



# TIMBER TALK

*Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting*

July/August 2014

## Vermeer Hosts American Loggers Council Summer Board Meeting

*Board members gather in Pella, Iowa*



**Hemphill, Texas (July 30, 2014)** –The American Loggers Council (ALC) recently held its Summer Board of Directors

Meeting in Pella, Iowa, on July 25 – 26. Vermeer Corporation volunteered to host the event at their corporate headquarters, and those that were attendance were treated to a first-class experience.

ALC members arrived on Thursday afternoon and attended a welcome reception held at the Royal Amsterdam Hotel. Jay Sarver, Brad Van Rheenen and Jeff Bradley from Vermeer were on hand to welcome the group.

Friday morning ALC members were transported to the Vermeer headquarters in Pella, Iowa and met with key personnel and learned not only about the history of Vermeer and its founder Gary Vermeer, but were also allowed to tour Plant 4 and 5 of their manufacturing plants as well as the Vermeer Parts Center. Members were able to see the production lines of many of the vast line-up of Vermeer products, including the WC2300XL Whole Tree Chipper.



Plant tours were followed up by lunch at a demo site that included demonstrations of the WC300XL Whole Tree Chipper, HG Series Horizontal Grinder and the FT100 Forestry Tractor with mulching head attachment.

On Saturday, The ALC Board members met at the Vermeer Global Pavilion to discuss business and issues of the Council as well as recent activities in Washington, DC that included the introduction of the Future Careers in Logging Act, H.R. 4590 and the Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201. Members of the ALC have been instrumental in getting both of these bills introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives.

Other items on the agenda included reports from the Legislative Committee, Transportation Committee, Biomass Committee, Master Logger Certification Committee, Membership Committee and the Communications Committee.

ALC President Brain Nelson thanked the members of Vermeer for not only

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FOR RELEASE July 25, 2014

## **US. Representative Southerland Introduces The Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201**

*Provides relief to agriculture and forestry haulers from inconsistent state and federal truck weight regulations*

On July 24, 2014, Congressman Steve Southerland, II of Florida introduced the Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201 to extend state truck weight limits to the Federal Interstate Highway System, providing relief to agriculture and forestry haulers who have been stifled by inconsistent state and federal truck weight regulations. The Bill would allow existing state legal weight tolerances for agricultural and forestry products on the Federal Interstate Highway System.

Current federal regulations allow a maximum gross weight of 80,000 pounds on the Federal Interstate Highway System, oftentimes forcing agricultural trucks that already have legal state tolerances that allow additional weight to avoid the Interstate Highway System.

The Interstate Highway System was designed to allow the transportation of military equipment oftentimes far exceeding the 80,000 pound weight limit restrictions, and by allowing those agricultural products that currently are allowed additional weight tolerances on many state highways, a much safer and efficient route would be made available from the field to the processing facilities, keeping those loads away from busy intersections in towns and communities where both pedestrian and motor vehicle accidents are more likely to occur.

Members of the American Loggers Council support the Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201 and are urging members of Congress to support the legislation to ensure the safe and efficient transportation of agriculture and forestry products on the Federal Interstate Highway System.

### **About American Loggers Council**

The American Loggers Council is a non-profit 501(c)(6) organization representing timber harvesting professionals in 30 states. For more information contact the American Loggers Council office at 409-625-0206 or visit their website at [www.americanloggers.org](http://www.americanloggers.org).

# Be Bold or Go Home

By Aaron Gilland, Dendro Resource Management, Inc. (DRM), July 2014 Email Newsletter

This case is very recent and still under litigation in the court systems. Even without being able to share the details it shows a clear picture of how bold some timber thieves are.

## The Pre-Fraud Picture

The company in this case acquires several acres of land when building new facilities in part to protect the new facility. To bolster this protection it also fences off large portions of the acreage to prevent trespassers as site security is a concern. The company eventually acquired over 200,000 acres of productive timberland, without really being in the timber business per se. However, recognizing the value of the timber land, the company employed a few foresters to manage the properties' forests and occasionally hold timber sales.

## The Crime

A person who works at one of this company's facilities noticed a logger near the main entrance cutting timber within the fenced area. Curious, he mentioned the harvesting to his boss. They knew that at times the company had harvested timber, but the more they discussed the harvest they decided they would have been aware of a timber sale on the property. They decided to notify the forester in charge. Fortunately this early action on their part helped prevent even further losses to the company. When notified, the forester reported that no timber sales had been conducted in that state and immediately called local law enforcement to stop the operation.

The logger in question was arrested for trespass and his operations were shut down.

However, on his release, the logger returned to the same site, moved his equipment from the main road to the back side of the property, cut the fence and resumed harvesting. Apparently, he reasoned that since he was out of the public eye, he could continue the theft undisturbed. This was a large company that owned the land and we can only assume that he felt the landowner wouldn't miss the timber. It seems he thought his first mistake wasn't the theft but rather the fact that he was taking the timber in plain sight.

Once again, in spite of his efforts to hide his operation, he was observed, law enforcement was called and

the logger was again arrested and ordered to cease operations on this land.

## The Prosecution

Since he was caught twice illegally harvesting timber on the same property, the landowner decided that jail time wasn't enough and pressed charges. The case is now working through the judicial system.

The timber harvested is valued around \$70k and the subsequent prosecution, reforestation, environmental clean-up costs, fence repairs and other costs will bring the total loss to this company to around \$150k. The District Attorney is on board and working the case. He is optimistic that the perpetrator will receive jail time; however, he finds it unlikely that any money will be recovered.

## Observations

Although the losses are substantial for a large company, they will be able to absorb the loss. Company management is glad to have had a part in shutting down an illegal operation, one that apparently had very few inhibitions when it came to timber trespass. Unfortunately, such losses would be more devastating for a smaller private property owner whose life savings may be tied up in that timberland. As a small business owner I know a loss of \$150,000 would very likely be the end of my business.

This case also emphasizes the importance of enlisting employees as watchful eyes to notice and report any unusual events. It's important to realize that the best strategy is deterrence and early detection to avoid losses in the first place.

And when it comes to timber theft, oftentimes it is very difficult for the victims to receive recompense for their losses. There are many reasons for this as we've often discussed. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't do anything. Dealing with timber theft requires bold actions on the front end and the back end of the security process. If we aren't willing to be bold in stopping them, it's clear from this case anyway, that the thieves will be bold in pursuing their operations. If we're not willing to be as determined as they are, it is clear from this case that we should ready ourselves, our companies and our boards for some losses from theft and fraud. I suppose the question becomes, how big a loss will management accept?

**SCTPA Comment:** *As the saying goes, it only takes one bad apple to spoil the barrel. This one case, and it's probably not the only case out there, damages the professional loggers who are doing what is right and ethical.*

(Continued from page 1)

hosting the meeting, but also for their participation and comments in the Board meeting that followed the tours. “Having our sponsors on-board and participating in our meetings allows us to hear a different perspective on some of the issues that we are facing. Having their views and outlook for the industry from a global perspective are a valuable asset to the organization. Vermeer was a great host and provided an excellent venue for our meeting.”

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## RICHBURG BROTHERS REPRESENT LOGGING INDUSTRY'S FUTURE

By Don Worthington, [heraldonline.com](http://heraldonline.com), Rock Hill, SC, July 20, 2014

On any given day you can find men like Will Coleman and Bobby Goodson deep in the pines of the Carolinas.

