



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

July/August, 2013



Loggers Meet in Grapevine, Texas

*Peterbilt hosts American Loggers Council
Summer Board meeting*

Hemphill, Texas (July 29, 2013) –

Members of the American Loggers Council (ALC) gathered on July 26 through July 27 in Grapevine, Texas for their Summer Board of Directors meeting that was hosted by Peterbilt.

The two day program began with a Friday morning meeting and tour of the Peterbilt production facilities located in Denton, Texas where Jim Zito, National Vocational Sales Manager for Peterbilt and Dan Brunner, Regional Vocational Sales Manager for Peterbilt lead discussions on not only their line-up of products being offered to the timber harvesting industry, but a look into the future as to what part liquefied natural gas might play in the industry.



Members of the American Loggers Council at Peterbilt Headquarters in Denton, Texas. Jim Zito (second from right) and Dan Brunner (far right) hosted the meeting.

Following the morning discussions, members were treated to a tour of the 430,000+ square foot production facilities where Peterbilt is producing many models of its trucks, including their latest Model 567. The group was able to walk the floor while asking questions and seeing much of the technology that goes into building the Peterbilt line of trucks.

Following the plant tour, members gathered again to comment and ask questions pertaining to the tour, as well as the rebate program that Peterbilt is currently offering to ALC members in good standing with their State and Regional logging associations; details available on the ALC web site at www.americanloggers.org.

Peterbilt treated the ALC Board members to lunch at Rudy's Barbeque Restaurant for a real taste of Texas prior to returning everyone to the hotel.

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Saturday morning, the American Loggers Council Board of Directors met to review committee work and other proposals that have been presented since their last meeting in March. Reports were heard from the executive, legislative, transportation, communications, membership and nominations committees.

ALC Board members discussed the current review process for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program and came up with recommendations for ALC comments geared toward logger training and education programs as well as a defined amount of timber that can be delivered from untrained loggers to a consuming SFI Program participating mill.

Other business included approval to work with Media Planet to produce a 12-18 page editorial that would appear in USA Today as an insert, depicting logging and the role that it plays in our economy and the professionalism that now exists within the industry. Circulation is expected to be close to 500,000 copies in targeted areas where the general public needs to know more about the industry.

A slate of nominees for officer positions was introduced by the nominations committee, and those positions will be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held in Marksville, Louisiana on September 28th. Fleetmatics representatives Rick Mills and Steve Gorman presented the Board members with the latest technology available for fleet management that can be utilized in the log trucking industry to help cut costs and haul more efficiently. Fleetmatics is one of the newest sponsors of the ALC.

ALC Vice President Brian Nelson commented that he was "very thankful for Peterbilt for rolling out the red carpet for the ALC and its members," and that he felt that "with Peterbilt's support combined with the many other organizations that are currently sponsoring the American Loggers Council, that the opportunities for growth and bringing about needed changes to the industry could happen."

ALC Executive Vice President Danny Dructor stated that, "It is a real opportunity to share quality

time with our sponsors, and grow those relationships. What we do, here at the American Loggers Council is not only important to our members, but

"with Peterbilt's support combined with the many other organizations that are currently sponsoring the American Loggers Council, that the opportunities for growth and bringing about needed changes to the Industry could happen."

to all of those whose livelihoods depend on a healthy logging infrastructure. I wish to thank all of our friends at Peterbilt for the

tremendous effort that was made in making us feel welcome, and more importantly, establishing the groundwork that we hope will keep us working together for years to come."

For information contact:

American Loggers Council

Danny Dructor

Office: 409-625-0206

e-mail: americanlogger@aol.com

About the American Loggers Council

The American Loggers Council is a 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.





THE NEXT GENERATION PART 2

Mark Turner – Turner Logging

In my previous article, I discussed how many of us got into logging and some of the challenges facing today's loggers with respect to where the next generation of loggers is going to come from. It's apparent that I'm not the only one concerned with the future of logging because I got a lot of feedback and comments from that first article. Obviously, this is a dialogue that we need to be having now and that we can't afford to keep pushing it aside. In this article, I would like to explore some possible solutions to the looming shortage of loggers, but I must admit; however, describing the problems is much easier than trying to come up with solutions.

The American logging industry is a highly competitive business with both the producers (loggers) and the purchasers (mills and timber companies) having the same goal; get the highest production for the lowest cost. In order for companies to remain in business, they've had to find the most efficient ways to get production, usually a combination of new equipment, innovative techniques and trained crews. Although popular in other countries, government regulations, subsidies and artificial supports are not the path to future success in the American logging industry. We, the entire timber industry, need to come together to continue to be able to profitably compete in a global marketplace. Unfortunately, logging is the weak link in the timber supply chain.

When we start looking for solutions, I think that part of the fault falls upon us loggers. In the past when a forester complained that our bid was "way too high," we have been far too quick to acquiesce. As a group, we tend not to be complainers. We simply keep on going and do the best we can with the situation we find ourselves in. When we are told that we will have to do more with less, we simply shrug our shoulders and say OK. This is part of our problem. We are way too resourceful for our own good. At some point, we are going to have to learn to stand up for ourselves better, to get what we need to be able to stay in this business.

The people we work for are also part of the problem and they will need to be part of the solution. A recently-retired forester's comments accurately describe much of the attitude in our industry. He said that, during his career, he

was always told to "make sure the loggers don't go broke but don't let them make any money either".

In my opinion, the primary solution is more money. In general, the logging industry is grossly undercapitalized, with insufficient resources to successfully weather the extreme ups-and-downs common to logging. We are running on the tightest margins in the memory of this industry. Equipment and labor are our two major expenses and 2 of the 3 reasons that we remain successful. If loggers made more money, we would be able to acquire and maintain the best, most innovative equipment and to attract and retain the best, most talented labor. With more money flowing through the pipeline to loggers, the entire timber industry would be stronger and more profitable.

Quality equipment is a key requirement for all loggers. Logging has changed over the years and the equipment we need now is much more expensive and complex. The first challenge is to acquire that equipment. Financing is almost always required. Unless a company already has years of experience under their belt and owns a lot of equipment, financing, particularly at a decent rate, is almost impossible to get. The next challenge is to maintain these fine-tuned, complex machines. The simplest repairs are extremely expensive and a logger may need financing for larger repairs to his equipment because he no longer has the liquidity that he had even 10 years ago. I have heard talk of timber companies helping with financing. For some, that could be a good solution; however, I'm not a big fan of being beholden to someone I am working for. It changes the relationship in a very fundamental (and not good) way because now the timber company "owns" that logging company.

Trained crews have always been a key element of a successful logging operation. Loggers used to be middle to upper middle class people. One of the members of Associated Oregon Loggers analyzed compensation from the late 1980's through 2012. He discovered that hourly compensation had risen only 1.7% annually over 30 years, significantly below the rate of inflation. If formal data had been available from the early 1980's (right before the early-80's recession), it is estimated that current compensation would have actually decreased during that time span. This failure to keep up with the cost of living has resulted in a majority of loggers now no longer making a middle-class wage. Given the state of our industry, it is a wonder that anyone would choose to get into logging. Out here in the west, we compete directly with construction and the oil and gas fields. In those industries, unskilled workers make

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SCTPA Member Alert



BALDWIN FILTER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

SCTPA is proud to announce our Baldwin Filter Member Discount Program effective September 10, 2013. Active dues paid members will receive a **45% discount** on Baldwin Filters. Per Jesse Gonzalez, SCTPA's Baldwin representative, this program will be available to all association active members.

The association is proud to partner with Jesse Gonzalez and Baldwin Filters to provide a cost savings program for members.

The program will require members to purchase filters from Baldwin Warehouse Distributors (WD) and wherever Baldwin WD's have branch locations. Local retail outlets selling Baldwin Filters are not included. Only Baldwin WD's are to be used for the member discount. Active dues paid membership verification is required to qualify for the member discount.

If you have any questions, contact the association office.

Baldwin Filter Program 2013

1. Baldwin Filter discounted pricing to active SCTPA members.
2. SCTPA members select from list of participating Baldwin Warehouse Distributors (WD).
3. SCTPA member pricing wherever Baldwin WD's have branch locations.
4. SCTPA informs Baldwin district sales manager of member choices in order to complete Baldwin internal paperwork.
5. Members complete credit application/other with Baldwin warehouse distributor(s).
6. Baldwin WD's will adjust filter inventories to match up with SCTPA member's usage.
7. SCTPA member can contact SCTPA office and request their Member Verification Form be faxed or emailed to Baldwin WD to receive filter discount. Member verification can be forwarded to the member as well. Baldwin WD can contact SCTPA for Member Verification Form at 803-957-9919, 1-800-371-2240, bcjpaw@windstream.net, or Crad Jaynes cell 803-530-5874.
8. Baldwin WD will take care of obsolete Baldwin filters annually on a swap out (if filters are clean, re-saleable and can be put back in the WD inventory).

