

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JULY/AUGUST 2013

VOLUME 68

**In It For the Long Haul –
James Kennedy Trucking**

**60th North Star Expo
Returns to Grand Rapids**

The Affordable Care Act



**North Star Expo
Itasca County
Fairgrounds
Sept. 13 and 14**

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TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 68
July/August 2013
Duluth, Minnesota

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ON THE COVER

Jim Kennedy of James Kennedy Trucking watches as his load of tree length aspen is removed from his truck at the Boise Paper mill in International Falls. For more on James Kennedy Trucking, please see 8.

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Questions Answered on 2013 Balsam Legislation

Summer is sliding by fast again. Better than half way through August and I am wondering if there is time to finish my summer projects. The

President's Column



weather hasn't been that kind to us in our area but hopefully it has been better in yours.

I have seen some new foresters in the local DNR offices.

It shows some progress in staffing at the local level. I hope it will help to keep the timber volume at a high level.

It's time again for the North Star Expo in Grand Rapids. Mark September 13 and 14 on your calendar for the Expo and I hope to see you there. Sounds like there will be lots of vendors there again this year.

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

Abraham Lincoln

Take Care,

Kit Hasbargen

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DNR Timber Sales Coordinator Doug Tillma reports the Division of Forestry has received several questions on the implementation of this year's balsam legislation.

The measure, proposed by TPA and enacted into law this summer, was designed to help loggers who lost their balsam market when the Verso and Georgia Pacific mills closed last year.

According to Tillma, questions have come from loggers, company foresters, and DNR staff. Among the questions most frequently asked:

Questions:

- Can permit holders remove some of the balsam fir volume, and keep the bolts? *Yes, the legislation allows for part of the volume to be canceled; the original permit bid price will be retained for the remaining volume.*
- Does the balsam fir remain standing, or have to be felled or piled? *The forester will make a determination at the time the request is received and specify on the modified appraisal.*

- Can the balsam fir be added back to the permit if markets change? *Yes, it can be added back at the original permit bid price.*

The legislation reads, "Upon written request submitted by a permit holder to the commissioner of natural resources on or before June 1, 2015, the commissioner shall cancel any provision in a timber sale permit sold prior to September 1, 2012, that requires the security payment for, or removal of all or part of the balsam fir when the permit contains at least 50 cords of balsam fir. The remaining provisions of the permit remain in effect. The permit holder may be required to fell or pile the balsam fir to meet management objectives."

Any further questions can be directed to the TPA office.

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The *North Star Expo* is slated for September 13 and 14 at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids. Make your plans now to attend and support the vendors and exhibitors who support the *Expo* and TPA.



For the first time in a number of years the DNR Division of Forestry will be hiring both degreed foresters and forestry technicians. They also will be filling vacancies that occur through retirements and other departures. This is good news as the division's staffing levels have been reduced by around one

Executive Vice President's Column

hundred positions through recent state budget cycles.



A big thank you to our legislators, Governor Dayton and the DNR leadership for supporting the funding to get this done.

The division also assures us that they will be able to sell 800,000+ cords of wood this fiscal year.



If you haven't taken a look at MFI's educational website, treezydoesit.com, try it out. There is lots of good stuff for students, teachers, scouts and other organizations. Pass the address along to any teachers that you know.



Invasives. Gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, asian carp, zebra mussels and others are either here or on their way. Nobody wants to see them as part of our landscape.

But, the question is how to prevent them from spreading.

Massive amounts of money have been spent to slow the spread of gypsy moths. And, the gypsy moth is now exactly where the federal government, in their own EIS, said it would be if they did nothing.

How do these critters spread? For many of them, they spread by

people moving them. Either by transporting firewood or by the critters hitchhiking on boats or other recreational equipment.

What are the responses? First, there have been significant educational campaigns targeting the general public. We've all seen the ads and signs about not transporting firewood, cleaning boat trailers and live wells etc. These are needed and effective. But, it only takes one person transporting ash firewood to bring in the emerald ash borer. It only takes one person transporting firewood to their cabin or campground to bring in the gypsy moth.

The second response by state and federal agencies is to regulate industry. In our case through quarantines on the movement of wood. These types of quarantines have been put in place in other states. And the critters still spread.

Loggers and industry have the costs of quarantines forced on us and the critters still spread. Why,

because we're easy to find, easy to inspect and they have the authority to do it. Not because it's effective.

There has to be a better way than burdening an economically stressed industry like ours with ineffective regulations.

If the quarantines on industry were effective, so be it. But paying the costs of ineffective regulations is like throwing hundred dollar bills out the window as you drive down the road.



As I write this column summer has finally arrived in the northland. We're all enjoying being outdoors and the attendant activities. Let's be safe while we enjoy this time, both on the job and at home. The injury you prevent may be your own.

Wayne E. Brant

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Member Feature...



L-R: Heather, Joe, Jim, and Sandy Jo Kennedy of James Kennedy Trucking.

In It For the Long Haul

James Kennedy Trucking continues to serve Minnesota's Logging Community

by Ray Higgins

The day starts just after 5 a.m. Jim Kennedy pulls his empty semi-trailer out of his yard on the west side of Littlefork, turns right onto Highway 71, and heads south toward Effie. It'll take about an hour to get to the Lovdahl and Sons logging job, where Kennedy will load tree-length aspen and turn around and head back north to the Boise Paper mill in International Falls.