They can look at a stand of trees and know exactly how to clear-cut or thin it. They know exactly where to position the loaders, the skidders and the feller-buncher equipment, and they know where paths need to be to move cut trees and where the deck needs to be to load the trucks.

In an instant they can tell you where a log is headed – the crooked ones to the pulp mill, the straighter ones to mills that saw them into boards.

There are a couple of differences between the two loggers, however.

Goodson, a fourth-generation logger, is featured on the Discovery Channel reality show “Swamp Loggers.” Coleman and his brother, Wesley, are first-generation loggers in their 20s from Richburg.

When Goodson needs help he turns to a tight-knit crew of 17.

When Coleman needs help, he turns to his brother Wesley. When Wesley needs help, he turns to Will. They make up Coleman Brothers Logging, along with co-owner – and office staff – Katherine Suaso.

Logging is one of the most perilous jobs around. Aside from the physical risks, there are the fiscal challenges.

The equipment and fuel are costly, and the payouts vary by demand, mill inventories and the weather.

The obstacles mean that most new loggers enter the business via their family. First-timers like the Colemans are unusual.

But Will, 26, and Wesley, 25, figure they are generation-and-a-half loggers. Being a logger is all they have ever envisioned. Logging, says Wesley, is a God-given blessing.

As children, their home was on the highway that led to the Bowater plant off S.C. 5 in York County. Trucks full of logs passed daily. Even though it is now officially the Resolute Forest Products’ Catawba plant, the Colemans still say “Bowater.”

After graduating Lewisville High School and taking some classes at York Tech, they went into the business.

Tommy Barnes of Ideal Logging in Edgemoor saw they had what it takes. They were dedicated, had pride in their work, and had a “willingness to commit to getting things done.” Quite simply, Barnes says, “they have pine resin in their blood.”

Two years ago they formed Coleman Brothers Logging with Suaso. They purchased used equipment. About a month ago

they upgraded that equipment with a loan from the Natural Capital Investment Fund’s Logging Initiative. All told they owe about \$150,000 for equipment.

To hear Will and Wesley talk about the equipment, you wouldn’t realize it’s used. But it’s new to them and is top notch, made by industry leader TigerCat. It allows them to be more efficient, increasing the number of trucks headed to the mill.

To watch them, you would think they have been log-

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ging for a long time. The two have an almost unspoken choreography once the trees are cut. Wesley hauls them to deck with the skidder, Will picks them up with the loader and swings them onto the logging truck. When the deck gets a little messy, Wesley uses the blade on the front of the skidder, pushing logs into piles for Will, one pile for pulp, the other for saw logs.

Once you talk with them, you understand how they work. Ask them a question, and Will starts the answer and Wesley finishes the sentence.

Efficiency affects their bottom line. The more tons they send to the mill, the better. The more logs they saw, the better too.

The landowner gets \$9 a ton for pulp wood and about \$30 a ton for saw logs. It is critical for the Colemans, if they are thinning a track, to cut down the bad trees as well as enough good ones so that what remains can grow even bigger.

The Colemans are paid by the ton, usually between \$15 and \$18. It can be higher, however, depending on how far they are from the mill.

It's sunup to sundown work, but there are few complaints from the Colemans. "We have gotten through the hardest part," Will says. "Hopefully it will get better with the new equipment."

It is not all work and no play, however. There's time for TV – and the logging shows. The Colemans, along with others, are waiting for new episodes of "Swamp Loggers," and "Ax Men" on the History Channel.



**SCTPA Comments:** Coleman Brothers Logging is a SCTPA logger member. Tommy Barnes, Ideal Logging, Inc., is a SCTPA board member. The used equipment the Coleman Brothers received was supplied by Ideal logging and financed by Natural Capital Investment Fund also a SCTPA Allied Supplier member. SCTPA is proud of these young men and their commitment to professional logging.

## Federal Court Dismisses Remaining "Forest Roads" Litigation

On August 12, Judge Anna Brown of the U.S. District Court for Oregon handed down what she termed "nearly-final conclusions," cancelling further proceedings on the suit that the Northwest Environmental Defense Center had proceeded with against industry defendants based on what it judged to be exposures remaining following the Supreme Court's generally pro-industry decision in 2013.

Judge Brown's brief memorandum points out that the legal theory NEDC's attorneys put forward "was not evident or otherwise identified in the Plaintiff's 2006 Notice of Intent to Sue" and that

the Court therefore lacks jurisdiction.

She also stated "it is fundamentally unfair to require Defendants to defend against a new theory 8 years after the case was initiated and after remand from the Supreme Court and the 9th Circuit Court on a different theory."

Judge Brown did suggest that NEDC still had the option of filing a new case, based on this "new theory," although it appears that her action further diminishes any basis for such a suit's prevailing.

*Reprinted from August 21, 2014 Forest Resources Bulletin.*





## House panel approves rider-filled bill to fund Interior, EPA

The House Interior Sub-Committee has approved a spending bill that includes several riders directed at EPA (as expected).

By Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter  
Wednesday, July 9, 2014

A House Appropriations subpanel today approved along party lines a bill funding the Interior Department and U.S. EPA for fiscal 2015, with Republicans touting new investments in wildfire fighting and rural school districts and Democrats decrying deep cuts in EPA's budget.

The \$30.22 billion bill passed by voice vote, though at least two Democrats expressed dissent. The measure represents a half-percent increase over enacted levels, but much of its increased funding will go to pay the escalating cost of firefighting and to Interior's payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) program for rural communities. The full committee is expected to mark up the legislation next week.

The bill would provide \$7.5 billion for EPA, a \$717 million or 9 percent cut compared with its already tight fiscal 2014 budget. Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) said the cut was in part due to EPA's reluctance to provide the committee with answers about how it spends its money, especially when it comes to environmental regulations.

Chairman Ken Calvert (R-Calif) noted that the Interior Department and Forest Service have exceeded their firefighting budgets in eight of the last 10 years, requiring near-annual borrowing to make up the difference. The bill would allocate generous sums to both agencies' fire accounts, proposing to fully fund the 10-year average for wildland fire suppression costs. It also includes an additional \$470 million for the Forest Service to help fill the expected shortfall in fire suppression funding this year and would provide an increase of \$90 million above the current level for hazardous fuels management. Also in the bill, Calvert noted, are funds to replace the Korean War-era aircraft federal firefighters are using to combat the blazes.

Democrats on the subcommittee did not criticize the amounts but noted that more frequent forest fires are "burning a hole" in the Interior and Forest Service budgets, edging out other priorities that they said are just as vital. Moran said even the subcommittee's generous funding proposal for firefighting already threatens to fall short of what the agencies need, as shown in the administration's request yesterday for \$615 mil-

lion in emergency funding (Greenwire, July 8).

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) noted that many scientists tie the more active fire seasons of recent years to man-made climate change. But the subcommittee bill both underfunds EPA -- the agency principally tasked with climate change mitigation -- and seeks to handcuff it with numerous policy riders, she said. "We know that it's real, and we can't be making choices between addressing climate change and fighting fire," she said.

Moran and McCollum made a plea for Congress to stop funding firefighting activities through discretionary spending within their committee's allocation, in order to avoid edging out other programs.