Thank you for the opportunity to service your member's filter requirements with Baldwin Filters through our Baldwin Warehouse Distributor network in your service area.

Jesse Gonzalez
Baldwin Filters
Charlotte, NC
704-451-2466 Office/Cell
jgonzalez@baldwinfilter.com

SCTPA Baldwin Filter Warehouse Distributors

Branch Manager	Street Address	City, State, Zip		
Fred Heitman Truck Pro / CR&W	7350 Industry Drive	Charleston, SC 29418	843-767-7600 800-832-9001	Fax 843-767-4965
Mike Pilotte Fleet Pride	5130 Rivers Avenue	North Charleston, SC 29406	843-747-1547 800-726-0578	Fax 843-744-5342
Larry Duncan Truck Pro / CR&W	1308 Upper Asbury Avenue	Charlotte, NC 28206	704-334-7276 800-832-6219	Fax 704-334-7270
Ron Johnson Truck Pro	2330 Tipton Drive	Charlotte, NC 28206	704-596-2761 800-274-1256	
John Gasiecki Fleet Pride	3740 Jeff Adams Drive	Charlotte, NC 28206	704-596-6967 800-852-5846	Fax 704-596-3735
Todd Johnson Stone Truck Parts	2233-H Interstate North Drive	Charlotte, NC 28206	704-887-1111 800-279-6385	Fax 704-887-1116
David Crouch Truck Pro / CR&W	550 Old Dairy Drive	Columbia, SC 29201	803-799-4010 800-922-2225	Fax 803-256-3802
Gene Lane Fleet Pride	1631 Shop Road	Columbia, SC 29201	803-799-4812 800-922-1267	Fax 803-799-2833
Jamie Cathcart Fleet Pride	1137 White Horse Road	Greenville, SC 29605	864-277-8362 800-922-6850	Fax 864-299-1831
Zack Raines Truck Pro	1144 White Horse Road	Greenville, SC 29605	864-422-1800	

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.



CSA AND THE FOREST PRODUCTS TRUCKING LANDSCAPE

Neil Ward

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) approached the 2010 roll-out of its **Compliance – Safety – Accountability** program—CSA—with due caution: pilot programs in nine states and a good deal of adjusting and launch delays. The prospect of a scoring system that could accurately *predict* truckers' likelihood of crash involvement—rather than learn about accident propensity after the fact—had a strong appeal to those interested in taking truck safety to the next level. There also appeared to be value in heading off risk-prone drivers and fleets from any opportunity to obscure their records or from gaming the system otherwise.

That the system might open up entirely new safety exposures and place drivers and fleets with strong safety records in uncompetitive positions took many by surprise. But are the problems with the launch just a matter of a steep “learning curve” and the need for a few tweaks? Or is there a fundamental gap between the “conceptual” CSA, at the Agency level, and the program’s rubber-meets-road application?

FMCSA takes the “steep learning curve” view. A number of log truckers, who pride themselves on their safety records, think the problems are more fundamental.

What Is CSA?

The **Compliance – Safety – Accountability** program is a means of assigning crash-risk scores to both trucking firms—carriers—and individual drivers. CSA’s database records scores are derived from local law enforcement’s vehicle inspections and accident investigations on criteria known as BASICs (Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories), in which accumulated demerits, or “points,” accumulate to determine a composite “score.” The program assigns separate scores to the carrier itself and to each driver. The five publicly reported BASICs gauge, or are supposed to gauge:

- Unsafe Driving
- Hours of Service Compliance
- Driver Fitness

- Controlled Substances
- Vehicle Maintenance

A high score, at least in theory, denotes, respectively, an unsafe driver or a carrier with lax safety policies. Shippers concerned about their own liability have on-line access to drivers’ and carriers’ BASIC scores, and FMCSA is explicit that it expects them to make business decisions with reference to them. Likewise, insurers can use information on-line to gauge the risks of insured drivers—potentially making them unemployable.

BASICs, then, have strong bottom-line impacts, on businesses and careers.

One Log-Hauling Fleet’s Experience

Richard Schwab, procurement manager for northern Florida logging and land management firm M.A. Rigoni Inc., has some experience with BASIC scoring and its relationship to operational realities. “The process,” he says, “will make the trucking business harder, riskier, and more expensive.”

That’s right: “riskier.”

In theory, CSA’s scoring system is supposed to assign any violation a weight from 1 to 10, based on the violation’s theoretical relationship to crash risk. In implementation, however, truckers observe that minor and major compliance problems vary little in their impacts on one’s BASIC. Thus, a driver or truck owner has no reason to prioritize maintenance items: a light slightly out of alignment and a non-functioning brake get similar scores; reflective tape not kept to the correct visible standard becomes a major liability, and paperwork must document corrective actions. Taking care of the big items now and dealing with the small items later doesn’t fit the theory of BASIC calculation, which seems to view “minor” violations as indicators of “major” management (or driver preparedness) shortcomings.

An inspection that finds a lapse in recordkeeping, including in the Hours-of-Service log, rates a significant BASIC demerit.

Mr. Schwab tells of one of his drivers’ picking up a brand new log truck from a dealership and driving it to the shop. A highway patrol inspection *en route* was still able to find a CSA-relevant violation under one of the BASIC categories.

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The National Perspective

Well, is this “precautionary principle” justified? Do statistics indicate that “high-BASIC” drivers or fleets are crash-prone?

FedEx Ground’s Vice President of Safety, Scott Mugno, testified on behalf of the American Trucking Associations before the House Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure a year ago, to the effect that the relationship was worse than tenuous.

“In November 2011 Wells Fargo Securities conducted an analysis of the scores belonging to the 200 largest carriers in North America,” Mr. Mugno testified. “In doing so, they were unable to find any ‘meaningful statistical relationship between poor BASIC scores and accident incidence.’” A subsequent test the following year with a larger sampling validated this finding.

What else? Dr. James Gimpel (stated Mr. Mugno), who is a statistician at the University of Maryland, published an analysis of the statistical validity of the CSA scoring methodology. He also found that the statistical association between crash risk and BASIC scores was “so low as to be irrelevant.” In one measurement category, he found the use of CSA scores as a predictor of crash risk to be “little better than guessing.” In another, *he found the relationship between CSA scores and crash risk actually to be negative—high scores actually indicated a lower association with crashes.*

Mr. Mugno’s testimony states that paperwork violations—a log filled out incorrectly or a repair incompletely or incorrectly recorded—made up a large component of BASIC scores. Now, paperwork compliance is important, to be sure; however, the record shows that its correlation to crash risk is at best inconsistent.

Mr. Mugno also points toward “vastly disproportionate enforcement of certain regulations” among state law enforcement authorities, causing carriers and drivers in some states to appear to be less safe compared to carriers operating in other states, simply because inspection programs are more robust.

The testimony points out that these problems are even worse for independent truckers or small fleets than for large fleets, since their inspection record is spread over a smaller sample—which means individual fleets’ BASICS will be volatile and even more poorly correlated to actual risk. If one driver happens to be inspected three times and another is not inspected, this happenstance will have disparate impacts on their BASICS, and on their insurance rates.

The American Trucking Associations’ best-publicized dispute with CSA concerns the program’s failure to distinguish between “warnings” and uncontested citations, and as Mr. Mugno’s testimony points out, “in many cases, citations dismissed in court bear the same weight as convictions,” showing up as demerits on a driver’s or fleet’s

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Living with CSA

FRA has compiled some survival guidelines, based on various truckers’ experience which, in spite of the problems with the program, may be helpful.

- Know your BASIC score, and be proactive to keep it from escalating.
- Educate your drivers about the relationship between their BASIC and their livelihood.
- Don’t give enforcement officers a reason to pull you over—don’t speed, do invest in maintenance, scales, etc.
- Keep up with walkaround inspections—and their documentation.
- Carry extra lightbulbs in the truck, to replace burn-outs/breakage in the woods.
- Vigorously contest any citations you feel are in error. Ask for a conference with your state’s appropriate enforcement agency if you feel an officer is targeting you unfairly.
- If a driver leaves your company, be sure he is taken off of your business’s record on the FMCSA web site.
- If your trucking business expands, be sure to update your company fleet information with FMCSA, so you are not still compared with a “peer group” of smaller-sized trucking businesses, with different inspection profiles.