It's the typical start to a day for the 59-year-old Kennedy – and for most loggers and truckers who make their livings in Minnesota's woods, cutting timber that will end up as paper and building products we all use.

"Usually by 10:30 or 11 at night," Kennedy says, "I crawl in bed."

"Maybe."

And that's in the summer months, the time of year when logging isn't as fast and furious as when the temperatures are cold and the ground is frozen. But Kennedy

needs to put in those hours if he's going to make three or four deliveries today – not only loads of wood, but also tar and gravel (from his own pits, no less) – and help his wife Sandy Jo run the business.

Plus, there are 20 head of beef cattle, five horses, and six chickens (his wife Sandy Jo's), in addition to hay, oats, and wheat growing on three different pieces of land spread over three sites. No wonder there isn't much time to sleep.

"I love to work," Kennedy says.

It's a good thing. James Kennedy



Most of James Kennedy Trucking's wood trailers sit idle during the summer months, waiting for the winter logging season.

Trucking includes 16 drivers, 18 trucks, and not only serves the logging community, but also hauls gravel, tar, and other aggregate for northern Minnesota construction companies like Ulland Brothers,

KGM Contractors, Hammerlund Construction, and Ames Construction.

"You have to like it or you don't do it," Kennedy says. "I love doing it, and I don't know why. I know

guys that just absolutely hate their truck. But I wouldn't have gotten this far if I hated it."

Kennedy got his first taste of the trucking business as soon as he got his driver's license at age 16,

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Dobbs Logging stockpiles wood at James Kennedy Trucking’s shop. Here Ethan Dobbs loads aspen to be hauled to Boise in International Falls.

working for his brother Jack.

“He was in construction,” Kennedy says. “He and my brother-in-law, they had dump trucks, and I started doing that.”

But he tried other things, too. When he graduated from Littlefork High in 1972, he had also worked as a sawyer in a sawmill in town – “I

loved doing that,” he says – and then the following winter, he went to work in the woods for H&S Logging.

At that time he was also courting Sandy Jo, a fellow Littleforkian, who he met right after high school. He’d also watched his brother run his own business, so he wanted to

try that, too. So he bought his own truck, but it didn’t work out too well.

“I lost my butt,” Kennedy says with a laugh. “It was only a \$4000 truck, but I couldn’t keep it running.”

Soon he was driving for Bud Curtis, a chip hauler in town, as well as other locals in the logging business, while spending summers working construction. Kennedy also hauled some grain and fuel.

By 1984 he was ready to try running his own company again and bought his first truck for what is now James Kennedy Trucking, going over the road for three years, hauling paper for the Boise Mill.

Eventually, Kennedy started hauling raw timber *to* the mill, rather than finished product *from* it. These days he hauls for many of the more established logging companies in the region, including Dobbs Logging, Lovdahl and Sons, Shuster Logging, B&H Logging, Killmer Brothers Logging, Pelland Logging, Rasmussen Logging, Nelson Brothers, Shermer Logging, Imhof Logging, R.L. Wendt Logging, and many others.

“I enjoy all of these loggers,”

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Kennedy says of his customers. "I enjoy them a lot, and I like to talk with them. I'm a sociable person. I like doing something for somebody."

But over the years, James Kennedy has changed. Once almost exclusively a timber hauling business, Kennedy branched out into construction just over 20 years ago.

"When I first started out, I had it so we hauled wood in the summer time," he says. "But the way the market was slowly changing, I had to diversify. Myself, I'd love to haul wood year round. But I had to do something in the summertime."

Kennedy still hauls some wood in during the summer months, but even that has diminished over the past few years as the industry retrenched. These days, the company hauls exclusively timber in the winter months, and during the summer, the business hauls 80 percent construction and gravel and 20 percent wood.

To accomplish the gravel hauling, the company is well-equipped, with four side dumps, three belly dumps, four end dumps, and a quad. In addition, Kennedy owns two gravel pits, one eight miles to the west, the other eight miles to the south of Littlefork. He not only does work for the bigger construction companies in the region, but will also make gravel deliveries, repair and build driveways, pads, do CAT and Bobcat work, etc. for folks within a 30-mile radius of the area.

"I have drivers that really care," Kennedy says. "That helps a lot. Delane Klemetsen and Lance Fry have both been with me around 13-14 years and serve as foremen. They often ask what I think before they make a decision, which is great. Daniel Seesing too has been with me for 14 years and handles a lot of the mechanical work on the trucks, and is also our DOT inspector. All my guys not only drive but do their own maintenance and can work on trucks. They're all good men."

Then there's the farm work. The hay and oats are sold as feed to customers in the area. Those deliveries to the elevator have to be made, too. And for the first time this season, he's growing wheat as well.

It helps that Sandy Jo has gotten



Jim Kennedy removes chains from the load of tree-length aspen he's delivering to Boise.

more involved in the business over the years. She was a licensed practical nurse for roughly 20 years, but also was doing the bookwork for the business, helping Jim every step of the way.