Another of the bill's winners is the PILT program, which is intended to compensate local communities for tax revenue they cannot collect from federal lands. The bill includes a one-time payment of \$442 million for the program, which benefits 49 of the 50 states -- with the largest payments going to rural Western states represented by many of the subpanel's Republican members.

The Obama administration, along with a bipartisan group of lawmakers, wants to shift funding for severe fires to an off-budget emergency pot similar to what is used for floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters. And PILT -- which provides payments to counties to offset property tax losses for federal land -- has received mandatory funding since 2008, but only on an annual basis. So far this year, it's on the discretionary side, eating up part of a limited appropriations pie.

Despite some bipartisan support, however, the success of such proposals is unclear. A House bill to set up the emergency wildfire fund has yet to gain traction, and agreement on how to fund PILT is far from settled.

EPA would not only see deep cuts under the bill but would be faced with a requirement to pare back its payroll to 15,000 employees -- the lowest level since the George H.W. Bush administration. This comes as the agency is in the midst of promulgating regulations for new and existing power plant carbon dioxide and considering other rules to curb methane from oil and natural gas development. Calvert said these strictures were necessary to prevent the agency from saddling industry with too many burdensome restrictions. The

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bill includes numerous riders directed at reining in rules EPA currently has in its regulatory pipeline. It would kill EPA emissions proposals for new, modified and existing power plants and end a permitting program for CO2 under Title V of the Clean Air Act. It would also block the administration from finalizing a proposal aimed at clearing up more than a decade's worth of confusion about which streams, creeks and wetlands receive federal protection under the Clean Water Act.

## Local boy's 'wish' granted, spends day with loggers

### Make-A-Wish Vermont helps create a unique memory for family

TOM MOMBERG, Staff Writer, July 26, 2014

ISLAND POND, VT -- Make-A-Wish Vermont granted the wish of 6-year-old Keegan Brooks by taking him out for a day with Plum Creek Timber loggers in Essex County. Brooks suffers from muscular dystrophy, which severely reduces an individual's life expectancy. During the referral process, the wish grantors at Make-A-Wish met with Brooks and his family to get to know him, his favorite things and what he might like to do.

Keegan's favorite television programs include "Ice Road Truckers" and "Ax Men" on the History Channel, so his first choice for a wish was to go on a day of logging.

"When we were getting to know him, we brought a truck for Keegan," said wish grantor Becky Umbach. "That's all he played with the entire time we were there fact finding." Brooks and his family reside in Bennington. While visiting the north end of the state for Brooks' logging adventure, they stayed for the week of July 14 at Jay Peak indoor water park and resort in Jay, Vt.

Wish-eligible children usually ask for a primary and secondary wish because childrens' imaginations can run wild, and according to the foundation, is always the driving force in determining the logistics of the wish experience.

Brooks' primary wish grantors, Umbach and Cathy Hagadorn, said his wish was unique enough that they were able to personalize an entire day around logging.

"This is a very special wish because often you hear about wishes that are more publicized, like going down to Disney or swimming with porpoises," Hagadorn said. "This was really what he wanted; He verbalized it to us and was very excited during the wish."

During Brooks' day riding around in a logging truck, Plum Creek shut down its day's operations and had a dozen lumberjacks cater to his ambitions.

"The videos and photos that we are putting together for the family will stand the test of time and be able to give Keegan that memory of all these people that pulled together to give him an experience that was really personalized," Hagadorn said.

Northern Vermont wish maker Judy Malton was responsible for pulling the strings in Essex County to grant Brooks' wish. Also responsible were Julie Richards Photography, Isabelle Transport, Moulton Logging, Goodridge Lumber and Rusty Dewees.

After Brooks' diagnosis at the Albany Medical Center, doctors told his family about the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Those physicians submitted the referral, which can be submitted by any medical professional, parent, guardian or family member of a child with a life-threatening medical condition.

Brooks' parents, Kayla Brooks and Nick Hollis, said they were grateful for everything the wish grantors were able to do. Keegan Brooks also has a younger brother, Roman.

Brooks will be starting first grade in the fall.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants roughly 1,000 wishes every year throughout the nation. Kids often visit a theme park, concert, sporting event or exotic location. Other times they wish to meet a personal hero or role model, athlete or politician.

Wishes are otherwise mostly limited to the bounds of a child's imagination.

Those who made Brooks' wish possible include: Julie Richards Photography; Logging Truck- Isabelle Transport; Plum Creek Timber Company; Moulton Logging; Goodridge Lumber; Jay Peak Resort and Pumphouse; Wish Grantors Judy Moulton, Becky Umbach, and Cathy Hagadorn; and Rusty Dewees.



**Keegan Brooks, center, and his father Nick Hollis walk down a cleared forest with lumberjacks in Essex County as part of Brooks' wish.** (Julie Richards Photography)



## 16<sup>TH</sup> SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING

SCTPA is excited about our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to be held February 6 – 8, 2015 at the Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center, 3200 South Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach.

Our 2014 meeting was the largest attendance ever and we are excited to be returning to Springmaid Beach Resort for our venue again for 2015.

Rooms connected to the conference center are all double queen beds equipped with a full size refrigerator-freezer and two sinks and one inside bathroom. Rooms with king bed along with one and two bedroom suites are located in a building across the property. There is a limited number of king and suites available.

The Conference Center is impressive with plenty of exhibitor and meeting room space. SCTPA will utilize the second and third floors.

The second floor will be used for registration desk, exhibitors and speaker presentations. The third floor will be used for the Friday night reception, Saturday breakfasts and lunch and Sunday's prayer breakfast. The third floor has a panoramic view of the beach and Atlantic Ocean.

Marlin's is the on-site restaurant and should be open. Barnacles restaurant is located on Springmaid Pier adjacent to the resort and also may be available.

The usual flow of events will be scheduled. We'll also utilize the parking lots for outside exhibitors with equipment, trucks and trailers.

Room rates are shown below. Early reservations made are the best to get the best available rooms. Live Oaks is connected to the conference center while the other rooms for suites are located across the property.

Meeting preparations and speaker invitations are underway. Speakers invited are Wendy Farrand, WFarrand Consulting, Limerick, Maine doing her How To Build A Kick A#\* Logging Team, Miles Anderson, American Loggers Council President and California logger, Attorney Rob Moseley back again to continue the subcontract trucker liabilities and relationships session and SC Congressman Jeff Duncan for the Saturday luncheon. The Silent Auction and the Big Drawings will be available too.

Annual meeting packages will be mailed this Fall to all members.

Check out Springmaid Beach Resort at [SpringmaidBeach.com](http://SpringmaidBeach.com)

We are excited and look forward to our 16<sup>th</sup> SCTPA Annual Meeting.

### 2015 SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING SPRINGMAID BEACH RESORT ROOM RATES

| ROOM                   | SINGLE RATE | DOUBLE RATE | TRIPLE RATE | QUAD RATE |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 2 Bedroom Suite        | 89          | 89          | 89          | 89        |
| 1 Bedroom Suite        | 79          | 79          | 79          | 79        |
| Live Oaks Premium View | 59          | 59          | 59          | 59        |
| Live Oaks Deluxe View  | 59          | 59          | 59          | 59        |

ALL ROOMS ARE SUBJECT TO A 7.5% RESORT FEE PLUS APPLICABLE STATE & LOCAL TAXES, CURRENTLY AT 11% (SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE), \$ 69.92 PER GUEST PER ROOM PER NIGHT.



