

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

# TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

VOLUME 70

**I Love to Work -  
Junker Logging  
Truck Weights -  
Everything You Need to Know**

A photograph of a forklift lifting a large stack of logs. The logs are stacked high and secured with straps. The forklift is positioned in front of a red logging truck. The background shows a clear blue sky and some evergreen trees.

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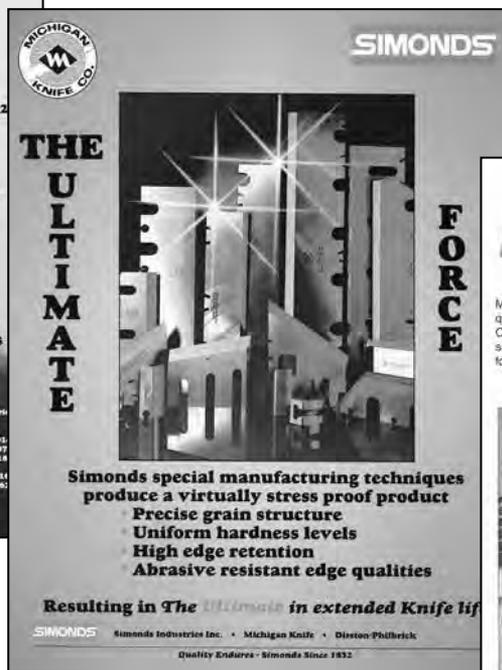
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# TIMBER BULLETIN

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### ON THE COVER

Bruce Junker loads tamarack with a Barko 295ML loader. For more on Junker Logging, please see page 8.

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## How many hats we wear

We've become experts in multi-tasking. Cutting wood has become just one part of our daily activities. This makes me think about the importance of a good support network, for without these businesses that keep us

## President's Column



rolling it would be virtually impossible for us to continue.

Everything from accounting to tires share a vital link in the chain that pulls us along.

I guess the point I am trying to make is that I'm very thankful for

this network of businesses that I lean on. Just as we support their business they are supporting ours. I just wanted to say thank you for the extra effort sometimes needed in the busy winter season.

I hope everyone is having a productive and safe winter. Other than the rough roads, the conditions have been ideal.

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# Logger of the Year Nominations Being Accepted

**T**he Minnesota Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program Implementation Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Logger of the Year Award.



The award is designed to recognize outstanding independent logging contractor performance, increase the visibility of competent professional independent logging contractors within the forestry community, encourage independent logging contractors to emulate the outstanding performance of award winners, and improve forester-logger-landowner relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

Among the areas in which nominees loggers will be evaluated are safety, forest management, timber harvesting practices, and business management, as well as community involvement.

The winning logger will receive a \$500 cash award and "2015 Logger of the Year" plaque. In addition, this year's honoree will be nominated for FRA's Regional and National Logger of the Year awards.

Previous Minnesota winners include:

- 2014–Scheff Logging
- 2013–Rolle Logging
- 2012–Erickson Timber
- 2011–M&R Chips
- 2010–Lovdahl & Sons LLC
- 2009–Berthiaume Logging LLC
- 2008–Pittack Logging, Inc.
- 2007–McCabe Forest Products
- 2006–Rieger Logging, Inc.

Nomination forms can be obtained through the MN SFI Implementation Committee office by calling 218-722-5013. Nominations are due March 9, 2015. The winner will be notified in April and the award will be presented at the MLEP Logger Conferences.

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**H**ousing starts, the key driver in demand for lumber, OSB, siding and other building products crept above one million starts in 2014. This is good news for this segment of our business.

It would be hard to describe one million starts as robust when they have been double that level in the past, but after nearly a decade in the doldrums it is at least a positive milestone.

**Executive Vice President's Column**



Most observers believe that this market has continued room to grow when compared against past cycles and household formation statistics.

We will keep our fingers crossed that there is continued growth in 2015.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opened another comment period on their proposed Endangered

Species Act listing for the northern long-eared bat. This action was in response to the information provided in a letter from 39 state fish and wildlife agencies that I wrote about in the last issue of the *Timber Bulletin*.

As part of this new comment period the agency also published a draft 4d rule that would provide exemptions for some forest management activities if the agency decides to list the bat as Threatened instead of their original proposal to list it as Endangered. A Threatened listing would be significantly better for forest management activities.

The proposed 4d rule is certainly not perfect and includes some troubling aspects, including quarter-mile buffers around known roost trees during periods of time when bat pups are most vulnerable. TPA continues to be deeply involved in this issue.



One of the factors in the northern long-eared bat issue manifested itself recently with the wolf. In response to a lawsuit, a federal

judge in Washington, D.C., ruled that the removal of the wolf from the Endangered Species Act listings was invalid. As we know, this resulted in the wolf being returned to the list. Legislation to reverse this ruling is being worked on in D.C.

The lesson here is that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will likely face litigation no matter what decision it arrives at on the bat. So we are a long way from having any definitive resolution on the issues attendant to the bat.

On a positive note regarding the bat, there are indications that progress is being made on research addressing the fungus that causes White Nose Syndrome which kills the bats. Finding methods to kill the fungus or cure White Nose Syndrome is what is needed to save the bat. What isn't needed are restrictions of forest management.



As I write this column it's still below zero and looks like it will be staying cold for a while. The weather this winter has been awfully good for our members though we could use a little snow

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to keep the sun off the roads and smooth things out. We'll keep our fingers crossed that winter holds well into March.



The State Legislature convened January 6 for the 2015 Session. The constitutional deadline for adjournment is May 18. The start of each session involves meeting and briefing newly elected members, discussing current issues with returning members and reviewing administration and agency proposals.

