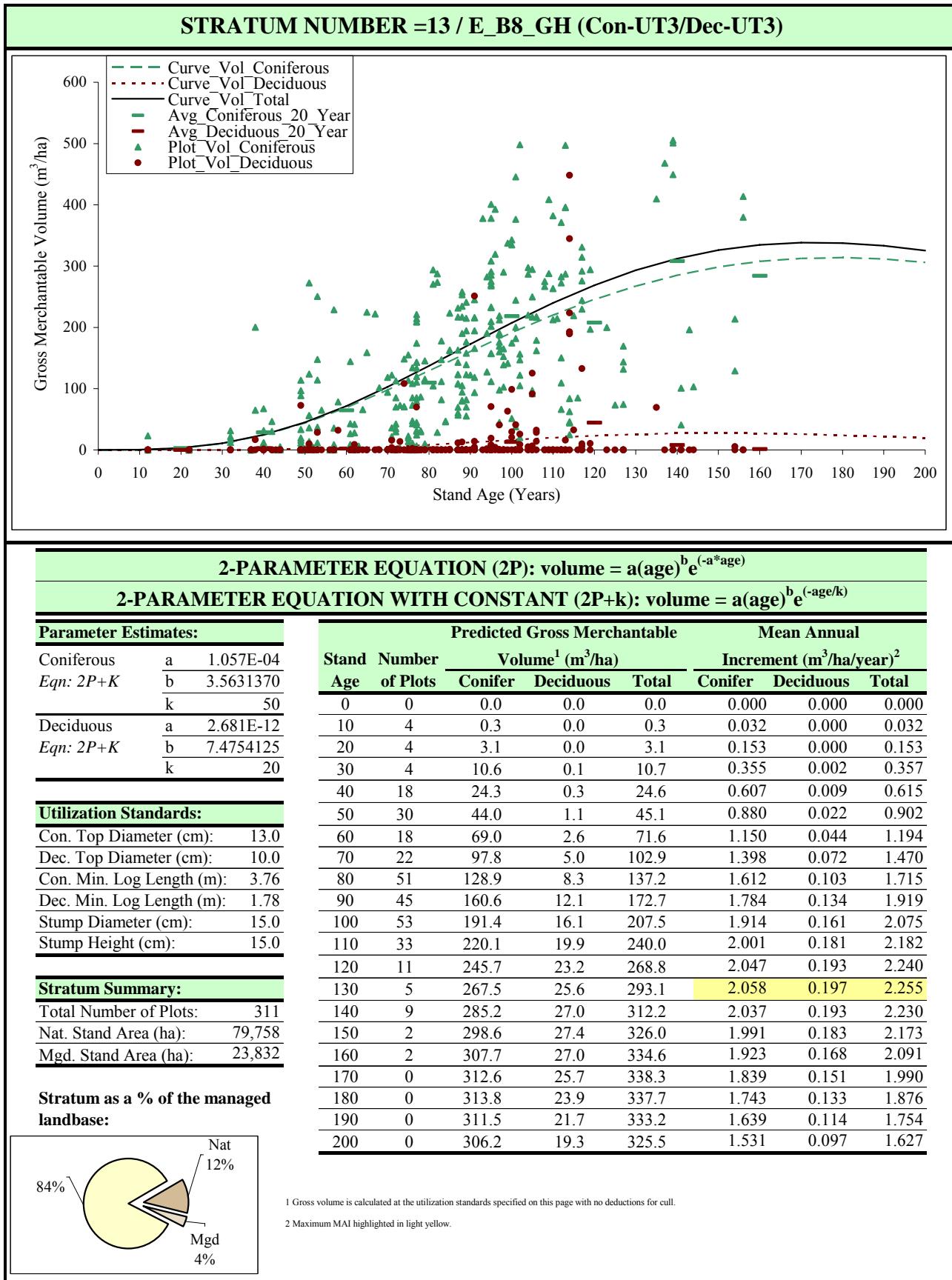


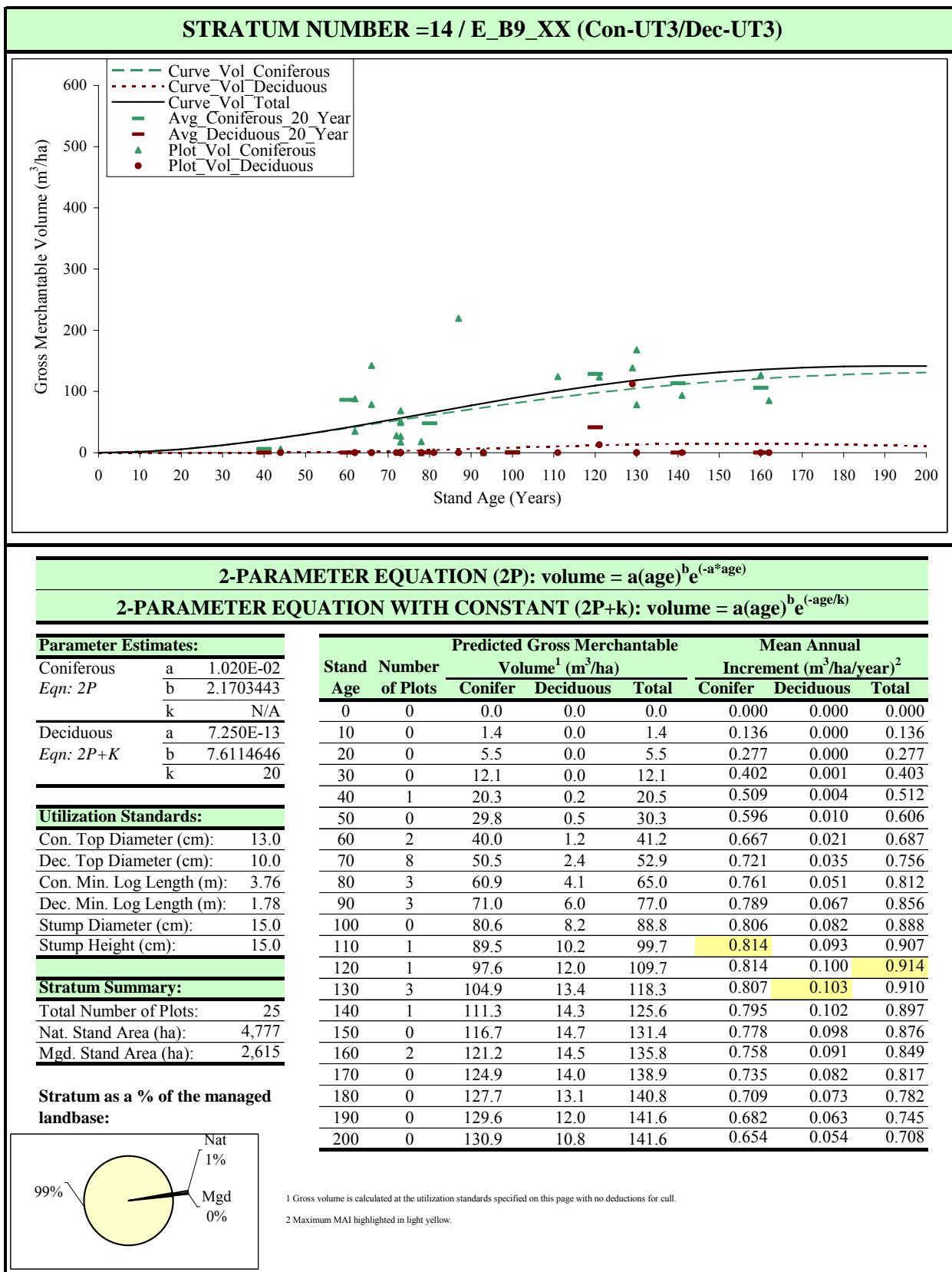


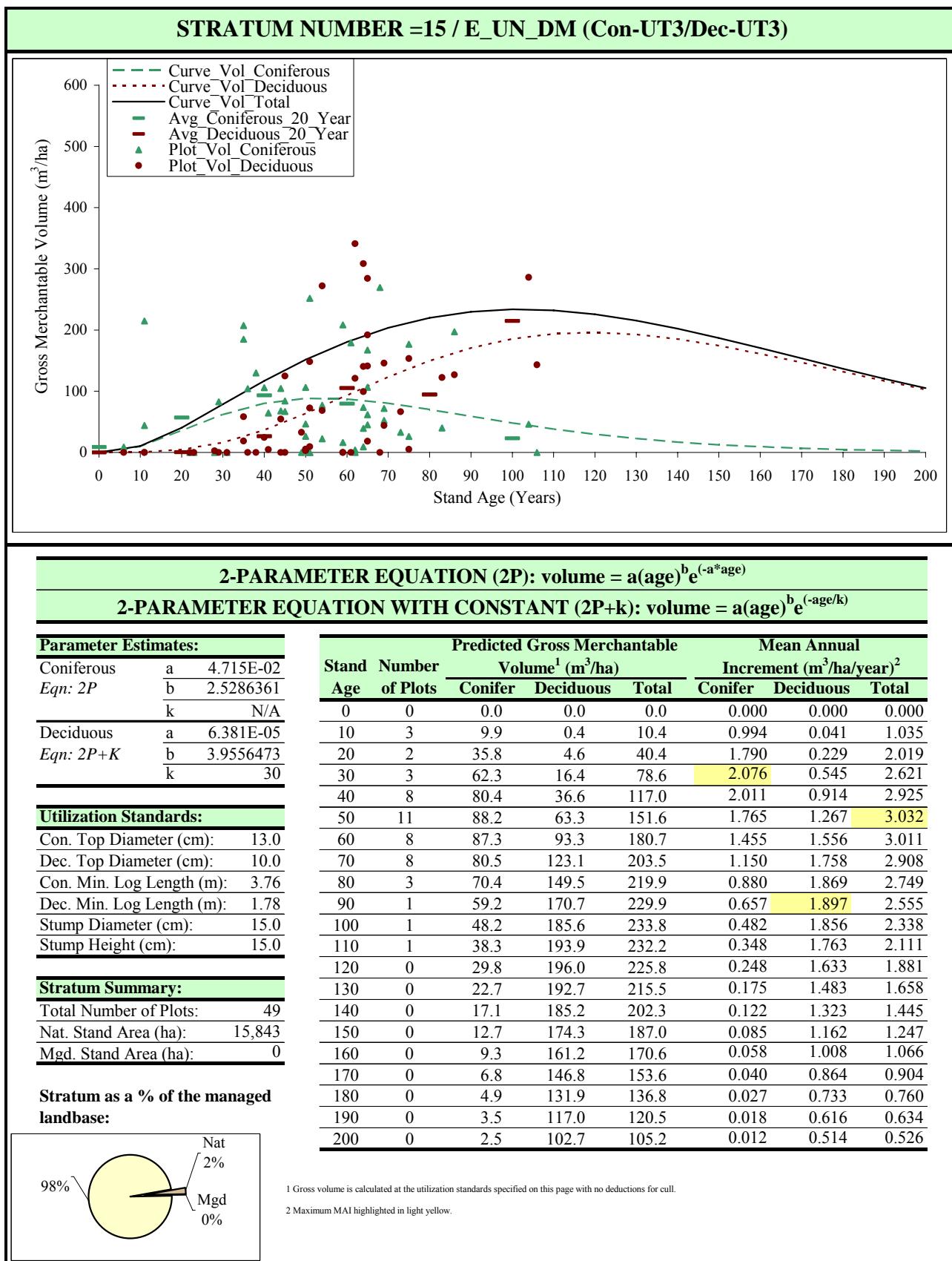


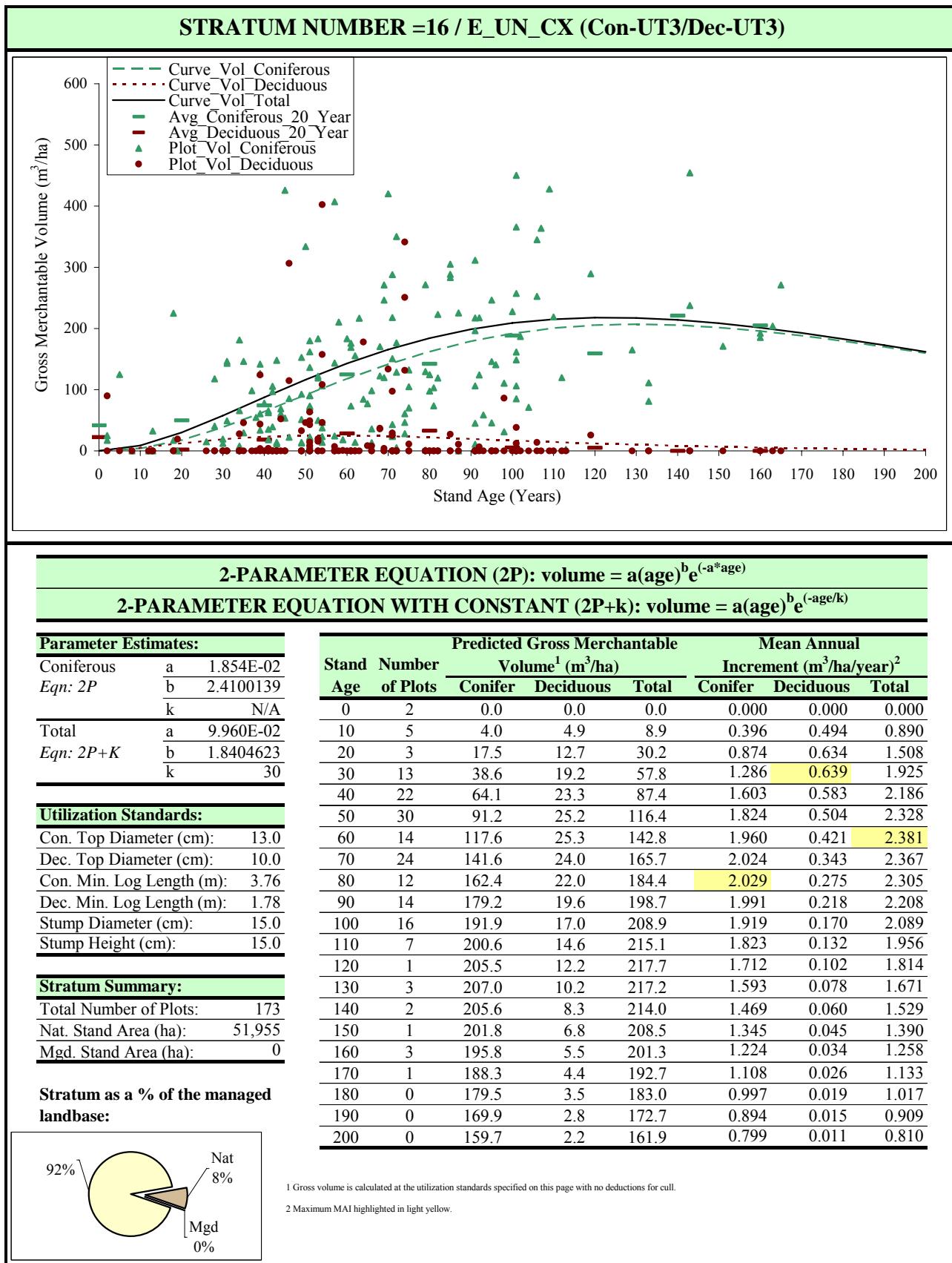


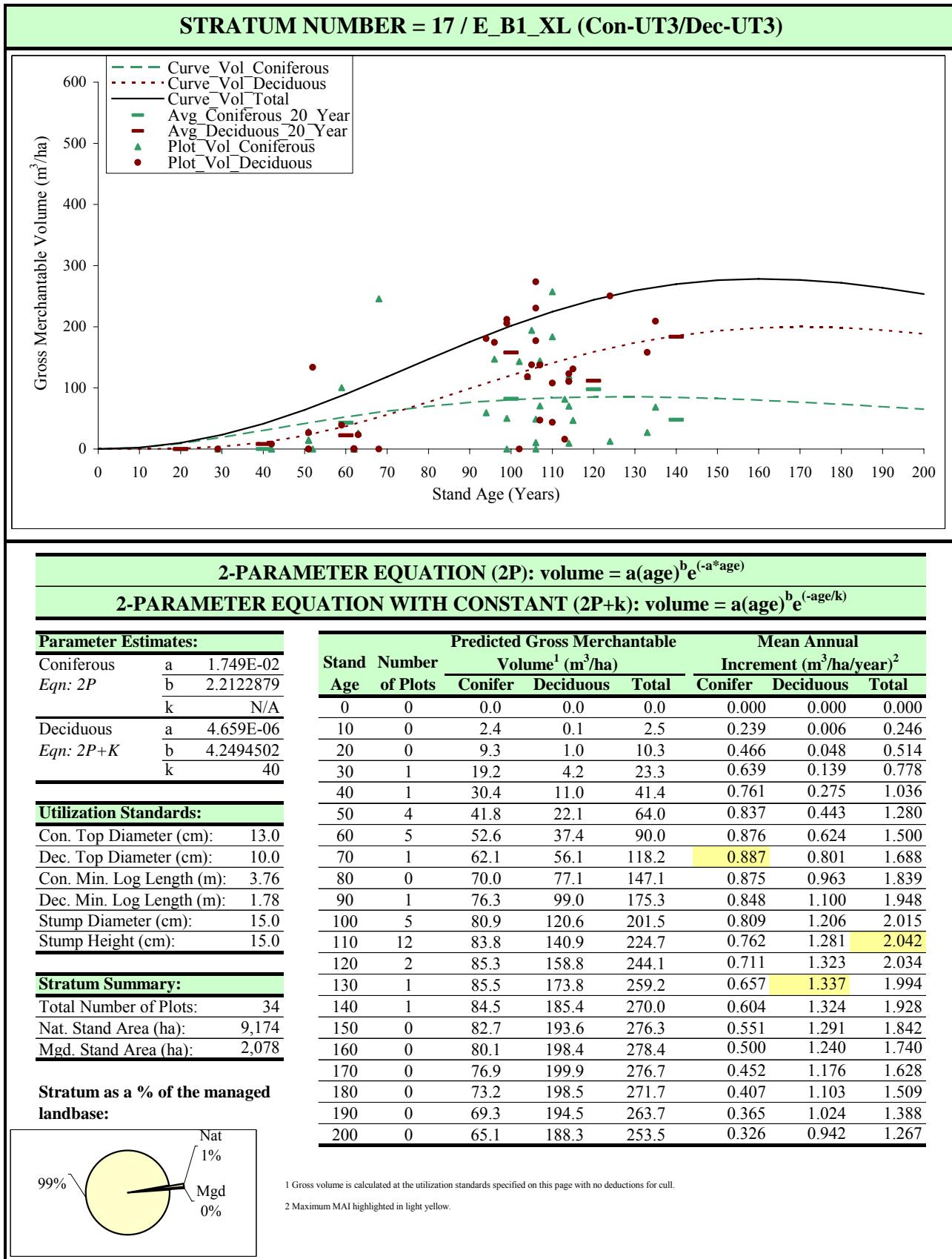


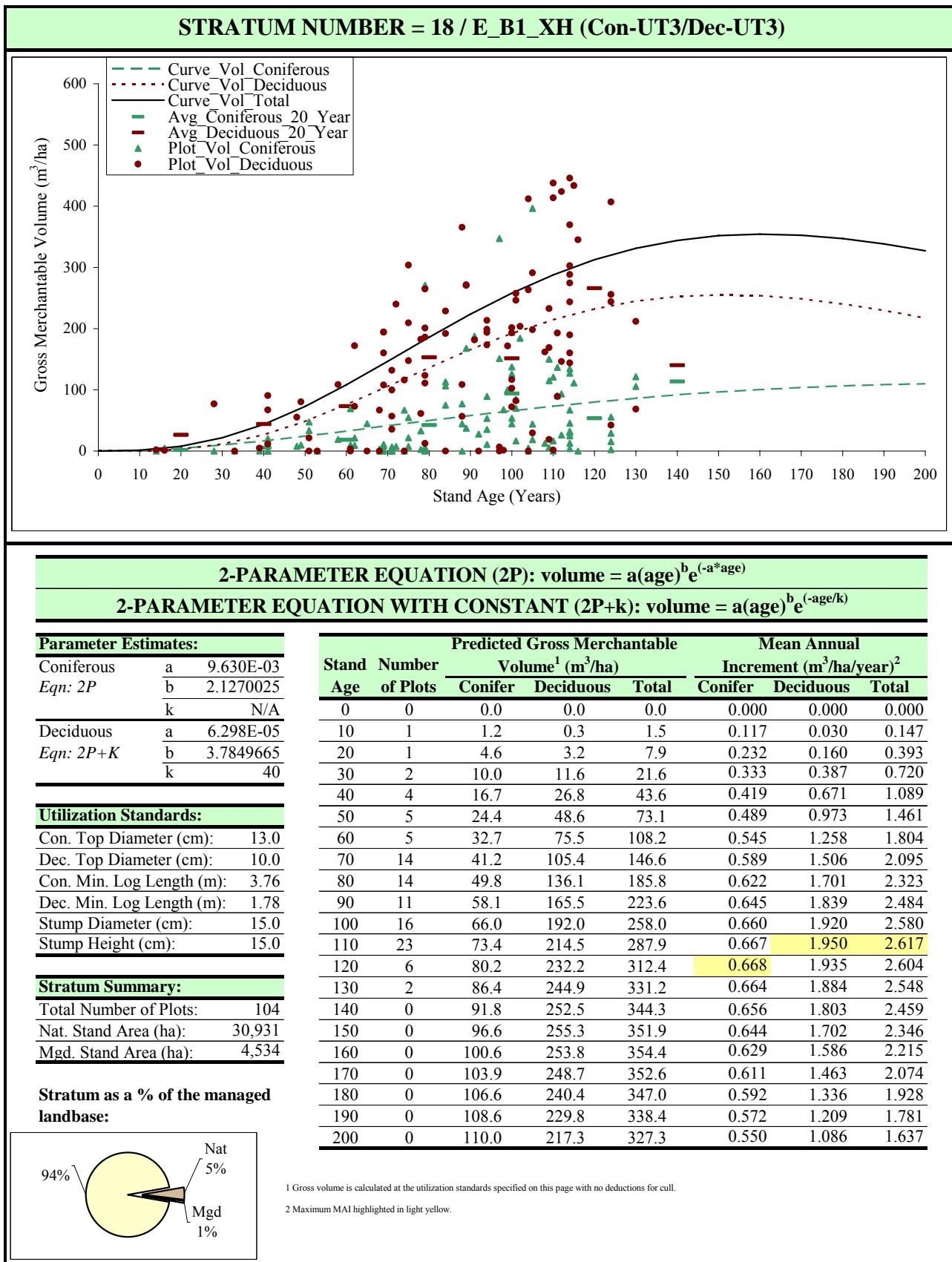


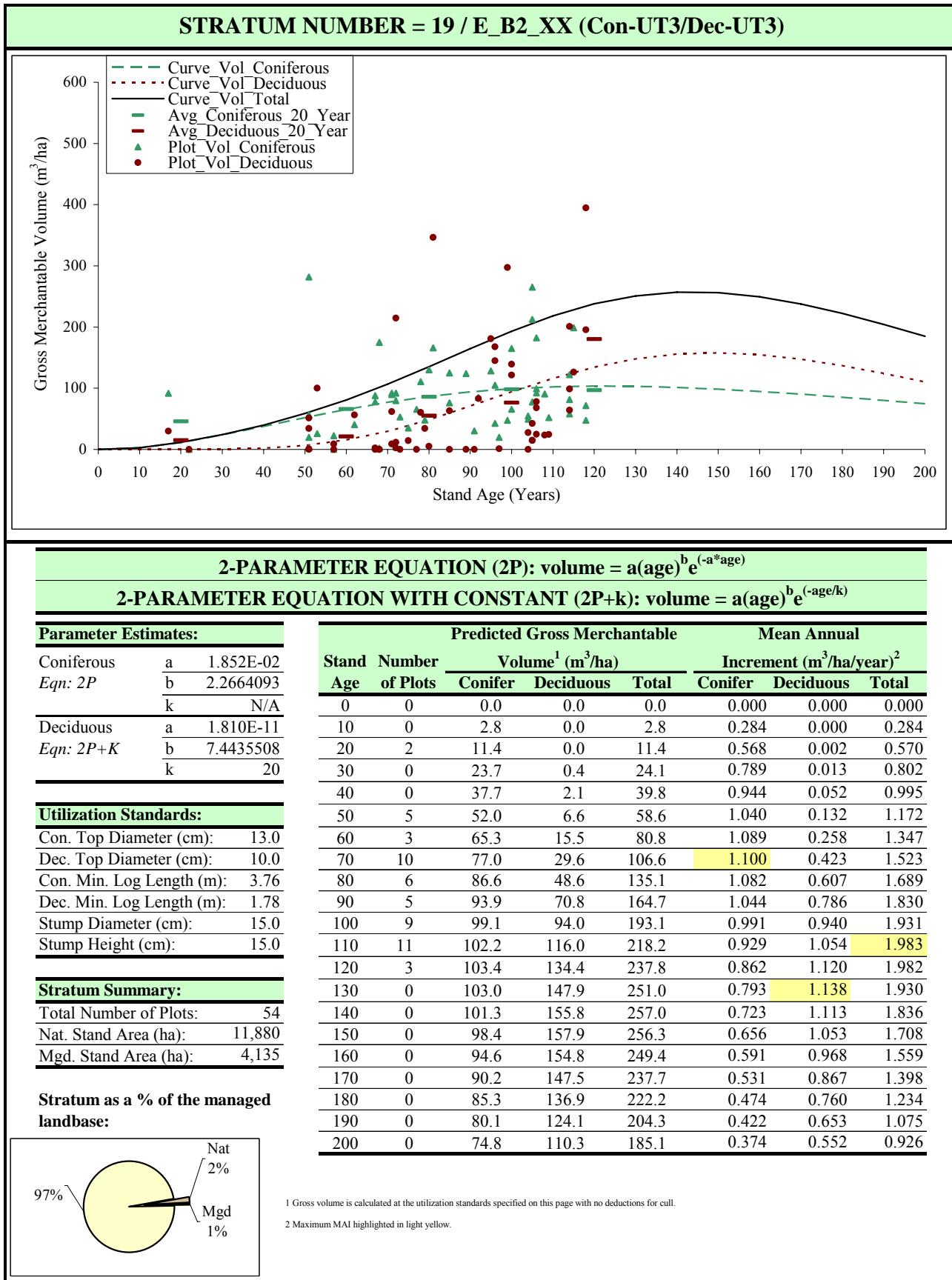


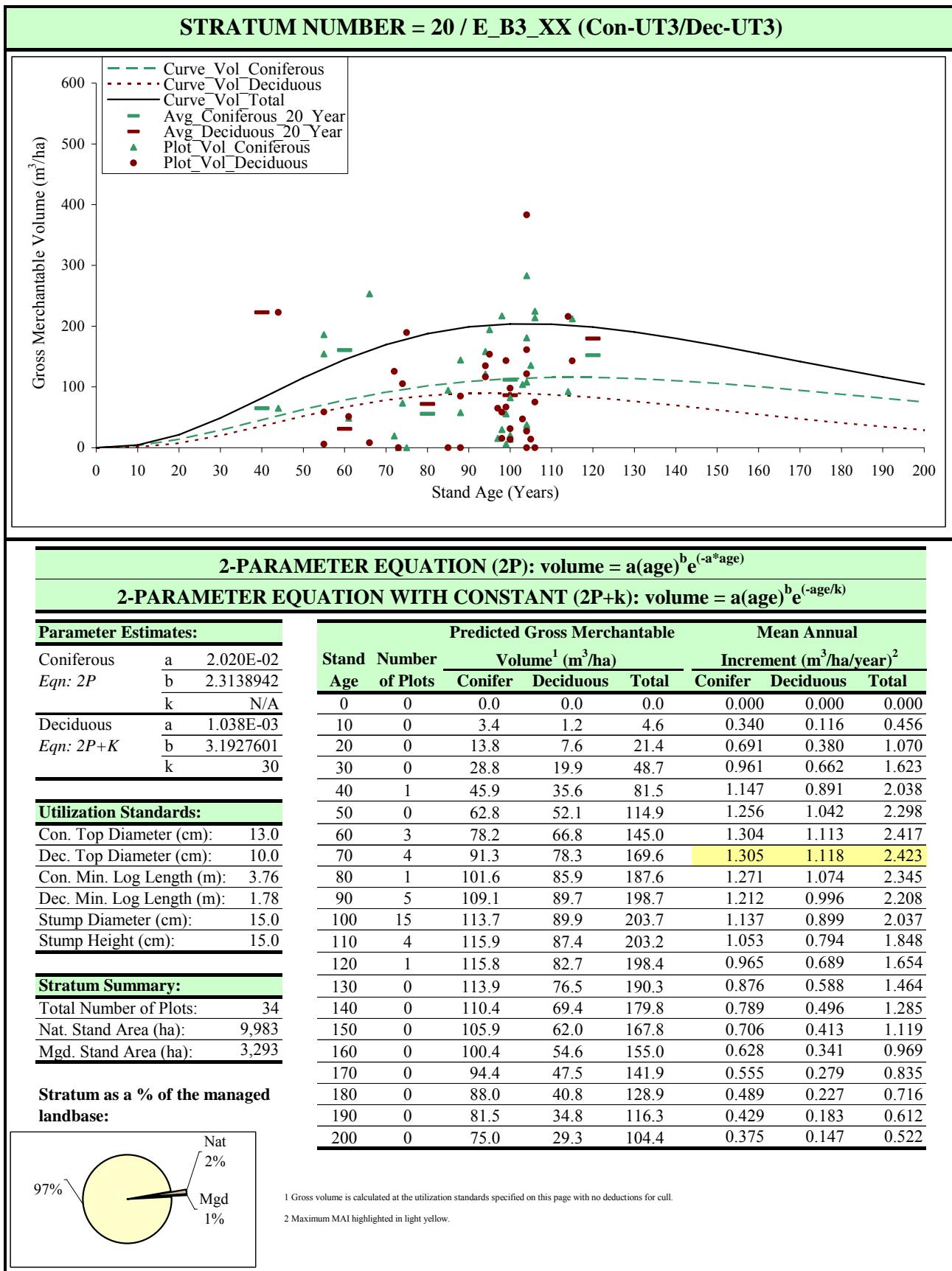


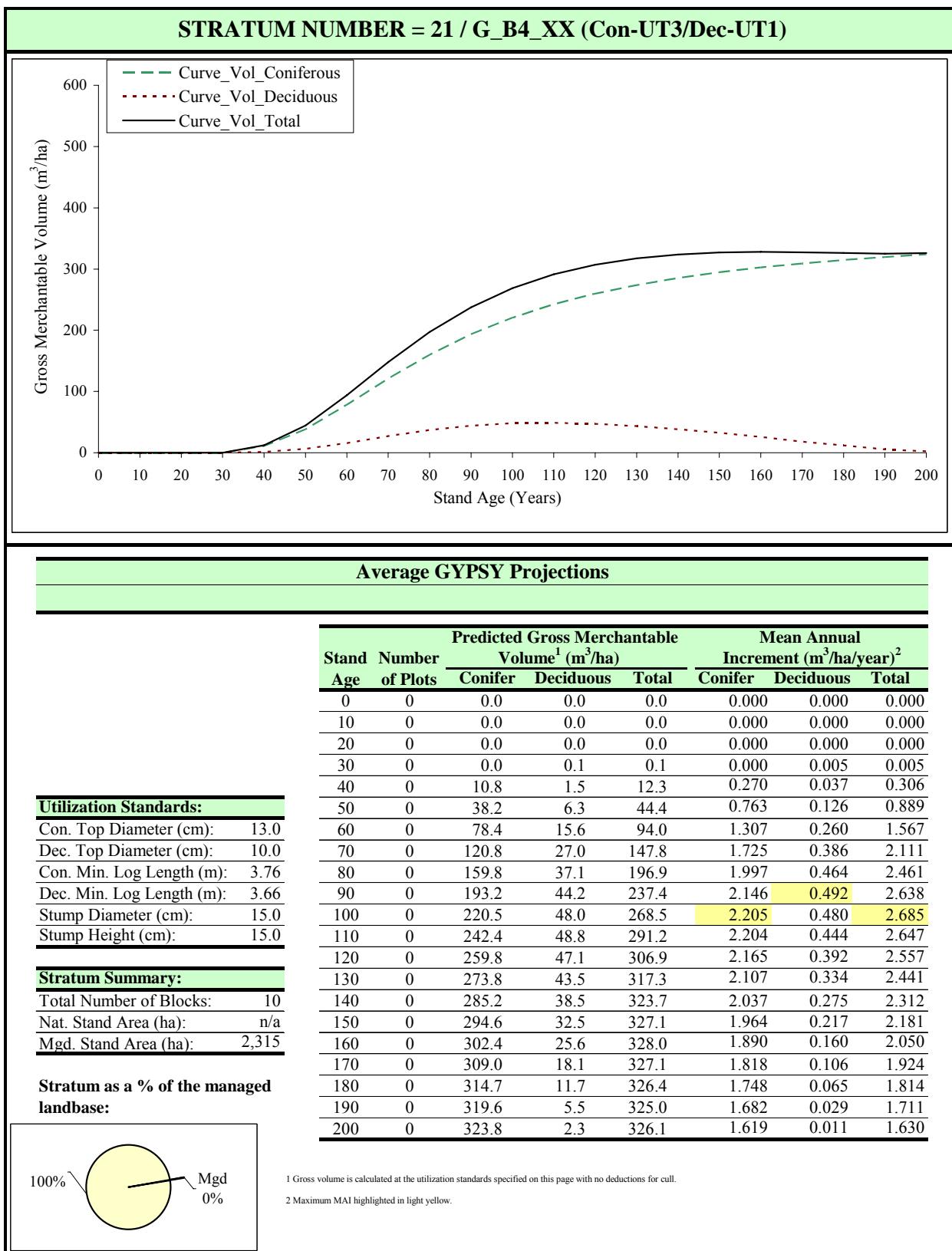