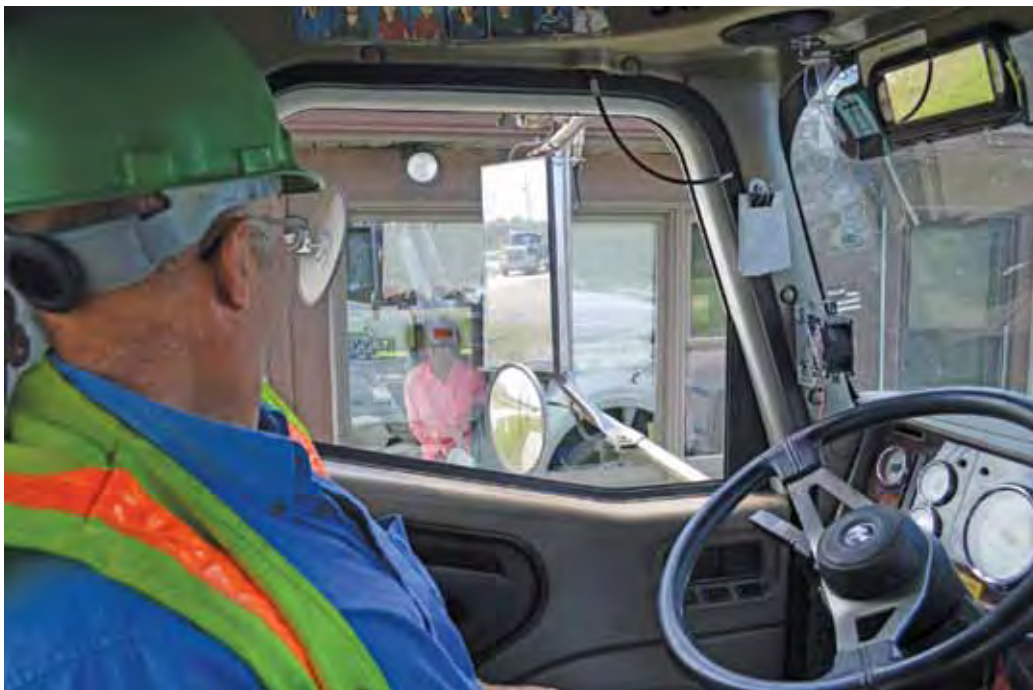
"Finally we got to the point where we needed her to be here full time

and in the office," Jim says.

"Not only my wife, but my entire family has had a part in this. Our oldest son Jim works as a Deputy Sheriff and jumps in a truck and helps out anytime he can. In fact, he is hauling again today. Our other son Joe and his wife Heather are



Tree-length aspen is waiting to be hauled to the Boise mill.



Kennedy greets Boise scaler Margaret Homestead upon arriving at the mill.

here full-time. Our daughter, Jill Knaeble got her CDL when she was 18 and has moved a lot of wood and gravel. All three kids hauled wood over Christmas breaks, weekends, summers and while going to college as well. They needed money and I needed help. Both my boys are a big part of taking care of the grain and hay fields. Even our grandchildren are out there loading and unloading the square bales. My daughters-in law are wonderful! They will bring the boys and me picnics out to the fields. I love that. They're good cooks and they bring my grand kids too," Jim says with a big smile.

Going forward, the plan is for Joe and Heather to eventually take over. Heather is already helping in the office, and has been taking college courses, set to graduate in

December with a business degree.

"It's good to have Joe," Jim says. "He has always wanted to get into it. In fact, we told him to go to college and said if you think you still want to work like this when you're done you come back and I'll put you in a truck. Well, that's exactly what he did. He went to college and came back and asked for a job. I told him what truck to get in. My wife about died.

"Joe has the ambition," Jim says. "He loves the heavy equipment and can operate anything he gets on. He loves hauling the wood and then working outdoors all summer, too. In fact, he's been completely running the construction end for the last few years. It's a lot of stress. But he does a good job with it. He works well with people.

But don't think with all of this

additional help that Jim has any plans of retiring.

"I've never ever once said anything about retirement and I never well," he says. "The thing is, my Dad retired from the Boise mill at 64 (where he was a machine tender) because he had to. He wouldn't have if he didn't have to, and I won't plan to, either. I'll haul wood as long as I can and Joe can run the rest."

So Jim Kennedy will continue his long days, just the way he likes them. This time of year, if he gets his hauls done during the day

he might sneak in a gravel delivery or two during the evening. Come winter, Jim hauls for Dobbs Logging and he and Joe will get the trucks assigned to the different loggers jobs for the logging season.

"We WILL take care of them," Jim says. "These loggers put out a pile of wood and we will get it in for them. Our drivers know their job and do it well. It's pretty nice we can all work together and enjoy our day. We are so fortunate to live in the woods. We know your neighbors and we care."

But winter is still several months away. When 5 A.M. comes tomorrow, Kennedy will go wherever necessary, to make wood deliveries, wherever one of his several customers needs him.

"This morning I went to Effie," he says. "Yesterday it was Northome. Who knows where it will be tomorrow?"

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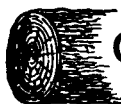
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60th North Star Expo Returns to Grand Rapids

For the 60th time, the Minnesota Timber Producers is sponsoring the the North Star Expo, the state's largest logging equipment show. And for the fifth consecutive year, the Expo is returning to the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids.

This year's dates are Friday and Saturday September 13 and 14. As always, there will be a lot to see and do, including the latest in logging equipment from all of the region's top vendors.