With most of the State Capitol shut down for renovation the quarters are a little close but they seem to be making due so far. Having been in 30 of the 50 State Capitols myself, I can tell you that none of the ones I have seen are as impressive as the Minnesota State Capitol. The renovation, while inconvenient, should set our Capitol on its way for another hundred years.



As everyone gears up for the final push to break-up, remember to keep working safely a top priority. It's easy to cut corners when trying to finish up a day, a shift or a job, whether in the woods or in a mill. That's how accidents and injuries happen. It's also easy for minds to wander instead of keeping focused safely on the tasks at hand. Let's keep focused and be safe.



The MN Forest Resources Council recently completed publication of a Quick Reference Field Guide for the Site Level Guidelines. It's sized to fit in your pocket instead of the larger "Gold Book" which contains all of the guidelines but isn't real handy to keep close.

The Quick Reference Guide covers the Guidelines most commonly used in the field and should be helpful out in the woods. They are in the process of being distributed so look for one soon.



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## Member Feature...



Jace and Bruce Junker

# I Love to Work

**Four generations of Junkers have been logging in the forests surrounding Littlefork and look to continue the work necessary for the business to survive and thrive.**

by Ray Higgins

It's mid-morning just south of Littlefork, and Bruce Junker is slashing tamarack with a Barko 295ML, and loading it onto a waiting truck for delivery to Boise's mill in International Falls, almost 40 miles away.

Today's production is going well. Temperatures are in the single digits above zero with bright sunshine, making this day typical of Northern

Minnesota's winter of 2014-15: good cold temps with little snow, ideal for logging.

"The logging conditions don't get any better than they have been this winter," Junker says. "To start with, you have a freeze up in November before the snow came, and it wasn't just two nights of it. It was like about three weeks or a month of nice freeze up at night and then

freeze all day long before we even got snow. This freeze up was about as good as it comes. When you can scoot across an ash swale – and it was dry this fall, which is a plus too – it's as good as it gets."

Plus, the few inches of snow the region has received over the past several weeks is enough to smooth out some of the rough spots of logging roads and landings, but not



**Bruce Junker loads slashed tamarack onto a waiting truck driven by Reba Kessler for delivery to the Boise mill in International Falls.**

so much that valuable production time is used plowing.

When you add in the fact that diesel prices are lower than they were a year ago, it's all adding up to a good year so far for Junker Logging, a business that's steeped in the tradition of this area's timber industry.

The business is headquartered on Koochiching County Road 8, just southeast of Littlefork. To locals, the road is known as Cingmars Road, the center of Cingmars Township. Cingmars Hall was established in 1928, and is where locals have gathered for everything from dances to 4H meetings to voting on election day. The hall still stands, less than a mile from Junker's place. Back in the day, families like the Imhofs, Hardwigs, Hauners, Promersbergers, and Junkers all farmed and logged in the area, and they're all still represented in some fashion – Bruce Junker's maternal grandfather was Andrew Hauner and Bruce's uncle was Johnny Promersberger – in the area's logging community.

Back in the 1950s, both Andrew Hauner and Bruce's dad Carl had dairy farms and logged a little on

the side, getting 25-cord contracts from the M&O Paper Mill in International Falls – Boise today.

"The dairy cattle put food on the table," Junker says, "but if you wanted to get ahead, you'd better be logging because you weren't going any place with the dairy cattle."

By the time Bruce came along

and was growing up in the 1960s, like many kids who grew up in the region – particularly boys – he started heading to the woods with his dad.

"As soon as you were able to go to the woods with him rather than stay home with your mother," Junker recalls, "you'd go out and



**Tamarack from Junker's harvest site awaits loading.**

help a little bit, maybe running the measuring stick, which I did.”

As time went on, Bruce’s dad Carl would not only fill his own 25-cord contract at Boise, but he’d also go to his father-in-law and uncles and get their 25-cord contracts and fill those too. Over time as the business grew and he showed he could handle more production, Boise made Carl one of their company loggers. In 1972 when Bruce graduated from Littlefork-Big Falls High School, he basically took over the family logging operation.

“I remember going to get my contract with my dad,” Junker recalls. “He’d go get his contract and I’d go along with him. I think my first contract was probably 100 cords, it may have been before I even finished high school. And you’d always go up there and you’d always see how much I could get. How much will they give me? And you’d take all they could give you. Now the mills are all in need of wood. You can’t cut enough. I never thought I’d see that.”

It wasn’t the best time to get into the logging business, however. By



Jace Junker operates a Tigercat 822C feller buncher at the company’s logging job south of Littlefork.

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1973, a global oil crisis caused not only long lines at the gas pump but also a stock market crash as well as a spike in unemployment. The resulting recession lasted for the next few years, making conditions tough on everyone, including Minnesota’s logging community.

Fortunately for the Junkers, at the same time Bruce was getting into logging full-time, Carl sold the dairy herd and started growing oats, with father and son helping each other out. That decision was pivotal in helping Bruce weather the difficult economic times of the ‘70s.

“We had a few years of good weather,” Bruce says, “and a few years of a good crop. And prices were good, so that was good for three or four years.

“Times were tough, but I never thought about doing anything else. I was living at home and I wasn’t married, so I didn’t have that pressure of supporting a family. I was able to wait until the good times came around again.”

The work ethic Junker was blessed with didn’t hurt, either.

“With logging,” he says, “the harder you work the more reward you get. And I love to work, so that’s where the fit is.”

The 1980s were different. For one thing, the economy was in much better shape. Soon, forest products mills in the state were growing, including the Boise mill with its I-1 paper machine that started production in 1990.