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BASIC. Similarly, if a driver is involved—however marginally—in an accident, especially an accident involving a fatality, the question of fault is irrelevant in terms of the BASIC. Being sideswiped or rear-ended is a piece of your safety profile.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has indicated it is in the process of revisiting this element of BASIC determination. However, it has had difficulty even in setting up a timeline in which to come up with a solution.

Experiences of Other Forest Products Haulers

The owner of a medium-sized trucking firm in western Virginia, who hauls various commodities, and has a good safety record, comments that the forest products part of his business attracts the most inspections, because—he says—it is easier for the patrol officers to find violations; his over-the-road freight—steel, box-freight, windows—does not attract the same kind of attention. For inspections which detect no violations, he says, his trucks receive a “safety sticker,” but he has no evidence that these positive inspections improve his BASICS.

In spite of his low accident rate, the bottom-line impacts of CSA are such that he has put on another maintenance shift, with the shop working on Sundays, to try to beat the odds at inspection points, but he isn’t aware that all the pains he has taken have affected the pattern of inspections, citations, and demerits.

A Louisiana logger who runs five harvesting crews—roundwood, clean chips, and biomass—also comments on local law enforcement’s “attitude problem” with log trucks. One particular officer, he reported, cited him for brakes being out of adjustment when they had just been adjusted one hour before, and refused to meet with him to discuss the matter. Like the Virginia fleet manager mentioned above, he says officers simply prefer inspecting log trucks to over-the-road trucks—some of which he knows would not pass inspections—simply because log trucks are easier pickings. He also says it is difficult and time consuming to contest citations.

One result, as a practical business matter, is that this logger has felt compelled to pick haul routes where his trucks are less likely to be inspected, even if they are lengthier or over less safe roads. Again, if the result of

the CSA program is to provide incentives for selecting a *more* dangerous operating environment, its structure and intentions would appear to be out of alignment.

A Texas logging company’s safety coordinator stresses that overweight violations are the most burdensome problem in terms of driving CSA scores up. Even with portable scales, exceeding the axle tolerance happens, especially if there is mud on the landing where the scales are placed. An extra thousand pounds on an axle might result in a warning, rather than a fine—but it still shows up on the driver’s BASIC.

Another point to consider—she says—is that log truck drivers are aware that they are vulnerable to CSA demerits and thus they have reason to avoid employment driving log trucks, since it tends to raise their BASIC score and so lowers their value in the broader employment pool. For that reason, skilled drivers may be reluctant to seek employment in logging.

Interviews with log truckers—especially in the South and above all in Tennessee—point toward a perception that law enforcement views the trucking of forest products as especially violation-prone. Apart from log haulers’ being singled out for inspection at above-average rates, there is little dispute that the forest product hauling environment—with hauls originating on woods roads of uneven quality—places special stresses on the vehicles. Even a walkaround inspection when leaving the woods road before entering the highway may not detect every problem that the rough woods environment will have caused.

Whether this acknowledged situation really corresponds to an objective public safety problem may be disputed, and insurance claims statistics might provide some light. But should a little loose bark on an *empty* trailer go into the BASIC record as a “load securement” violation (as one Tennessee logger reports)?

CSA, indeed, has a provision that purports to place different categories of “carrier” with “peers” in the interpretation of BASICS, and it may make sense to compare log truckers with other log truckers (or with some broader category of raw material haulers)—or even to compare semi-trailer trucks to other semis—to give shippers and insurers more useful or actionable information.

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Two open-top trailers are shown, one on the left and one on the right, both with ladders and American flags. They are set against a background of a large pile of logs.

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However, CSA's main criterion for peer comparisons seems to be rather broad: fleet size.

Should not a nationwide program that is having a real impact on supply chain management refer to more objective standards of risk assessment than "measurements" based on inconsistent local enforcement practices and—on top of those—on statistical processes with which peer-reviewed research has found major problems?

FRA urges members to visit CSA's home page at <http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/default.aspx>, and provide detailed comments of their experiences with the program, and to contact FRA about them, as well.

THE AUTHOR

Neil Ward is FRA's Vice President, Public Affairs, and editor of the *Forest Operations Review*.





"Save for encountering a logging truck on a highway, most Americans have no interaction with the industry that supplies most of the building products, paper and packaging materials they consume daily. That's a shame because loggers – America's "invisible" workforce – make significant contributions to the nation's economic and environmental well-being." – Jim Petersen-Evergreen Foundation

The "Invisible" Workforce

It is 5:00 AM in any given time zone across these United States. While many are hitting the snooze alarm, or enjoying their first cup of coffee, a dedicated group of professionals is already on the job. They are America's loggers, harvesters of the timber that will eventually make its way into every American home in the form of building materials, the morning newspaper, paper towels, an egg carton, cereal box or those two time-honored morning rituals: brushing teeth or, well, you know.

Thousands of everyday products – including many pharmaceuticals – contain wood in one processed form or another. Not one of these products would ever reach your home were it not for loggers, the first link in an impressive supply chain that restocks your pantry, bedroom, bathroom, nursery, workshop and kitchen cupboards every time you visit a store that sells groceries, pharmaceuticals, furniture, clothing or building materials. About 100,000 men *and women* are employed in logging and forestry operations in America's timbered regions: the West, Southeast, Great Lakes and Northeast. Although tree species and products vary from region to region, the job does not. Logging, replanting and tree management are all parts of an unending cycle that insures that our nation will never run out of trees and consumers will never run out of the products they consume in such abundance.

The nation's logging and forestry payroll tops \$3 billion – is by far the largest "green" job pool we have in our country. Add in pulp and paper manufacturers, saw mills that process lumber and companies that manufacture engineered panels, sheeting, trusses and biomass for energy and you have an industry that annually generates 4.5 percent of total U.S. manufacturing GDP [gross domestic product]. This same technologically advanced industry is among the Top 10 manufacturers in 47 states.

Every day, each of Earth's 5.4 billion inhabitants consumes, on average, the equivalent of a four-pound block of wood. But the average American uses 3.5 times this amount – about 14 pounds, the weight of a full grocery bag. About 91 percent of this wood comes from America's privately owned managed forests. State and Indian-owned forests contribute another 6 percent and the nation's federally-owned forests, which are no longer man-

aged for timber, contribute a scant two percent.

Thanks to private capital and advancements in the forest sciences the United States has 20 percent more forest than it did when our nation first celebrated Earth Day in 1970 – and fully two-thirds as much forestland as it had when the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. Perhaps you've seen the bumper sticker that reads, "For America's Foresters Every Day is Earth Day."

More than 56 percent of U.S. forests are privately owned, much of it by families who manage their lands to create or maintain wildlife habitat. Increasingly, these lands are certified as being sustainably managed by third-party organizations that grade management quality on site. Small wonder then that between the years 2000 and 2005 our nation's forested land base grew by two million acres.

Long before logging begins, the next tree planting has been planned and budgeted. Every day, decisions are made on-the-ground by trained professionals – foresters and loggers alike – whose livelihoods and reputations turn on their ability to sustainably manage timber and deliver logs to wood processors who transform the nation's forest abundance into thousands of products that add to the comfort and safety of your family's daily life. Always remember that long before the logging begins, the next tree planting will occur in a matter of months, just as soon as the ground is prepared for a new crop of seedlings.

I invite you to get to know America's loggers – perhaps for the first time in your life. I believe that you will enjoy their underappreciated story as much as they enjoy serving so many of your family's needs.

Jim Petersen is a co-founder of the non-profit Evergreen Foundation, and publisher of Evergreen, the Foundation's periodic journal. The Foundation was established in Medford, Oregon in 1986 to help advance public understanding and support for science based forestry and forest policy. For more information, visit their web site at www.evergreenmagazine.com.

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 or contact their office at 409-625-0206.

WOOD SUPPLY RESEARCH INSTITUTE UPDATE

"Will Logging Capacity Meet Mill Demand?"

Doesn't time fly? Since 2004, economic conditions nationwide have inspired a number of WSRI supply chain studies—see www.wsri.org. For instance:

- 2004-2005—WSRI's Original Logging Capacity Study
- 2004-2007—Updated Logging Capacity Project
- 2011-2012—Supplier / Consumer Relations Study
- 2011-2012—Logging Cost Index Updated Process
- 2012-2013—Supply Chain Analysis (*see below*)



This nine-year span of WSRI research on logging capacity, logging cost trends, and logging recovery methodology corresponds to the most volatile economic period our forest products industry has ever been through. Many businesses—consumers and loggers alike—did not survive, and the survivors are now looking at means to recover from their losses as demand returns.