Continuing the Expo tradition of great food and fellowship, Friday night's banquet dinner menu will feature Famous Dave's Barbecue, including pork sandwiches, roasted chicken,



Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp and committee member Nathan Heibel present Petro Choice/Rapids Hydraulic with the Blue Ribbon for Best Outdoor Small Lot at the 2012 Expo.

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baked beans, cole slaw, and cornbread. Tickets for the dinner are \$12 each and can be purchased in advance from the TPA office or at the door.

In addition, Saturday morning's pancake breakfast will again be provided free of charge by Nortrax.

"It's the Expo's 60th year and we're planning for it to be bigger and better than ever," said TPA Expo Committee Chair Joan Pomp. "We're thrilled to be back in Grand Rapids, which always gives us a warm welcome and we look forward to being back in a place so rich in logging history."

Like at any Expo, there will be plenty of competitions:

The Best Load Contest is taking place again this year. Only the wood will be judged, not the truck it is hauled on. Points will be scored on the timber quality, product quality, product manufacturing, load appearance, and load securement. Monetary prizes are awarded to the top finishers.

The Loader Contest will also be held again this year, as well as the Master Loader Contest. In addition, kids will have a chance to try their hand at a Mini-Log Loader.



Last year's Expo was visited by more than 100 6th-graders from Grand Rapids schools.

Don't forget to bring in your wood cookies for the Big Cookie Contest. Remember to attach a list indicating species, where taken, and company name.



Test your visual skills and Guess

the Weight! Entry forms will be available near one of the Best Load trucks.

We'll have fun for the whole family. See you September 13 and 14 in Grand Rapids!



TPA board member Ed Hedstrom of Hedstrom Lumber in Grand Marais, with a large aspen wood cookie he brought to last year's Expo. Hedstrom says a count of the rings indicates the tree was roughly 105 years old.



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NORTH STAR EXPO

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 13

7:45 am	Workshop Registration
8:00 am - Noon	Workshop: Fluids & Filters (4 hrs MLEP credit)
9:00 am	Equipment Displays Open
9:30 am	Display Contest Judging
10:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
11:00 am	START YOUR ENGINES
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Celebrity/Media Loader Contest
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
5:00 pm	Equipment displays close
5:00 pm	Cash Bar Social Hour begins
6:00 pm	Dinner and Door Prizes - on site

Saturday, September 14

7:00 am – 9:00 am	Free Pancake Breakfast (sponsored by Nortrax)
9:00 am	Equipment displays open
9:00 am - 11:00 am	Loader Contest (sign up at site)
11:00 am	START YOUR ENGINES
11:30 am	Coloring contest winners announced
1:00 pm	Winners announced for Loader, Master Loader, and Best Load contests
1:30 pm	Winners announced for Guess the Weight, Big Cookie, Vendor Drawing, Wood I.D. and Big Cookie contests
2:00 pm	Equipment displays close

CONTESTS

Vendor Drawing – Visit the vendors identified on the back of your entry card and become eligible to win a chainsaw carving!

Guess the Weight – Guess the weight of a fully loaded truck

Wood Identification – See how many tree species you can identify

Loader – Test your skills against the clock

Masters Division Loader – Loader contest for those 50 and over – sign up at site

Best Load – Come and see the Best Loads of Wood on Display

Big Cookie – Enter to see if your wood cookie is the biggest of its species.

For additional information, contact:
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The Affordable Care Act (ACA) What does an Employer Need to Know?

by Daniel J. Zobel, CIC - Certified Insurance Counselor, Otis-Magie Insurance Agency Inc., Duluth, MN

The Affordable Care Act was passed by Congress and signed into Law by President Obama on March 23, 2010. Since that time, employers and individuals have been trying to understand the law and how it might affect them. While the law is lengthy and complicated, the ACA has four basic objectives:

- 1. Expand Access to Coverage:** The ACA requires most U.S. citizens to have health insurance.
- 2. Create State-Based Exchanges:** Coverage can be purchased thru state or federal exchanges. Cost-sharing credits may be available for individuals and families with income between 138% and 400% of the poverty level. Some exceptions apply to those who are offered employer coverage.

- 3. Employer Mandate:** The ACA requires larger employers (Over 50 full-time equivalent employees) to offer coverage or pay penalties. The penalties would also apply to employers that don't offer coverage meeting certain minimum standards. Initially scheduled to begin next year, these penalties are currently scheduled to take effect in 2015.
- 4. Expand Medicaid:** making it available to those up to 138% of the poverty level.

Since the law was passed, some states have chosen not to expand Medicaid or create an exchange. Minnesota has an exchange called MNSURE and their website at (www.mn.gov/hix/) is up and running. Beginning October 1, 2013, individuals and business owners will be able to shop and purchase coverage that takes effect on January 1, 2014, if everything goes as planned. Many independent insurance agents will be certified

to enroll people in exchange plans. Enrollees can also enroll directly.

Also beginning next year, businesses with 50 or fewer FTEs can use MNSURE to offer coverage to their employees. No businesses are required to offer health coverage. Enrollment in the exchange also begins October 1, 2013.

Wisconsin chose not to offer an exchange and has relied on the federal government to offer coverage.

Many items in the law have been rolled out on a timeline, and some of those dates have now been delayed. Listed below is a timeline for reference. Final effective dates will be determined by regulatory guidance.

Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC): plans that begin on or after 9-23-13 have requirements of communication of plan information to participants during annual enrollment and date of hire.

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Fee: Normally paid by the health insurance company, self-insured employers will be required to pay a fee of \$1 per year per participant.

Report Plan Cost on W2: Employers who file fewer than 250 W-2s in the prior year are not required to report.

Medicare Hospital Insurance Tax: Taxpayers with earned income over \$200,000 (individuals) or \$250,000 (joint return) will pay an additional tax of .9%.

Employers are not required to match.

Limit on FSA Contribution: for plan years starting on or after 1-1-13, the Section 125 health Flexible Spending Accounts will be capped at \$2,500.

Exchange Notice Requirement: All employers are required to provide employees with a notice by 10-1-13 which includes information on health exchanges, premium subsidies, and if an employer's plan meets minimum required value requirements. This includes employers without health plans. The U.S. Department of Labor has issued two model notices that employers can use to satisfy this notice requirement. One model is for employers who do not offer a health plan and the other model is for employers who offer a health plan for some or all employees. The model notices can be found on the DOL's website: <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/healthreform/>.

2014

Health Benefit Exchanges: States that participate will establish an insurance exchange where individuals and business can compare and purchase coverage with subsidies if applicable. In Minnesota, this is MNSURE.

Individual Coverage Mandate: Individuals who do

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not enroll in “minimum essential coverage” will pay a fine of \$95 or 1% of income in 2014, increasing to \$695 or 2.5% by 2017. The tax on affected children is half.

Insurance Market Reforms: Various rating and underwriting rules go into effect and apply to both exchange and non-exchange products. Insurers will no longer be able to rate based on health and preexisting conditions, and exclusions will not be allowed. Insurers will only be able to rate based on rating area and age, as well as individual versus family coverage. Expansion of preventive services primarily for women go in to effect.

Employer Pay or Play Penalties: (delayed until 2015)

No Lifetime Limits: Plans may not impose lifetime limits in 2012 and no annual limits in 2015.

Cost-Sharing Limitations: Plans cannot impose deductibles higher than \$2,000 single/\$4,000 family.

Limits on Waiting Periods: The maximum waiting period on an employer group will be 90 days.

Wellness Incentives: HIPAA limits on financial incentives for participation in wellness programs

will increase 30% or 50% for tobacco related programs.

Federal Premium Subsidies and Cost-Sharing reductions for low and middle income individuals: Individuals with incomes under 400% of federal poverty level may receive premium subsidies or reduced cost when purchasing from an exchange.

The above information is a summary only and not inclusive of all the law’s requirements and is subject to change. Additional information can be referenced at (HHS.gov/healthcare)

Questions about health care programs can be directed to Dan Zobel (dzobel@otismagie.com) or 1-800-241-2425.

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TPA Website Goes Live

TPA has developed a new website: www.mntimberproducers.com. In development for the past year, mntimberproducers.com will feature membership information, current and past *Timber Bulletins*, information on the North Star Expo, on legislative accomplishments, and much more.

TPA board member Joan Pomp spearheaded the development of the site with the assistance of TPA's PR committee and TPA staff. It went live in June, in time to be displayed at TPA's Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting.



Years Ago in the Bulletin

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

40 Years Ago

- Minnesota DNR Division of Forestry is interested in participating in a new federal program aimed at encouraging landowners to improve and manage their timberlands. The "Forest Incentive Program" is in this year's farm bill.
- The 20th Annual logging equipment demonstration will be held September 20th at the Cloquet Forestry Center, with over half a million dollars worth of new equipment on display.
- Environmental control will cost the U.S. pulp and paper industry 42.5 percent of its 1973 capital expense dollars. This is a higher percentage for pollution abatement than is being spent by any other industry. Of a total of \$850 million being spent for pollution control, \$444 million will be spent for water quality control and \$406 for air quality programs.

50 Years Ago

- Blandin Paper Company's new Number 4 paper machine, 300 feet long and as tall as a two-story building, is expected to be operating in October. When completed, the company will have three paper machines.
- State Timber Sales Slow: Two timber sales were held this week in Virginia and Two Harbors. In Virginia, only 8 of 16 tracts were sold and 8 went no bid. The high bid on tracts sold was 55 percent above appraised value. In Two Harbors, two of eight tracts sold, with no bid above the appraised price.

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Warren Appears in Video

A production crew from Cenex traveled to Grand Rapids to visit with TPA Past President Mike Warren at his shop. The visit was part of the production of a video for the Cenex corporate shareholders meeting next year. Warren was interviewed about the current state of the Timber Industry and what he foresees in the future. The shoot was coordinated by Northern Star Cooperative, dealer of Cenex fuels and lubricants in Deer River. The crew also visited Warren's timber harvesting site just east of Hill City.