These days, Junker Logging remains a small operation, but steady, with one four-person conventional logging crew and four truck drivers.



Clayton Kimball operates Junker's Link-Belt delimeter with a Pro Pak boom. Kimball has worked with Junker Logging since 1988.

Bruce's son Jace runs the Tigercat 822C feller buncher, and also services the trucks on the weekend and moves equipment from job site to job site as needed. Nick Franko driving the John Deere 748 G-III skidder, and Clayton Kimball operating the Link-Belt delimeter with a ProPac boom. In addition, Bruce handles most of the slashing and loading with help from Ron Horn as needed, and William Reller, Bruce Budris, Peter Bortnik, and Reba Kessler handle the hauling.

Right now most of the crew is working on this 167-acre, 3350-cord state sale south of Littlefork, featuring 1800 cords of tamarack, 1300 cords of spruce, and smaller amounts of ash, balsam, jackpine, and aspen. Half of it was harvested last year, and they'll finish the job before break-up. The vast majority of the wood is headed for Boise, but a small percentage is being hauled to the Verso Paper mill in Duluth, 150 miles away.

Junker is optimistic about the future. With mills hungry for wood, last year was a good one for the business, and 2015 is shaping up to be the same way. Plus, Bruce has his son Jace working alongside of him. A graduate of Littlefork-Big Falls, he initially went to Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena to be an electrical lineworker, but changed his mind and came back to join the family business, representing the fourth generation of Junkers in the logging business. Jace is even back living on Cingmars Road, right down the way from Bruce's place, in the house where his father grew up – remodeled and updated, of course.

In fact, the whole family is involved. Bruce's wife

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Nick Franko skids harvested tamarack to the landing in a John Deere 748G-III skidder.

Bonnie runs parts and handles the books, making sure everyone gets paid on time, all while also holding down a part-time job at the post office.

"She's the backbone," Bruce says of his wife of 28 years. "Thank God I have her."

The Junkers also farm a little on the side. When his dad sold the dairy cattle he bought 10 or so head of beef cattle, and they've been increasing the herd gradually ever since. Now they have 90-some head. But logging is his first focus.

"With logging, I like that you can see what you're getting done," Junker says. "You're accomplishing things. But it's very challenging. The weather is the biggest thing. It can be for you or against you. You have to be able to adapt."

Junker's hoping as well that the agencies adapt to the increasing demand for wood in Minnesota.

"There's no doubt they'll need to step it up or we'll be in dire straits," he says. "I would rather see a young healthy forest than old mature forest blow-down. It's as simple as that. And the popple is going to blow down. What looks better if it's managed right? It's not going to look any more scenic if it's logged or not logged."

It's a sensibility learned from the generations of Junkers, Hauners, Imhofs, and Promersbergers of Cingmars Road. Bruce's father lost a

battle to cancer in 1991 at the age of 77, and his mother passed away in 2004, but the lessons aren't forgotten. If all goes well, he'll be able to see the family business continue to thrive as the torch is passed on to the

next generation and the continuation of what his grandfather and father passed on to him.

"My dad was awesome because he'd always help me," he says. "I hope I can do the same for my son."

# Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan



First-hand recollections by storyteller "Buzz" Ryan of the loggers, loaders, swampers, wood butchers and bull cooks who ruled the woods in the hey-day of the pioneer lumberjacks—with dozens of historical photographs.

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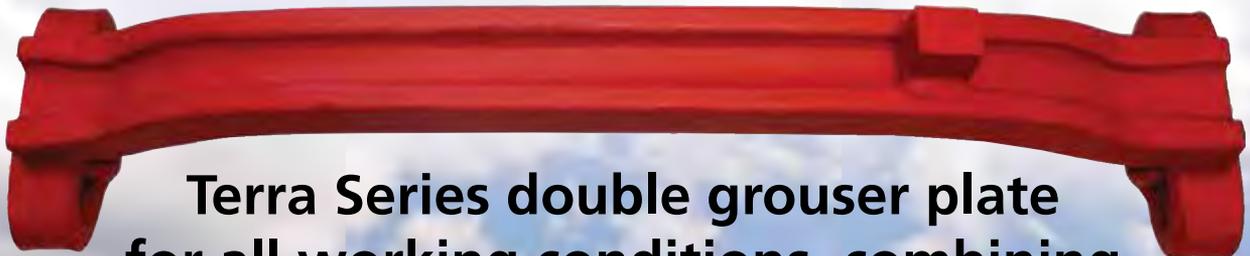
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# Verso Paper Completes Purchase of NewPage

**M**emphis-based Verso Corp. has completed its purchase of NewPage Holdings Inc., including the paper mill in Duluth.

Roughly a year ago, Verso announced it would buy Miamisburg, Ohio-based NewPage, North America's largest coated

paper producer, for \$1.4 billion.

At that time Verso was the nation's second largest coated paper producer. The U.S.

## Timber Talk

Department of Justice reviewed the proposed purchase for antitrust violations. As part of that process, NewPage agreed to sell mills in Wisconsin and Maine to Catalyst Paper Corp., based in British Columbia. That cleared the way for

the Verso-NewPage acquisition.

With the completion of the NewPage purchase, Verso will have approximately \$3.5 billion in annual sales and approximately 5,800 employees in eight mills across six states.

"The combination of Verso and NewPage creates a stronger, more stable company with an effective strategy to weather industry headwinds and reduce operating costs, while ensuring our customers continue to benefit from the distinctive quality and service that they have come to expect from us," said David J. Paterson, Verso's president and chief executive officer. "We continue to face increased competition from electronic substitution for print and from international producers, but as a larger, more efficient organization

with a sustainable capital structure, we are better positioned to deliver solid results despite the industry's continuing challenges."