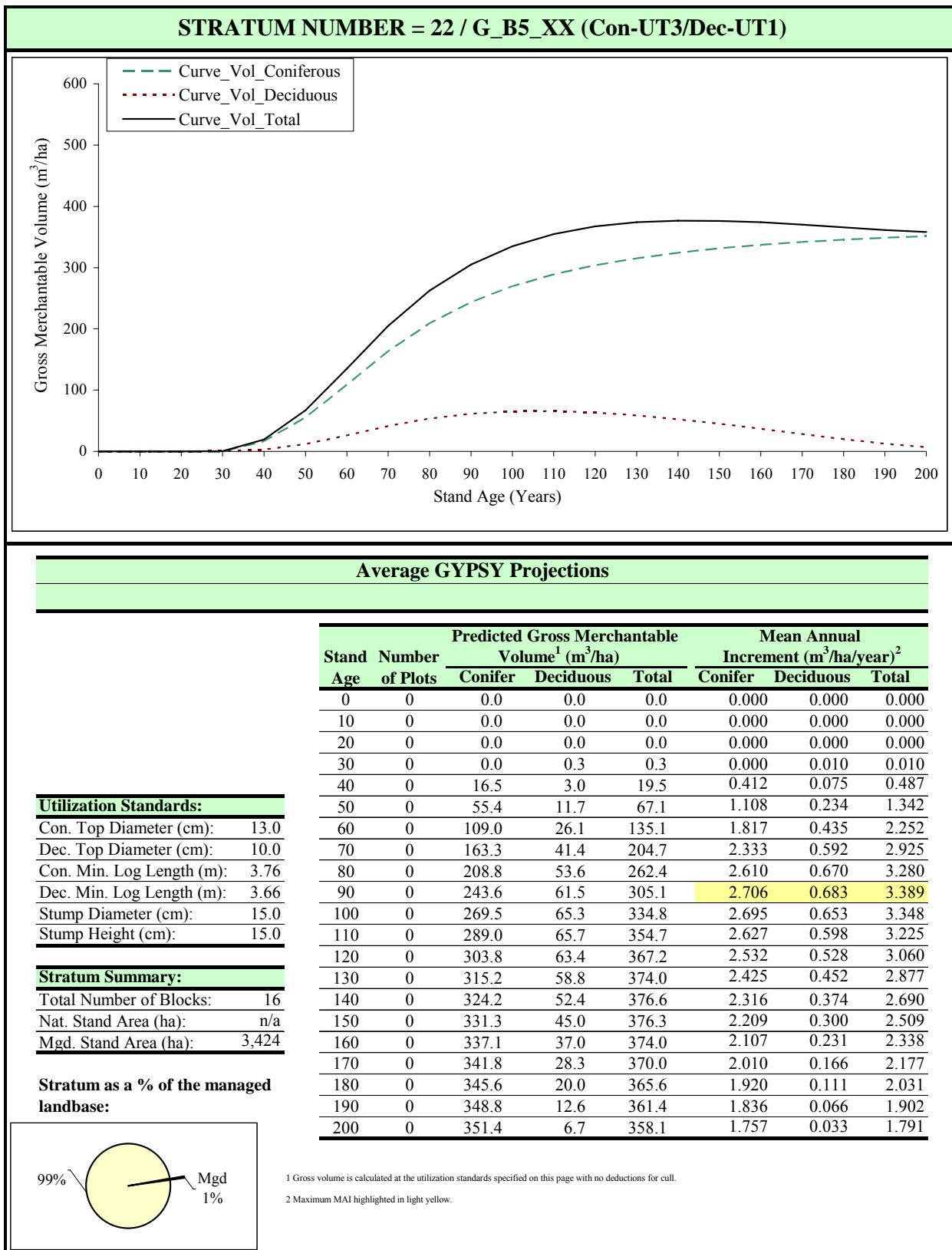


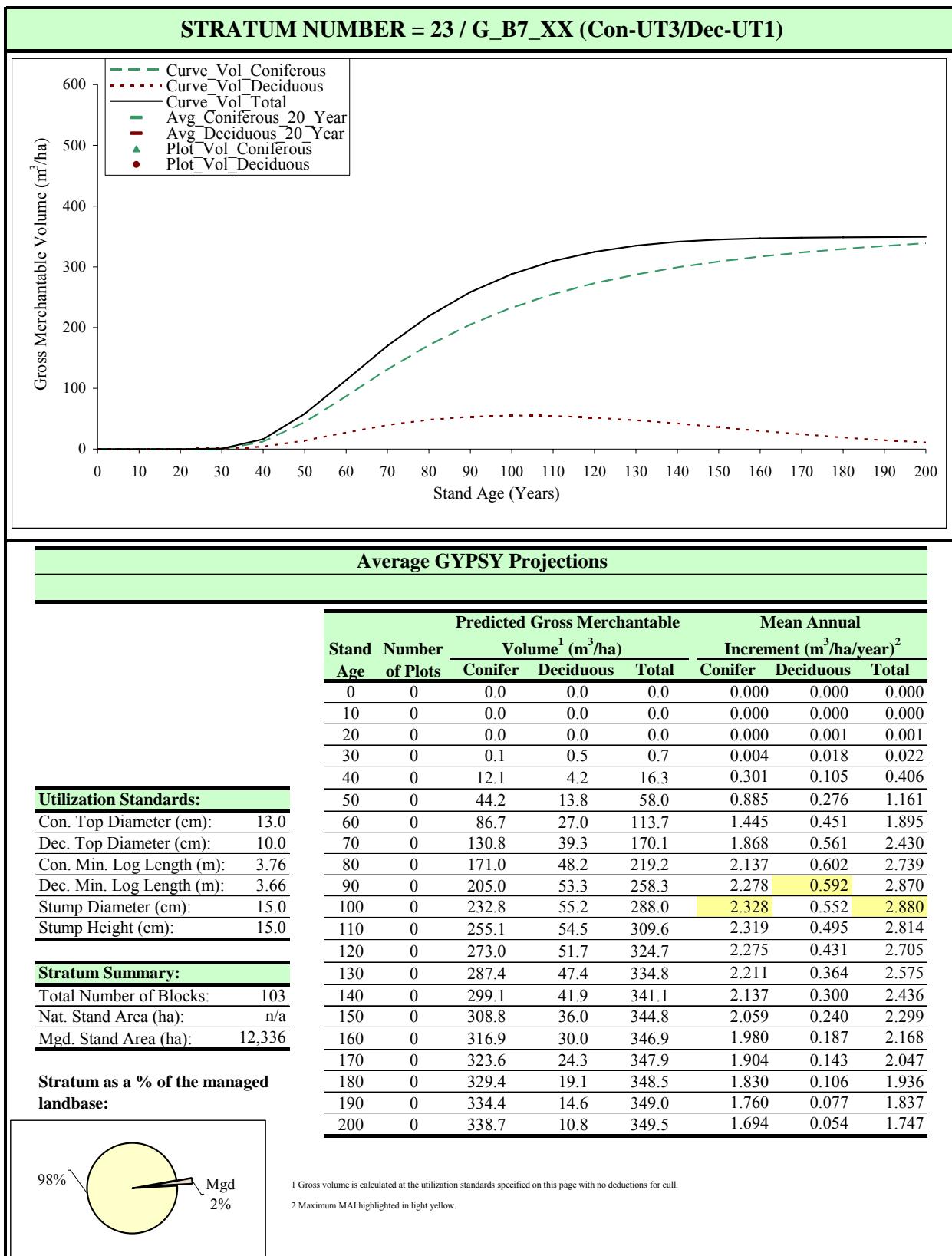


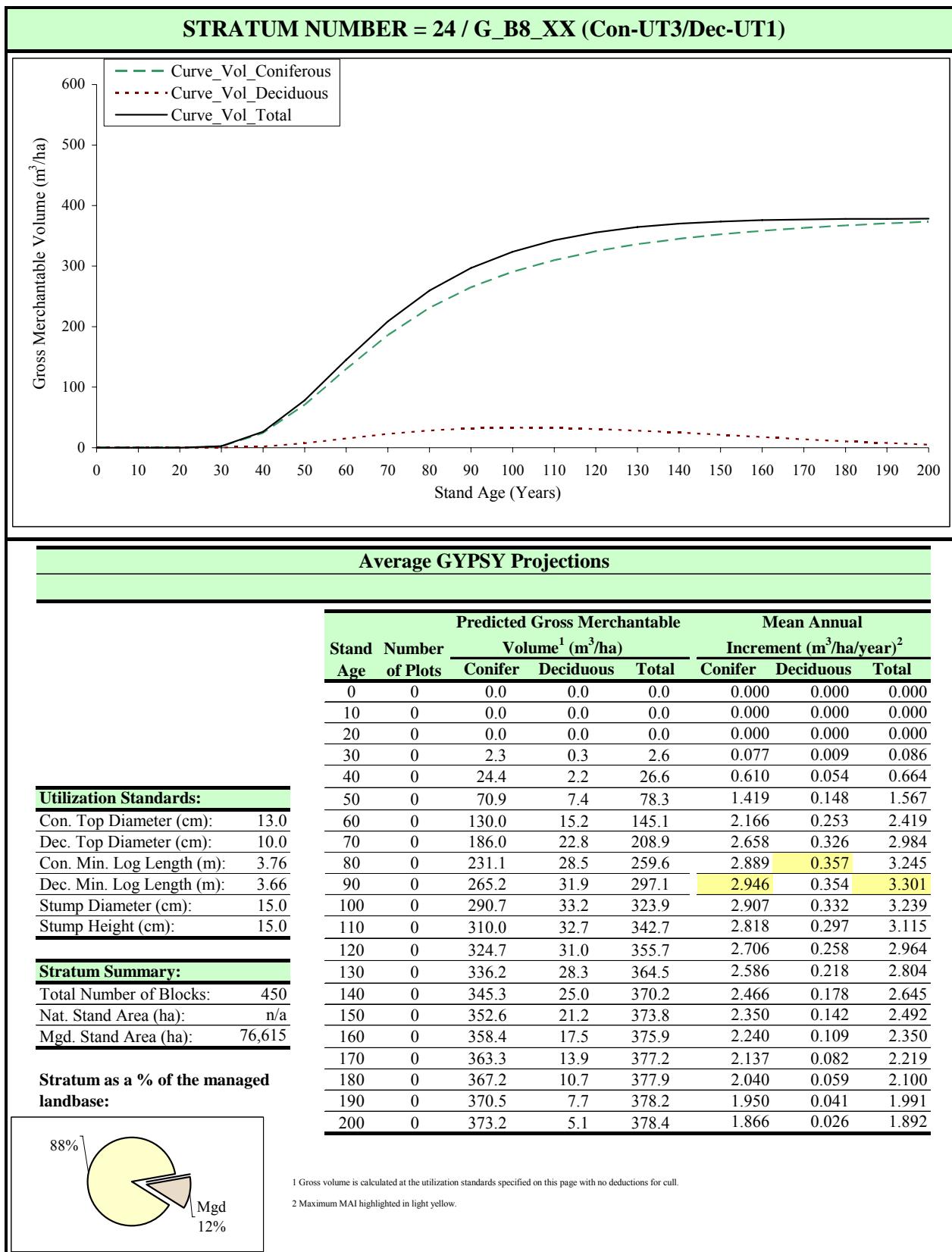


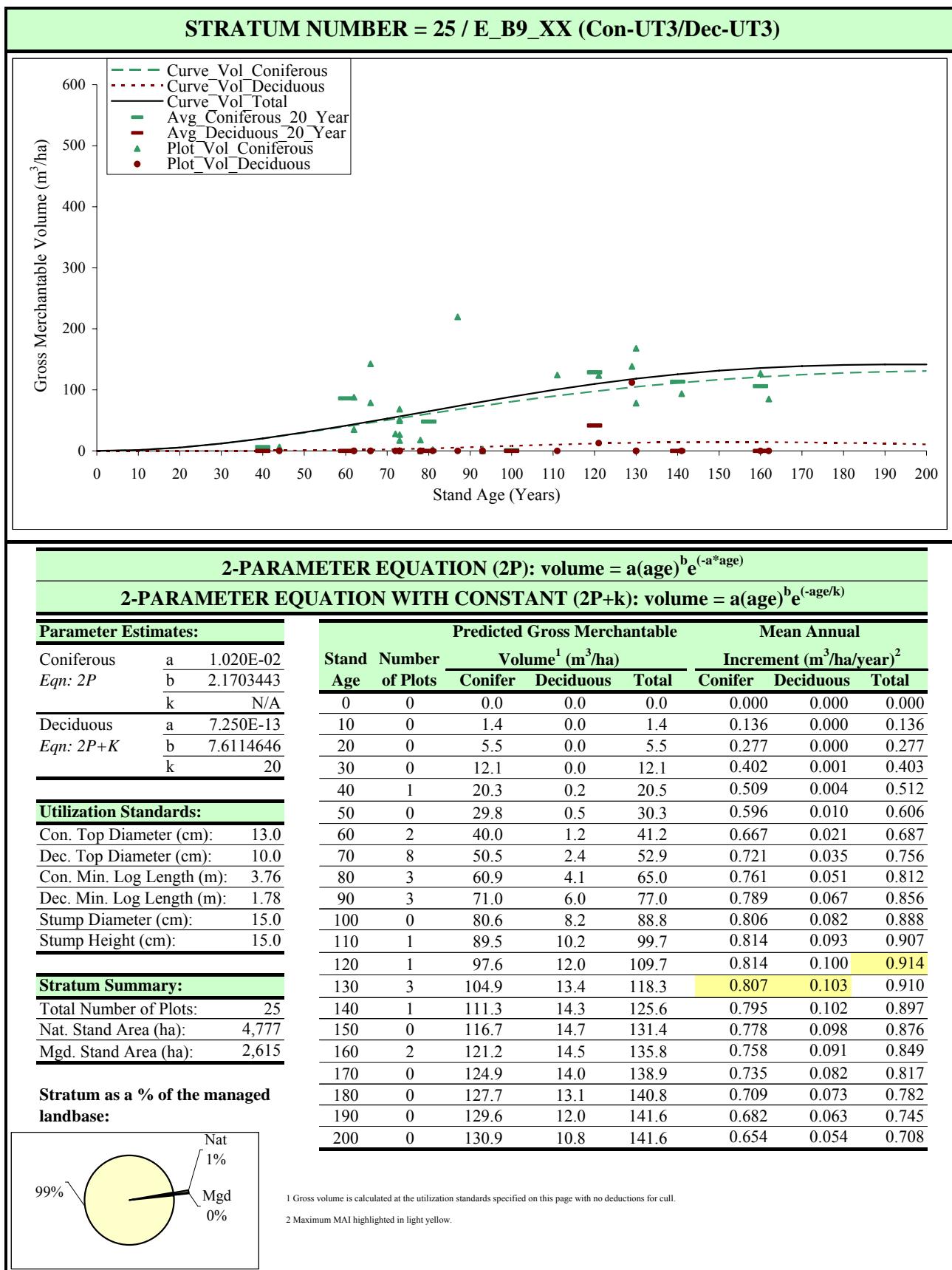


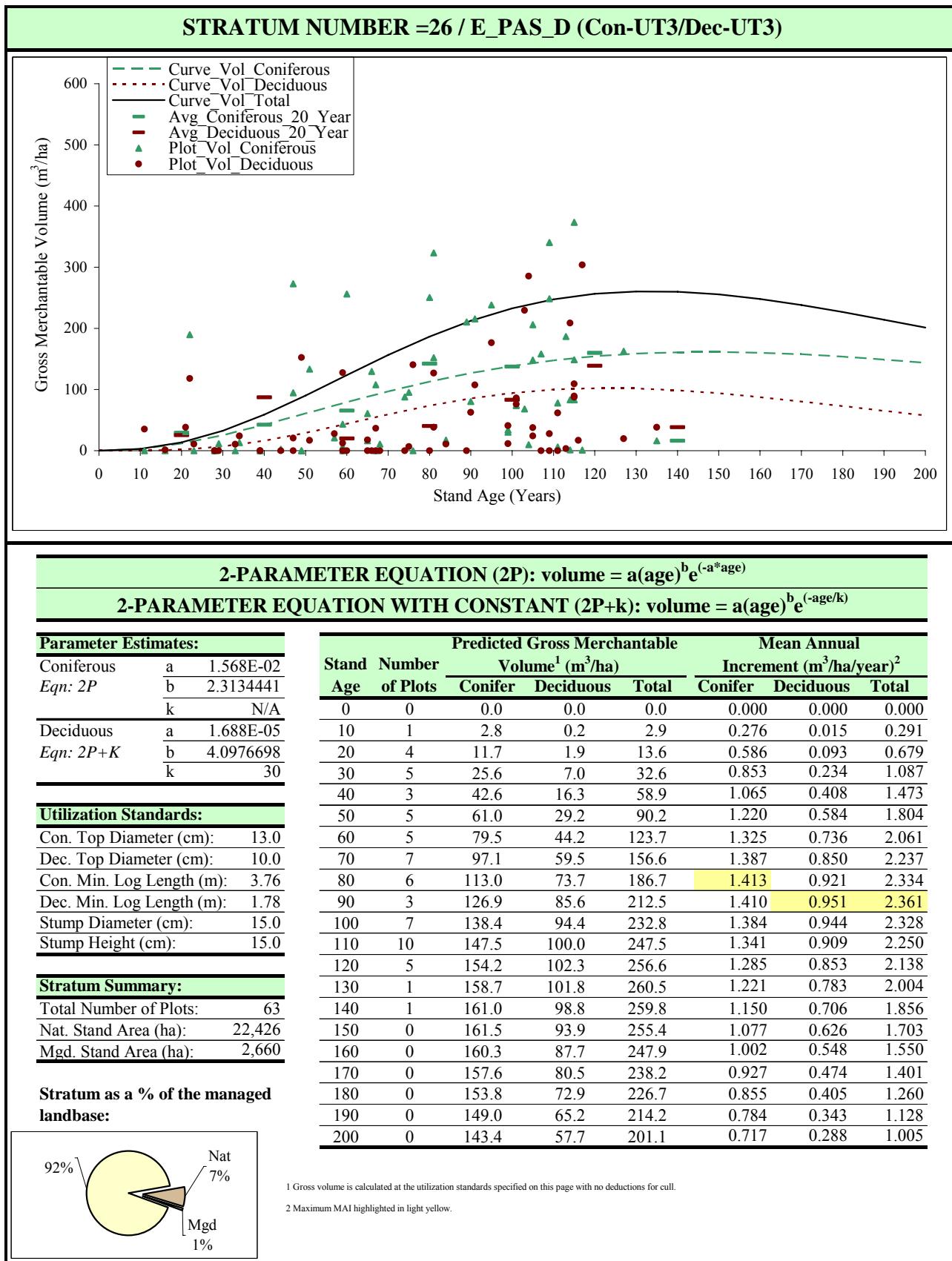


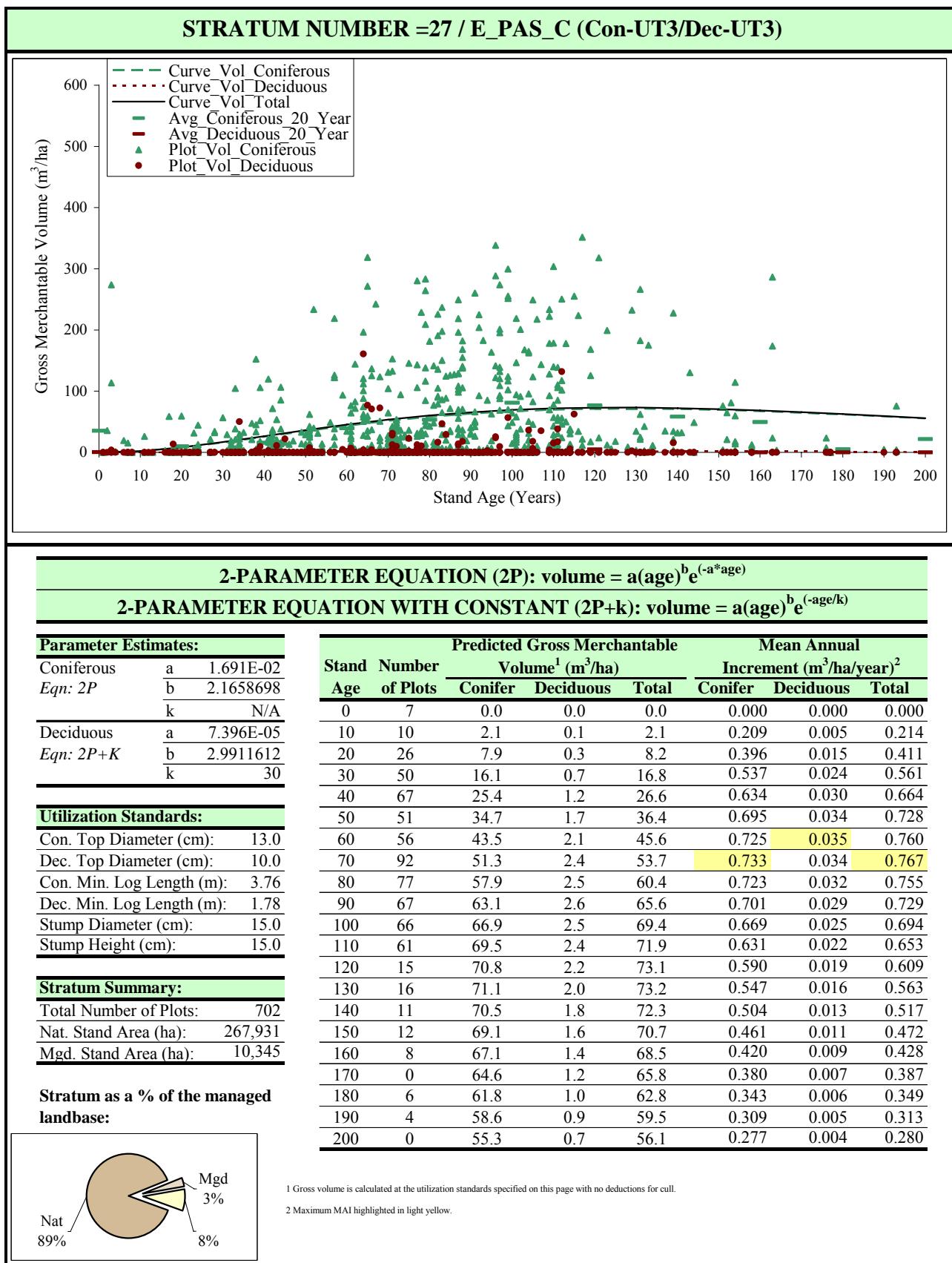












- **Baseline Yield Curves – Coniferous UT3 and Deciduous UT4**

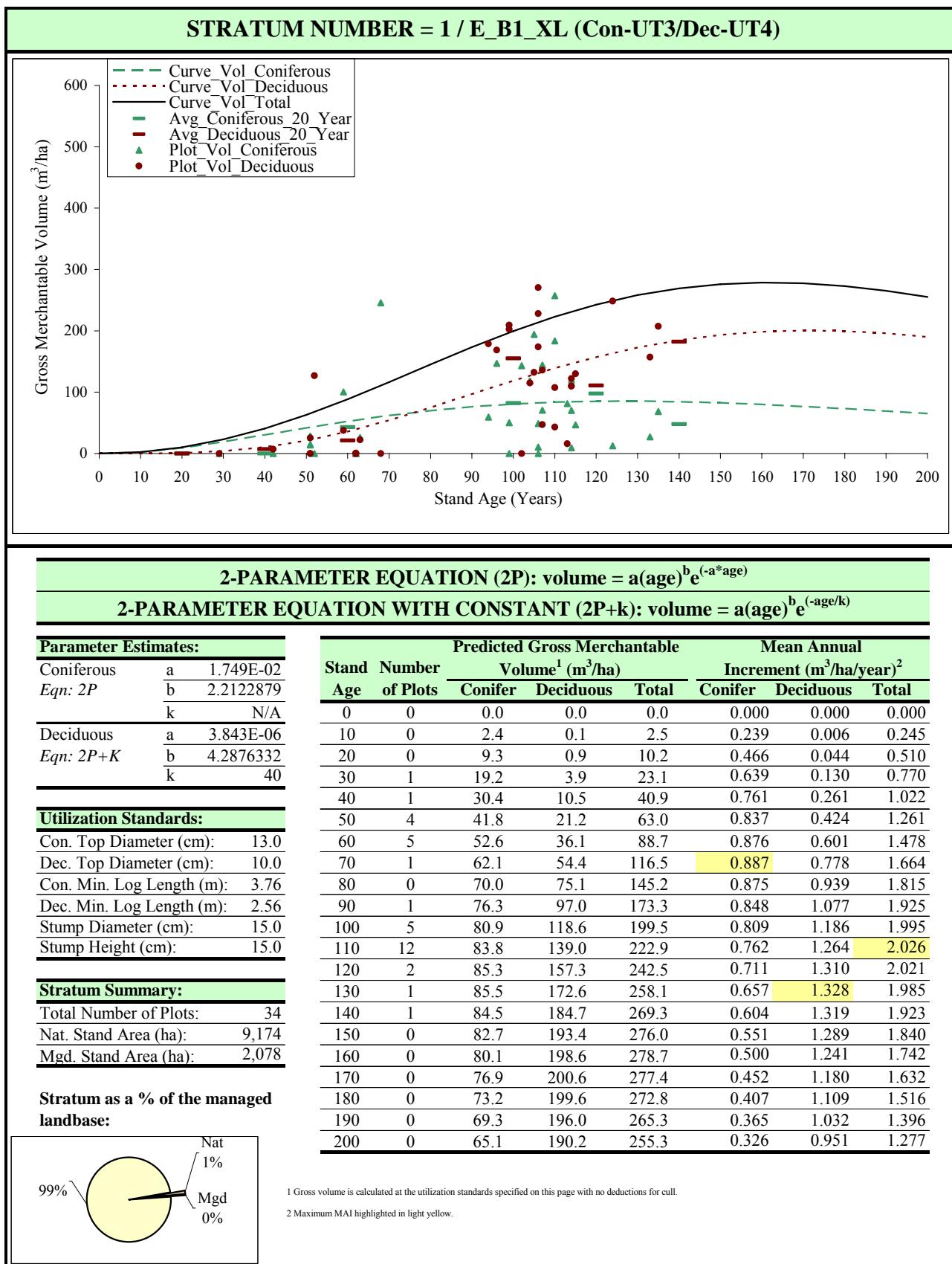
Coniferous UT3 (same as previous section):