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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

DNR – Two Harbors Area

June 13 – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$23.77	\$ 6.50
Aspen Species (WC)	NA	\$11.60
Paper Birch (WC)	\$ 8.13	\$ 4.97
White Spruce (WC)	\$ 4.46	\$ 8.29

6 of the 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Little Falls and Sandstone Areas

June 18 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$34.58	\$38.00
Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$14.09	\$30.45
Norway Pine (WMP)	\$16.43	\$33.09
Northern Hardwoods (WC)	\$ 9.22	\$18.03

13 of the 22 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Cambridge Area

June 20 – Oral Auction

Norway Pine (WMP)	\$43.06	NA
Norway Pine (PB)	\$45.23	NA

6 of the 16 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

June 27 – Sealed Bid

Aspen	\$22.08	\$27.36
Birch	\$13.46	\$20.23
Red Oak	\$19.62	\$25.78

6 of the 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Hubbard County

July 8 – Oral Auction

Aspen Mixed	NA	\$28.22
Jack Pine Mixed	NA	\$31.32
Birch Pulp	NA	\$11.03

Norway Pine Mixed	NA	\$57.69
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All 22 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Lake County

July 11 – Sealed Bid

Birch P&B	\$12.04	NA
Aspen P&B	\$26.06	NA
Maple P&B	\$ 7.17	NA

9 of the 23 tracts offered on the auction were purchased.

DNR – Warroad Area

July 16 – Sealed Bid

Aspen Species (WC)	\$18.19	NA
Jack Pine (WMP)	\$34.48	NA

6 of the 11 tracts offered on the auction were purchased.

DNR – Warroad Area

July 16 – Oral Auction

Aspen Species (WC)	\$16.86	\$20.51
Jack Pine (WMP)	\$31.09	\$32.59

14 of 35 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR – Backus Area

July 25 – Oral Auction

Trembling Aspen (WC)	\$25.61	\$21.11
Aspen Species (WC)	\$18.70	\$18.70
Mixed Hardwoods (WMP)	\$12.80	\$12.87

11 of 13 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County

July 25 – Oral Auction

Aspen	\$26.74	\$19.93
Birch	\$15.66	\$14.14
Jackpine	\$21.06	\$18.28

8 of 9 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County

July 31 – Oral Auction

Aspen Pulp/ Bolts	\$26.32	\$26.45
Spruce Pulp/ Bolts	\$19.45	\$19.02
Balsam Pulp/ Bolts	\$ 6.11	\$ 7.25
Balm Pulp/ Bolts	\$25.28	\$21.57
Birch Pulp/ Bolts	\$ 4.97	\$ 5.47

34 of 36 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Beltrami County

August 6 & 8 – Sealed Bid & Oral Auction

Aspen pulpwood	\$31.84	NA
Jack Pine P/B	\$37.93	NA
R&W Pine P/B	\$57.68	NA
Hardwood pulpwood	\$11.96	NA
Balsam pulpwood	\$17.56	NA

20 of 22 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Products:

PB= Pulp and Bolts
WMP= Woodsrun mixed Products
WC= Woodsrun cordwood
ST=Sawtimber
WST=Woodsrun Sawtimber
PW=Pulpwood

Unsold DNR Volume Lower in 2013

The volume of unsold aspen at DNR sales fell during Fiscal Year 2013 as compared to FY2012, according to the end-of-the-year statistics compiled by the Division of Forestry.

Approximately 29,400 cords of aspen went unsold during DNR auctions in FY2013, which ended June 30th. For the previous 12-month period, roughly 43,200 cords of aspen weren't purchased.

Similar declines in unsold cords were seen in other key species:

	FY2013	FY2012
Jack Pine	2,700	1,700
Balsam	4,200	3,700
Spruce	21,200	16,200
Tamarack	21,200	17,700

The total of "all other" species that went unsold increased during the same period, rising from 27,500 cords during FY2012 to 32,500 in FY2013.

The figures include unsold permits available for purchase over-the-counter as of the end of the fiscal year.

The DNR reported a total of 930,142 cords of "new wood" was offered during FY2013. Another 172,267 cords of re-offered wood was included on DNR auctions, for a total of just over 1.1 million cords offered. Of that volume, 768,899 cords were purchased, of which 333,510 cords went unsold.

Logging Trailers Stolen

The TPA office has received reports of a handful of logging trailers stolen since the start of the year.

The most recent incident occurred in the International Falls area on July 31. Trailers were also stolen in Carlton County in January and Crow Wing County around the same time.

Law enforcement in those areas say they haven't seen any similar incidents, but that the stolen trailers haven't turned up. With the identification numbers and DOT inspections the trailers have, it isn't likely the trailers are being used to haul timber. Officials theorize they're being disassembled and sold for scrap.

Timber Talk

Logger Conference Returns to Bemidji

The dates for the 2014 MLEP Logger Conferences have been set. They're one week later than has been the norm the last few years and include a location change for the conference traditionally held in the western part of the state.

The second logger conference is moving to the Sanford Center in Bemidji next year, and is scheduled for April 22 and 23. In recent years, the conference had been held at Northern Lights Casino in Walker. The conference was last held in Bemidji in 2007.

The Tower Logger Conference will be one week earlier, on April 15 and 16 and will remain at Fortune Bay Lodge and Casino.

City of International Falls to Sell Timber

The city of International Falls has decided to sell the timber on an 80-acre parcel it owns at the east end of the Van Lynn Road.

The parcel was originally owned by the city of South International Falls before the two cities merged more than twenty years ago.

According to the proposal approved by the Falls city council, the land has primarily aspen with some ash and balsam, and is mature and ready to be harvested. The state of Minnesota has a 40-acre sale adjacent to the land.

"The first step is to have a surveyor establish the line between private property owners and the city plot," International Falls Mayor Bob Anderson wrote in an e-mail. Then the city will ask the Koochiching County Lands and Forestry Department commissioner to assist the city in preparing the sale.