## Norbord and Ainsworth Merge

**N**orbord Inc. and Ainsworth Lumber Co. have signed a definitive agreement under which they will merge to create a leading global wood products company focused on oriented strand board across North America, Europe and Asia. The company will operate under the Norbord name.

Norbord has an OSB mill in Solway. The combination of Norbord and Ainsworth will create one of the largest and lowest-cost OSB producers globally, with a









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"Norbord and Ainsworth are each low-cost producers in their respective regions, and with our complementary operations and a more diverse range of specialty products, we will be better able to serve our customers," Norbord Chief Executive Officer Peter Wijnbergen said in the statement.

Toronto-based Norbord operates seven mills in North America – including the mill in Solway – and four in Europe. Ainsworth, which is based in Vancouver, has four Canadian mills.

## DNR to Take a Closer Look at Issue of Pine Forest Conversion

**T**he Minnesota DNR is undertaking a closer examination of a trend in northwestern Minnesota where pine forests are being cut, cleared and converted to potatoes and other rotational croplands.

Because the pine-to-potatoes land conversion could potentially pose a threat to water supplies and impact fish and wildlife for years to come, the DNR will prepare a document known as a discretionary environmental assessment worksheet (EAW).

A North Dakota-based potato processor, R.D. Offutt, has been purchasing and clearing the forest land in four counties: Becker, Cass, Hubbard and Wadena. The DNR estimates that the processor has already purchased about 12,000 acres of pine forests. Some of this land has already been cleared, and the remainder is slated for clearing and conversion to irrigated croplands. The DNR estimates that another 15,000 acres of pine forests have the potential to be sold and converted to crops.

The region's sandy, permeable soil contributes to the potential impacts from this land conversion. These potential impacts include the risk of crop fertilizers contaminating local water supplies, groundwater overuse, and impacts to fish and wildlife. R.D. Offutt is asking the DNR for permits to construct

groundwater wells to irrigate new and future croplands. Before deciding whether to grant those well permit requests, the DNR will prepare the discretionary EAW in order to fully understand the potential environmental effects of any appropriation decisions and associated land clearing activities.

"It's important that the DNR carefully consider the implications that this rapid forest land clearing and conversion will have on water quality, water supply, and related resources in this region and beyond," said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. "People rely on these water sources, and we want to take a hard look at any potential impacts."

The EAW could take up to a year to complete. The potato processor has been informed of the environmental review process, which puts on hold any further land clearing and decisions regarding well permit applications.

## Sale of Grand Rapids Ainsworth Site is Completed

**T**he Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) has finalized the sale of 121.5 acres of land and all existing buildings at the former Ainsworth site in Grand Rapids to J.M. Longyear, LLC.

Based in Marquette, Mich., J.M. Longyear operates a number of upstream and downstream natural resource based businesses in Michigan, Minnesota and Canada, including owning and managing over 165,000 acres of timberlands, mineral rights on over 160,000 acres, and downstream forest product and mineral processing businesses.

In October 2012 IEDC signed a purchase agreement with J.M. Longyear, LLC and the closing of the sale finalizes their commitment to taking ownership of the anchor property at the former Ainsworth site by the end of 2014.

Steve Hicks, president & CEO of J.M. Longyear, stated "We wish to thank the IEDC team for helping to make this a smooth transaction. We continue to evaluate opportunities to develop this property into a sustainable forest products

industrial project with a goal of creating value-added opportunities that are mutually beneficial to all parties involved."

The former Ainsworth site was a 223-acre commercial plant located on the border of Grand Rapids and Cohasset. The plant once employed as many as 190 fulltime workers and produced over 390 million square feet of oriented strand board (OSB) each year. Ainsworth suspended operations in 2006 and permanently shuttered the facility in 2008.

## Max Fulton: 1928-2014

**M**ax Fulton, longtime director of Blandin Paper Company Lands and Forestry Division, passed away on Christmas Day. He was 86.

Fulton was extremely active in both the forestry industry and community his entire life. Along with his duties at Blandin, Max served in state-level leadership positions with TPA and the State Tree Farm program. Nationally he served on the board of directors for the American Pulpwood Association as well as the Society of American Foresters. As testament to his outstanding contributions to the forestry profession, Max was elected as "Fellow" within the Society of American Foresters in 1985.

Max was also deeply involved in the community, including as chair of the board of the Itasca County YMCA, where he received the Y's first ever Volunteer of the Year award. He also thoroughly enjoyed his time as foundation president and member of the governing board of Deep Portage Conservation Reserve, a 6,100 acre working forest and outdoor education center located near Hackensack.

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# North Star Expo Returns to Bemidji in 2015

**F**or the second straight year, Bemidji's Sanford Center will host the North Star Expo.

Dates for the 62nd Annual event will Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19.

"We're excited to be returning to Bemidji," said TPA Expo committee Joan Pomp. "The Sanford Center did a wonderful job hosting our event and the comments we received from Expo attendees and vendors was very positive. We look forward to making this year's Expo even bigger and better."

Making a return to the Expo after a one-year hiatus is the Saturday morning Logger Breakfast sponsored by Nortrax.

"We made bringing the breakfast back a priority for 2015," Pomp said. "It's something folks missed last year and we're happy that the staff at



Nortrax and the Sanford Center were able to make it happen this year."

Opened in October 2010, the Sanford Center is home to the Bemidji State men's and women's hockey teams. Between the arena and convention center, the site is

home to numerous other events, including arena football, concerts, conventions, rodeos, and graduation ceremonies.

Vendors will receive packets to reserve their spots for the 2015 North Star Expo later this spring.