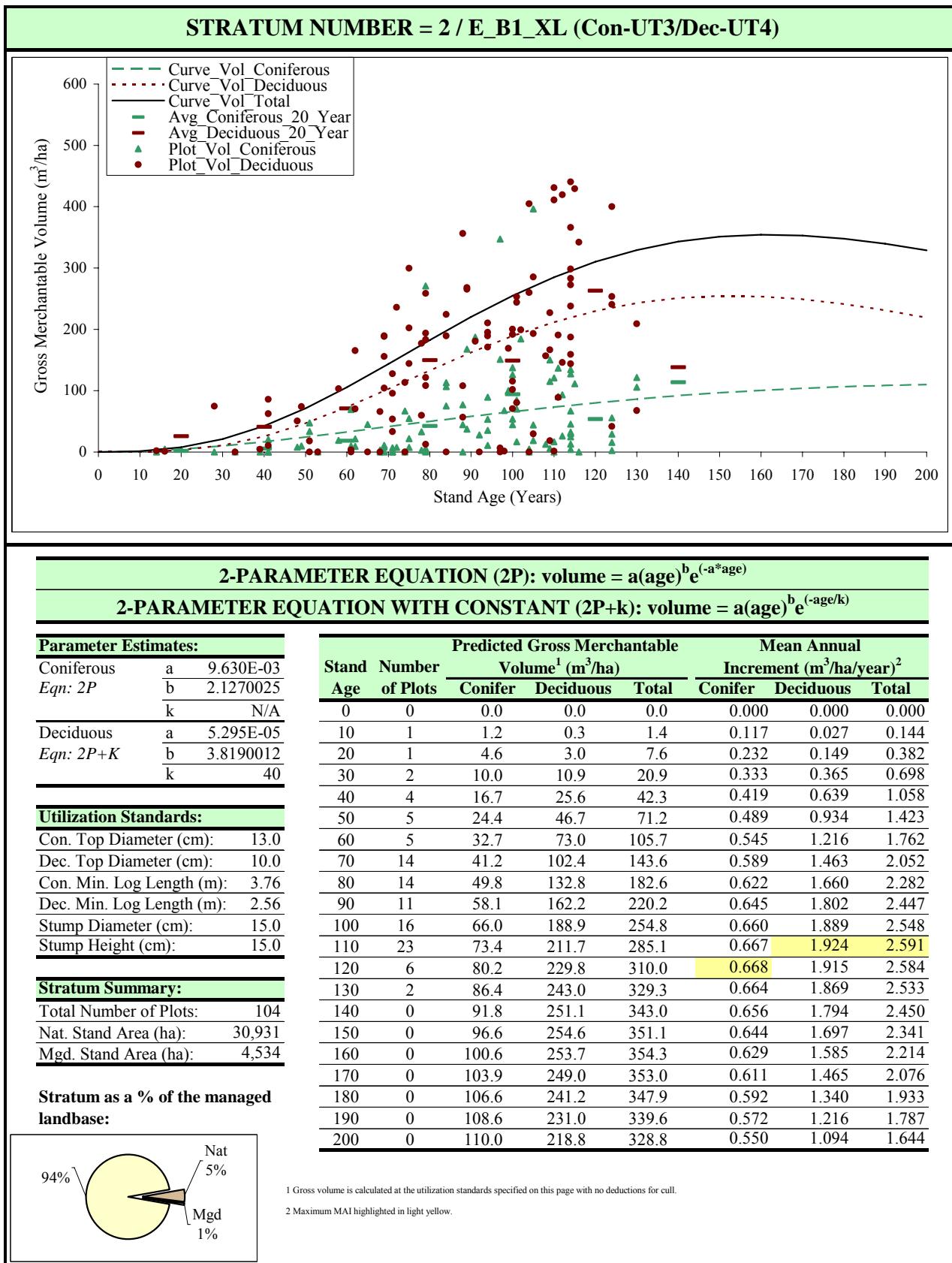
- Species – live PL, SW, SE, SB, FB, FA & FD
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 13.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- cut-to-length; target length of 4.98 m, then 4.37 m, then a minimum log length of 3.76 m. No lengths other than those specified are acceptable

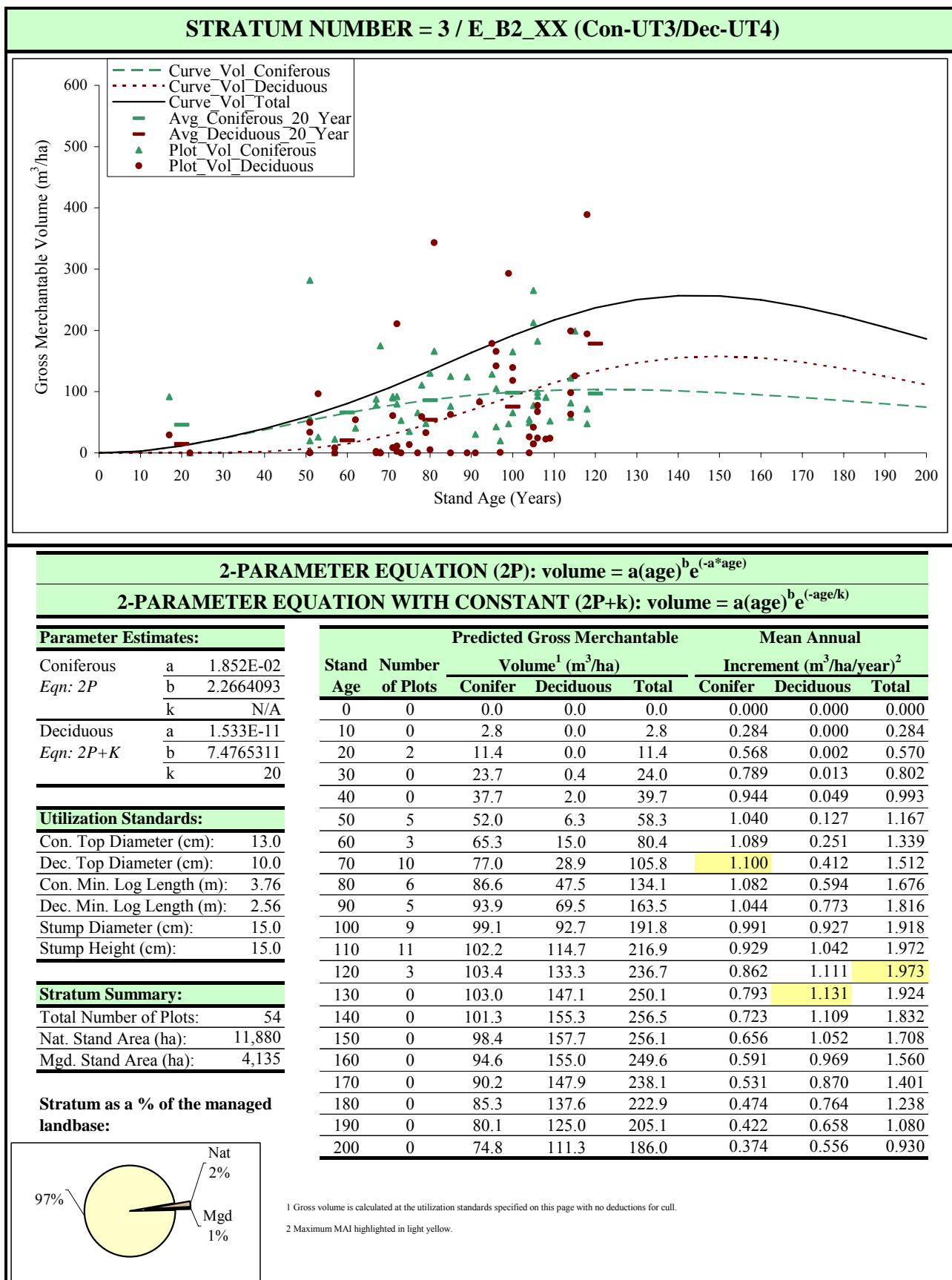
Deciduous UT4:

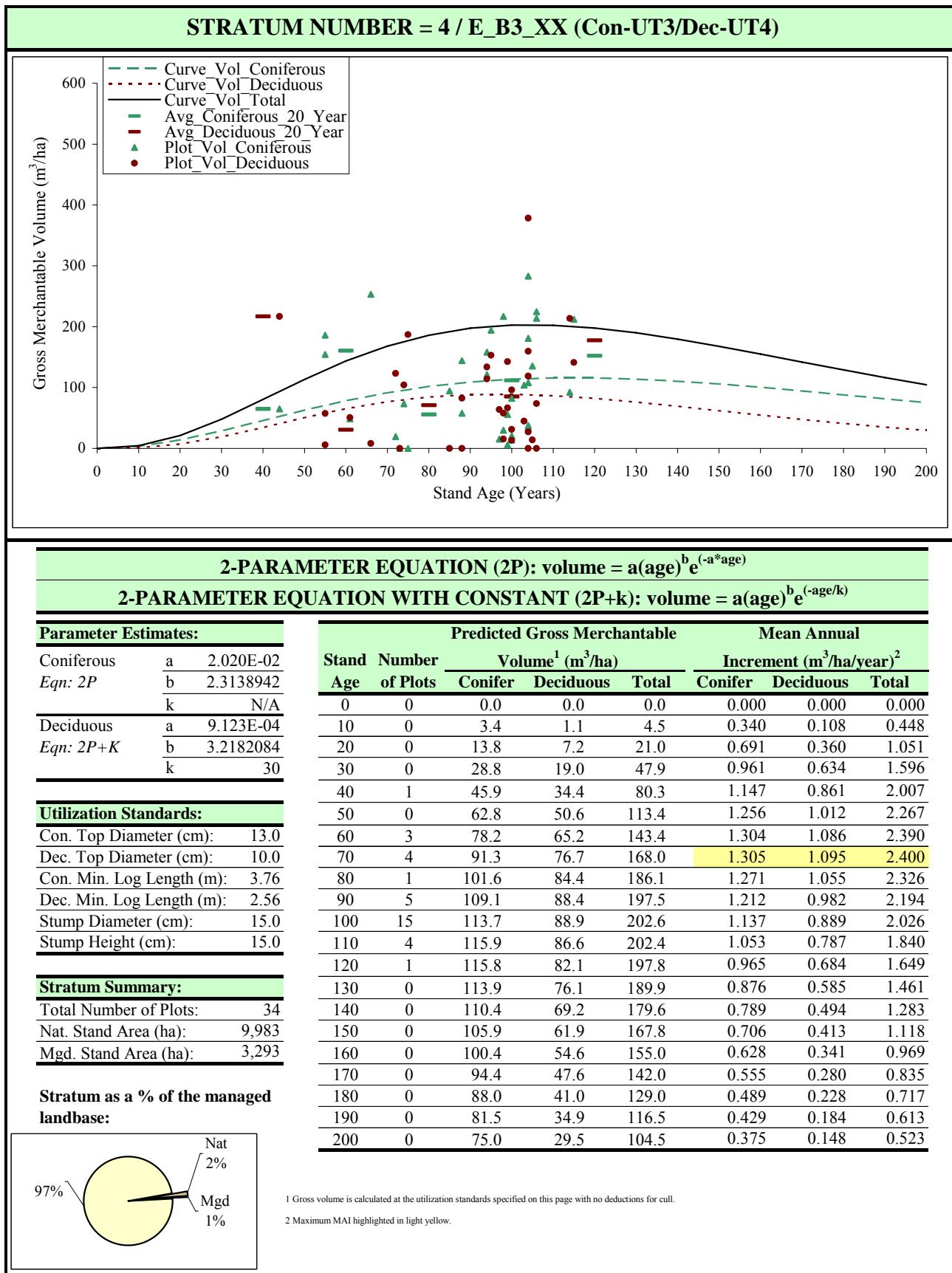
- Species – live AW only
- 15.0 cm stump height
- minimum 15.0 cm diameter outside bark at stump height
- minimum 10.0 cm top diameter inside bark
- cut to length; target length of 2.56 m and minimum log length also of 2.56 m.

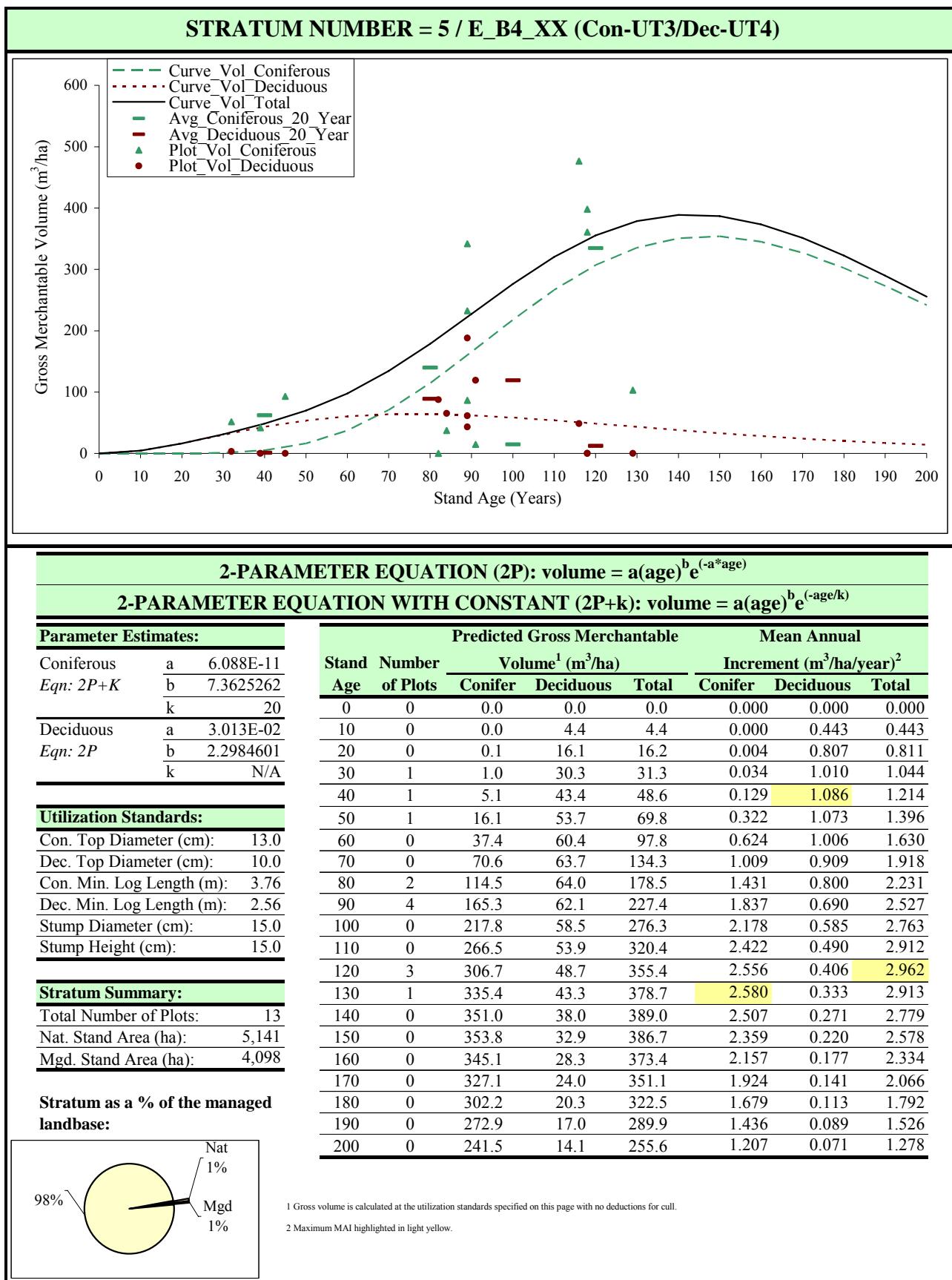
Yield Curves for strata 21-24 were not developed for coniferous UT3 and deciduous UT4 since there is no deciduous UT4 from GYPHY projections (Table 3-10).