# Adjust sustainable forest

## Local timber must be protected in near future

American foresters might be at a disadvantage in the future under current rules  
For sustainable forest management.

Jeff Burluson, North Carolina Sportsman, July 7, 2014

Out of the 750 million forested acres in the United States, North Carolina and South Carolina have a little more than 31 million acres covered in wooded habitats. But forests are more than just a place for Bambi, Peter Rabbit and Tom Turkey to live and places for a fleet of hunters trying to fill their tags; they support a massive forest-products industry. In North Carolina alone, it is the top manufacturing business in the state, contributing more than 180,000 jobs and \$23.1 billion in economic benefits.

The United States covers approximately 2.2 billion acres, and one third of that area is forested. Since the beginning of the 20th century, that figure has remained relatively consistent regardless of the exponential developmental and population growth over the last 100 years. In the Carolinas, about 60 to 68 percent of the land area is forested, with an overwhelming 79 to 80 percent under non-industrial, private ownership. The owners of the South's forests have proven to the world they can grow a commercial crop of trees in a sustainable, environmental friendly manner.

Sustainable forestry practices for landowners in the South are far from new. It is a way of life for tree farmers in the Carolinas to put food on the table, and there is significant data available to prove it. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, forest-volume inventories in the Carolinas have increased nearly 140 percent over the past 50 years, a true testament to the private forest landowner and the forestry community. From consulting foresters and loggers in the field to the wood-product processing facilities, a sustainable forestry approach ensures job security and environmental stewardship.

What is sustainable forestry anyway? Sustain-



able forestry is a way of managing land to ensure that the forest resources will be available today and in the future. From harvesting to replanting, the forest lands will follow a management plan that includes the essential elements for long-term availability.

But even out of the 100 years of sustainable forest management under the belt of southerners, pressure from the environmental movement is having a negative impact on private forest owners due to politics and lack of support from participating federal entities. The United States Green Building Council's LEED policies may cripple our forest products industry if regulations don't change.

LEED certification is part of a movement in which everything from the raw materials in the woods to the finished homes is based on green-building strategies and the chain of custody documentation. In order for finished products to become LEED certified, the forest products must come from a sustainable source, and this is where the landowner can be affected.

In order to be classified as sustainably certified, everything from the dirt the trees are grown on to the lumber merchants selling the studs must be from a classified sustainable source. Consumers are requiring that their wood

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products be sourced from a certified sustainable source, and this is where the problem arises.

Only three sustainable forest certification programs exist: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Tree Farm Association (ATFA). These programs require landowners to go through rigorous testing, documentation and audits to earn a sustainability certificate to label their forest products for sale.

Over the past decade, there has been a strong push to use wood products from sustainable sources all the way from the forests into the consumer's hands. Over the next decade, the push for LEED-certified products from a sustainable chain of custody will become a part of the everyday business, and the current status of LEED's policies is detrimental to landowners already operating under sustainable practices as demonstrated over the past century.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Green Building Council LEED Certification Board only recognizes FSC certified wood products and wood facilities. Both SFI and ATFA are heavily recognized throughout the United States and in the Carolinas, but FSC has a much-lower presence in the United States as compared to Canada, Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania. In North Carolina, 1.3 million acres of timberland are currently enrolled in either ATFA or SFI, but there is less than 50,000 acres of forestlands certified by FSC. Similar statistics are comparable for South Carolina forests.

As the regulations stand, locally grown timber from a sustainable means will be overlooked for foreign imports from only FSC certified forests to satisfy LEED certification requirements. This is a real problem that is in dire need of legislative action.

Many publicly-funded projects across the Carolinas require LEED certification standards for building projects. This means that most publicly-funded projects paid for by tax dollars will require the use of foreign wood products instead of local sources, but it doesn't have to be this way.

The U.S. Green Building Council needs to adopt the ATFS and SFI Standards into the LEED Certification Standard. However, the U.S. Green Building Council refuses to change its standards. At a minimum, all publicly funded projects need to drop the LEED Standards requirement to support local industry and forest landowners.

Sustainable forestry and environmental stewardship is part of the culture. The numbers are clear for the forest-products industry across the Carolinas. Becoming dependent on natural resources from foreign sources is a real problem for the United States economy. As long as the green movement doesn't force consumers to become dependent on foreign sources of locally-grown products, the forest-products industry in the Carolinas may press on for another couple of centuries.



## ***Timber Talk***

*Your Voice for South Carolina  
Timber Harvesting*

Contact Crad Jaynes at  
1-800-371-2240 or [bcjpaw@windstream.net](mailto:bcjpaw@windstream.net)



**WORKING TOGETHER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE  
TIMBER INDUSTRY IN SOUTH CAROLINA**



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## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

SCTPA welcomes our New Members & Restart Members  
Your support is appreciated.

Jody White Logging, LLC, *Pamplico*  
Barry White Logging, LLC, *Pamplico*  
Murphy Brothers Forest Products, Inc., *Edgemoor*  
Matt Gruber, *Reevesville*  
Clint Gruber, *St. George*  
Enviva L.P., *Bethesda, MD*  
Rice Land & Timber, LLC, *Allendale*

*Dedicated representation & service to the professional timber harvesting segment of  
South Carolina's forest products industry.*



## It Just Makes Sense



For seventeen years, members of the American Loggers Council have been making trips to Washington, DC, promoting the idea that trucks hauling state legal weight limits for agricultural commodities, including unrefined forest products, should be allowed to access the Federal Interstate Highway System, and for seventeen years, this common-sense approach to standardizing weight limits within state boundaries has gone unnoticed, until now!

On July 24, 2014, Congressman Steve Southerland from Florida introduced the Right to Haul Act of 2014, H.R. 5201, that if passed would do just that, allow these loads access to the Interstate Highway System as long as they do not exceed individual State weight limitations.

The language is simple, "...individual State weight limitations for an agricultural commodity that are applicable to State highways shall be applicable to the Interstate System within the State's borders for vehicles carrying an agricultural commodity."

An agricultural commodity in the Bill is defined as, "...any agricultural commodity (including horticulture, aquaculture, and floriculture), food feed fiber, forestry products, livestock (including elk, reindeer, bison, horses, or deer), or insects and any product thereof."

What does this mean for the logging industry? Several things. First, you will now be able to transport your state legal loads on a safer and more efficient route to the mill or processing facility, avoiding the intersections in town and communities where vehicle and pedestrian accidents are more likely to occur. Second, your loads will be hauled on infrastructure that is oftentimes much better than the secondary roads found in the state and county, and third, when you travel through a weight station along the Interstate, as long as you

meet the state legal requirements of the state you are hauling in, you will not be fined for an overweight load.

There are many states that already have in place weight tolerances for agricultural commodities, and allowing those loads on the Federal Interstate Highway System helps to standardize state and federal policies and improves the overall safety to the general motoring public. One key element of the Bill is that it does not require the States to change their existing regulations. This has been a deterrent of other attempts to change weight limits on the Interstate as oftentimes the States and Counties simply do not have the available funds to bring secondary roads up to the level where they can support heavier loads. You might get a bill that allows 97,000 pounds on the Interstate, but the question remains, how do you get it there?