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# Bat Comment Period Again Reopened



**T**he U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has again reopened the comment period on its proposal to list the northern long-eared bat as a threatened or endangered species. It's the third time the USFWS has taken comment on the proposal.

This time, the Service is proposing a rule under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act that could be used in the event that the NLEB is listed as "threatened." The proposed 4(d) rule would exempt take caused by forest management practices, including timber harvest. Some conditions on this forest management exemption could be implemented, including no harvests within a quarter-mile of a known occupied hibernacula, and no clearcuts within a quarter-mile of known occupied maternity roost trees during June and July. The proposed rule does not provide a definition for "clear cut."

The proposed 4(d) rule does not say a logger would have to examine the harvest site for potential maternity roost trees.

The comment period closes March 17. As TPA has during past comment periods, the Association will again submit comments on the proposed 4(d) rule.

The USFWS will issue its decision on listing the NLEB by April 2.

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# Great Lakes Federal Timber Purchasers Meets with USFS

The Great Lakes Federal Timber Purchasers Committee, including staff from TPA, met with representatives from the federal forests in the Lake States Region, including staff from the Superior and Chippewa national forests.

The meeting was held in Duluth in January, and included discussions on the ability to offer more wood, particularly in the summer, lower unit costs, improving the NEPA decision making process, and use of economic rotation ages.

Also, Prof. Mark Rickenbach of the University of Wisconsin and Prof. Charlie Blinn of the University of Minnesota, presented the results of research studies focusing on logger viability and capacity in the two states.

The group also received a briefing from Tony Sullins of the



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the proposal to list the northern

long-eared bat as a threatened or endangered species.

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# TPA Members Host Log-A-Load Harvest

**D**uluth fourth-graders not only had a chance to learn about logging and forest management, but saw logging professionals raise \$8,300 for Log-A-Load for Kids and Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

The students, 177 in all, visited the harvest site on Minnesota Power land. The company donated the stumpage, while Josh Hull of Duluth-based Hull Forest Products contributed the staff, equipment, and time needed to harvest the trees, and Tom McCabe of McCabe Forest Products donated the trucking. Both Hull and McCabe are TPA members. In addition, SAPPI and Louisiana Pacific also donated to help cover fuel costs for this harvest.

Throughout the day, the students from Homecroft Elementary and Edison Northstar Elementary divided up and toured stations where forest industry staff from MN Power, SAPPI, Potlatch, St. Louis County, the University of Minnesota Duluth, and Hull Forest Products covered forest-related topics. Students learned



Josh Hull of Hull Forest Products shows 4th-graders the saw blade on a slasher at the recent Log-A-Load for Kids harvest. The kids enjoyed their time in the woods and learning that harvesting trees can be a good thing. Who knew that dissolving pulp, a tree-derived substance produced at SAPPI, can be found in yogurt, make-up, and toothpaste?

about tree identification, tree core sampling to learn the age of a tree, the story tree rings tell about weather history, wildlife and tree growth benefits from logged areas, timber management, harvesting equipment, and end user products

from aspen- and maple-derived dissolving pulp.

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare is a Children's Miracle Network facility in St. Paul as well as clinics throughout the state, including Duluth. In addition, outreach clinics are in several cities, including Grand Rapids, Brainerd, Bemidji, Hibbing, and International Falls. Gillette is an independent, not-for-profit hospital and clinic, and is internationally recognized for its work in the diagnosis and treatment of children and young adults who have disabilities or complex medical needs, such as cerebral palsy, complex orthopedic conditions, craniofacial anomalies, neurological conditions, brain and spinal cord injuries, spina bifida and juvenile arthritis.

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# Truck Weights – Everything You Need to Know

**W**e're often asked to clarify what the regulations are regarding truck weights at different points of the year under different circumstances.

In consulting with officials at the State Patrol and at MNDOT, we've put together the following information that we hope clears up any questions you might have. We've also including answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding truck weights.

## Legal Load Limits:

**Summer Hauling Weight Limit –**

5-Axle Units: 80,000 lbs

**Summer Hauling Weight Limit –**

6-Axle Units: 90,000 lbs

**Winter Hauling Weight Limit –**

5-Axle Units: 88,000 lbs

**Winter Hauling Weight Limit –**

6-Axle Units: 99,000 lbs

You must have a MN DOT permit to haul the extra weight with 6 axles. A copy of this permit must be kept in the truck at all times.

## Relevant Evidence Exemption:

The "Relevant Evidence Exemption" provides that a weight record kept at the place of unloading may not be used to



develop a civil overweight case if the gross weights of the truck do not exceed the legal limits by more than 10%. This exemption does not apply to a truck that is weighed by enforcement officers at a fixed scale site or roadside with portable scales.

## 5% Tolerance Law:

The "5% Tolerance Law" provides that overweight fines and penalties may not be issued if the weight of the truck or its axles do not exceed the registered gross weight by more than 5%, when weighed at the

roadside. This does not mean that a truck that has a gross weight within 5% of its registered gross weight is a legal truck.

Note: Do not mistakenly combine these two tolerances for a total exemption. They are independent of each other. 5% is for roadside only and 10% is for civil case exemptions at the point of delivery.

## **Truck Weights – Wood Hauling Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: What is the legal weight limit for summer hauling?

A: 80,000 lbs with a 5-axle unit and 90,000 lbs with a 6-axle unit.

Q: What is the legal weight limit for winter hauling?

A: 88,000 lbs with a 5-axle unit and 99,000 lbs with a 6-axle unit.

Q: Do I need a permit to haul the extra 10,000 lbs with a 6-axle unit?