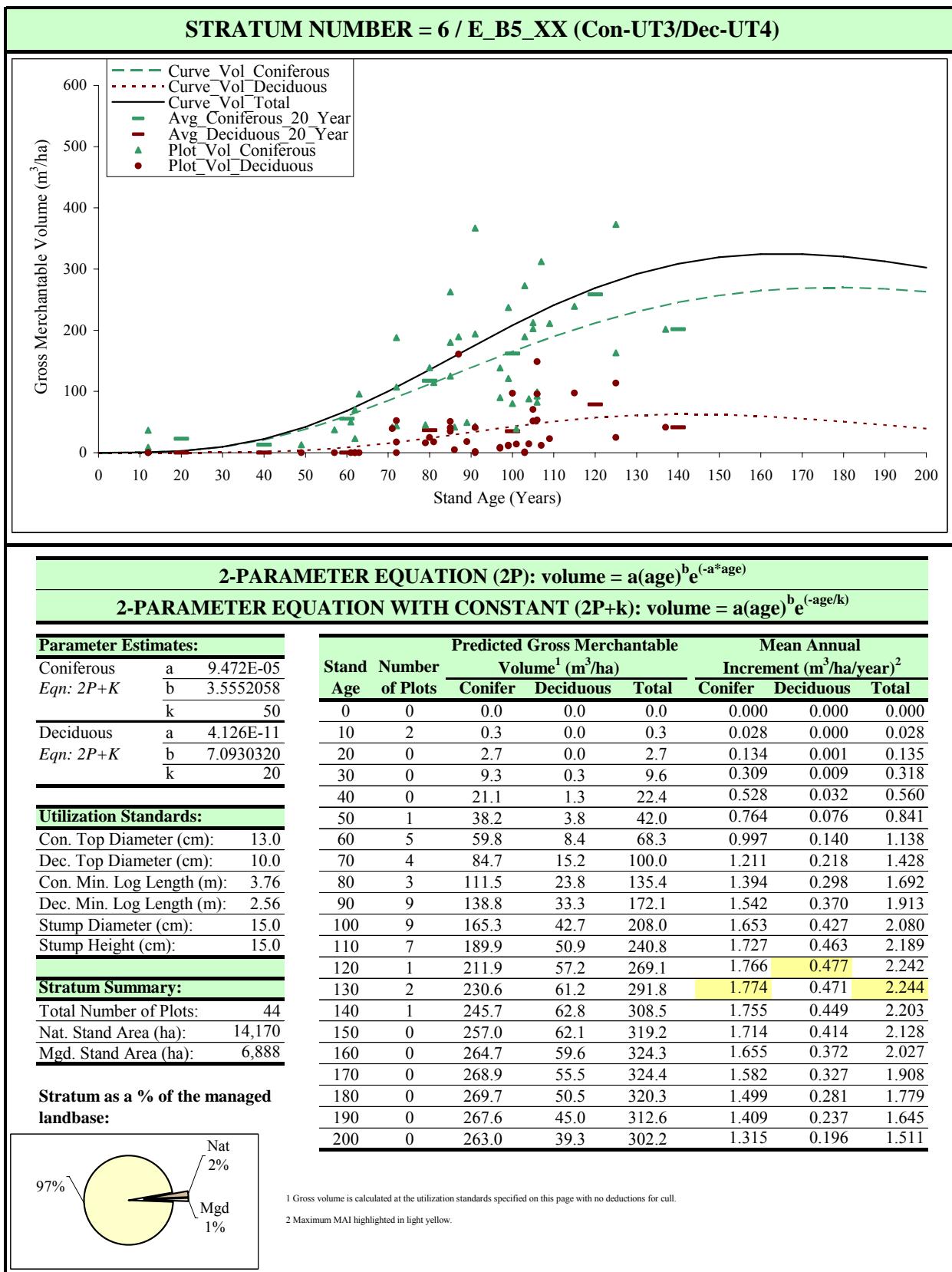


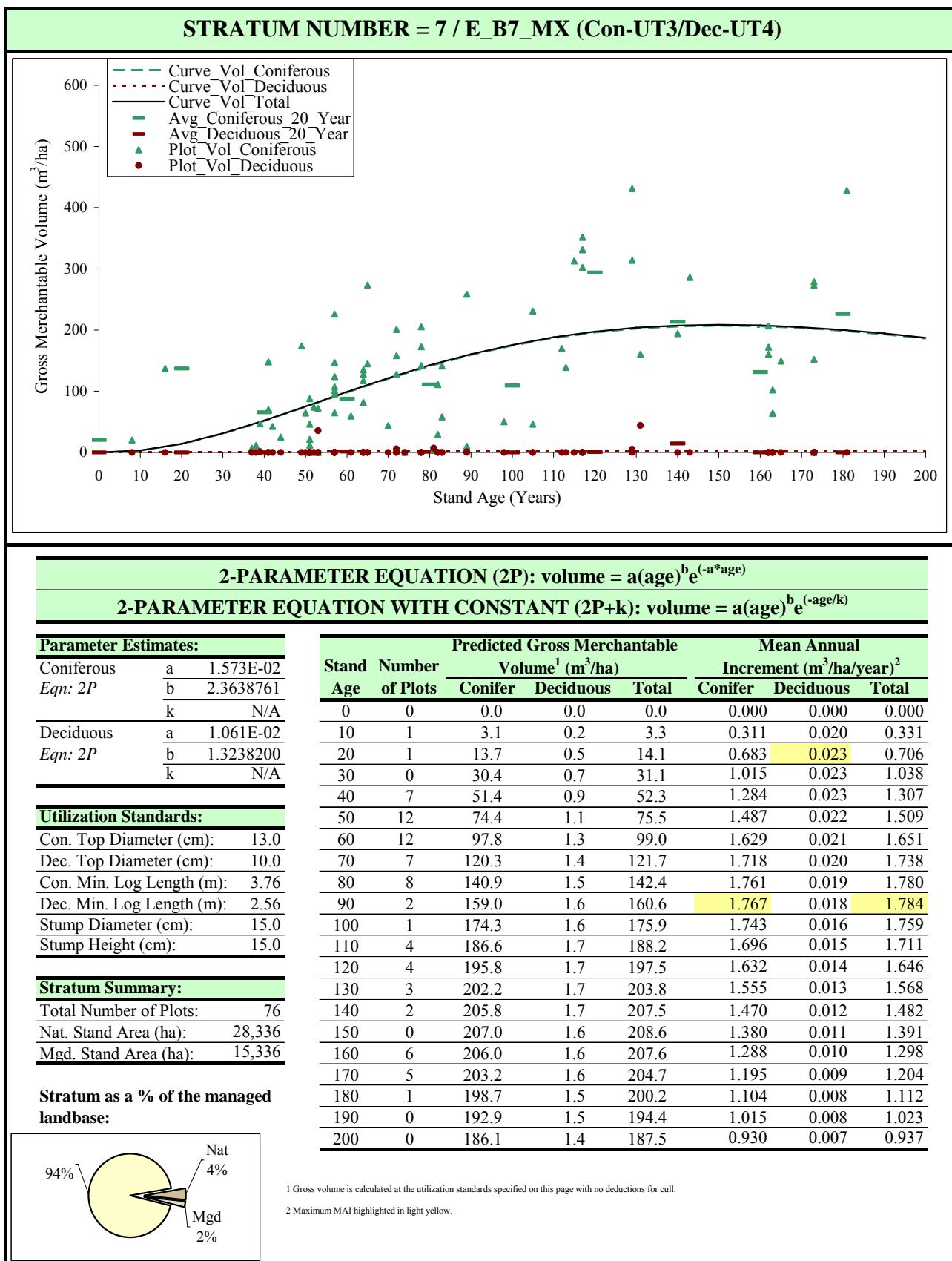


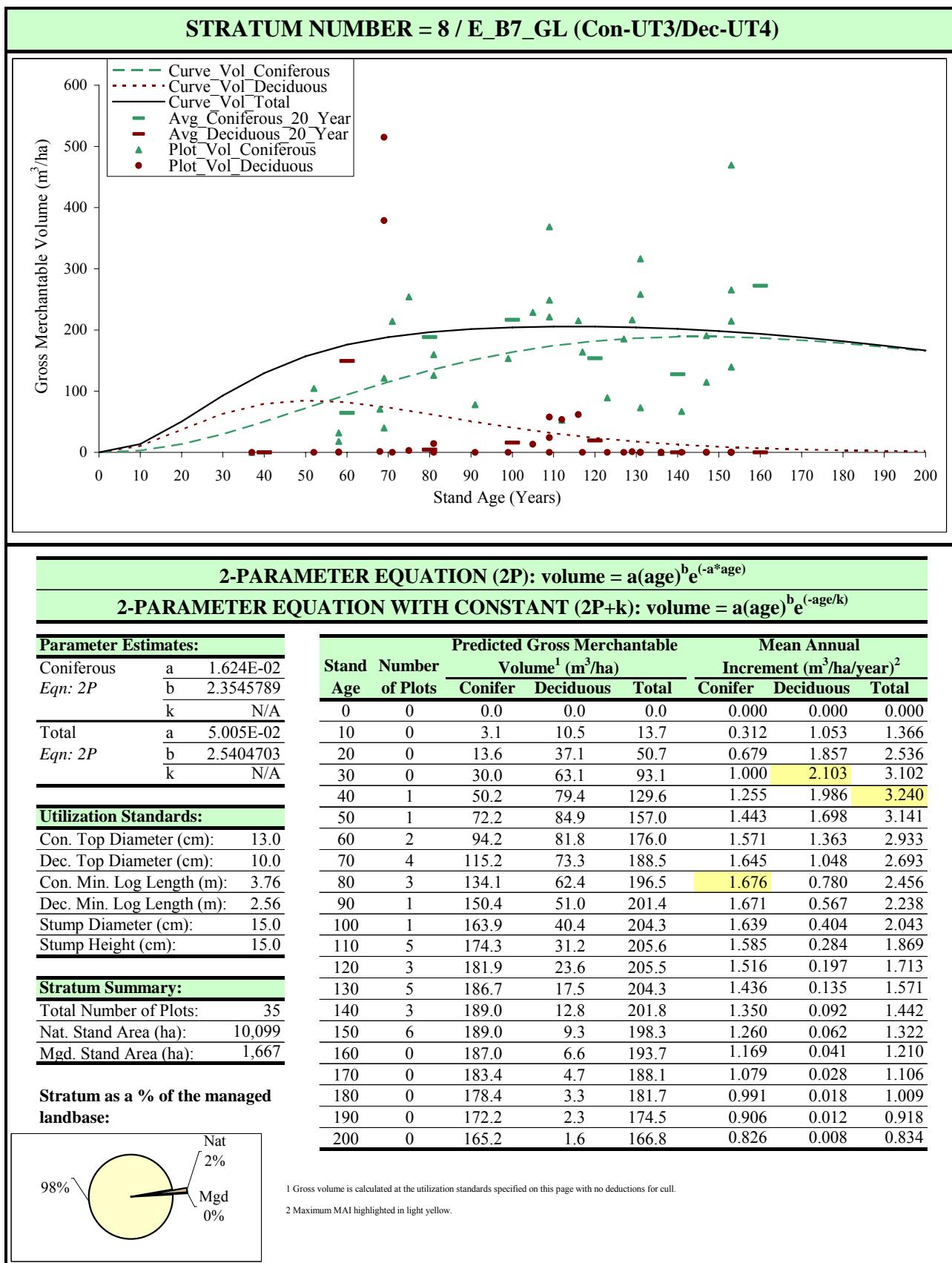


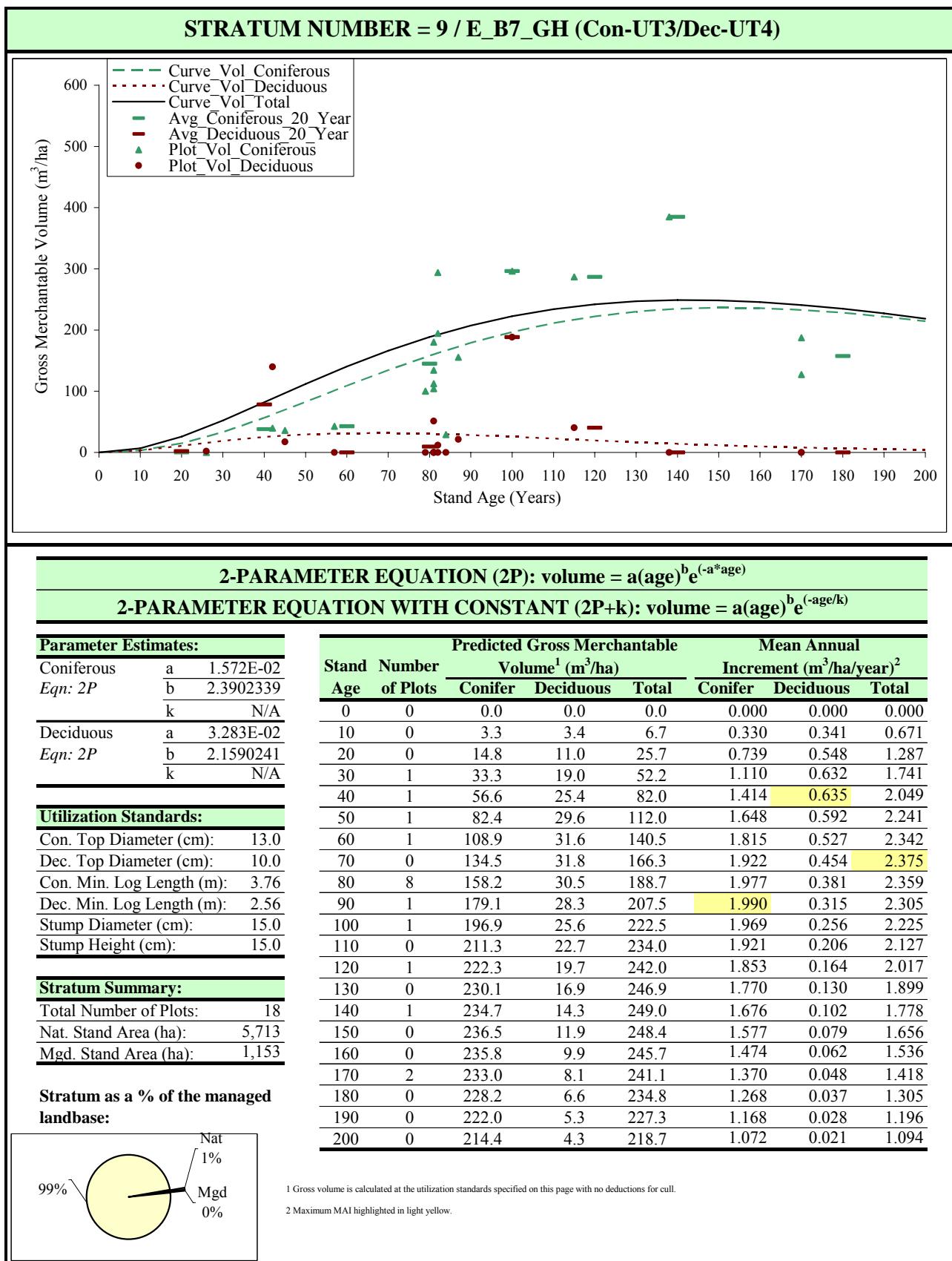


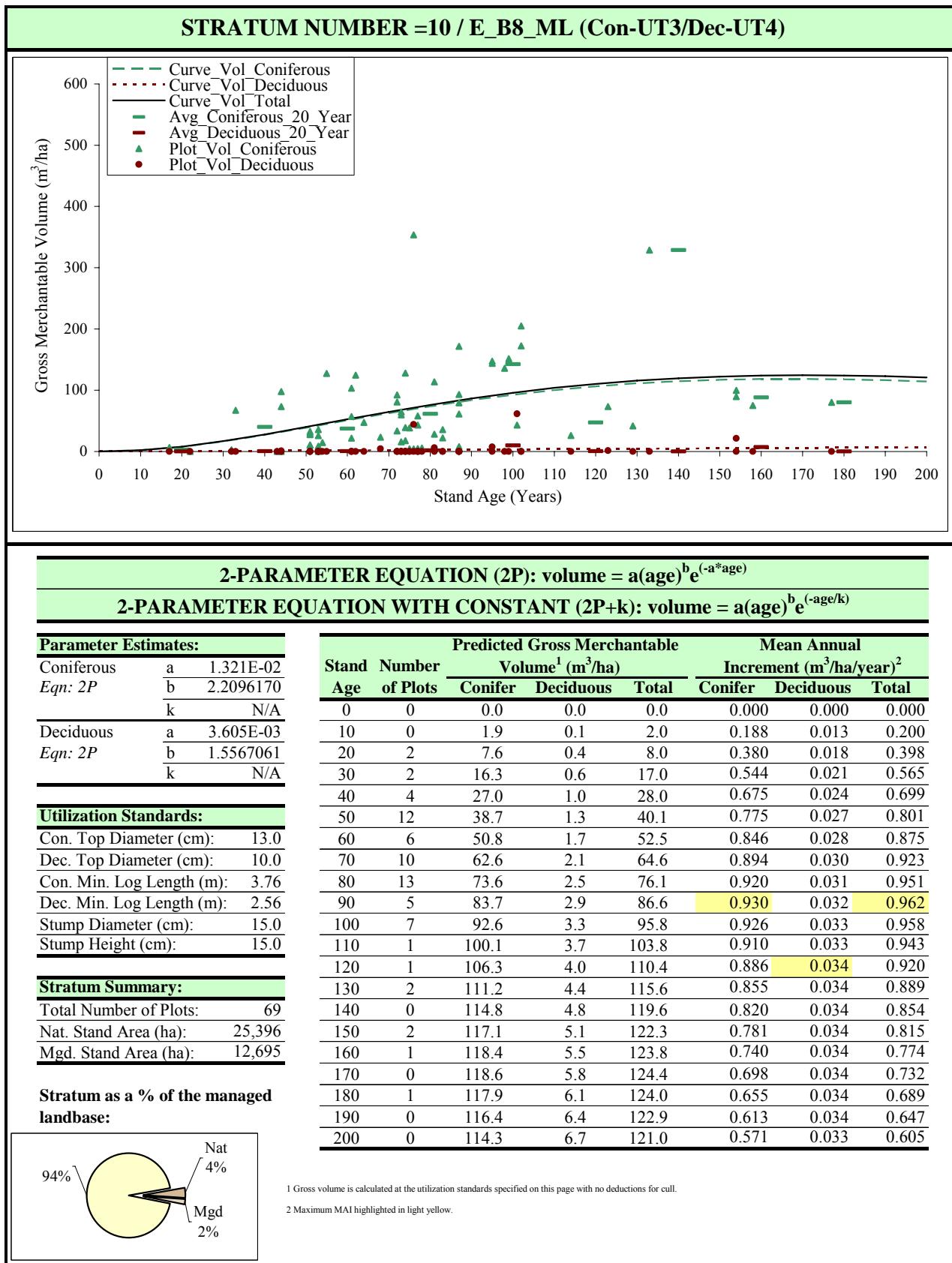


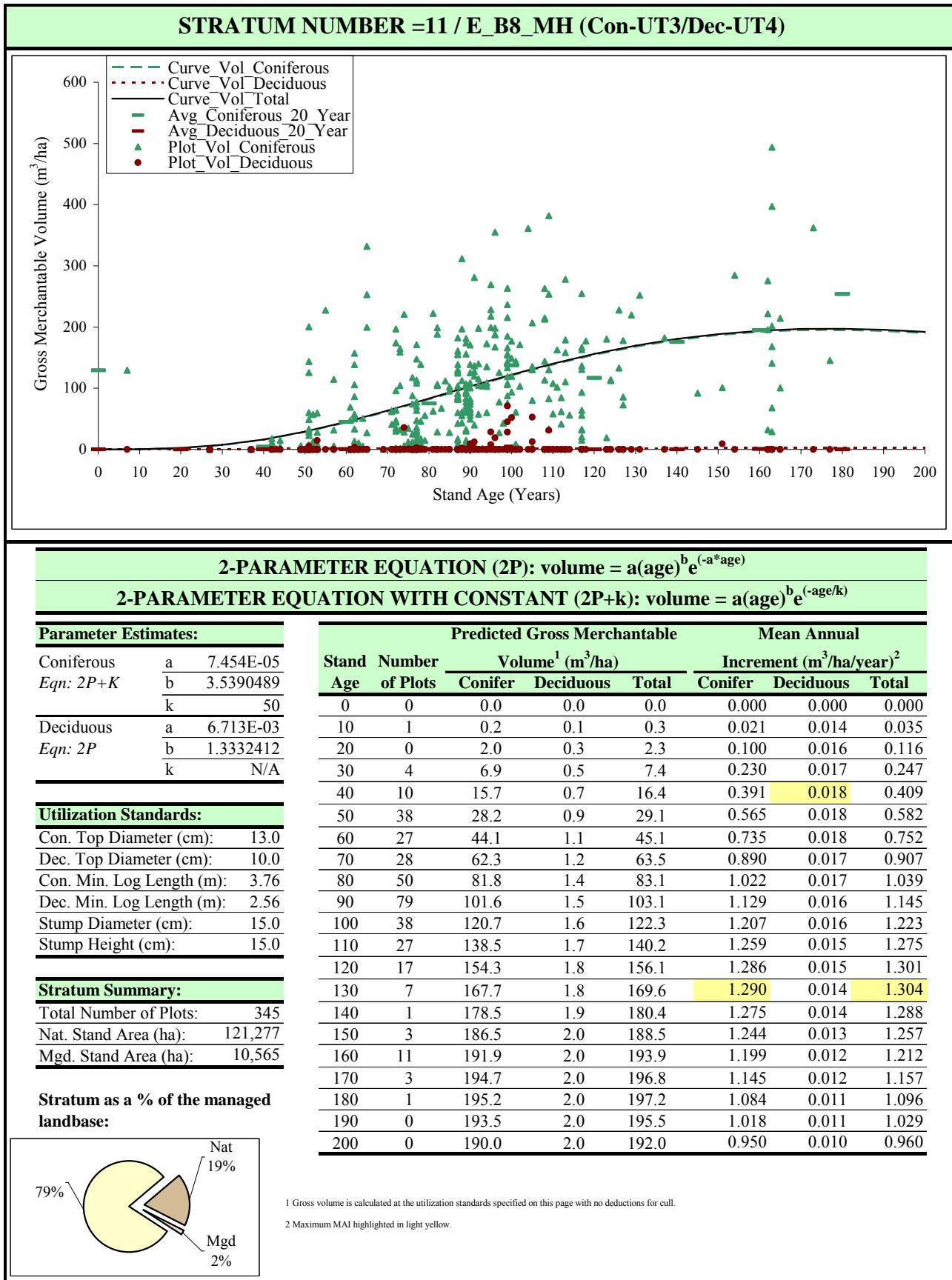


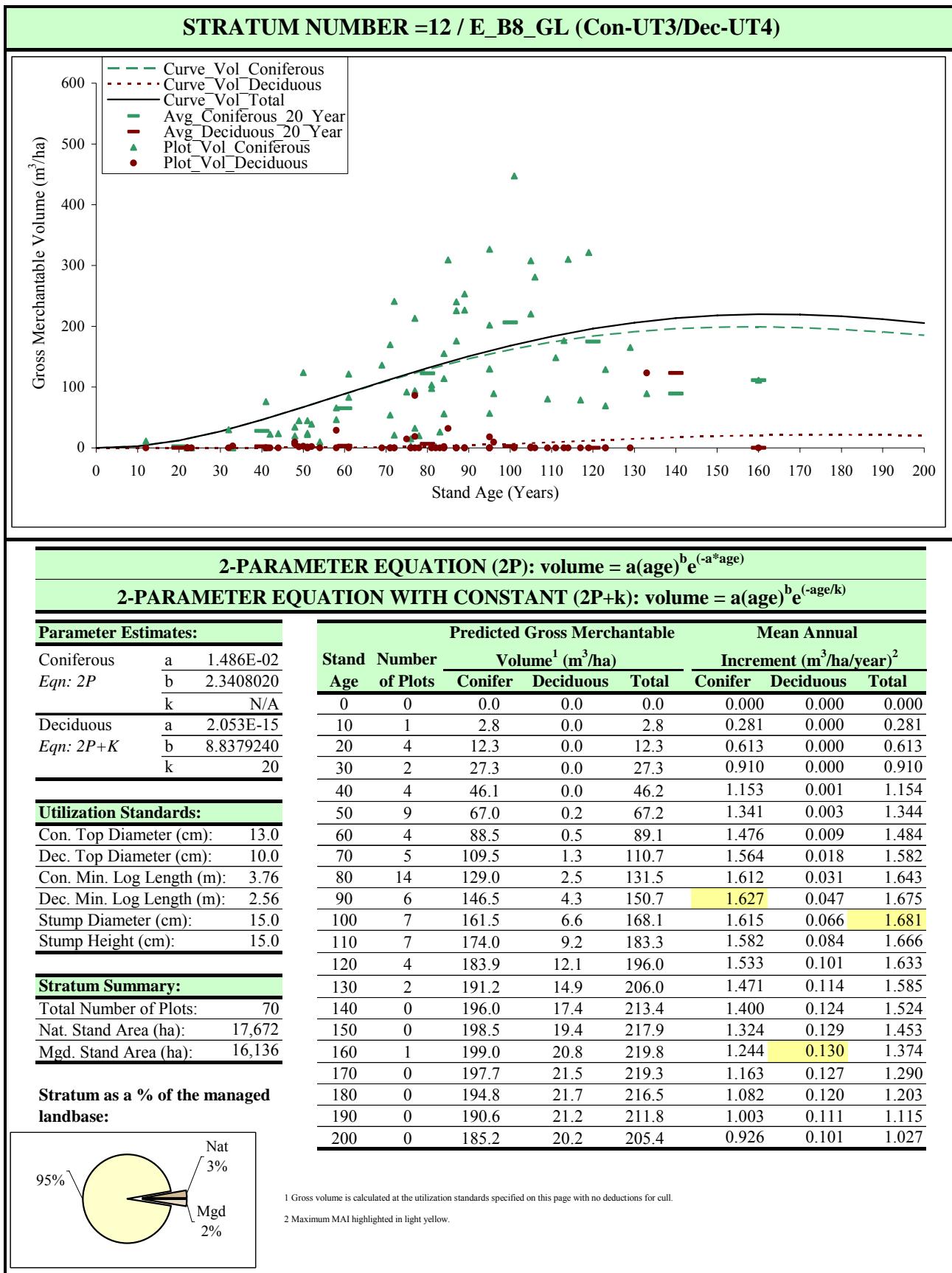


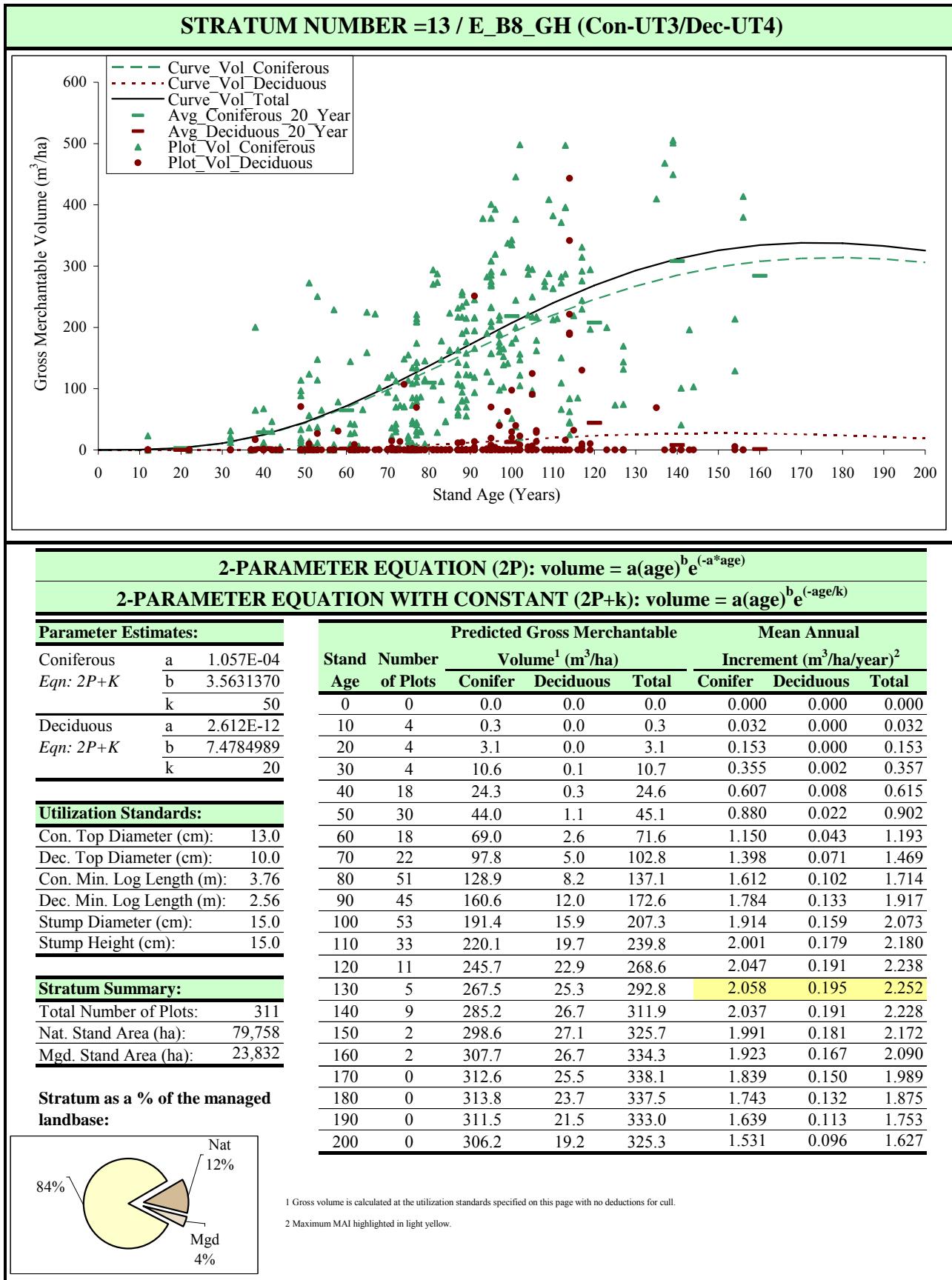


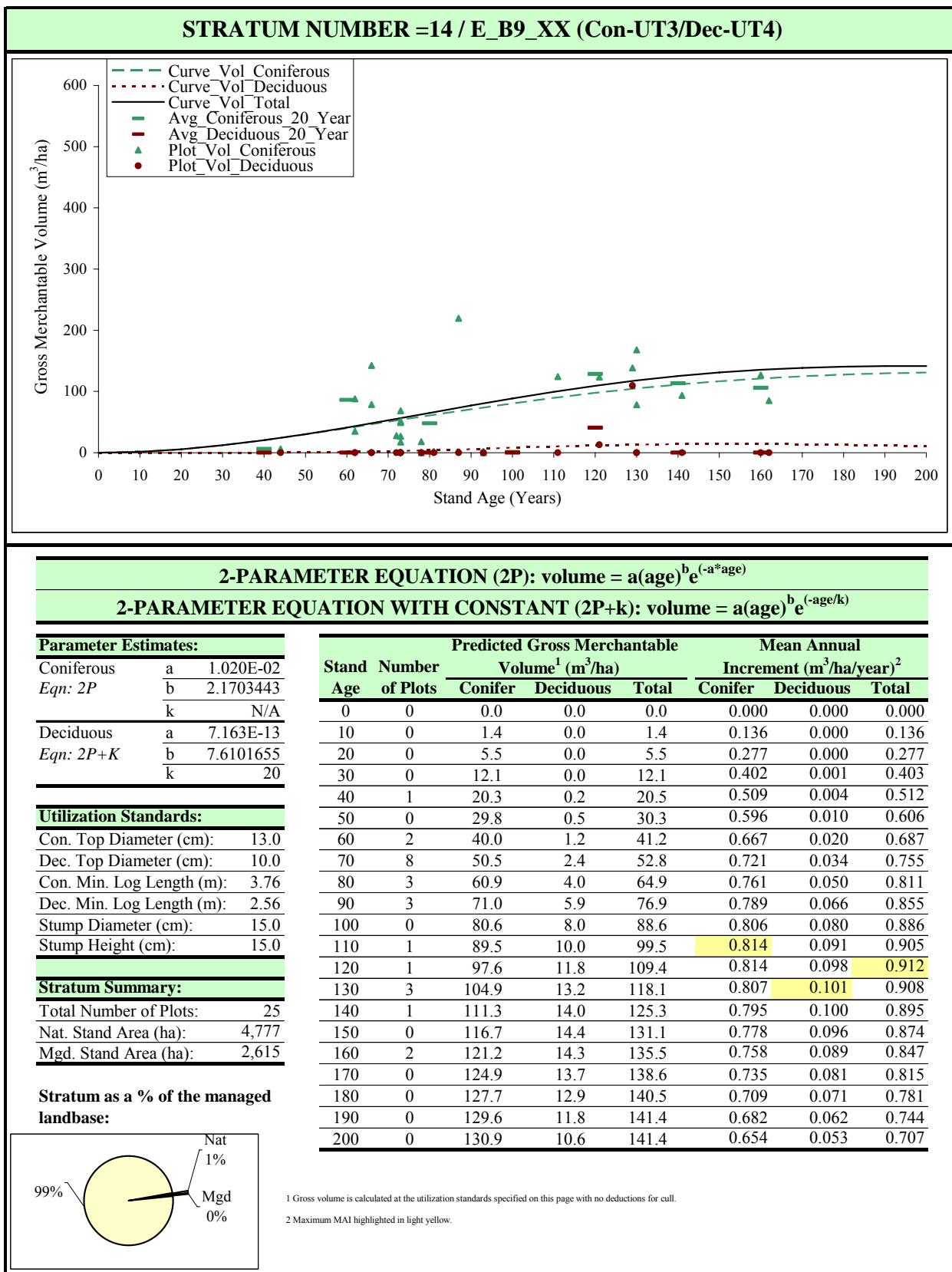


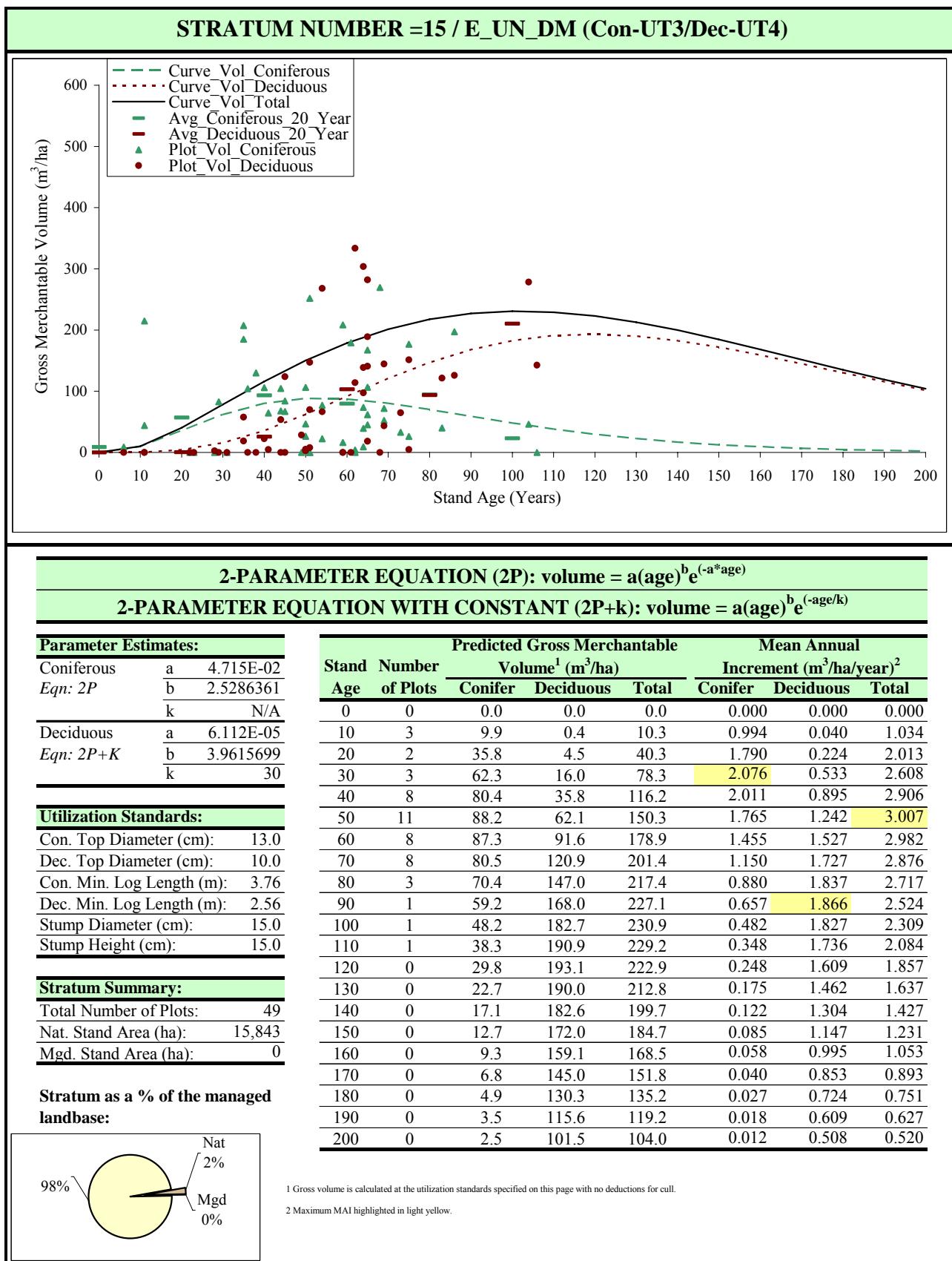


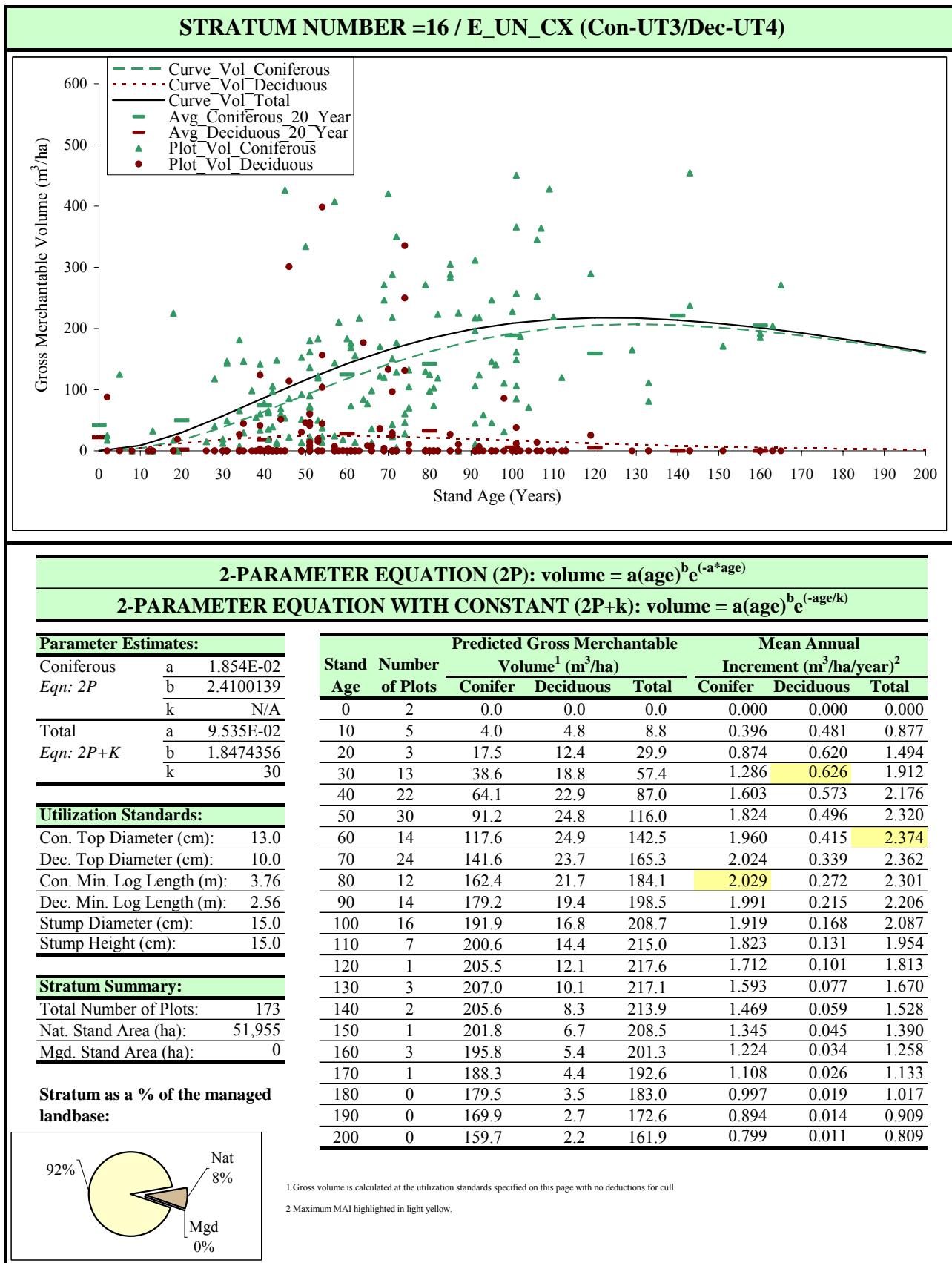