We thank Congressman Southerland for introducing the Right to Haul Act of 2014 and request that you seek the support of your members of Congress in seeing that H .R. 5201 is passed in both the House and the Senate. It just make sense!

*Danny Dructor is the Executive Vice-President of the American Loggers Council. The American Loggers Council is a non-profit 501(c) (6) corporation representing professional timber harvesters in 30 states across the US. For more information, visit their web site at [www.americanloggers.org](http://www.americanloggers.org) or contact their office at 409-625-0206.*



## ALC Washington Report – July 30, 2014

### **House Passes ESA Reform Bill**

On July 29, the House of Representative voted 233-190 to pass H.R. 4315, the 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act. The bill incorporates the provisions of four previously introduced bills: H.R. 4315, sponsored by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA), requiring the Secretary of Interior to publish online “the best scientific and commercial data available” that is used in a listing; H.R. 4316, sponsored by Representative Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), requiring the US Fish & Wildlife Service to report how much they spend on ESA related litigation, especially those filed by conservation groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity; H.R. 4317, sponsored by Representative Randy Neugebauer (R-TX), defining “best scientific and commercial data available” as including “all such data submitted by a State, tribal, or county government;” and H.R. 4318, sponsored by Representative Bill Huizenga (R-MI), capping attorney reimbursements in ESA litigation to \$125 per hour. The American Loggers Council submitted written testimony in April in favor of H.R. 4315 at the request of Congressman Benishek (R-MI). Unfortunately, the bill is considered unlikely to pass the Democratic-controlled Senate.

### **Congressman Southerland Introduces the Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201**

On July 24, Congressman Steve Southerland, II (R-FL) introduced the Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201 which would amend the Transportation Code to allow state legal weight limits for agricultural and forestry commodities on the Federal Interstate Highway System. The American Loggers Council has been pursuing this issue for several years and offers our thanks to Congressman Southerland for introducing the Bill. We will continue to seek support for the bill in the form of cosponsors as well as push for a companion bill in the Senate.

### **Cosponsor list growing for the Youth Careers in Logging Act, H.R. 4590, S. 2335**

As of July 30, 2014, the number of cosponsors signed on to the Youth Careers in Logging Act has grown to 16 in the House and 3 in the Senate. This legislation would allow the 16 and 17 year old children of logging business owners to participate in family-owned logging operations, excluding the use of chain saws for felling and bucking and cable skidder operation. Should there not be sufficient time remaining in this session to garner enough support to bring the legislation to a vote, Congressman Labrador (R-ID) has indicated his willingness to reintroduce the Bill during the next session.

### **McCain (R-AZ) Introduces the “FLAME Act Amendments Act of 2014**

Wildland firefighting funding and “borrowing” continues to be an issue on the Hill. On July 14, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) introduced S. 2539 the “FLAME Act Amendments Act of 2014.” The bill, which was cosponsored by Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and John Barrasso (R-WY), is intended to offer an alternative to the Wildfire Funding Disaster Act. The McCain bill requires the Forest Service and Department of Interior to budget for 100 percent of their suppression costs using the most accurate budget forecast model available rather than the 10-year average. The bill also prohibits the agencies from raiding non-wildfire accounts to pay for wildfires, or fire-borrowing. The legislation would require greater investment in hazardous fuel reduction and forest restoration programs as a condition of accessing emergency disaster funding should suppression spending exceed the budget amount.

To promote this treatment S. 2539 also includes, S. 1966 the Barrasso forest management reform bill, which calls for mechanical harvest on 7.5 million acres over a 15 year period.

On July 15, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on “Wildfire Preparedness and the Forest Service 2015 Fiscal Year Budget.” A main topic of discussion was the difference between the various bills on how to fund wildland firefighting in years when the costs have exceeded the budgets, and how the agency can get away from borrowing from other programs to fund wildland firefighting. Committee Ranking Member Lisa

*(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 13)

Murkowski (R-AK) focused on the need to restore forest health through increased management.

The Obama Administration favors S. 1875, the Wildfire Funding Disaster Act, sponsored by Senators Wyden and Crapo, but have not addressed the growing calls for reforms to speed up forest management projects to treat the underlying cause of increased wildfire severity and expenses. The McCain-Barrasso-Flake bill makes that connection by tying increased fire suppression funding to proactive forest management intended to treat the underlying illness, rather than one symptom of it.

Both Chairwoman Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Senator McCain agreed that fire borrowing is having a negative impact on timber sales and projects on the National Forests. The Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana had one proposed 2013 timber sale delayed due to fire borrowing and in Arizona only 40,000 acres of a 2.4 million acre stewardship project (Four Forests Restoration Initiative) target has been thinned.

Congress will be on recess between August 4th and September 5th.

## Proposed Endangered Species Listing Threatens Logging



The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to list the Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) as an endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act.

The key restriction proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service is to avoid cutting timber from April 1st to September 30th where there is bat habitat. This will have a tremendous impact on private forest landowners across 39 states.

The NLEB's range is enormous, encompassing 39 states (including D.C.): AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, IL, IA, IN, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VA, VT, WV, WI and WY.

The current proposed restrictions would put a halt to summer logging across the country and have little impact on helping the species to recover as the sole threat to these bats' populations is a non-native fungal disease discovered in 2006 called White Nose Syndrome (WNS) which has a near 100 percent mortality rate and for which there is no known cure.

As currently drafted, there could be a number of negative outcomes specific to the forest industry, including:

- Restrictions on warm season timber harvesting from April to October
- Limiting activities within 5 mile radius of bat hibernacula
- In known or potential summer habitat, restrictions will be in force within 1.5 mile radius of any known roost tree or 3 miles from any location where NLEB has been captured or acoustically detected.

Example from interim guidance as a conservation measure for protecting the bat—"retain and avoid impacting potential roost trees, which includes live or dead trees and snags equal to or greater than 3 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices or cavities."

Any activity that involves removing summer roosting trees could impact the species and result in an unlawful take. However, tree clearing restrictions that may be imposed would likely have a minimal impact on preserving the species or preventing the spread of WNS. USFWS acknowledges, "even if all habitat-related stressors were eliminated or minimized, the significant effects of WNS on the northern long-eared bat would still be present."

Unfortunately, the ESA is not well structured to address non-human threats such as WNS, so USFWS will likely focus final guidance to preserve the bat on all conceivable human-induced impacts to try to slow bat population decline – even though USFWS recognizes that human activities, including timber harvests, have never had an appreciable negative effect on the species to date.

**SCTPA Comment:** SCTPA has contacted the SC U.S. House and U.S. Senate Members requesting support to oppose this listing. This listing could result in a detrimental impact to the timber harvesting segment as well as the impact on the wood supply to wood consuming mills. SCTPA advises members contact their SC District U.S. Congressmen and both SC U.S. Senators requesting they oppose this listing.



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# The Triple Crown of Biomass

By Kolby Hoadland  
Reprinted from biomassmagazine.com

It is easy to harp on government and their inadequacies, but let's face it, the biomass industry exists in the capacity that it does because of supportive government policies. The industrial pellet sector in the southeastern U.S. exists because of Europe's climate change policies, which incentivize replacing coal with wood pellets.

Yet, despite its importance, policy is not the only factor that enables and boost growth in the biomass industry. Available feedstock and energy infrastructure, along with policy, form the backbone for growth and innovation in the biomass industry. This week's DataPoints briefly looks at what I'm calling the "triple crown of biomass" and its regional implications. Without any one of the three components (policy, feedstock and infrastructure), a biomass project will never be successful.