A: Yes. The permits are issued by Mn/DOT. A copy of the permit must be kept in the truck at all times.

Q: If I have a 6-axle unit and a permit can I haul the extra weight allowed anywhere?

A: No. You may not haul the extra weight on Interstate Highways or on any roads or across any bridges that are posted for lower weight limits.

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Q: What is the "Relevant Evidence" exemption?

A: The "Relevant Evidence Exemption" provides that civil penalties may not be issued based on information gathered from weight receipts at delivery sites, if the total weight of the loaded truck is within 10% of the permitted limit with a permit or legal limit without a permit. This does not apply to trucks weighed on the roadside. This does not mean that a load 10% over the limits as shown above is a legal load.

Q: Does the "Relevant Evidence" exemption mean that I can legally haul 108,900 lbs with a 6-axle permit in the winter?

A: No. It simply means that you cannot be assessed a civil penalty based on information gathered from weight receipts at delivery sites, if the total weight of the loaded truck is within 10% of the permitted limit of 99,000 lbs.

Q: Does the "Relevant Evidence" exemption mean that I can legally haul 99,000 lbs with a

6-axle permit in the summer?

A: No. It simply means that you cannot be assessed a civil penalty based on information gathered from weight receipts at delivery sites, if the total weight of the loaded truck is within 10% of the permitted limit of 90,000 lbs.

Q: What amount of overweight will I be assessed a civil penalty for if I am over the 10% provided in the "Relevant Evidence" exemption?

A: The first two civil penalties will be \$150 each. After that, you will be assessed civil penalties as follows: "Summer" (non-winter weight increase/spring load restriction time period)

- If you are permitted for 90,000 lbs. and you have 6 axles, and you exceed the 90,000 lb. permit weight by more than 10% or 9,000 lbs., you will be assessed civil penalties for the amount of weight over the 90,000 lb. permitted weight limit.
- Example: If you weigh 103,000 lbs. you will be assessed penalties based on

13,000 lbs. of overweight.

$103,000 - 90,000 = 13,000$ .

"Winter" (winter weight increase time period)

- If you are permitted for 99,000 lbs. and you exceed the 99,000 lbs. by more than 10% or 9,900 lbs., you will be assessed civil penalties for the amount of weight over the "permitted winter weight" of 99,000 lbs..
- Example: If you weigh 110,000 lbs. you will be assessed civil penalties based on 11,000 lbs. of overweight.  $110,000 - 99,000 = 11,000$ .

Q: What is the 5% Tolerance Law?

A: The "5% Tolerance Law" provides that overweight citations or civil assessments may not be issued when a truck is weighed at roadside scales, if the gross weight of the truck and the gross axle weights are within 5% of the legal limits without a permit or within 5% of the permitted weights with a permit. This does not mean that a load 5% over the limits shown is a legal load.



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# On the Markets

The *Timber Bulletin* publishes information regarding results of a sampling of recent timber sales and other market indicators, as well as other market-related news items.

## Recent Timber Sales Average Prices, as reported by each agency

Agency                      Regular    Intermediate

### Lake County

December 18 – Oral Auction

Aspen P&B	\$39.62	\$11.73
Birch P&B	\$17.23	\$ 7.98
Maple P&B	\$17.43	\$ 7.21
Ash P&B	\$19.91	\$ 5.02

9 of the 21 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Cass County

December 18 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$40.98	\$16.98
Birch	\$21.70	\$13.15
White Spruce	\$18.00	\$29.07
Balsam Fir	\$21.37	\$11.40

17 of the 18 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Hubbard County

January 15 – Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed	\$40.46	NA
Oak Mixed	\$23.22	NA
Birch Pulp	\$14.56	NA
Misc. Hardwoods Pulp	\$ 5.46	NA

### DNR – Two Harbors Area

January 15 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (WC)	\$13.35	NA
Paper Birch (WC)	\$ 6.45	NA
Mixed Spruce (WC)	\$ 9.60	NA
Balsam Fir (WC)	\$ 3.00	NA

Only 1 tract was on this sale, the "Super Permit" with nearly 25,000 cords in Lake County.

### DNR – Two Harbors Area

January 16 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$46.98	\$ 9.79
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$15.63	\$ 8.01
Paper Birch (WC)	\$ 9.67	\$ 4.73
Balsam Fir (WC)	\$ 8.66	\$ 6.29

All 10 of the tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### DNR – Baudette Area

January 20 – Sealed Bid

Black Spruce (WMP)	\$27.31	NA
Black Spruce (WC)	\$28.15	NA

2 of the 3 tracts on the sale were purchased.

### Koochiching County

January 21 – Oral Auction

Aspen P/B	\$24.32	\$34.49
Tamarack P/B	\$ 6.63	NA
Spruce P/B	\$33.46	\$17.76
Balsam P/B	\$ 9.51	\$ 9.89

24 of the 25 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### Cass County

January 29 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$28.41	\$26.10
Basswood	\$ 9.00	\$11.48
Red Oak	\$15.60	\$35.05
Maple	\$10.03	\$10.93

6 of the 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

### St. Louis County

February 19 – Sealed Bid

Aspen pulpwood	\$45.22	NA
Norway Pine pulpwood	\$68.32	NA
Birch pulpwood	\$25.76	NA
Balsam Fir pulpwood	\$21.10	NA

23 of the 26 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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# Years Ago in the Bulletin