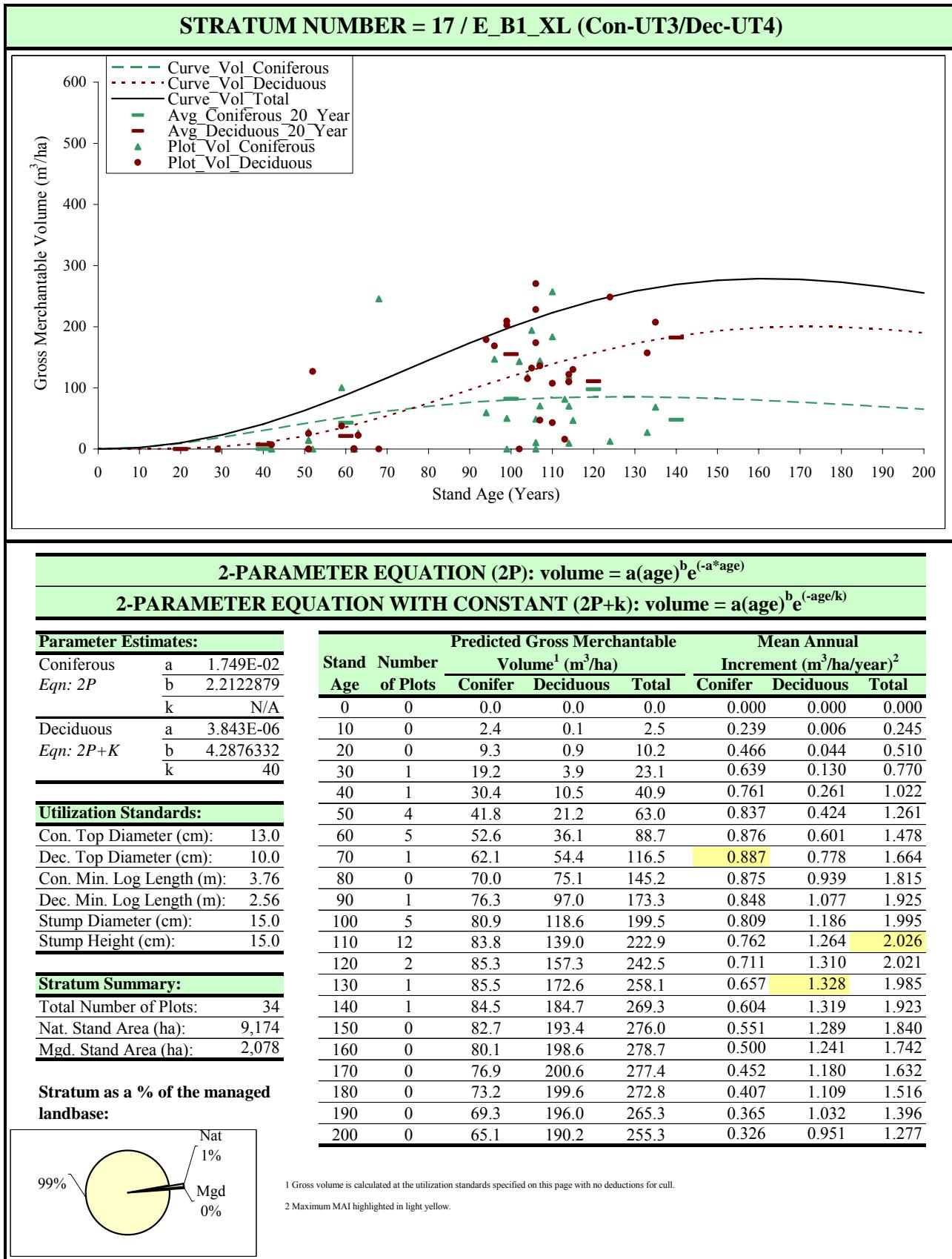


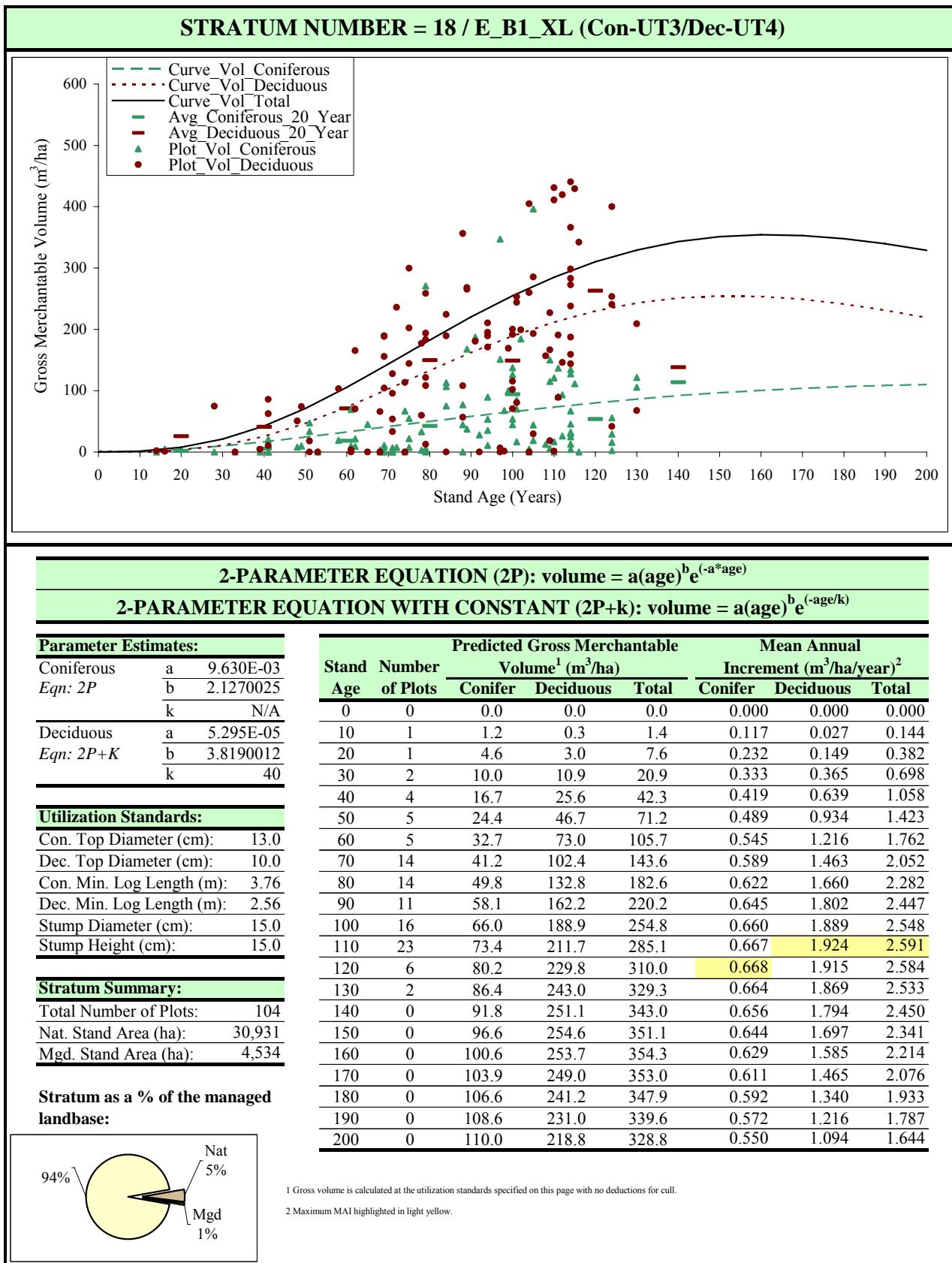


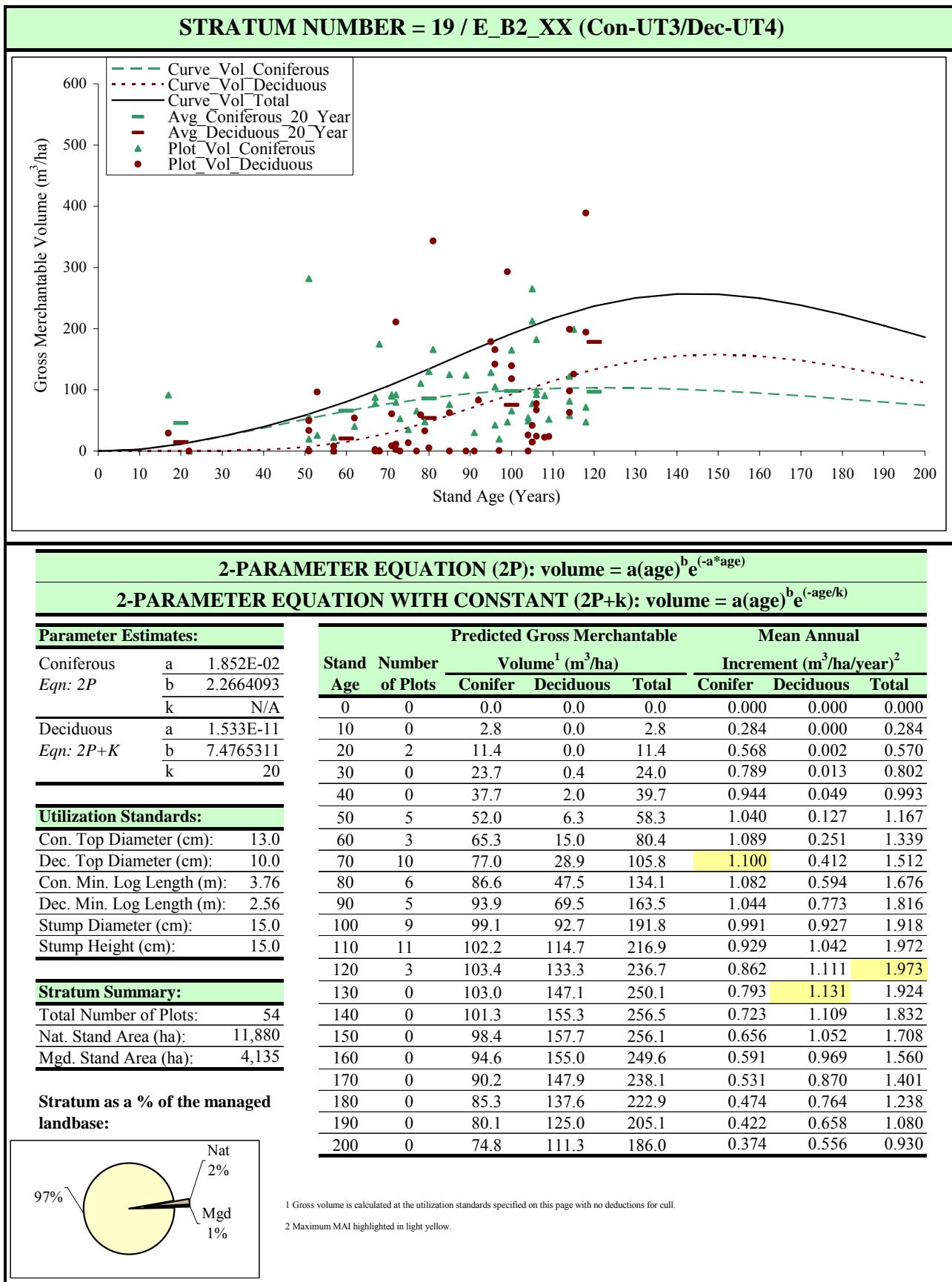


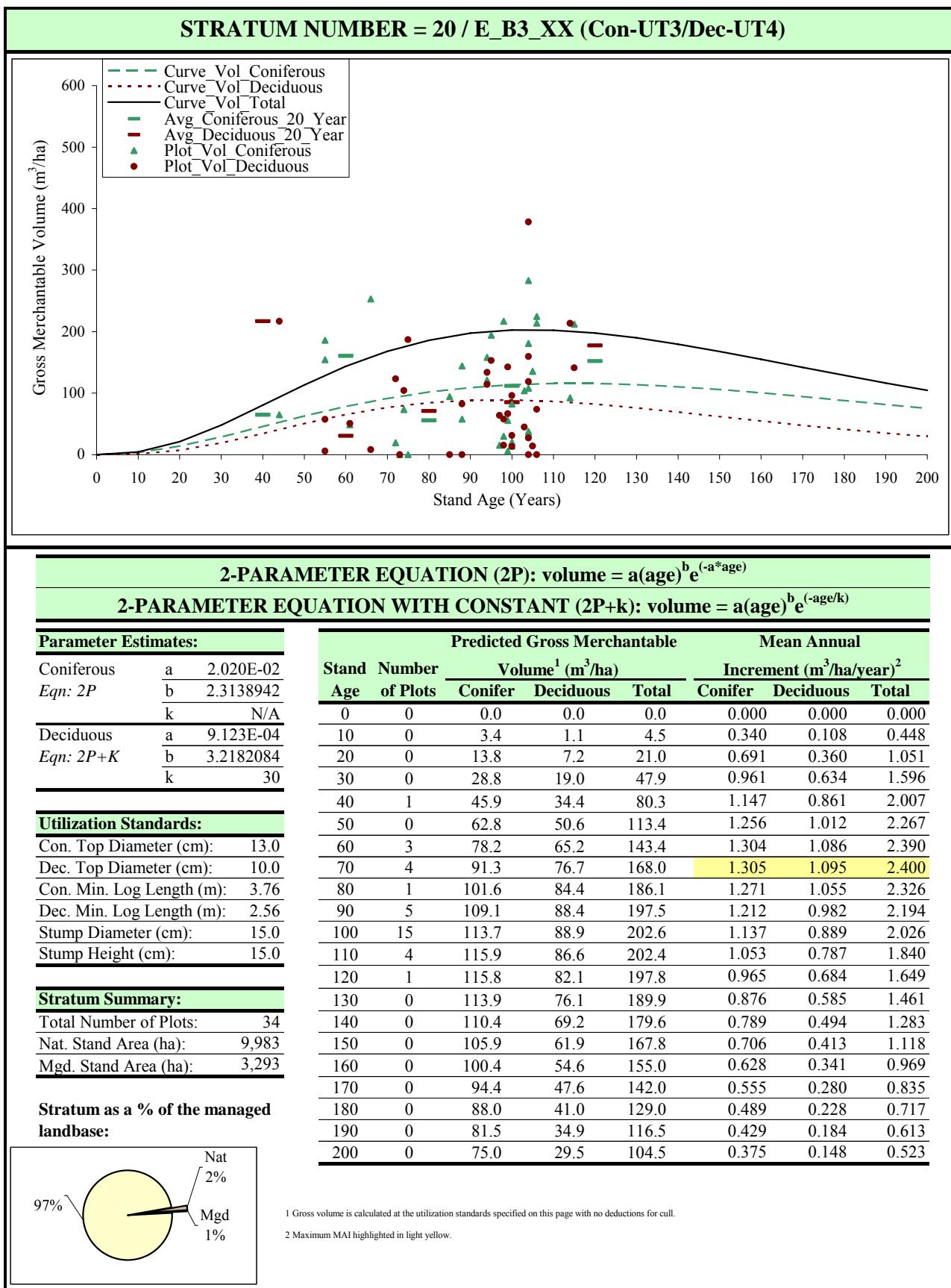


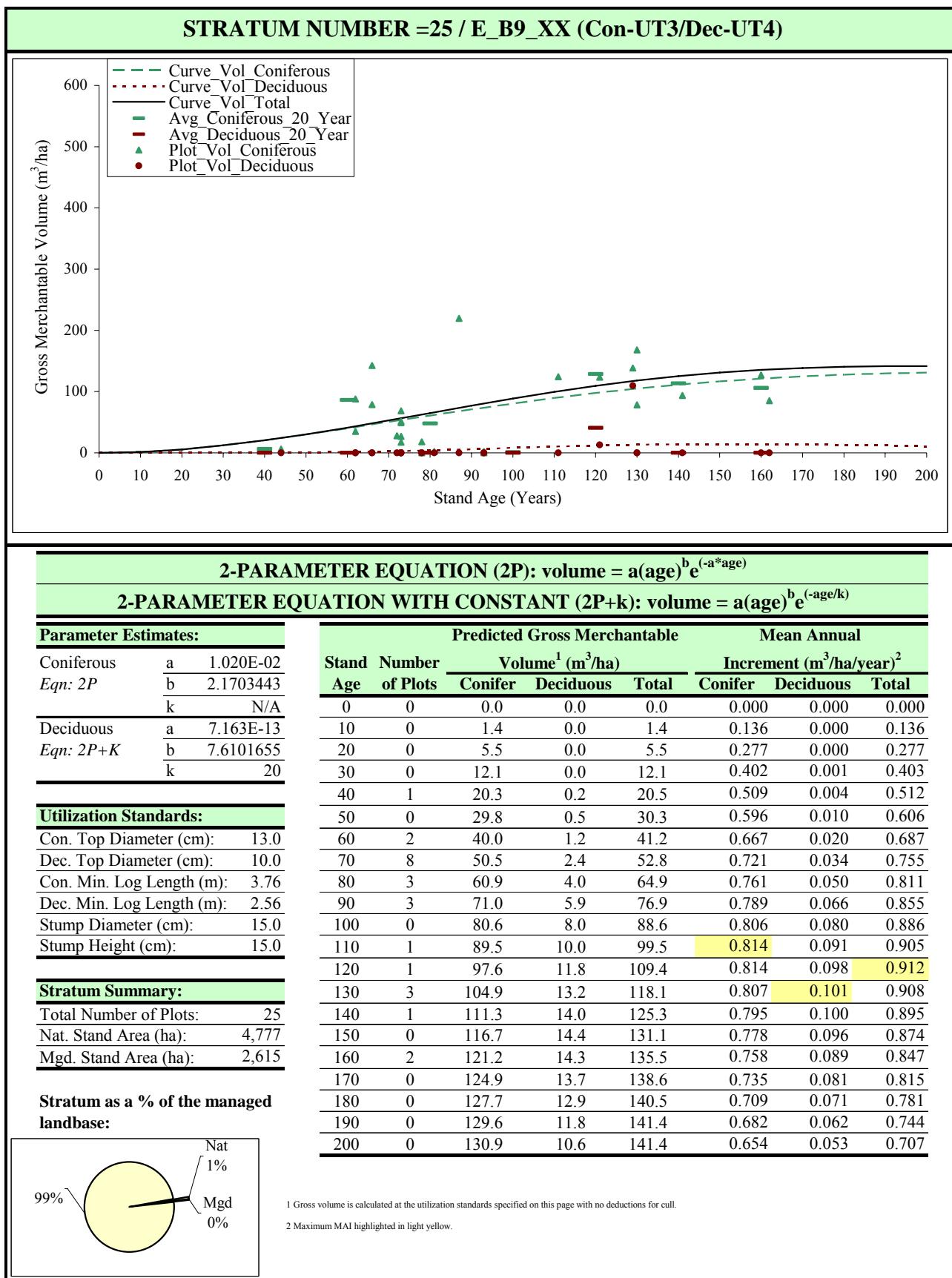


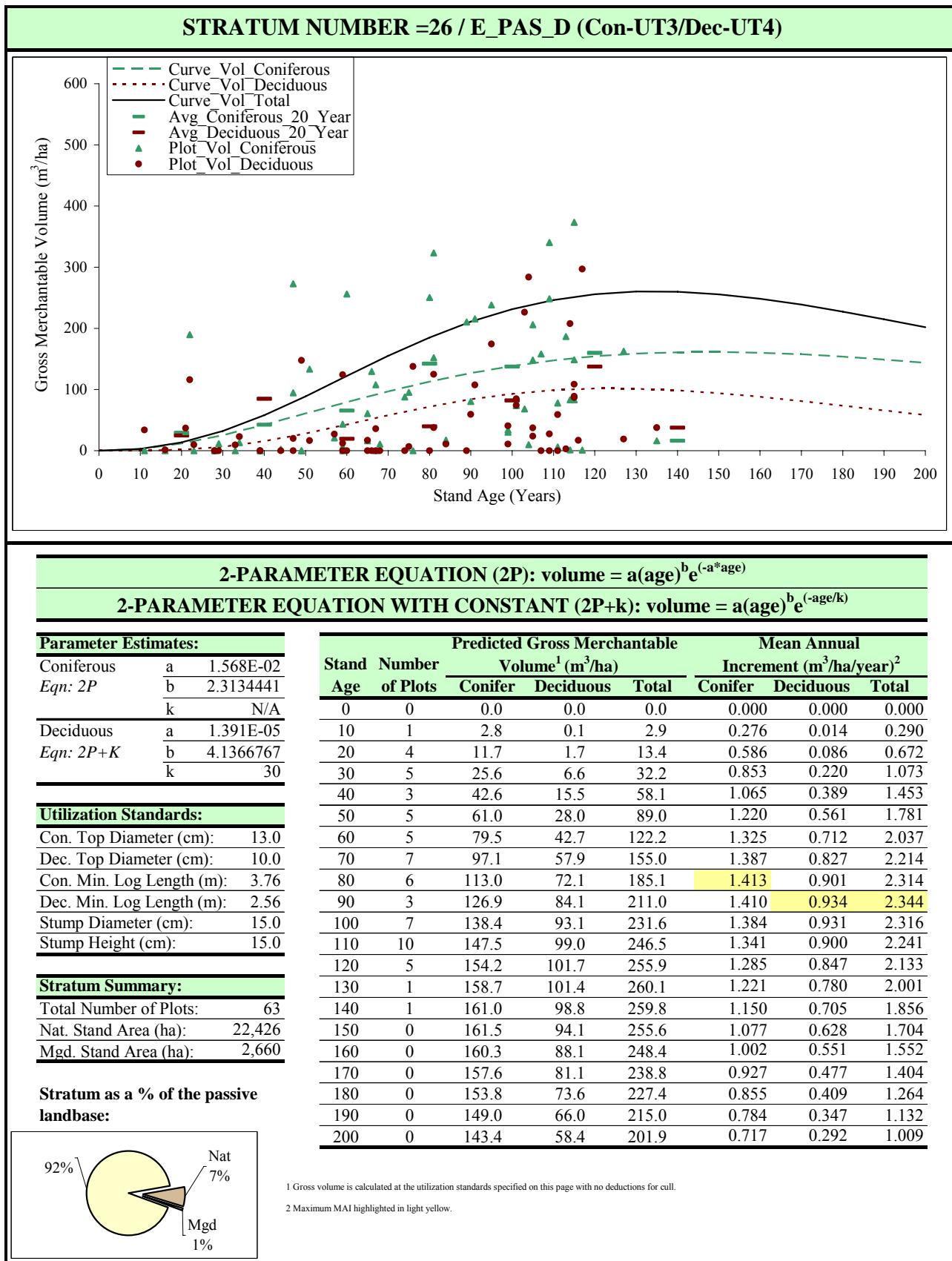


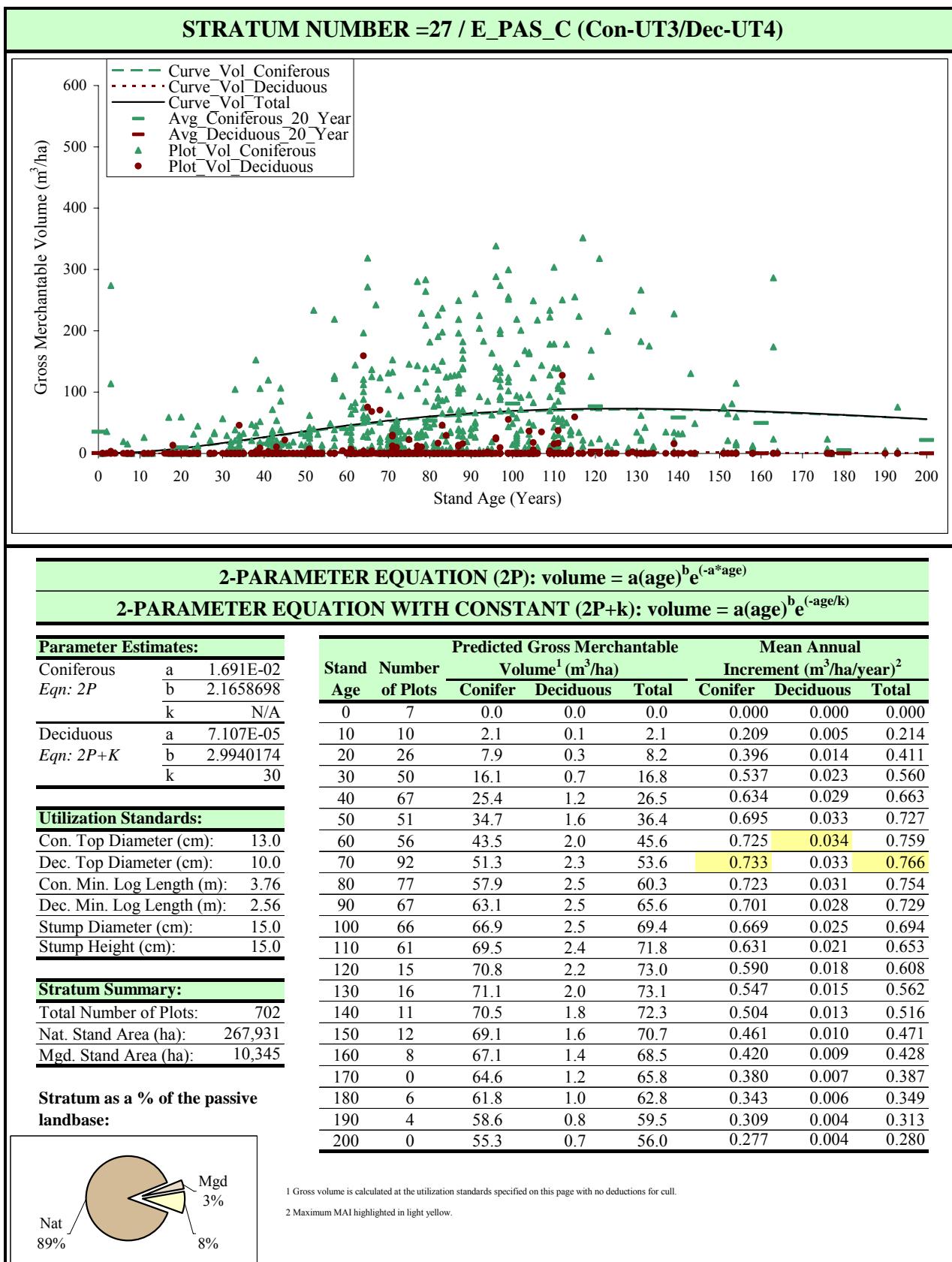






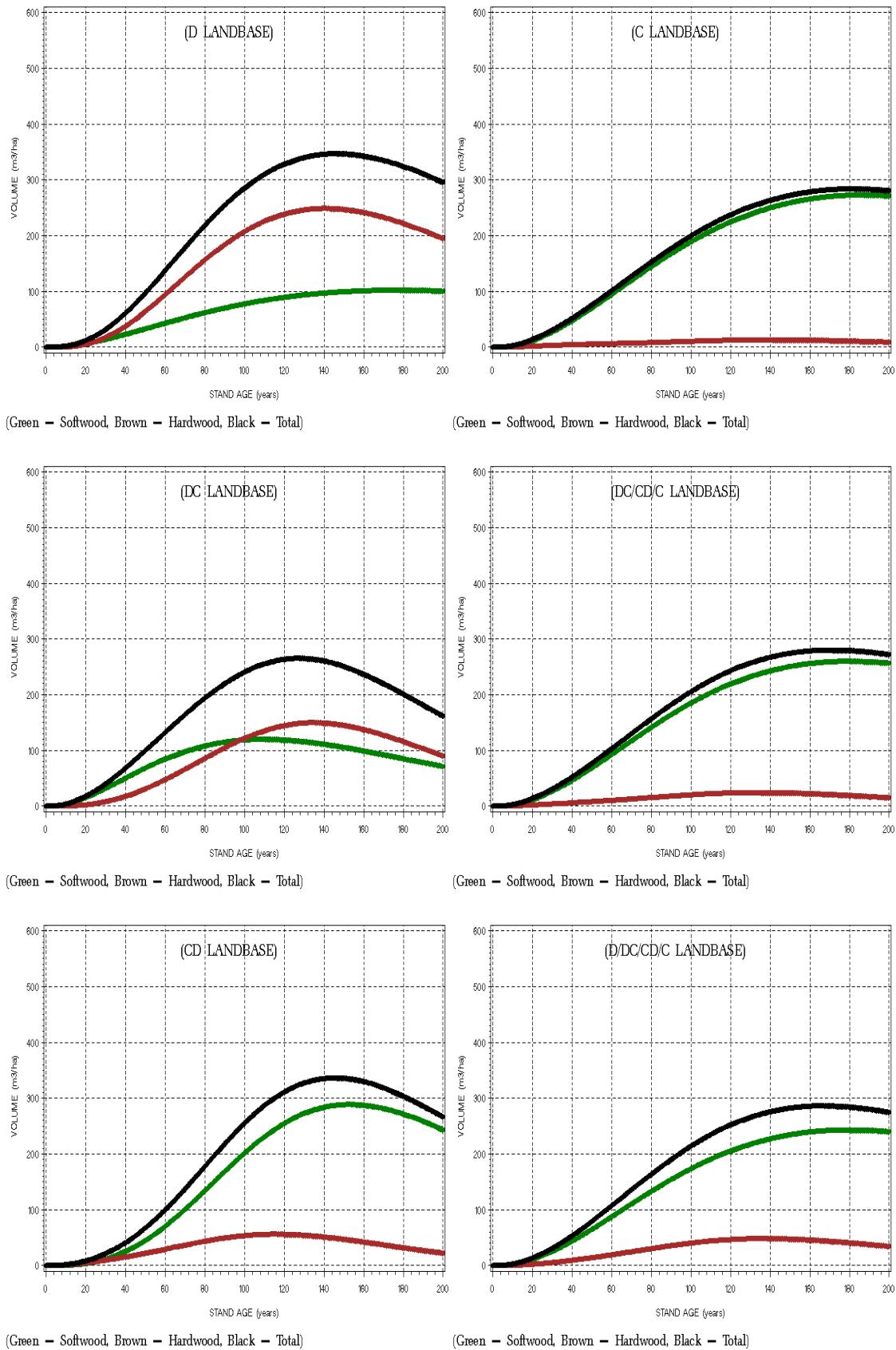






Appendix II

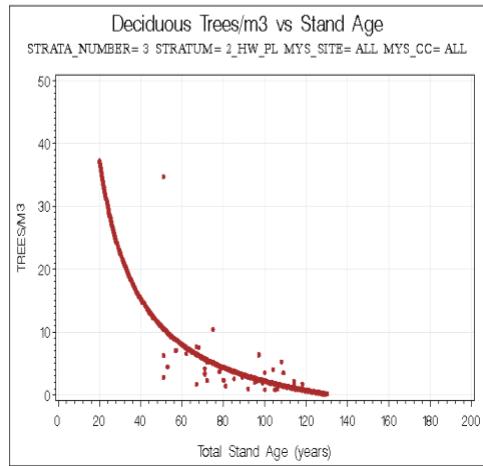
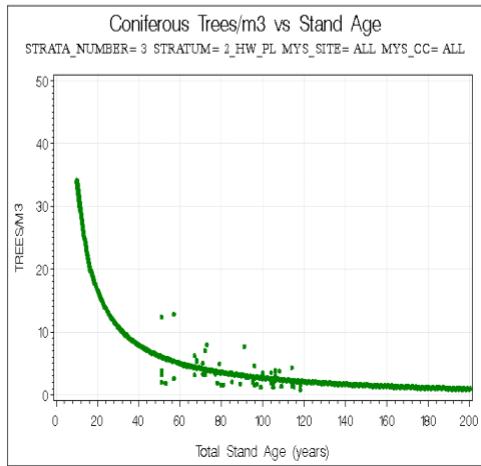