The current **Supply Chain Analysis Project**, now wrapping up, addresses a key question: *"Does the wood supply system have sufficient capacity to meet the wood demand required for the projected economic recovery?"*

To approach this question, WSRI contracted with Sustainable Resource Systems and RISI to develop projections of production capacity for both manufacturers and wood suppliers and **to compare increased projected demand for raw wood over the next five years to the projected capabilities of the U.S. wood supply system** to meet that demand.

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Donnie Watts
803-920-6929
Donnie@PSIAgency.com

Bids sought for grading of Neeses industrial park site

Staff Report

colanews@scbiznews.com

Published Sept. 10, 2013

Bids are being sought from contractors for grading work in Western Orangeburg County Industrial Park, near the town of Neeses.

According to county documents, officials are planning for the rough grading of about 100 acres or less than half of the 230-acre site, located at the intersection of S.C. 389 and U.S. 321.

In January, Orangeburg County began work on the park's infrastructure such as installing roads and clearing land.

The county, which has set aside \$3.7 million for infrastructure work, aims to market the park for companies involved in distribution, timber, alternative fuel or light assembly facilities.

Officials note that the park has access to CSX railroad, which runs parallel to the property and

serves the Port of Savannah, a four-lane highway, and near interstate highways 20 and 26. According to its traffic studies, S.C. 389 and U.S. 321 average up to 30,000 car trips daily.

The area, though, is lightly populated. The town of Neeses has 374 residents, according to 2010 Census Bureau data.

Columbia-based Alliance Consulting Engineers is handling plans for the industrial park. For more information, email Kyle Clampitt, kclampitt@alliancece.com or call 803-779-2078.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 2 p.m. on Sept. 25 at the Neeses Town Hall, 6357 Savannah Hwy.

SCTPA Comments: *What caught our interest are the words "timber" and "alternative fuel" used in the county's aim to market the park. What this implies is not clear now. Most likely any park development for these two interests will be known later. Just thought this was interesting.*

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SUPPORTING THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2013

SCTPA and American Loggers Council signed on as signatories supporting this letter forwarded to all U.S. House of Representatives members. SC and America's professional loggers, wood suppliers and timber truckers are small businesses and are important components of our state and national economies.

July 30, 2013

Dear Representative:

We are writing to express our support for H.R. 2542, the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2013. This bipartisan legislation would reform the regulatory process to ensure that all federal agencies appropriately consider the impact of their rules on small businesses across America. In the 112th Congress, the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2011 passed the House of Representatives with meaningful bipartisan support.

Small businesses are the backbone of the nation's economy, and their ability to operate efficiently and free of unnecessary regulatory burdens is critical for our country's economic recovery. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, these companies employ over half of all private sector employees and are responsible for 64 percent of net new jobs over the last 15 years, yet they are disproportionately impacted by compliance burdens associated with regulation. The Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act directly addresses that small business challenge.

H.R. 2542 would improve and modernize the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), a three decades-old law that requires federal agencies to transparently account for the impact of regulation on small businesses. However, each agency interprets important terms in the statute in widely divergent ways and is often able to avoid many of the RFA's requirements. This bill would streamline and make uniform those determinations of when the RFA would apply to a rule.

When properly followed, the RFA works. In fiscal year 2012, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy reported first year compliance savings of

\$2.4 billion for small businesses. In fiscal year 2011, the first year compliance savings were \$11.7 billion. These savings were derived from just a few agencies considering alternatives to their proposed rules that were less costly to small businesses. If all federal agencies did the type of analysis required by this legislation, the savings could be significantly higher.

Many rules that have significant impacts on small entities are not covered by the RFA because the small businesses adversely impacted are not directly regulated entities. This commonsense legislation gives the Office of Advocacy additional authorities and requires the office to establish standards for conducting a "regulatory flexibility analysis" during the rulemaking process. It improves transparency and ensures that agencies thoughtfully consider the impact of regulations on small businesses.

In addition, H.R. 2542 buttresses President Barack Obama's 2011 Executive Order on regulatory review by strengthening the RFA's "look back" requirements when rules impact small business. The president's order also requires agencies to seek advanced stakeholder input before proposing rules. H.R. 2542 would expand early stakeholder input through the use of the small business panel process for all rules covered by the RFA.

The industries represented on this letter cover virtually every sector of the small business community. H.R. 2542 would help alleviate regulatory burdens placed on small businesses while allowing agencies to meet their obligations for public health, safety and the environment. We urge your support for this commonsense bipartisan legislation.



A “White Paper” on...

The Changed Forestry Workforce: Issues, Opportunities and the Future

by

Dr. John J. Garland, PE*

johnngarland49@gmail.com

The first decade of this century has seen many changes to the forestry workforce. Forestry workers retiring today began their career in a much different work environment. Who are the workers that make up the forestry workforce? The forestry workforce is composed of those professionals, owners, operators and workers who manage, tend, harvest, and transport forest resources. The actual number of workers who carry out these tasks is not known precisely because the Census of Agriculture that should enumerate them does not do so. Thus, estimates are forced to come from several sources and collectively the forestry workforce is thought to be above 160,000 people spread across 30 or so forestry states. They work mostly in small firms of less than 10 employees although some firms in logging and trucking exceed 100 employees. Many in the workforce are sole proprietors operating equipment or owning their own truck. Some work as contractors for private or public forest land managers and provide forestry services like tree planting, thinning, and silvicultural treatments and the fire control for wildfires or prescribed fires. The workers are predominantly male and depending on the work and region, immigrant workers are part of the workforce as are Hispanic and Black workers. Women are part of the workforce in forestry services but less so in logging.

Important issues of the Forestry Workforce

Some have characterized the forestry workforce circumstances by the four “D’s”: Difficult, Dirty, Dangerous and Declining. Current trends show how these terms may or may not apply to the forestry workforce.

Forestry work is done in the forest environ-

ment close to nature and in difficult terrain from swamps to mountains. The work varies from physically demanding tasks, requiring fitness levels of professional athletes, to other work done from machines with air conditioning, computer controls and stereo systems. Weather affects all forest work from snow and mud conditions to dust conditions in dry climates. There is little to be said for the cleanliness of fighting wildland fires. For those accustomed to the work, the dirty conditions are acceptable and compensated for by the amenities of the forest environment.

Forestry work is dangerous. Logging is among the top three most deadly occupations along with fishing and mining and ranks as the most dangerous in 2012 (BLS). Safety improvement efforts have made forestry work safer and the use of machines for much of the work provides operators with better protection from the hazards. Training is done on the job and safe work practices are difficult to transfer to new workers in their small firms.

Forestry Services work is often part-time or seasonal and annual wages are lower than many industries. Work and living conditions for seasonal forest workers may not be good and there have been documented abuses. Forestry workers hired under the H2B visa program have working conditions and wages set according to the visa standards. Logging work was once well-compensated especially in the west but loggers have lost financial ground to other industries over time. Wages have been flat for years, especially through the current recession.

A number of circumstances lead a major career website to list “lumberjack” as the worst job in America (careercast.com, 2012). Wages, working conditions in inclement weather, and job dangers are cited for the low ranking. Other depictions of logging work in reality television shows may contribute to the negative view of forestry work in the U.S.

The forestry workforce further suffers from the aging phenomenon affecting all U.S. workers. In many logging states, over half the loggers are over age 45 years in a physically demanding profession. Many logging contractors are over 50 years and often discourage their offspring from entering the business they once found attractive. The forestry services workers tend to be older managers, machine operators and supervisors with a large proportion of young manual workers and few in the middle age groups. In selected locations, it is difficult to find truck drivers younger than 60 years

(Continued on page 17)

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Despite a few glitches, which happens at a new facility, Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center worked very well for our 2013 meeting. Based on attendee comments and the service provided by Springmaid's staff, we look forward to this being our venue again for 2014.

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 lot for outside exhibitors with equipment, trucks and trailers.

Room rates are shown below. SCTPA's Group Number is 1037R7. Use this number when making reservations. 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 already underway. Annual meeting packages will be mailed this Fall.

Check out Springmaid Beach Resort at SpringmaidBeach.com

We are excited and look forward to our 15th SCTPA Annual Meeting.

2014 SCTPA Annual Meeting Springmaid Beach Resort Room Rates SCTPA Group # 1037R7.

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Live Oaks Deluxe Room	59	59	59	59
Palmetto Premium View King	69	69	69	69

All rooms are subject to a 7.5% resort fee plus applicable state & local taxes, currently at 12% (subject to change without notice), \$ 70.50 per guest per room per night.



(Continued from page 14)

of age for the transport of forest products.