A sampling of stories and topics from the archives of the Timber Bulletin

## 25 Years Ago

- **TPA Members Head to the Capitol:** A contingent of TPA members journeyed to St. Paul to participate in hearings on workers' compensation legislation and visit with legislators in support of proposed law changes endorsed by the Association. Bills sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski and Rep. Joe Begich were heard in separate hearings. Both bills are designed to decrease rates, increase participation in the work comp system, decrease the number of uninsured loggers, and broaden the premium base. Among the TPA members attending were President Tom Evensen of Effie, Gordon Peterson of Kettle River, Oscar Bergstrom of International Falls, Neil DeLack from Littlefork, and Warren Johnson of Ely.
- **Foresters use mini-computers:** Blandin Paper Company foresters are taking to the woods with a new forest management "tool" these days. The device is quite a bit smaller than those four-wheel drive pickups they maneuver down a narrow woods road. But it is larger than their compasses and handier than a sharpened Blandin-inscribed No.2 lead pencil. Blandin Paper Company forest managers are walking the woods with computers

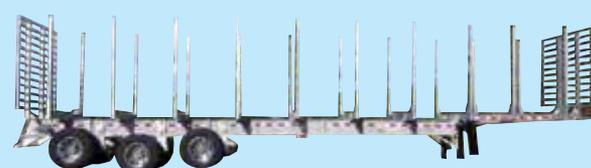
in hand, not much larger than the walkie-talkies you may have used as a child. The sophisticated minicomputer allows the foresters to record field data in an efficient and simplified manner. According to Blandin senior forester Bob Morrow, the computer is synonymous with "efficiency."

## 40 Years Ago

- **U.S. Forest Service to Review Land Use:** The timber, recreation, wilderness, fish and wildlife, water and grazing potential of almost two-thirds of the nation's land will be reviewed by the Forest Service. The preliminary outline of how the assumptions will be used in making the projections is contained in "Outline-Resources Planning Act." The document is being made available to let the public know how the Forest Service plans to implement the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.
- **Timber Supply Crisis Cited to Congress:** Forest products industry and labor spokesmen have urged members of Congress to end the timber supply crisis plaguing home-building and other wood users by requiring the Forest Service to grow more trees in the national forests and offer appropriate increases in timber.

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

## "Who Logged Here?"

by J. C. Ryan

This story is reprinted from an earlier *Timber Bulletin*—one of the first of "Buzz" Ryan's ever-popular contributions to these pages. The *Bulletin* will continue to reprint selected stories from the memories he recorded for us.—*Editor*



Above: Early log camp buildings along the Rum River. Below: Chow time in an early camp on the Mississippi River.



The questions most often asked of forest rangers today go about like this: What company logged in this area? Or who ran that old camp by such and such a trail or creek? Or how many years ago was the virgin timber cut on a certain area?

Today there are many people out in our forests each weekend in search of artifacts of the old logging days and asking for information on locations of old logging camp sites—and they think that the rangers know where all the old camps were located. And while rangers who have been on a district a number of years do get to know where many of the old camps were, every trip a ranger makes into a 40-acre tract he has not been on before is liable to show up evidence of some sort of a logging operation having been there.

While snuff jars seem to be the most desired of all logging artifacts, these searchers find old bottles from liniment, vegetable compound, extract, Hinkley bone liniment and whiskey as well as all types of metal objects that were used around a camp. All the old camp clearings and sites that they have found have been pretty well dug up, and they have turned up many very interesting objects of the old logging days. It is a very appealing hobby and one that has brought about considerable interest in the history of the old logging days.

This brings me back to the first question: What company logged here and when?

From the time the first logs were cut along the Rum River in 1837 to the taking out of the last log drive on the Littlefork in 1937, the 100-year period brought camps to house men in every part of the timbered area of the state. Just how many there were would be only a guess, but the number would run in the thousands.

As a rule, logging companies would walk men up to a mile and a half to work, and most loggers tried to keep the distance from the camp to work within one mile. When the distance became greater a new camp would be built. When you apply this rule to the vast area of the state that was logged off, you can readily see that there had to be a great number of camps. However, in later years when transporta-

tion became better and men were transported to work by railroad in some cases the camps were a little farther apart.

In the early days, camps were situated along rivers and on lake shores in most cases—for easier transportation of supplies by water, for a water supply for horses and cattle and because in many cases the logs were landed along the shorelines. When camps were located inland, they often were on a small creek where a water supply would be available.

Some camps remained in the same location for a number of years or until the logging company had completed cutting all its holdings in a given area. Sometimes several companies would use the same camp location. I know of one case in 55-15 where the Cloquet Tie and Post Co. built a camp and logged ties in 1916, and in 1922 the Northern Lumber Co. built a large camp on the same site and logged the pine. Then in 1926 the John Kusinerik Co. built a camp on the same site and cut Duluth and Iron Range Railroad timber in the general area.

I know of many cases where two different companies had camps on the same site. This was very common where one company cut the logs and another cut the ties, cedar and pulpwood. For example, the American Cedar Company cut cedar the year after the Crookston Lumber Co. cut the logs, the Cloquet Tie and Post Co. followed operations of the Cloquet and Northern Lumber Co., National Pole followed the International Lumber Co.—and many other cutters of ties and cedar followed the logging companies by a year or so.

Different ownerships of timber stands in the same general area also might bring a second camp to a site—the second company taking advantage of some of the improvements, such as a well and roads, that had been made by the first.

Camps built along rivers probably were used as log driving camps for many springs, being occupied for only a month or so while the drive was in progress.

Early camps built of logs were never torn down and usually stood for a number of years if not destroyed by fire. Many of them were victims, however, of early forest fires. In later years when camps were made of lumber, they were torn down and the lumber was used to build new camps. And some lumber probably was used in several camps before being discarded. Even when camps were torn down, a small building usually was left intact to mark the site.