In the southeastern U.S., the swift rise of the industrial pellet export industry is due to the convergence of policy in Europe, numerous years of deferred harvest in southeastern forests, and an existing port infrastructure along the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic.

In other regions, say the northeastern U.S., the industrial pellet industry has not grown as rapidly because of a lack in feedstock (or at least feedstock at the price to make industrial pellet exports economically feasible).

The southeastern U.S. forest industry has had a number of pulp and paper plants close in recent decades, which has led to a decline in demand and lower stumpage fees across southeastern forests compared to other regions in the U.S. While stumpage fees for pulpwood in Mississippi were around \$9 a ton in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2013, an equivalent amount of pulpwood in Maine sold for roughly double during the same time period.

The higher stumpage fee in the Northeast discourages bioenergy development on the scale needed for industrial pellet export development. Instead, the biomass industry in the Northeast primarily utilizes mill residue for local biomass power generation and pre-

mium pellet production. (Whole tree utilization does occur, but it is done on a far smaller scale than in the Southeast.)

Despite the Northeast and Southeast both having a strong port infrastructure, the cost of feedstock in the Northeast along with regionally supportive policy encourages local consumption of biomass rather than exporting it to a different region.

In the Southeast, European policy and price of feedstock has instigates growth in forestry operations to feed the pellet export industry with relatively inexpensive feedstock and suffice European climate change mitigation goals.

In the Pacific Northwest, a healthy wood basket exists along with strong regional port infrastructure. The industrial pellet export market, however, is not growing as strongly in Washington and Oregon as one might imagine it would. The culprit once again is the



price of feedstock and strong regional climate change policies that encourage local use of biomass.

The sawn timber industry has remained healthy in the Northwest, which has kept stumpage fees relatively high. Even in 2008 and 2009 while the sawn timber industry de-

clined with the economic downturn, stumpage prices remained relatively level in the Pacific Northwest because of growth in the whole-log exports to China to support their construction boom. Bioenergy is a bottom feeder in regards to the types of biomass it can afford to utilize, and high stumpage fees discourage the development of large scale bioenergy plants that utilize whole trees.

The bioenergy industry in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S., is experiencing growth among local thermal heating projects, which operate a smaller more niche scale. Low electricity prices and high stumpage fees prevents the biomass power industry or industrial pellet export market from broadly expanding in the region despite healthy wood baskets and strong port infrastructures. State and municipal policy supports along with locally available (and reasonably priced) feedstock have led to the development of a number of thermal heating projects across the region.





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## Support for H.R. 5201, Right to Haul Act

### Support Letter from SCTPA Sent to SC U.S. Congressmen

The Honorable Tom Rice  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Right to Haul Act of 2014, H.R. 5201

Dear Congressman Rice,

I am writing you today seeking your support for the Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201 introduced by Congressman Steve Southerland, II on July 24, 2014. Members of the South Carolina Timber Producers Association have been requesting that members of Congress amend Title 23, Chapter 1, Subchapter I, Section 127(a), United States Code, by adding the language that is now been presented in the Right to Haul Act of 2014 on the House Floor.

Individual States have long set weight limits for their roads and highways. With the advent of the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways (Interstate System) the Federal Government established its own weight limits for his system. Thirteen states have received various exemptions from these limits.

Generally, Title 23, Section 127(a), U.S. code sets Interstate System weight limits at 20,000 pounds on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on tandems and a gross weight of 80,000 pounds on a 36 foot tandem spread. A bridge formula is used to recognize different axle spreads. These maximums include enforcement tolerances.

Based on safety considerations, the SC Timber Producers Association supports an additional exemption for agricultural commodity loads that meet state-legal requirements and tolerances as defined in H.R. 5201. The exemption is expected to result in a shift from of a substantial amount of existing trip mileage from two-lane secondary roads and highways to the Interstate System and result in nominally fewer trips – and improves safety for the motoring public, including the trucks themselves.

The Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201 would not require any changes to state transportation regulations, and simply states that the State legal weight tolerances for agricultural products be allowed on the Federal Interstate Highway System.

This common sense legislation would permit those loads to travel a safer and more efficient route to the processing facilities while removing those loads from rural routes that can involve a greater chance of both motor vehicle and motor vehicle-pedestrian accidents.

We request that you support the Right to Haul Act, H.R. 5201 and cosponsor the Bill. For more information, please contact SC Timber Producers Association and the American Loggers Council.

Sincerely,  
Crad Jaynes  
President & CEO

*Note: SC Congressman Tom Rice is a member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Highways & Transit.*

## ANNOUNCING NEW SCTPA TIRE PROGRAM

### COOPER TIRE'S ROADMASTER BRAND TRUCK / TRAILER TIRE PROGRAM

SCTPA is proud to partner with Cooper Tire & Rubber Company and its designated tire dealers for SCTPA to offer Cooper's Roadmaster Brand commercial truck / trailer tires discount program.

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Qualified Member Loggers owning trucks and trailers and Member Unmanufactured Forest Products (UFP) Truck Owners can purchase Roadmaster Truck and Trailer Tires at member prices at participating designated tire dealers.

- Qualified Members are: Logger and UFP Truck Owner Member.
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#### **Please follow these steps for this valuable member benefit.**

- Members Only Tire Pricing List can be obtained by contacting the SCTPA office. The tire pricing is not public and for Member Use Only. Only qualified members can receive the pricing. The tire pricing is not to be disclosed to others by a qualified member.
- Qualified Members cannot purchase tires for a non-member. If such abuse results, member will be terminated from participating in the program.
- **Qualified Dues Paid Members must purchase Roadmaster Tires from Cooper's Designated Participating Dealers in SC and GA.**
- The tire dealer or the member **must** contact SCTPA for an official **Member Verification Form** showing the member's information and membership identification number.
- A Member Verification Form will be provided to the member for use or sent to the tire dealer directly.
- Qualified Member Renewal or New Dues must be paid to be eligible for the program. Prompt dues payment maintains member's eligibility for the tire discounts.

We are excited to partner with Cooper Tire and their Roadmaster Brand to offer these savings to qualified members.

For a participating designated Roadmaster Dealer, contact SCTPA,  
Or contact Clayton Krebs, Territory Manager, 419-306-9534.