According to Anderson, the city council hasn't decided if it will request sealed bids or be part of the next county timber sale.

FSC Responds to IGI Criticism

The Forest Stewardship Council says its International Generic Indicators (IGIs) were poorly communicated and its approach is being revamped. That's in response to criticism received after the proposed IGIs were released earlier this year.

The criticism included a letter from DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, in which he told FSC the department would need to "re-evaluate the viability" of FSC certification of DNR lands unless the IGIs were revamped.

While FSC hasn't formally responded to Commissioner Landwehr's letter, at a meeting in Stillwater, FSC staff acknowledged criticism from a variety of sources and anticipated a much smaller set of IGIs to emerge.

Among the DNR's objections to the proposed IGIs:

- They reference international treaties that haven't been ratified in the U.S.
- Many won't lead to benefits on the ground.
- They broaden the definitions

of "local communities" and "forest workers," including one provision that would require the DNR to see to it that "forest workers" have a balanced diet.

Rate of Shattered Baseball Bats 50 Percent Less

According to figures compiled by Major League Baseball and the US Forest Service, the rate of shattered maple bats in big league games has decreased by more than 50 percent since 2008.

The USFS and MLB say the reduction is due to the testing and analysis of thousands of bats and the resulting changes in the way the bats are manufactured.

"Since 2008, the U.S. Forest Service has worked with Major League Baseball to help make America's pastime safer," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "I'm proud that our collective 'wood grain trust' has made recommendations resulting in a significant drop in shattered bats, making the game safer for players as well as for fans."

The research team found that inconsistency of wood quality, primarily the manufacturing detail "slope of grain," for all species of wood used in Major League bat manufacture was the main cause of broken bats. Also, low-density maple bats were found to not only crack but shatter into multiple pieces more often than ash bats or higher-density maple bats. Called multiple-piece failure, shattered bats can pose a danger on the field and in the stands.

Slope of grain refers to the straightness of the wood grain along the length of a bat. Straighter grain lengthwise means less likelihood for breakage.

The joint Safety and Health Advisory Committee of Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association began working to address the frequency of bats breaking into multiple pieces five years ago.

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

“Walkers’ Ruled the Woods”

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*



Today most industry of all kinds is not lacking in supervision. There are superintendents of production, of maintenance, of costs, of personnel—and many others.

In the old logging days, supervision was at a minimum. A general manager of logging operations generally was situated in the town that was company headquarters, and he probably would make one trip a year to the woods to visit some major project. He would usually come in over a railroad spur in a special car with some of the stockholders, stopping at one of the better camps for a good feed and to give the stockholders a briefing on how efficient things were. Then the camps would not see him again for a year.

However, there was no lack of supervision in the camps and little was needed. The “walking boss” or “walker,” as he was known, provided the answer to all the problems.

He kept all the foremen in line and kept a check on all phases of the camps’ work. He was generally in charge of from 4 to 12 camps, or all in a certain area. In the old days, he would walk from camp to camp, then on to the next. He would check on how many logs were being cut each day, how many were skidded, the conditions of the ice road, how supplies were coming in, how the men were being fed, and advise the camp foreman on any changes that were needed.

However, there was very little “meddling” with the running of the camp or the crews. The walking boss had hired the camp foreman and gave him full charge of everything from the food the cook put out to the delivering of the logs to the landings. It was the camp foreman who ran the camp, and he had plenty of chance to show his ability. The “jacks” referred to the foreman as the “push.”

In the fall of the year, the walking boss was a very busy man. He had to line up the locations of new camps and arrange for the toting in of lumber and supplies to build them. He figured out the locations for logging spurs and logging roads and arranged for the distribution of horses and equipment. Once this was done and a foreman was assigned, the foreman became the boss of the camp and the opera-

tions. In the early days, there were no camp timekeepers or clerks, and the foreman handled all of the selling of snuff and tobacco to the crew in the evenings. In later years, the camp clerks handled all the timekeeping and book work, such as ordering kitchen supplies.

It was the ambition of all camp foremen to become a walking boss someday. The ability of some of these camp foremen was astonishing. You didn’t have to go into detail explaining a problem; just mention it, and they took it from there and they always seemed to come up with

Though some rode from camp to camp, 300-pound Henry Graham, “walking boss” for National Pole Co., always traveled on foot. This photo was taken about 1919 at National’s Kelliher office; man at left is unknown.



the right decision.

In winters, when but few camps were in operation, some walking bosses had to drop back to camp foreman for a while. In the depression of 1921, I knew several walking bosses who were doing common labor. Woods work was all they knew, and they could not turn to supervisory work in another field very easily.

However, when the CCC camps came in 1933, many of the old camp foremen got jobs as foremen in these and did very well. A few of them got to be superintendents. One of the old walking bosses was Christ Lee of the Northern Lumber Company. In talking with him after he got his CCC job, he said to me, “I didn’t think I would ever get one of these high-falutin jobs of “supertender”—but hell, I only got *one* camp to look after. This is more like a camp foreman job.”

Most lumber camps of 200 men had two or three “straw bosses” who worked under the foreman. Straw bosses were working foremen who were put in charge of one phase of the logging operation. There might be one in charge of the skidding crew, one in charge of the loading crew, and one in charge of the log landings. They worked along with the men and usually were the hardest workers on the crew. Some camp foremen had only one straw boss who went from crew to crew, working a while with each. He was called a “traveling straw boss.”