With a housing decline and lower economic activity overall, forest products have been hit hard by the recession and mill closures that affect the logging and forestry services numbers. In logging that is continuing a trend of many years from reduced harvests on federal lands and increased mechanization. Forestry Services numbers have increased over the same period but not enough to offset logging losses. Accurate numbers are just not available but trends can be seen. Even with reduced numbers, employers are having trouble finding qualified logging and transportation workers. Skills needed for mechanized logging operations are in demand for mining, construction, and other competing industries. When the economic recovery commences, logging contractors anticipate difficulty in recruiting and retaining their skilled workers.

Another result from an economic recovery may be a repeat of the 1981 forestry sector recession recovery. Logging accidents surged dramatically in Oregon's logging workforce and elsewhere. New entrants to the workforce along with experienced workers suffered dramatic increases in accidents over the next four years as the firms expanded to meet the new demands. Many in the industry are worried now that there will be a large influx of new forestry workers in the next recovery with similar results if preemptive approaches are not taken.

Yet another issue for the logging workforce is the generational difference between older, experienced workers and the young prospective employees. The older generation understands and accepts the working conditions in the forest that make for long hours of hard work in difficult circumstances. The new generation of workers brings their computer and technology skills to logging where high tech, computer-based machines are becoming common. However, the new workers also bring different attitudes and expectations to the work environment that are starkly different from the existing workers. Communication between generations is especially difficult and awkward for those in the forestry workforce.

Those who recognize that the current generation of forestry workers possess a vast reservoir of knowledge and skills are concerned how to preserve and pass the accumulated knowledge on to the new workers in forestry. Training within firms to accomplish this is currently inadequate to do the transfer. Educational materials exist to help in the process, but there are insuffi-

(Continued on page 18)



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(Continued from page 17)

cient training schools, institutions, and organizations to conduct the training and education—even at the professional level.

Many of the issues above combine to raise concerns about the future of the forestry workforce.

Who should be concerned about the forestry workforce?

The supply chain that brings forestry products, services and amenities to society is strung out over different organizations and structures some with competing objectives. Forest landowners provide the basic products and amenities while others are hired to manage, harvest and tend to the forest. Still others provide the processing of products and transport of goods while yet others provide the forest protection from wildfire, insects, diseases, and other threats. Government agencies are charged with safety and health of forest workers and their performance in the environmental arena. All of these separate groups have forest workers as part of their operations. No single organization or entity is equipped to speak for the entire complex forestry workforce. In short, what is everyone's job tends to be nobody's job.

Some representative organizations that have concerns for the forestry workforce are listed below:

- *Society of American Foresters*
- *American Loggers Council*
- *Federal and state safety organizations*
- *Regional and state loggers associations*
- *Forestry Schools and Colleges*
- *Extension programs addressing loggers*
- *Technical Schools providing training*
- *Logger training associations*
- *Consulting foresters*
- *Woodland owner associations*
- *American Forest and Paper Assoc.*
- *Certification organizations*
- *Federal and state education agencies*
- *Federal and state land management orgs.*
- *Federal and state labor agencies*
- *Unions representing forestry workers*
- *Environmental organizations with forestry interests*
- *Foundations with interests in rural communities and workers*
- *Insurance organizations*
- *Forest Resources Association*

- *International cooperators & experts*
- *Motivated and involved experts*
- *Equipment manufacturers*
- *National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health*

Not being listed above should not limit participation by interested organizations and individuals. Policy options are best achieved by the fullest participation of those affected and involved.

What should be done next?

The author suggests a process to address issues of the forestry workforce that has met with some success in other difficult problem areas. These steps are outlined below and should be implemented immediately. The first step is this document itself to bring focus to the issues and potentials for improvements.

- Using a "white paper" to bring some concerns to the attention of interested organizations and individuals
- Holding a meeting to bring people together to more fully raise issues and outline opportunities, eg, **Forestry Workforce Review & Assessment**, *To address the complex issues of recruiting, training, retention and physical viability of the forestry workforce*
- Review and expand existing calls for action, eg, The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) for Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. Seek ways to implement needed research and trials.
- Appointing an "ACTION PLANNING COMMITTEE" from a coalition of interested organizations to identify and evaluate policy and actions to address the major concerns.
- Reporting the policy proposals and results of the Action Planning Committee to the organizations, companies, and agencies who have existing structures for improvements and to all interested parties
- Establishing a continuing structure to address issues of the forestry workforce that reflects the broad interests of those concerned.
- Implement policies by creating changes in laws and regulations, finding funding sources, and

(Continued on page 24)



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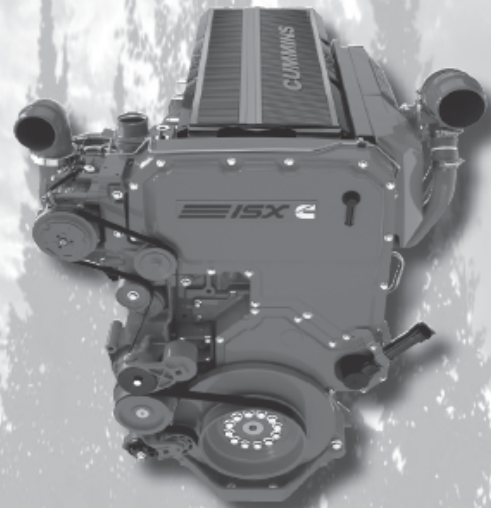
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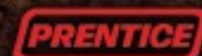
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(Continued from page 18)

securing various commitments by public agencies and private organizations to address the policy proposals

These are ambitious steps but ones that can be successful if the forestry sector leaders and other leaders **act** rather than try to **react** in the midst of crisis.

Opportunities and prospects for the future

In 1992 after returning from a Nordic sabbatical, the author organized the first international conference on “The Future of the Forestry Workforce” at Oregon State University and brought together interested people to address issues similar to those outlined above. Some of the outcomes of that meeting are worth noting because they may have implications for the upcoming meeting on “**Forestry Workforce Review & Assessment.**” Meeting results and papers were widely circulated to bring the issues to the attention of a larger audience in Europe and North America.

- Increased cooperation from researchers and organizations within North America and Europe. Some joint research activities were initiated that bore fruit later.
- Establishment of the “Forestry Workforce Network” within the International Labor Organization that provided a forum for sharing information and projects. Europeans took more advantage of this organization than North Americans.
- The conference addressed issues of forestry contractors and their employees with special consideration for small firms and their concerns.
- Establishment of new organizations to address forestry workforce issues. Contractor associations and forest worker training organizations were established in Europe akin to those in North America.
- The importance of the forestry services and logging workers were raised for consideration in the then emerging sustainability and certification movements.

Twenty years later there are similar and greater potentials for outcomes of the upcoming conference. For example, we (the forestry sector leaders) could establish a “Forestry Workforce Network for North America” using modern social media and internet potentials. We could implement some of the research called for in the National Occupational Research Agenda. We could de-

mand the agencies monitor the forestry workforce numbers and conditions so progress can be assessed. We can influence policy makers to consider the forestry workforce issues rather than ignore them. We can encourage and fund research efforts that would lead to workforce improvements. We can try new training approaches within firms such as “Logging Masters.” We can highlight successes on workforce issues and bring their results to others. We can establish an organization to consolidate and maintain interest in the forestry workforce at national and perhaps regional levels.

We can...(with the knowledge and commitment of interested leaders)...find new approaches, ideas, and energy to address issues of the forestry workforce, avoid looming problems, and build a future for the forestry workforce. Leaders have the burden of knowing first what others will figure out later. We simply need to begin!

*Affiliate Professor, Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center, U. Washington

Professor Emeritus, Forest Engineering, Resources and Management,

Oregon State University

North and South American Deputy Coordinator, Division 3.03 Ergonomics, International Union of Forestry Research Organizations

Consulting Forest Engineer, Waldport, Oregon

The views above are those of the author and do not reflect opinions of all organizations supporting the workforce improvement efforts. Please contact the author for details and citations for the opinions in the white paper above.

The **Forestry Workforce Review & Assessment** will be held on September 16-17, 2013 at the National 4-H Conference Center in Washington, DC. The Conference is supported by the USFS, universities, forest industry, and safety and health agencies. For a copy of the “white paper” and conference participation, contact Dr. John J. Garland, PE at johngarland49@gmail.com.

SCTPA’s President will attend the above meeting to lead discussion regarding the logging and transportation workforce.

Ninth Circuit resuscitates the legal quagmire on forest roads

A blog from Dave Tenny, NAFO President and CEO, September 5, 2013

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in an order issued last Friday in *Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) v. Decker* gave litigators another chance to seek federal Clean Water Act (CWA) permits on forest roads through a new round of litigation. The court essentially breathed fresh life into the legal quagmire. Here we go again.