Designated Dealers Should Contact SCTPA's Crad Jaynes  
For Member Verification.  
Office 803-957-9919, Fax 803-957-8990, Cell 803-530-5874,  
Email [bcjpaw@windstream.net](mailto:bcjpaw@windstream.net)



# South Carolina Timber Producers Association



## TIRE PROGRAM DEALERS

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| Jim Whitehead Tire             | 2641 Shop Road Ext                         | Columbia           | SC    | 29209 | (803) 776-4888 |
| Black's Tire Commercial Center | 1501 Third Avenue                          | Conway             | SC    | 29526 | (843) 248-2835 |
| Black's Tire Commercial Center | 208 North McArthur Ave.                    | Dillon             | SC    | 29536 | (843) 774-7391 |
| Dr. Tire                       | 565 Railroad Ave SE                        | Estill             | SC    | 29918 | (803) 625-2201 |
| Black's Tire Commercial Center | 1705 East Palmetto St. (Exit 170 Off I-95) | Florence           | SC    | 29506 | (843) 669-2233 |
| Black's Tire Commercial Center | 620 North Coit St. (Exit 164 Off I-95)     | Florence           | SC    | 29501 | (843) 678-4124 |
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| Hill tire                      | 1715 Old Trolley Road                      | Summerville        | SC    | 29485 | (843) 873-1271 |
| Hill tire                      | 506 Robertson Blvd.                        | Walterboro         | SC    | 29488 | (843) 549-1199 |
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| A-1 Tire                       | 1445 Bowman hwy                            | Elberton           | GA    | 30635 | (706) 213-8471 |
| Modern Tire                    | 293 W Howell Hwy                           | Hartwell           | GA    | 30643 | (706) 376-8888 |
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## UPDATE FOR SOUTHERN LOGGERS COOPERATIVE & SCTPA PILOT PROJECT IN SC

By Crad Jaynes, SCTPA

Greetings... I am happy to report the pilot project of partnering with Southern Loggers Cooperative (SLC) and SCTPA is moving forward very well to locate SLC fuel depots around the Palmetto State to allow members of SLC and SCTPA to SAVE MONEY on On-Road and Off-Road diesel fuel purchases.

I am excited about this great opportunity to assist our SC SLC and SCTPA members in saving money on diesel fuel purchases by locating SLC fuel depots around the state at strategic locations.

As of today, September 3, SLC is proceeding with the purchase of an existing fuel depot in Allendale, SC which will be the second depot in SC as the fuel depot in Georgetown in front of the IP mill has been in operation for two years.

During the week of August 11 -14, Todd Martin, Executive Director and Bill Jones, Assistant Executive Director of Southern Loggers Cooperative visited with SCTPA to travel around the state to observe and pursue potential sites. SCTPA is the on-the-ground presence for SLC and working to locate sites for fuel depots.

To give you a viewpoint of what we accomplished that week, here is the email Todd Martin sent to our SCTPA Fuel Committee re-capping his visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

S.C. Committee:

I hope all of you are doing great! We had a great trip to South Carolina and one that was definitely needed. I felt that it was essential for me to lay eyes on all of the targeted location that we are trying to nail down there in South Carolina. I want to thank all of you guys that have worked so hard on this project so far.

Our week started out with me leaving home

about 3:00 a.m. on Monday and making my way to Augusta, Ga. Bill picked me up at the airport and we then traveled about 70 miles to Allendale, South Carolina where we met up with Crad as well as Martin Youmans (current owner of the Allendale Station we are in the process of purchasing), Jeff Rikard (environmental contractor), and Tony Fowler (our environmental and fuel station construction consultant). We had a great meeting with them. The station looks great and we are pushing forward. I have a call in with DHEC to make sure that they are willing to sign off on everything at the station. When that assurance is obtained, we are ready to proceed with the purchase. From there we made our way to Lexington for the night where Crad's wife Brenda had a fantastic meal prepared for us.

The next morning we traveled to Newberry where we met with Rhett Frazier. Rhett has been in the timber business for many years and is working with us on locating a site for a station in Newberry. He is also committed to being a local guarantor. The original location that we were interested in does not appear to be possible. However, while we were there, we were able to make contact with Williams Brothers Trucking that has a terminal across the highway from our original location. There is plenty room for a station on their property and is perfectly located. WBT has approximately 750 trucks with their main terminal in Hazlehurst, GA. We were able to speak with Mr. Williams by phone and he is very interested in working with us. From Newberry, we traveled about 10 miles down the road to the Norbord plant in Joanna where we met with Virgil Wall and Kevin Burke of Norbord. They are very interested in partnering with the SLC for a station in the area. This will be a great alternative location if we are not able to work anything out in Newberry.

After that meeting, we traveled on to Chester, South Carolina where we met with Ken St. John.

*(Continued on page 25)*



(Continued from page 24)

Ken has 30 trucks and has the option on the property that we are interested in locating a station in Chester. He is committed to selling or leasing us a portion of that property and is also interested in being a local guarantor. His transaction on the property will not be final for about 8 months. However, there is plenty for us to do in the meantime. That evening we traveled back to Lexington for the night.

On Wednesday morning we traveled to Florence, South Carolina where we met with Tom Lassiter, Jamie Teal and Joe Campbell with the Rock-Tenn paper mill. This location may be as active of a location that I have seen. In my mind, it easily moves to the top of the list in South Carolina. While we were there they were commissioning their new wood mill and we were able to watch them run the first load through the system. Rock-Tenn has an easy 575 loads of traffic per day in and out of the mill. In addition to this, there is another 150 loads of traffic per day going in and out of a nearby sawmill. The folks at the Florence Rock-Tenn plant are fully committed to working with us and have no reservations about selling or leasing the SLC a piece of property directly across from the entrance to the scales. This, of course, will take some time; but we were overwhelmed by the reception and support that we received from these guys.

From Florence we traveled to Georgetown, South Carolina where we met with Joe Young and our custodians for our station, Phyllis Brockington and Ricky Smith. We had a great visit with them and appreciate them meeting with us.

From Georgetown, Bill and I then traveled to IP's flagship mill in Eastover. Eastover has been on our radar for several years. However, we have not been able to make much headway in that area or with the management of the mill. We were not able to meet with anyone but did survey the area and potential possibilities. We spent the night in Orangeburg and then Bill delivered me back to the Augusta airport on Thursday morning for my trip home.

Again, I want to especially thank Crad for all of his hard work and for having things set up for this trip. Crad made every one of these visits with me and Bill with the exception of the Eastover visit. Without his

help, we would not have been able to cover the amount of ground that we covered during this trip.

Thanks and God Bless!

Todd

\*\*\*\*\*

SCTPA has since met with Josh Sandt of Canfor Southern Pine regarding locating a fuel depot at their Darlington sawmill. It appears there is interest from Canfor as well as from the New South truck fleet manager Carl Hamilton. Follow up meetings are scheduled for this site.

SCTPA is honored to have been chosen the first state loggers association to be the pilot project for SLC to locate fuel depots.

And trust me ... there is **SAVINGS** through Southern Loggers Cooperative for On and Off Road Diesel Fuel. Average savings is \$.10 - .15 per gallon for On Road and \$.15 -.20 per gallon Off Road. So do the math!

SLC and SCTPA are working together to do this to help our members. And being a member of SLC first, and SCTPA second, gets you through the door to the savings.

SCTPA will keep you updated as progress is made. But as far as savings are concerned, SLC fuel depots are a Home Run To Savings!



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# USDA Ruling Gives Forest Goods Preference



A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) ruling on Wednesday, August 6, is expected to benefit the nation's forest products industry through a new preference in a government program for purchases of bio-based products.

The USDA's BioPreferred Program requires every federal agency to give a procurement preference to designated items composed of bio-based products including cleaners, lubricants, building materials and fuel additives, thereby increasing the purchase and use of designated bio-based products through a preferred procurement initiative for federal agencies.

But forest products were long kept off the list under previous USDA Guidelines which deemed products considered to be "mature market" products — those that had a significant market share prior to 1972 — ineligible.

Wednesday's decision effectively lifts the program's forest products restriction for manufacturers able to demonstrate that they apply an "innovative approach" in any part of the life cycle of their product.