Evidence of these camps is found all over the forested area of the state. Camps that stood for a year or more usually are surrounded by a grassy area and the bottoms of these buildings are easily found and identified by their dimensions—with the kitchen having the root cellar attached. Buildings were all banked with



Most early camps were made of logs, as this one under construction.



These are two very early camps—from about 1880. Note there are no windows in the one above. Below: Kitchen and bunk houses were under one roof.





Above: Two early camps in northern Minnesota. Below: The whole crew as well as the camp got into this early picture near Blackduck.



arth, and the trenches where the banking was dug along the sides of the buildings are often the most evident signs that a camp was there.

These grassy areas of a camp site remain for many years, although there were many camps used only during the inter months that soon grew up to brush and trees. We find trees up to 100 years old growing in the middle of buildings. This type of camp is usually found only by cruisers or rangers or in the re-logging of the second crop of timber. While planting trees with a tree planter, we have turned up evidence of old camps that we did not know existed. It is the camp sites along the rivers, tote roads and railroads that were discovered most and better known.

We are often asked: Where was camp 3 or camp 6? In fact, there were many a camp 3 and camp 6. Every logging company had several of them. The system was to number the camps annually, and a company might have five camps numbered 1 to 5 each year. In later years, however, many of the larger companies numbered their camps consecutively and had numbers running well up in the hundreds.

Now to get back to the question of "Who logged here?"

The logging companies and contract loggers also ran into the thousands, and I can only mention a few of them along with their general areas of operations.

Probably some of the first camps in Minnesota were along the St. Croix and Lower Rum, with William Aikins, Henry Hibley and Lyman Warren being some of the first loggers. They were followed by Hershey and Staples, Caleb Cushing and others. The early loggers of the lower Rum and Snake were so numerous it would take a small book to list them. The first logging camp we have a record of was at the junction of the Snake and St. Croix rivers in 1837 when John Boyce carried on logging with 11 men and 6 oxen. Dan Lanchfeld built the first camp on the Rum river in 1847.

From this time until 1910, when most river driving ended, loggers spread up the Mississippi and all its branches in great numbers—the Mississippi Logging Co., the Chippewa Logging Co., the Laird Horton Co. below Aitkin and the Delattres above, "Len" Day, W. W. Hale, the Swan River Lumber Co., Simson and Dwyer and many others.

With the coming of the logging railroads, other companies sprang up all over the area, with the logging spurs running in to most of the pine stands. Some of the loggers by areas are: around Rainier and north to Leech Lake, the Hull Lake Lumber Co., the Cross Lake Lumber Co., Sam Simson, the Northland Lumber Co. and the Pine Tree Lumber Co. In the area around Walker and west as far as the Walker and Akley Co. West of

Itasca Park, the Nichols and Chisholm Co. and Wild Rice Lumber Co. West of Bemidji were the Clear Water Logging Co., the Crookston Lumber Co. and the Grand Forks Lumber Co. North along the M. & I. Railroad to Northome were the Bemidji Lumber Co., John Moberg, Blakley Brothers & Farley, J. Niels and Joe Ervine.

North from Northome to International Falls was Backus & Brooks. Around Baudette, the Engler Lumber Co. Around Cass Lake, J. Niels. Along the railroad of the Itasca Lumber Co. from Deer River to Craigville there was Jim Reed, and "Haywire" O'Connell. East from Grand Rapids were Powers and Simson, the Swan River Lumber Co. and C. N. Nelson.

Out of Cloquet and up the St. Louis and Cloquet and Whiteface Rivers and in the area south of the Range were the Cloquet Lumber Co., Northern Lumber Co. and Johnson and Wentworth Co. North of the Range, Cooke and O'Brien, Virginia Rainy Lake Lumber, Moon & Kerr, Namakan Lumber Co., Shevlin Clark and R. R. Bailey.

Around Ely were the St. Croix Lumber Co., Swallow & Hopkins, Knok Lumber Co. and Trout Lake Lumber Co. Along the Iron Range Railroad north from Two Harbors were Scott Graff, Colbrath, Dunka River Lumber Co., N. B. Shank, Jack Saari, North Star, Oliver Mining Co. and then the Alger Line of the Smith and Alger Co. running from Knife River to the Canadian boundary, and the General Logging Co. line a little farther north with camps along it.

Up the North Shore of Lake Superior were the Redcliff Lumber Co., Split Rock and Thomas Nester. In the area adjacent to Duluth were the Lesure Lumber Co. and Mitchell McClure, and the Brooks Scanlon Co. railroad running 40 miles from Scanlon to just north of Duluth had many camps all along it. Other camps in the area just north and west of Duluth were Howards, Whitesides Marrill and Ring, and Hubbard and Vincent.

While this is but a very small part of the companies and contractors that were scattered by the thousands all over the pine regions of Minnesota, it will give you some idea of "who logged here" when you run across the remnants of some old camp while hiking or traveling through our forested area.

If, in your search for artifacts, you happen to find an ox shoe, the camp probably was there prior to 1900, and if you find a snuff jar you can be quite sure the camp was there prior to 1912.

And as you discover the remnants of these many lumber camps, you can realize the great numbers of men and animals and the effort it took to log our vast virgin timber stands and bring out lumber and material for the homes and cities of the early settlers who developed the Midwest.



Two good examples of later camps. Above: Oliver Mining Camp 24 in 1918. Below: Camp 6 of the Cloquet Lumber Co. in the Big Lake District in 1923.



# Classifieds

To serve our readers better, the Timber Bulletin offers free classified ads of up to 85 words to all members and associate members of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association. All ads must be submitted in writing to the Association office. The MTPA assumes no responsibility for ad contents and accepts free ads on a first-come, first-served basis within space limitations.

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