Recall this all began in 2006 when NEDC sued the Oregon state forester claiming that logging roads in Oregon's Tillamook State Forest were point sources of pollution requiring federal CWA permits. Not accepting the outcome of the Oregon court upholding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 37-year successful regulations that these roads are nonpoint sources that should be regulated through state best management practices, NEDC appealed to the Ninth Circuit, which sided with the litigators in 2010. The Supreme Court overturned the Ninth Circuit last March. In typical form, the Supreme Court upheld EPA's rule that forest roads don't require permits without opining on whether they were point sources. Quite simply, the Court did not rule on the point source question because it didn't have to. Once the Court overturned the permit decision, it considered its work done.

Now the litigators are trying to revive their argument for permits by arguing that forest roads are still point sources and that there must be some new basis out there for requiring a permit. The Ninth Circuit helped them do that by remanding the case back to the district court after restating its ruling that forest roads must be treated as point sources. The litigation wheels are turning again and it is only a matter of time before the legal quagmire thickens.

It was a long and costly seven years leading up to the Supreme Court's decision. Now, notwithstanding opposition to the litigation from a broad spectrum of interests including the National Gover-

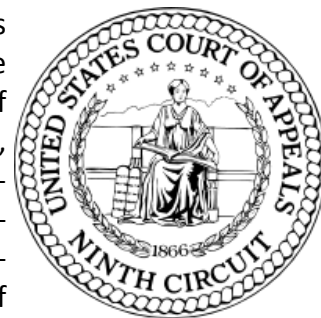
nors Association; Attorneys General from 31 states; the National Association of Counties; EPA; forestry, agriculture, business, academic and non-profit organizations: and, most recently, the U.S. House of Representatives that

passed by a voice vote an amendment to the Farm Bill declaring that forest roads are nonpoint sources, the litigators are at it again. They simply won't quit so long as they have a legal theory to pursue. In the meantime, economic recovery and jobs in the forestry sector nationwide will continue to hang in the balance while the next case winds its way to the Ninth Circuit. All this in pursuit of a permit requirement that experts, including the Chief Forester of the United States, have said won't improve water quality.

Congress must now complete the work on legislation and end the forest roads legal quagmire once and for all. The support is there and the end is in sight. Seven years is enough. It's time to focus on policies to preserve working forests and not get stuck again in the mire of litigation.

Dave Tenny, NAFO President and CEO

NAFO is an organization of private forest owners committed to advancing federal policies that promote the economic and environmental benefits of privately-owned forests at the national level. NAFO membership encompasses more than 80 million acres of private forestland in 47 states. Working forests in the U.S. support 2.4 million jobs. To see the full economic impact of America's working forests, visit www.nafoalliance.org/economic-impact-report.



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Want to learn more? Find out how you can get health insurance for your employees. Go to www.healthcare.gov

Obama Care mandates have resulted in significant health insurance premium increases whether you are part of a group or purchase insurance individually.

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SCTPA thanks Richard "Dick" Marvel for supplying the information. Contact Dick Marvel, Marvel Financial, 149 Glen Haven Circle, Aiken, SC 29803, and find out about his benefits program. Dick Marvel, 781-258-9121, Fax 781-248-4177, rppmmjm149@atlanticbb.net

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Colonial Life – A New Allied Supplier Member

By Lee J. Smith

Colonial Life is now a proud allied supplier member of the S.C. Timber Producers Association.

Colonial Life has many innovative solutions for dealing with the issues surrounding employee benefits, and is so excited to share these with this association in the coming months and years. The S.C.T.P.A. thinks so also, which is why this partnership was formed. I will offer members employee benefit packages that will help in competing for and retaining employees. I am Lee Smith and I will be the sole agent handling this new partnership.

Most of you are aware of the Colonial Life voluntary products, but are you also aware that **Colonial Life is highly versed and wants to be your “go to” advisor for this upcoming uncertainty known as “Health Care Reform”, if you don’t currently have an agent helping you?** With our communications and counseling support for *all* components of benefits programs, this will be such a natural fit. You don’t have the time available to learn the “ins and outs” of this massive legislation; let me offer my knowledge to you and your employees.

Some of the benefits solutions for you, as an employer, include the following:

- Health Care Reform information, including support
- Personal insurance product choices through *voluntary*, employee-paid benefits
- Counseling support for all of your offered insurance benefits
- Flexible enrollment options for customized, streamlined enrollment support
- Outstanding service and hassle-free administrative support

I will be contacting you soon to see how I can help. I’m not new to the insurance arena and here’s some biographical information. I have over 29 years of experience as an insurance agent – beginning with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. For over 19 years I was an independent health and life insurance agent. Since 1996, I have been representing Colonial Life – over 17 years now. As a former board member of the S.C. Association of Health Underwriters, I served as Secretary and Membership Chair for many years. I have also served on the local board in Columbia for several years as Public Service Chair, as well as various church, alumni, professional and neighborhood committees. I am a graduate of Clemson University and reside in Lexington, S.C. with my husband, Scott, and our Dalmatian, Raven.

I look forward to contacting you and meeting with you in the very near future. In the meantime, feel free to contact me. Here’s how - leejsmith2009@yahoo.com or 803.873.0976.

America's Most Dangerous Jobs

The workplace go safer last year, but workers in these jobs suffered the highest rates of fatal injuries

Loggers

Fatality rate per 100,000 workers: **127.8**

Median wage: **\$32,870**

Loggers work with heavy loads, often in bad weather and on steep slopes. One of the biggest dangers they face are "widow makers," the dead branches snagged in tree tops that can work loose during cutting.

Fatality rates rose this year nearly 25%, probably because a lot of inexperienced new workers were hired to meet greater demand from the housing industry, where building of new homes is up. The first year on the job is the most dangerous one.

Over the long term, though, logging has been getting safer thanks to mechanical felling, in which loggers sit in a protective cab while a steel arm holding a chain saw reaches out to cut the trunk. After 11 companies in West Virginia switched from manual chain saws to mechanical tree fellers, injury rates dropped 73%, according to a study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

In the past, "the biggest exposure for loggers was men on the ground hit by falling trees or chain saw kickback," said Neil Ward, vice president of the Forest Resources Association. "Now, manual chain saws are hardly ever used, only on, for example, steep slopes."

Hazards still remain when loads of logs are dropped. To improve safety, companies are encouraging workers to wear more visible clothing



and to use a signal system to alert loggers of imminent dangers.

SCTPA Comments: The CNNMoney article headlined *America's Most Dangerous Jobs* profiles the ten most dangerous jobs based on the preliminary 2012 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics press release and statistical data. The top ten most dangerous jobs in fatality rates per 100,000 workers in order are: Loggers, Fishermen, Airplane Pilots, Roofers, Ironworkers, Sanitation Workers, Power Linesmen, Truckers, Farmers & Ranchers and Construction Laborers. Find the CNNMoney article at

<http://mooney.cnn.com/gallery/pf/jobs/2013/08/22/dangerous-jobs/index.html>
Find the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics press release at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>



August 2, 2013

Quote of the Week: *“Across our country, rural forest communities are struggling for survival. These communities have depended on the forest for their livelihoods...These communities cannot afford the status quo... A new approach is needed now. This bill is a long-term solution to put hard-working Americans back to work and to restore the economies of these rural communities.”*— Rep. Doc Hastings, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee

Federal Forest Resource Coalition Weekly Report:

House Committee Advances Forest Reform Bill: On Wednesday, July 31st, the House Committee on Natural Resources approved sweeping federal forest reform legislation, including establishment of a new, trust-based approach to managing portions of the National Forest System, which was amended to include several other important legislative proposals. The bill provides a long-term source of revenue and jobs to rural, forested communities rather than continuing subsidized Secure Rural School payments by establishing Forest Reserve Revenue Areas on portions of the National Forest System. This is highly consistent with the approach FFRC has advocated in our White Paper on Forest Reform. Among other things, the bill:

- Requires the Secretary to designate at least 50% of Forest Service lands capable of commercial timber production (grows more than 20 cubic feet per year) as Forest Reserve Revenue Areas (excluding Wilderness, National Monuments, etc.) within 60 days.
- Charges the Secretary with a fiduciary responsibility to beneficiary counties and requires them to offer a volume of timber not less than 50% of the sustained yield of a Forest Reserve Revenue Area.
- Provides projects within the Forest Reserve Revenue Areas using streamlined environmental review procedures under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act, and provides for expedited objections processes and gives forest reserve revenue projects a leg up in the judicial review process.