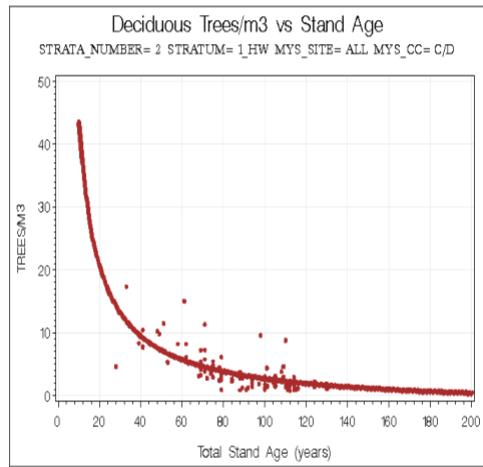
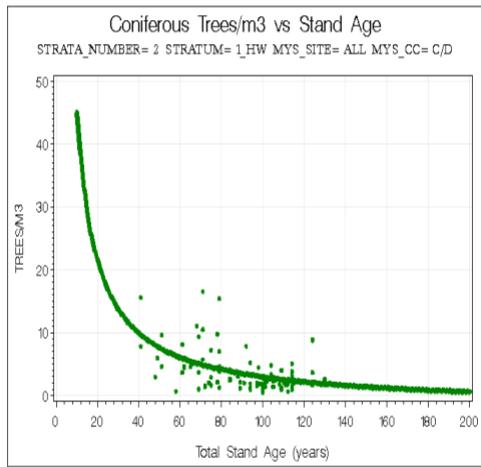
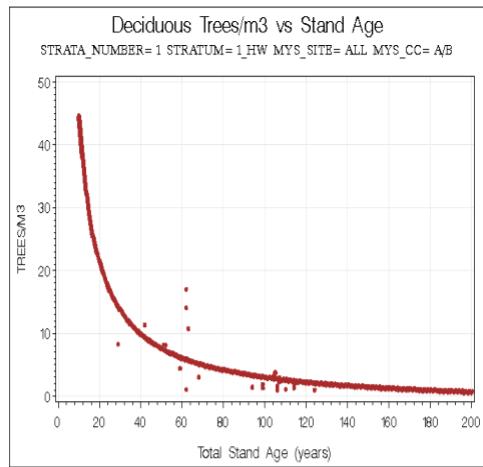
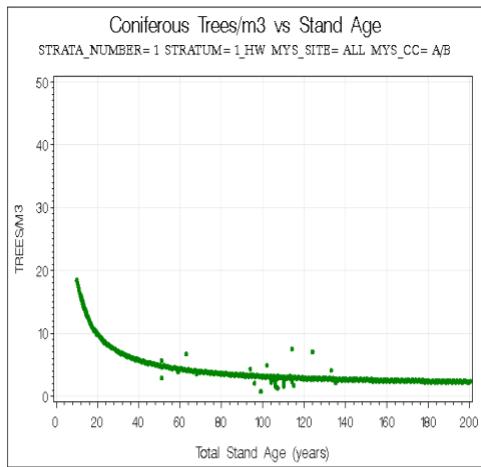
Composite Yield Curves

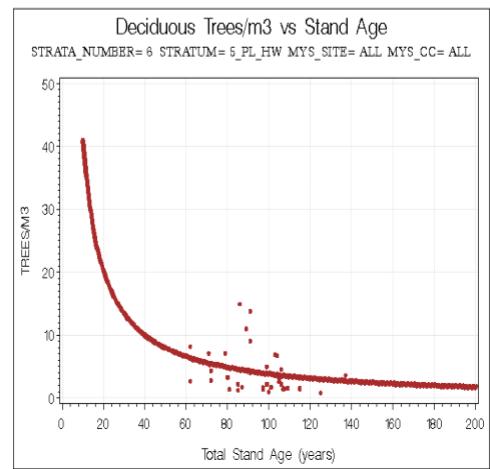
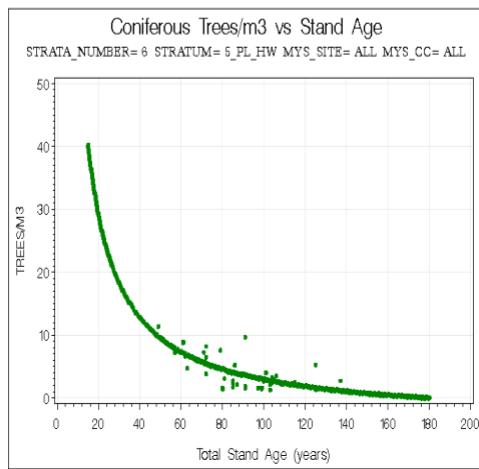
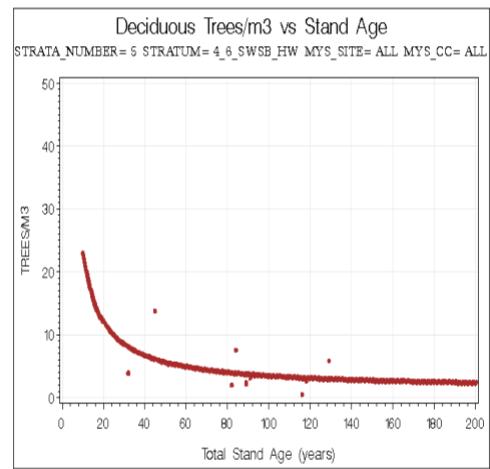
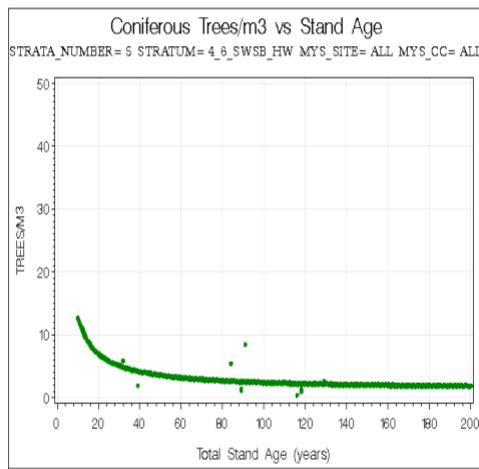
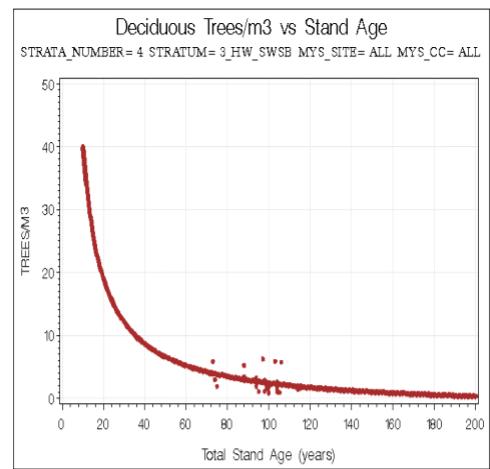
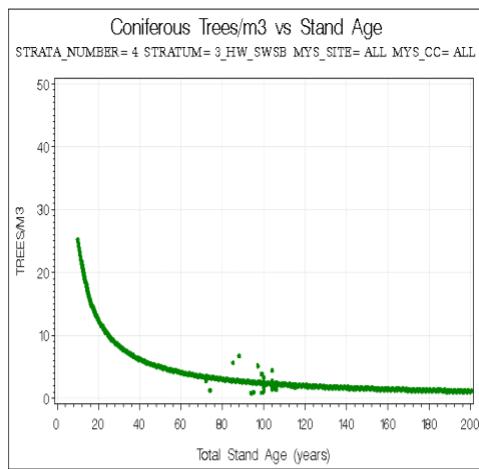