Supervision in the lumber camps was carefully kept at a minimum, as workers resented too much supervision. Each man had his job to do and took great pride in doing it well without a foreman standing over him.

While the name “walking boss” was given the man who walked from camp to camp in the early days, by the early 1890s he usually arrived at camp with a team of fine driving horses. These walking bosses took great pride in their driving teams, which were always rigged out in nice harnesses with many spreader rings and were always kept in the best of shape. When the team arrived in camp, the “barn boss” took over their care, groomed them, fed them, and had them ready when the walking boss moved on to the

next camp. These driving teams were “sharp shod” to travel over the ice roads at a good rate of speed. Most of the driving teams were trotting horses, but I know several bosses who had teams of pacers.

Horse teams were used during the winter months. In the summer, camps were mostly railroad camps and the “walker” would arrive by motor speeder or on a logging train. Companies that did not log during the summer had watchmen at the camps, and it was the duty of the “walker” to visit these camps about once a month and check on these watchmen, who usually had several head of horses and a number of pigs to care for. Pigs were raised at most camps that had watchmen, and when the camps started up again in the fall were butchered to furnish a supply of pork. Some of these camps with summer watchmen were in isolated places, and the “walker” had to walk across several miles of swamp to visit them. Supplies for the watchmen—and feed for the horses and pigs—had to be toted in during the preceding winter.

During the days when white pine was king, there was a great number of walking bosses working for the many lumber companies and logging contractors. The first one I recall was George “Bum” Bush, who worked about 1907 in the Bemidji area for the J. Neils Lumber Company and the Bemidji Lumber Company.

Others I knew well included “Bob” Murseau of the Crookston Lumber Company in the Kelliher and Northome area; “Billie” Betts, also of the Crookston Lumber Company, in the Blackduck and

Mizpah area; Merdick Morrisson of the Bemidji Lumber Company in the Tenstrike area; Henry Graham of the Page Hill Company and the National Pole Company in the Gemmell area; “Poker Jack” Baust of the International Lumber Company; Ben Bronson of the Backus & Brooks Company—and many more.

However, two of the best known in the early days were the Sullivan brothers—Jim and Mike. They worked for several companies—Jim mainly for the old Pine Tree Lumber Company in and around Brainerd, and Mike, his younger brother, for most of the lumber companies operating from Bemidji to International Falls.

Mike Sullivan was the better known of the two, and every lumberjack from Brainerd to International Falls knew him as “Hungry Mike.” He was a large man, about six-foot-two and 240 pounds, with a red mustache, a very strong voice and a tremendous appetite. Many a tale has been told and retold in all the lumber camp bunkhouses about Mike eating 12 dozen eggs for breakfast, a whole ham for lunch and 50 baking powder biscuits and 30 pounds of beef for supper. The tales are greatly exaggerated, but he certainly did eat as much as two ordinary men. Despite his large size and voice, he was a very gentle man and very kind—and was known to have taken his shirt off and given it to a man who did not have one. No lumberjack ever passed his camp hungry, and he was loved by most all who knew him.

Another great walking boss and foreman who worked in the Cloquet Valley State Forest was big Christ Lee of the

Northern Lumber Company. He was known for taking care of old-time “jacks” who were crippled, or getting “pretty old”—and usually had several working around his camp, sawing wood for the stoves or keeping fires in the stoves at night. He was criticized by the head men for keeping them around, but still he took care of them, I remember him for wearing six pairs of socks and oversize 13 rubbers; he never could get enough socks on to keep his feet warm.

In the Cloquet Valley State Forest area, just north of Duluth, were many others who worked for the Combined Cloquet Companies: “Big Hank” Glassow, Ed “Pine City” Netser, William P. Campbell, Mort Shiels, “Spot” Chisholm, Tom Henderson, John Shea, Pete Gibbons, John McPhersen—and many others.

History has but little to say or mention about these dedicated, noble, hardworking men, who conquered our rivers, built our logging railroads and ice logging roads, and delivered our pine logs to the mills to be manufactured into lumber that built our homes and farms in all the area west of the Mississippi River. But much credit is due them, for without them our pine forest would never have been harvested.

And while the name “walking boss” will soon be a forgotten word in our American life, there are still a few old-timers around who can remember the “bull cook” sticking his head in the bunkhouse door on a frosty January morning at 5:00 a.m. and singing out, “Roll out, you sleepy heads! Time to get up! The walker is in camp!”

A fine team moved this “walker” between Duluth & Winnipeg Railroad camps.



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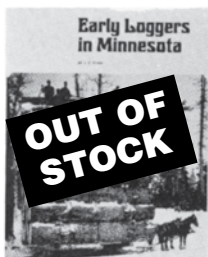
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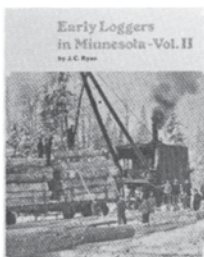
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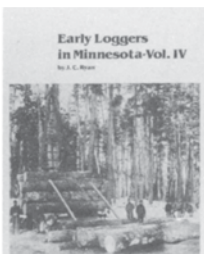
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