The legislation also now includes provisions which put over half of the Bureau of Land Management’s O&C lands into trust management with a clear requirement to generate revenue and timber for local communities. The provisions direct management of previously harvested lands on a roughly 100 year rotation. The remaining forest land, mostly comprised of older stands, would be transferred to the Forest Service to be managed for conservation purposes. The legislation also dedicates approximately 90,000 acres to new Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers designations.

The bill also includes provisions from legislation previously introduced by Representatives Scott Tipton (R-CO) and Paul Gosar (R-AZ) related to forest health and catastrophic wildfire prevention. These provisions give expedited management authority on lands recommended by governors as facing risks from insects and disease.

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These provisions are similar to those included in the now-stalled House Farm Bill.

It also has provisions allowing counties to actively manage portions of National Forest land through the creation of "Community Forest Demonstration Areas" on up to 2 million acres nationwide. The areas would be managed by Advisory Committees appointed by the Governor of the State where it is located.

The bill also includes a 5-year extension of Stewardship contracting, and expansion of "Good Neighbor" authority to Western States. It provides a short-term extension of guaranteed payments to National Forest Counties as well.

Disappointingly, the minority offered amendments which would have stripped out the critical procedural and substance reforms, including the streamlined NEPA, ESA, and timber production mandates. Their arguments consisted primarily of weak defenses of the status quo, even while acknowledging that it creates problems for management. Those amendments were voted down on party line votes.

We are very pleased that the Committee has acted on this important legislation to reform what everyone acknowledges are major obstacles to effective management of our National Forest System. We will be pressing the House leadership to bring the bill to the floor as quickly as possible, and we look forward to action on reform legislation in the Senate.

Senate Committee Releases Draft Budget Bill for the Forest Service: The leaders of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior-Environment this afternoon released a \$30.8 billion draft fiscal 2014 spending bill and accompanying report that will represent the starting point for the chamber's negotiations with their House counterparts. The House bill, which is stalled in committee, proposes \$24.3 billion – a substantial gap between the two chambers. Unfortunately, neither bill has cleared the respective chamber floor, and the House and Senate seem miles apart on appropriations issues. With the current fiscal year ending September 30, the prospect of a government shutdown is becoming increasingly real.

The Interior report lists forest products (National Forest Timber) at \$336 million for FY 2014, level with the 2013

pre-sequester level. This is lower than the number in the House Subcommittee bill (and it should be noted, it is only report language, which doesn't have the same impact as bill language). The statement goes on to say "It has been noted that there needs to be dramatic improvement in forest management to improve forest health, increase timber production, and restore forest jobs, and the employment of interdisciplinary teams to expedite planning and decision-making is highly effective."

In other highlights, the bill:

- Continues Integrated Resource Restoration as a pilot in Regions 1, 3, and 4, specifically rejecting the Administration's continued insistence on proposing the approach for the entire NFS.
- Fully funds CFLRA projects at \$40 million.
- Provides \$52 million for land acquisition, rejecting the \$5 million increase proposed by the Administration.
- Increases Capital Improvement and Maintenance by \$26 million over the Administration's request, to \$354 million, which is still \$19 million (or 5%) below last year's enacted level.
- Apparently does not support the Administration's request for significant increases in mandatory spending for land acquisition, either in NFS or in State and Private Programs.

The report blasts the Administration's continued use of the 10-year suppression budget to develop its budget proposal, saying it "is clearly inadequate for purposes of determining the proper level of funding". The use of this average to determine the President's budget request has resulted in inadequate funding for "6 of the last 10 years," and frequently by more than 30%. The report directs the administration to "provide new options to the Congress for estimating suppression costs, which should include options to budget for portions of wildfire response as disaster or emergency spending."

In a joint statement, Subcommittee Chairman Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), and ranking member Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), acknowledged the controversy over the measure, which funds EPA and the Interior Department. "While we acknowledge there are many differing views about this complex bill, we commit ourselves to work with one another and our colleagues to move forward effectively," the pair said. "We hope this draft document will serve as

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a meaningful start as discussions continue to finalize a fiscally responsible, balanced FY 2014 Interior bill.”

The Senate bill comes one day after House appropriators suspended the markup of their \$24.3 billion version, which would have slashed the EPA’s budget by nearly 35%, or \$3 billion. While Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY), said the panel will revisit the bill in the fall, other lawmakers expressed doubt that would happen. The Reed-Murkowski statement notably made no mention of a markup for the bill.

Senate Names Farm Bill Conferees, House Ups the Ante on Food Stamp Cuts: Just before leaving town, the Senate named its conferees for the Farm Bill. “I appreciate Republican Leader McConnell appointing conferees prior to the August recess and setting the stage for us to try to finalize a 2013 farm bill,” Sen. Thad Cochran, ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, told AgriPulse. “Reconciling differences between the Senate and House will be a challenge, but it is a job that needs to be done for an important sector of the American and global economy.” The move was seen as putting pressure on the House of Representatives to name conferees.

The gambit certainly didn’t seem to have an immediate effect. Instead, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) told a group of agricultural business leaders that the GOP was working on a nutrition title that would double cuts to SNAP –better known as food stamps – to \$40 billion. Lucas indicated that the House Republican working group on nutrition reached the \$40 billion figure by consensus. The group has been meeting weekly since a farm-only bill was passed early last month. House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson, D-Minn., called the \$40 billion proposal “another political messaging bill to nowhere. Adding an additional \$20 billion in nutrition cuts, on top of the poison pill nutrition amendments that brought down the Agriculture Committee’s bipartisan farm bill in June, effectively kills any hopes of passing a five-year farm bill this year,” he said.

The Senate Conferees are: Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow(D-MI), Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO). Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS) Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)., Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), and Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND).

As a reminder, the House and Senate Farm Bills both include very positive provisions for National Forest management, including extensions of Stewardship contracting and expanded authorities to respond to forest health threats. It sure would be nice if the two chambers actually produced a bill.

People on the Move: Changes Afoot in the Forest Policy Universe: On Thursday, August 1st, **Robert Bonnie**, President Obama’s nominee to serve as the next Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, was confirmed by the Senate on a voice vote. Robert replaces Harris Sherman who left earlier this year. We look forward to working with Robert, who has lead Administration efforts to expand management of the National Forests since 2009.

At the Forest Service, the agency announced that **Tony Tooke** will become the Associate Deputy Chief in National Forest System, effective August 25, 2013. Tony is currently serves as the Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination, and has been actively involved in development of the new planning rule and the objection regulations. Tony takes the place of Cal Joyner who became the Regional Forester in Albuquerque earlier this year. Also, Dr. **Rob Mangold** will be the Station Director, Pacific Northwest Research Station, effective August 11, 2013. Rob is currently the Director of Forest Health Protection in the WO. Rob’s departure creates a vacancy in the Forest Health Director slot.

Late last week, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (the Endowment) announced that **Michael Goergen**, chief executive officer and executive vice-president of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) for the past 10 years, will be joining the Endowment effective September 15, 2013. Goergen’s tenure at SAF spans 17 years. Mr. Goergen is leaving to lead a public/private partnership funded jointly by the Endowment and the USDA Forest Service. The new venture, housed at the Endowment, will pursue innovation in the forest products sector and tools to advance forest health.

FFRC Joins over 90 Groups Calling for Forest Service Reform: FFRC joined a diverse coalition in urging the leaders of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee to move Forest Service reform legislation. In a letter to Senate Energy & Natural Resources, the broad coalition noted that the “current approach to managing our federal forests is badly broken and needs to be addressed through legislation now.” The

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letter calls for legislation that will “reduce the cost of environmental reviews, reduce the number of lawsuits and appeals after projects have been identified through environmental review, and expedite the process for projects and programs to restore and maintain the health of our federal forests.” The letter was joined by dozens of State forestry organizations, other wood products trade groups, sportsmen’s organizations such as the Boone & Crocket Club, and various county and school officials from across the country. The signers note that they “stand ready to work...to move forward on legislation to restore and maintain the health of our federal forests through active forest management.”

Udall, Inhofe Drop Bi-Partisan Mitigation Bill: Would Allow FEMA to Proactively Work to Reduce Wildfire Risks:

Senators Mark Udall (D-CO) and Jim Inhofe (R-OK) introduced bipartisan legislation this week to allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to proactively work with states and localities on wildfire mitigation projects. The bill places wildfires on par with other natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and tornadoes, and would make states eligible to receive an additional 15 percent of the total funds FEMA allocates for fire suppression to support wildfire-mitigation efforts. “Colorado communities and public lands managers know that the cheapest fire to fight is one that never burns. This bipartisan, common-sense and deficit-neutral bill would allow Colorado to proactively work to prevent wildfires before they even begin,” Udall said in a statement. “Last summer, wildfires across Oklahoma destroyed homes, killed our ranchers’ livestock and destroyed our farmers’ crops. Proper mitigation efforts would have reduced or even prevented the devastation that many Oklahomans experienced,” Inhofe said. “I am pleased to introduce this bipartisan legislation with Sen. Udall that will allow FEMA to be more proactive in preventing and combating these types of natural disasters.”