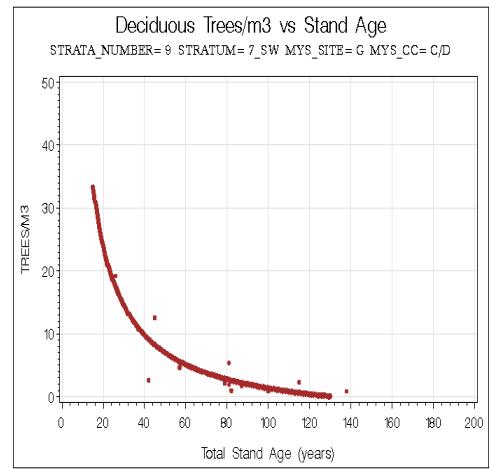
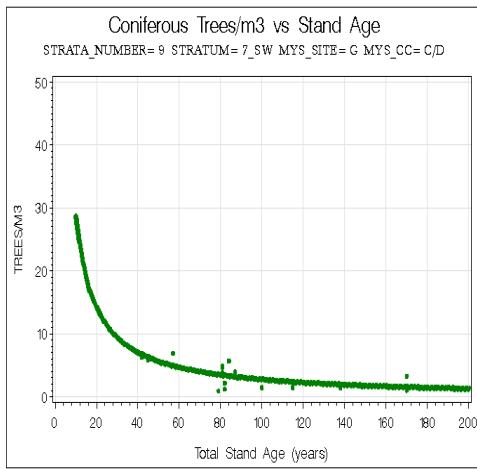
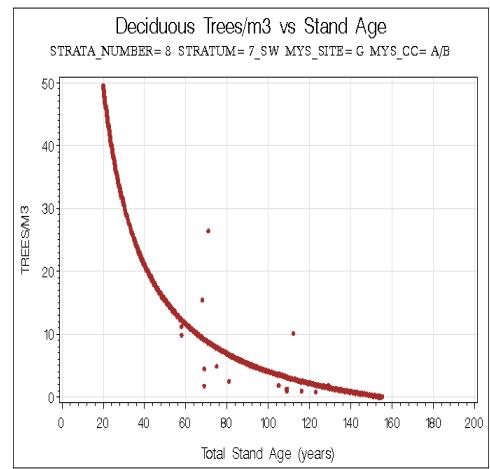
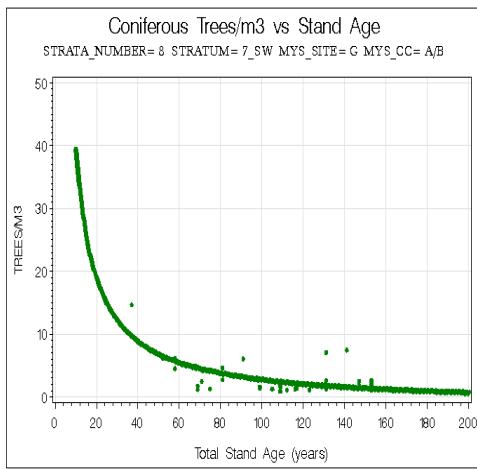
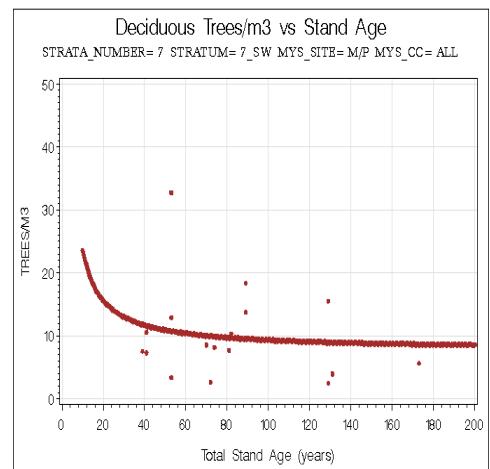
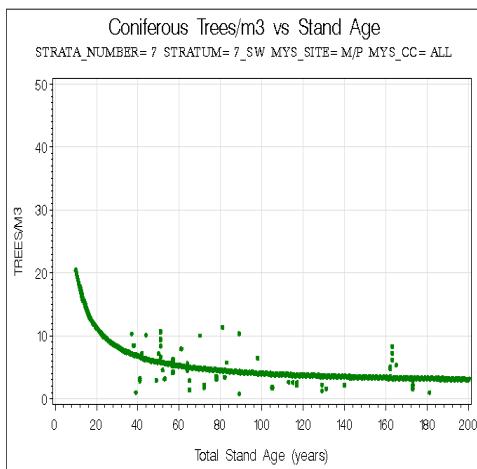
Appendix III

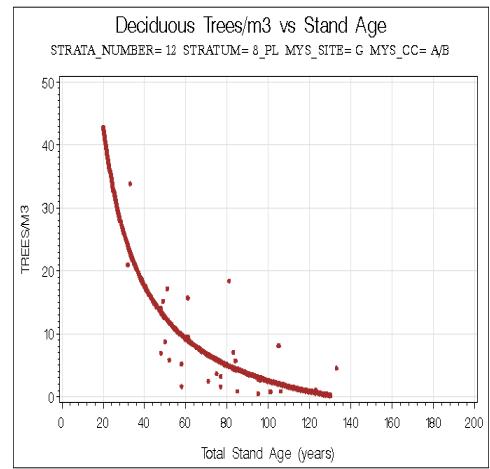
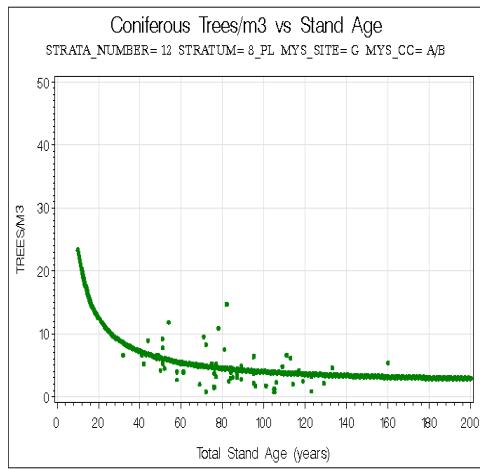
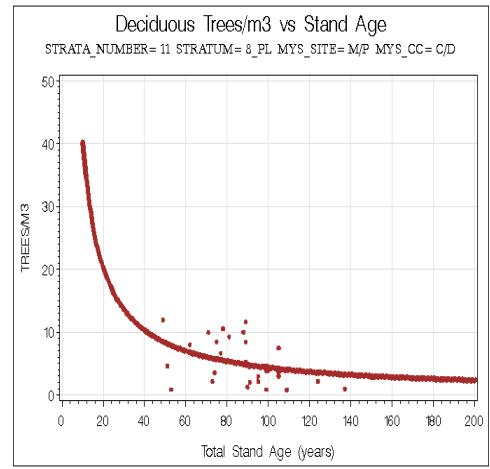
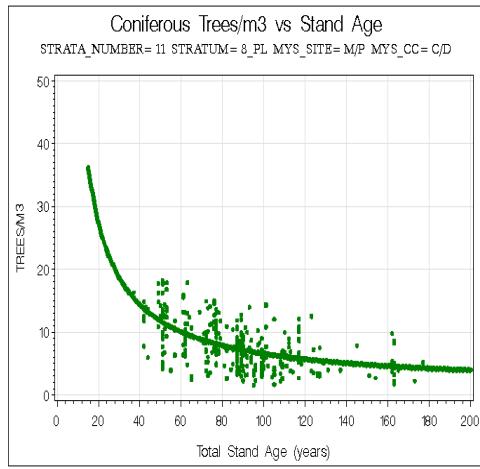
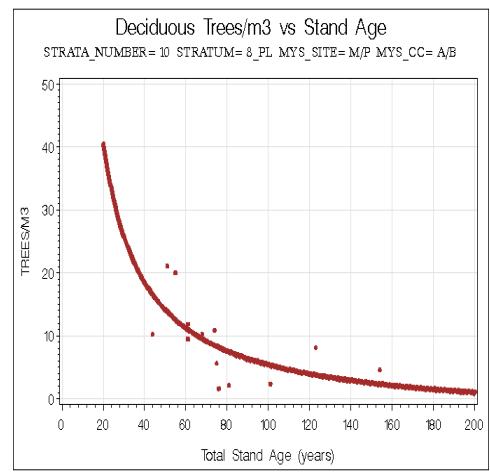
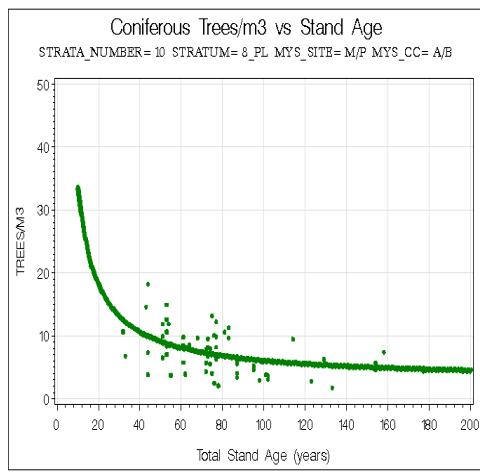
Piece Size Curves

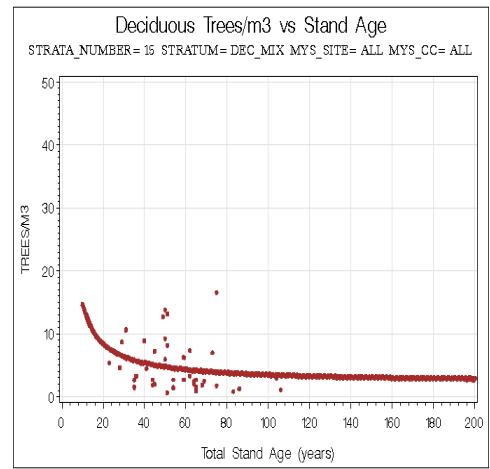
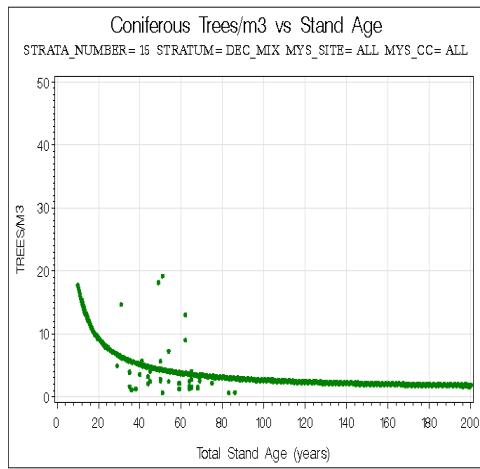
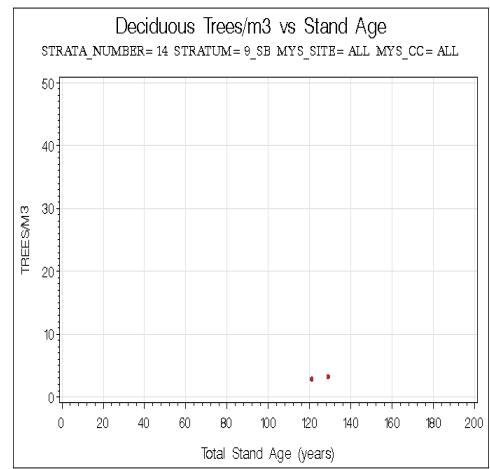
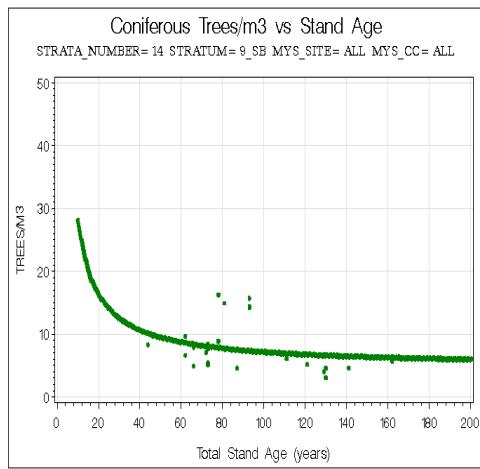
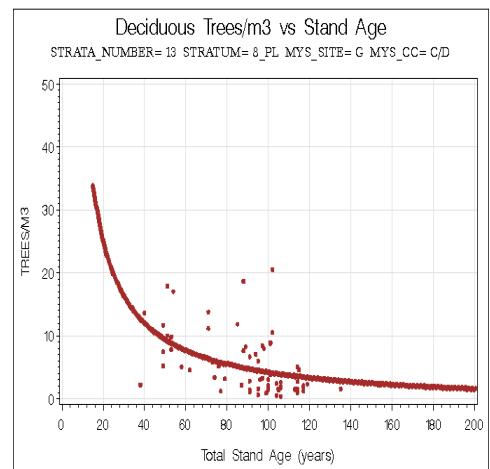
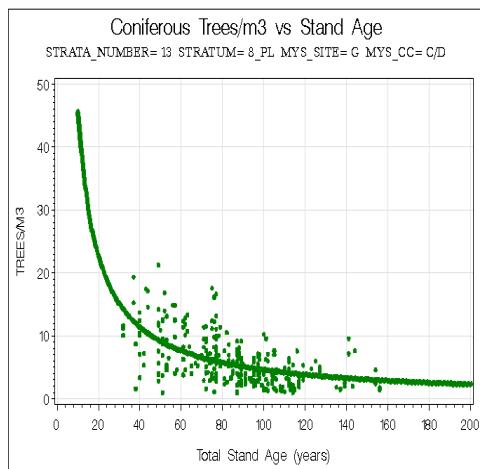
- **Natural Stands Piece Size Curves**

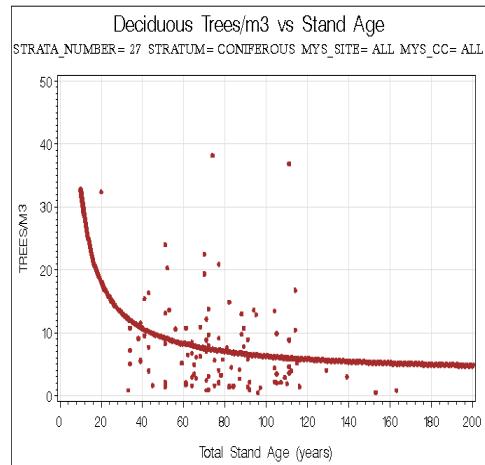
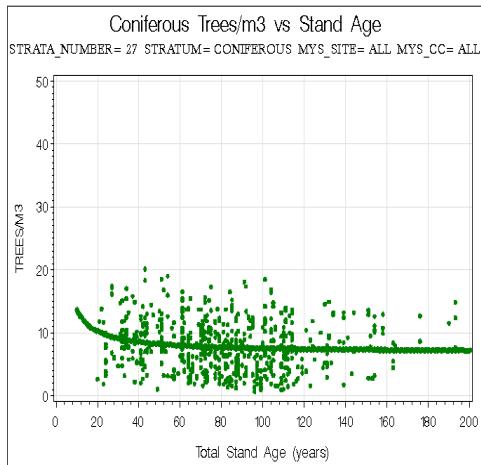
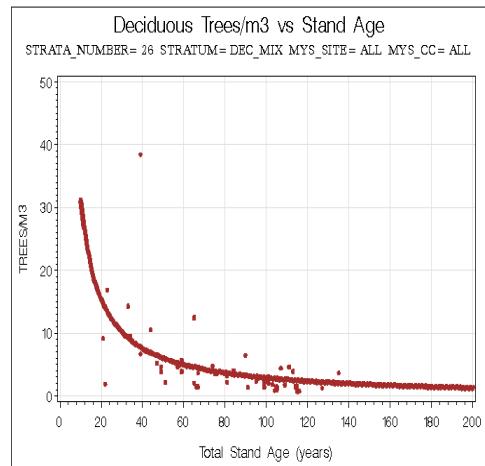
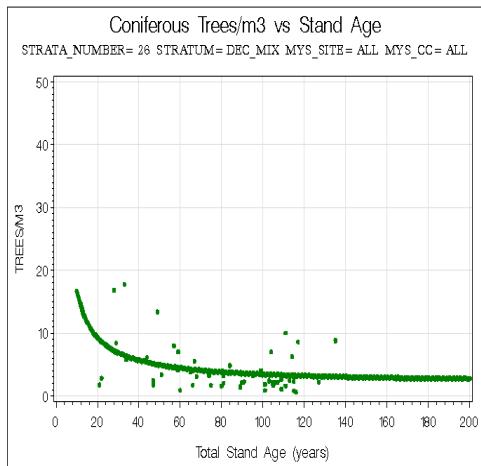
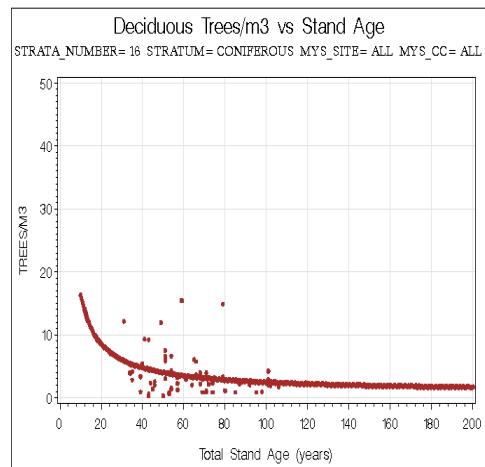
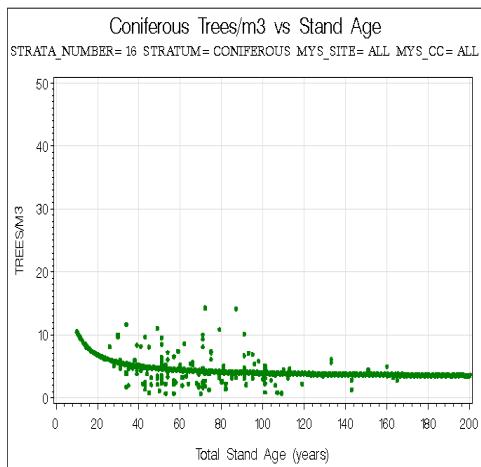






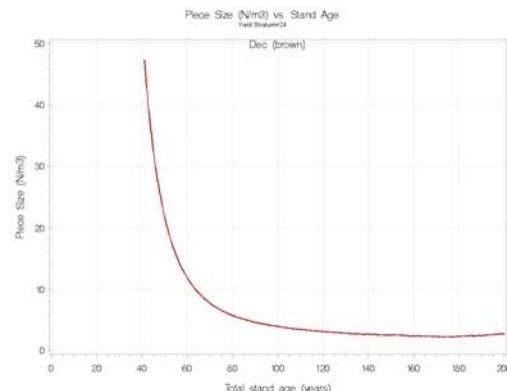
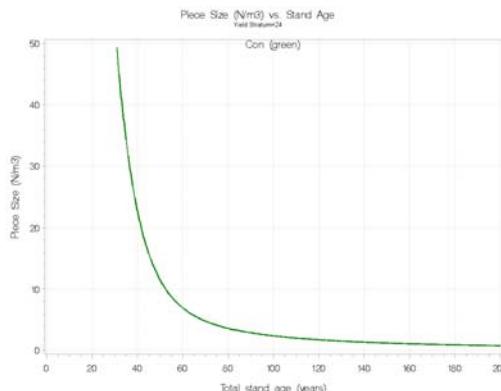
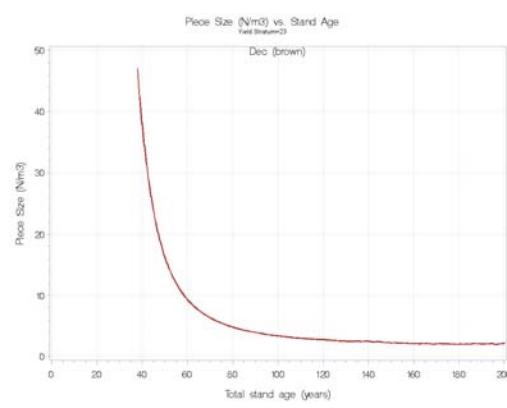
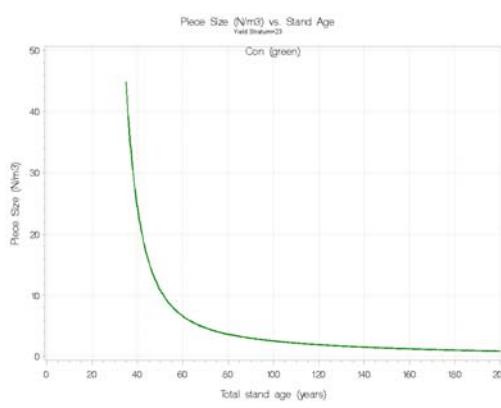
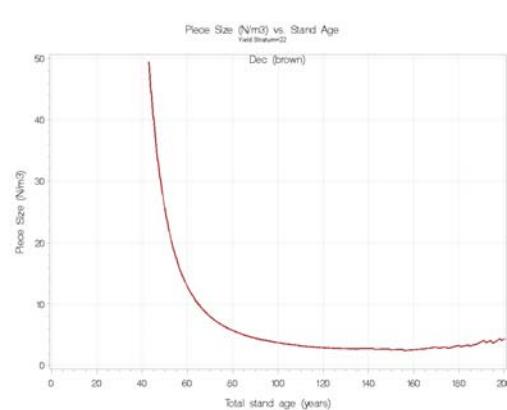
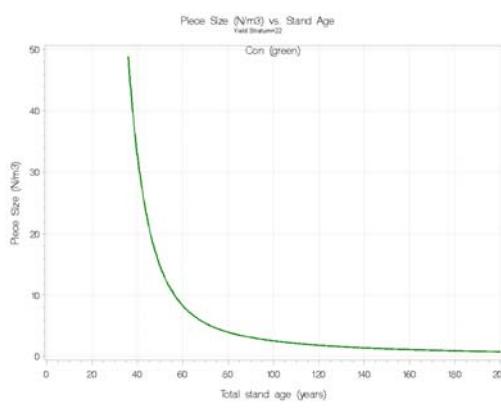
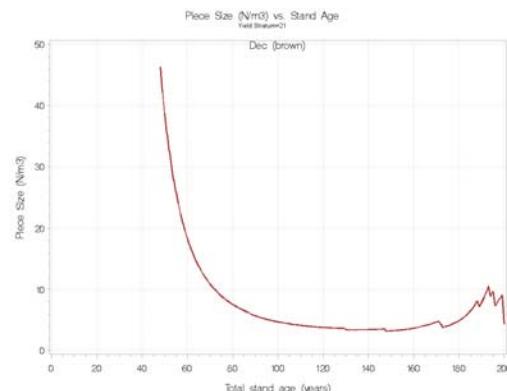
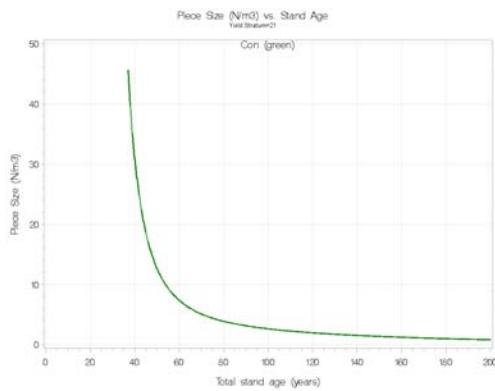






- **Managed Stands Piece Size Curves**

MPB 2009 Technical Report#2 – Yield Projections



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