It enacts changes set forth under the 2014 Farm Bill which newly requires the BioPreferred program to "promote bio-based products, including forest products, that apply an innovative approach to growing, harvesting, sourcing, procuring, processing, manufacturing, or application of bio-based products regardless of the date of entry into the marketplace."

Many in the lumber industry have long taken issue with the exclusion saying wood products have always been "bio-based."

Congressman Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., agreed, and pushed for new language as part of his Forest Product Fairness Act. Thompson on Thursday said he was pleased with the ruling and hopes it will serve to boost a domestic and regional lumber industry still feeling the after-effects of a housing market crash nearly six years ago.

"The rule announced today by USDA is positive news and an important step forward for the Bio-Preferred program," stated Thompson, chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy & Forestry. "These changes allow U.S. forest producers to compete on a level playing field and will create new market opportunities for our domestic forestry industry."

Thompson's said, while well -intended, these previous guidelines gave preference to foreign-made products, such as bamboo products produced outside the U.S.

While unable to estimate the exact amount of new business this change in policy will generate — regionally or nationally — Thompson's office said it will ensure that the federal government and consumers know that purchasing U.S.-made wood products is as environmentally sound an option as purchasing products like foreign-made bamboo.

"There is no doubt this change will help generate new and increased business for American wood producers, manufacturers, and the broader industry supply chain," his office writes.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack said the new language will also serve to drive the development of innovative wood products including biofuels and adhesives, and using engineered wood technologies in body armor and high rise construction. A three to five story building made from emerging wood technologies would have the same emissions control as taking up to 550 cars off the road for one year, by some industry estimates.

"Every day, companies across the nation are expanding markets for agriculture and growing job opportunities in rural America," said Vilsack. "The inclusion of innovative wood products furthers our commitment to strengthening the bio-based economy and ensures that the federal government uses home American grown products whenever possible."

## Building Sustainable Communities with Sustainable Wood in Greenwood South Carolina

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A single mom and her three kids are part of a grassroots movement to turn downtown Greenwood, South Carolina into a more sustainable community with help from Habitat for Humanity and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI). Six months after today's groundbreaking ceremony, the new family will be moving into a brand new home on a site occupied for 11 years by an abandoned building.

"This part of Greenwood is an up and coming neighborhood and our new family is being welcomed with open arms. They are part of a bigger story which is our efforts to revitalize neighborhoods by providing safe, decent and affordable housing," said Chad Charles, Habitat for Humanity's Affiliate Director in the Greenwood area.

Building sustainable neighborhoods one house at a time is supported by SFI®. The Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity received a \$5,000 grant from SFI Inc. to help build a home using products certified to the SFI Standard and to help raise awareness about sustainable forestry.

The family, which includes two teenage boys and a middle-girl, will be moving into a three-bedroom, two-story 1,080-square-foot home. To qualify as homeowners, the family is giving 500 hours of sweat equity to help build the house. The new homeowner is also committed to acting as a local volunteer to help make her new community more sustainable.

"SFI is proud to help this family by partnering with Habitat for Humanity. In places like Greenwood, we are working at the intersection of viable markets, healthy forests and sustainable communities. A big part of our vision is to engage communities and encourage the responsible sourcing of wood products," said Kathy Abu-sow, President and CEO of SFI Inc.

Since 2008, SFI Inc. and SFI Implementation Committees have partnered up with over a dozen various Habitat for Humanity builds across Canada and the United States. These partnerships represent more than 4,000 volunteer hours and large amounts of donated building materials certified to the SFI Standard.

SFI is also working with the National Association of

Home Builders and Built Green Canada to support green building certification of Habitat homes. Habitat for Humanity supports environmentally responsible construction of durable, healthy and sustainable homes. As part of Habitat's efforts to enhance the environmental footprint of each home, Habitat and SFI have signed a memorandum of understanding to encourage Habitat affiliates, in places like Greenwood, to use wood products from organizations certified to the SFI Standard.

For the newest family in downtown Greenwood, sustainability is about to begin at home.

### About Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI)



SFI Inc. is an independent, nonprofit organization that is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. Across the United States and Canada, about 250 million acres certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard.

In addition, the SFI program's unique fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI chain-of-custody certification tracks the percentage of fiber from certified forests, certified sourcing and post-consumer recycled content. SFI on-product labels identify both certified sourcing and chain-of-custody claims to help consumers make responsible purchasing decisions. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally. Learn more at [sfiprogram.org](http://sfiprogram.org) and [sfiprogram.org/Buy-SFI/](http://sfiprogram.org/Buy-SFI/).

### About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty, Habitat has helped more than 4 million people construct, rehabilitate or preserve homes since 1976. Habitat also advocates to improve access to decent and affordable shelter and supports a variety of funding models that enable families with limited resources to make needed improvements on their homes as their time and resources allow. As a nonprofit Christian housing organization, Habitat works in more than 70 countries and welcomes people of all races, religions and nationalities to partner in its mission. To learn more, donate or volunteer visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).



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# Mark Your Calendar

## September 2014

- 10 - 11 SC SFI TOP 2-Day Classes, Saluda Shoals Park Conference Center, Columbia. Contact Sally Tucker, SC Forestry Association, 803-798-4170.
- 16 - 19 Wood Magic Forest Fair, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Sustainable Forestry Education Program, SCFC Piedmont Center, Tamassee, **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**. Contact Stephanie Kolok at SC Forestry Commission, 803-896-8855, skolok@scfc.gov
- 24 -27 American Loggers Council Annual Meeting, Harris, Michigan. For Information, Contact SCTPA or ALC, 409-625-0206, [americanlogger@aol.com](mailto:americanlogger@aol.com), [www.americanloggers.org](http://www.americanloggers.org)

## October 2014

- 6 - 10 Wood Magic Forest Fair, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Sustainable Forestry Education Program, Harbison State Forest, Columbia, **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**. Contact Stephanie Kolok at SC Forestry Commission, 803-896-8855, skolok@scfc.gov
- 28 Newberry District Meeting, Farm Bureau, Wilson Blvd, Newberry, 7 p.m.

**NOTE: FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER AROUND THE STATE. FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS DATES WILL BE POSTED ON THE SCTPA WEBSITE ... SCLOGGERS.COM ... AS SOON AS SCHEDULED.**

Members & Non-Members are encouraged to attend our district meetings to know what the issues are affecting the industry.

Meeting dates may be changed. Meeting notices are mailed prior to the scheduled meeting.

### Need SFI Trained DVD Class or other training?

SCTPA can provide the New DVD Training Module for SFI Trained status. SCTPA is an approved DVD training class facilitator and will be scheduling classes during the year. Other training programs are available for safety, driver training, equipment lockout & tagout, hazardous materials spill control on logging sites and forestry aesthetics.

Truck Driver Training Workshops will be scheduled. Watch the Mark Your Calendar section of this newsletter for dates.

Notices for SCTPA workshops & events will be forwarded.

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### *Our Mission*

The **Mission** of the *South Carolina Timber Producers Association* is to serve as the voice for timber harvesting and allied timber businesses to advance the ability of its members to professionally, ethically, efficiently, safely, environmentally and profitably harvest, produce and transport timber to meet the timber supply demands of our state by providing continuing educational and training opportunities, distributing timber harvesting, hauling, manufacturing and selling information, representing our members in national and state-wide legislative activities, and aggressively promoting, supporting and conducting programs of state, regional and national advocacy.