The bill specifically allows FEMA to proactively fund the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program with an additional 15 percent of funds already allocated for the Fire Management Assistance Grant program to address wildfire risks. The program’s funds currently are only used for wildfire suppression. The legislation is identical to a Farm Bill amendment that Udall, who serves on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Re-

sources Committee, proposed earlier this year. Combined with expanded Good Neighbor Authority, this could really enhance the amount of work being done on our Federal lands, doing more to protect communities and producing some useable timber along the way.

Hearing Questions ESA Data, Transparency: The House Natural Resources Committee held an oversight hearing on August 1st on the need for data transparency as it relates to federal decisions on implementing the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This hearing was part of a series of hearings examining ways to ensure that the ESA is working efficiently and effectively. “Right now, there is a lack of transparency of data and science used in literally hundreds of sweeping listings and habitat designation decisions that affect both species and people. The Obama administration’s ESA-related actions – through executive orders, court settlements with litigious groups, and rules to list species – instead force regulatory actions that shut out Congress, states, local communities, private landowners – even scientists who may dispute the often sketchy or unverifiable data used for these decisions,” said Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA).

Witnesses at the hearing testified on the need for transparency in the species listing and critical habitat process and how settlement deadlines are motivating listings rather than science. All witnesses, including the Obama Administration, agreed on the need to make all data available to the public online. Rob Roy Ramey II, Ph. D, who is an independent scientist, underscored the need for scientific integrity and transparency in data collection. “A requirement that data and methods be provided in sufficient detail to allow third party reproduction would raise the bar on the quality and reproducibility of the science used in ESA decisions and benefit species recovery. Failure to ensure this level of transparency will undermine the effectiveness of the very programs that the data were gathered for in the first place.”

Damien M. Schiff, Principal Attorney at the Pacific Legal Foundation, questioned the transparency of how species are listed under the ESA. “Reasonable people can disagree about the utility and morality of the Endangered Species Act, but no one can legitimately ap-

(Continued on page 37)

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prove of a less-than-transparent administration of the Act. Unfortunately, over the last several decades, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have implemented the Act in a way that puts agency policy ahead of the law and the best interests of the regulated public. Moreover, the agencies' administration of the Act oftentimes bears no relationship to the best interests of protected species, but serves only to aggrandize government power or satisfy particularly litigious environmental groups. The last five years have simply exacerbated these odious practices."

For his part, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director Dan Ashe defended the use of legal settlements, saying they "are often in the public's best interest because we have no effective legal defense to most deadline cases, and because settlement agreements facilitate issue resolution as a more expeditious and less costly alternative to litigation." Saying the Administration "strongly rejects" the idea that they have engaged in a deliberate pattern of "sue and settle," Ashe noted that the George W. Bush Administration used the same approach and said that even after a settlement, "Any deadline settlement we enter into commits us only to undertake a process already required by the ESA by a date certain. We do not commit to a substantive outcome of any decision or give away any of our authority, responsibility, or discretion in making a decision."

Oregon Firefighter Becomes 28th Fatality in 2013: A firefighter was killed by a falling snag on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon yesterday, making him the 28th Wildland fire fatality of the 2013 season. Over 28,000 fires have burned over 2.3 million acres, including over 560,000 acres of National Forests this year. Fires in California, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho seem to be the first signs of the large fires we've expected this year.

The Week Ahead: The House and Senate will be on recess ("district work period" in the current parlance). Unless something truly earth-shattering happens in Washington, **this will be the last FFRC Weekly Report until September 6th**. Early next week, we'll be sending out some talking points and specific asks for you to make of your delegations while they are home. We hope you've got meetings set up to talk to them and let them know how important Federal timber is to your business.

Bill Imbergamo
Executive Director
Federal Forest Resource Coalition
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For more information on the **FFRC Political Action Committee**, contact Bill Imbergamo at 202-518-6380 or bimbergamo@ofwlaw.com

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at least \$10 more per hour than many of our highly-skilled operators. That's for work that, in many cases, requires less skill, is much less physically demanding and is much less dangerous. This makes it really tough to find enough qualified people to work in our industry. At times, we struggle to hire people who can simply pass a drug test, much less actually be qualified. If logging is going to continue to be a viable industry, people coming into the industry need to feel like there is a future for them.

Many of us have heard from timber company representatives that when times are bad, "we're all in this together and we all have to make sacrifices." We understand and agree with that. The problem is that when times are good, suddenly we're not "all in this together" anymore and we don't get our share of the profits. Going forward, as the economy improves and wood products become more valuable, logging prices will need to rise, to allow loggers to share in the "good times" so that we have the necessary resources to build the infrastructure that will be re-

quired to support a healthy timber industry.

The final part of the solution is effective training programs for loggers. Currently, for loggers to stay certified, they must attend ongoing training classes. The subjects covered range from human resource issues to the latest in logging technology and forest practices. One of the biggest training needs is in becoming more competent managers and financially-knowledgeable business people. In this day and age, we must know how to accurately bid jobs which calls for a thorough understanding of and the ability to project expenses. A surprising number of loggers don't have a good handle on what their costs are. Often times, they don't know if they are on track to make any money until the job is more than half way done. An additional opportunity is in developing computer software customized to the logging industry. With improved financial training, we can learn to stand up for ourselves when that forester tells us we "need to sharpen our pencil" and confidently defend our numbers, justifying the costs of what it takes to run a highly-efficient logging operation.

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Mark Your Calendar

September 2013

- 18 & 19 SFI DVD TOP Training Classes, Saluda Shoals Park, Columbia. Contact Sally Tucker at SC Forestry Association, 803-798-4170 for registration.
- 20 – 21 Mid-Atlantic Logging & Biomass Expo, Selma-Smithfield, NC.
- 26 – 28 American Loggers Council 19th Annual Meeting, Paragon Casino & Resort, Marks-ville, LA. Contact American Loggers Council or SCTPA for registration package.

October 2013

- 1 Newberry District Meeting, Farm Bureau, Newberry, 7 p.m.
- 3 Walterboro/Low Country District Meeting, Old House Café, Walterboro, 7 p.m.
- 8 Richburg/Mid-Upstate District Meeting, Front Porch Restaurant, Richburg, 7 p.m.
- 10 Clinton/Laurens District Meeting, Blue Ocean Restaurant, Clinton, 7 p.m.
- 29 Easley/Upstate District Meeting, Fatz Restaurant, Easley, 7 p.m.

November 2013

- 5 Georgetown / Coastal District Meeting, Bill's Lowcountry BBQ, Georgetown, 7 p.m.
- 7 Aiken / Jackson District Meeting, Jackson Community Center, Jackson, 7 p.m.
- 11 Lugoff / Midlands District Meeting, Hall's Restaurant, Lugoff, 7 p.m.
- 18 Union District Meeting, Midway BBQ, Buffalo, 7 p.m.
- 19 Edgefield District Meeting, Pleasant Lane Baptist Church, Edgefield, 7 p.m.

December 2013

- 3 Newberry District Meeting, Farm Bureau, Newberry, 7 p.m.
- 5 Florence/Pee Dee District Meeting, Lizard's Thicket Restaurant, Florence, 7 p.m.
- 12 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, SC Forestry Commission Headquarters, Columbia, 10 a.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve, Santa's Coming!
- 25 Merry Christmas!
- 31 New Year's Eve

January 2014

- 1 Happy New Year!

February 2014

- 7 – 9 SCTPA 2014 Annual Meeting, Springmaid Beach Resort & Conference Center, Myrtle Beach

- *Saluda/Edgefield/Aiken District 1 Members and Non-Members invited to attend the Newberry District 2 Meetings.*
- *Meeting notices mailed. Check the meeting flyer when received.*
- *Meetings will be posted on website beginning October.*
- *Meeting Dates Subject to Change.*

PLEASE NOTE:

Event & meeting dates may change. Notices are mailed prior to SCTPA events.

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(H) 803-789-3247

Crad Jaynes

President & CEO

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PO Box 811, Lexington, SC 29071
800-371-2240 ■ Fax: 803-957-8990

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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.