

# TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 56  
January/February 2000  
Duluth, Minnesota

## IN THIS ISSUE

John Rolle Logging .....4

---

Forest Resources Assn., Inc. ....6

---

A Run to the "Littles" .....8

---

Coming Events .....10

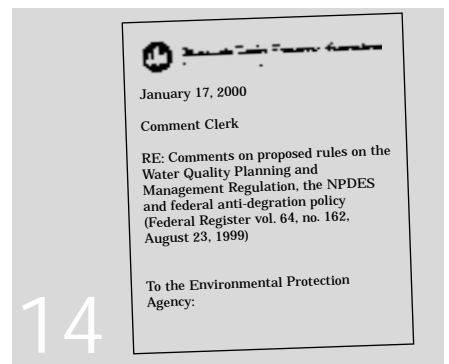
---

Meet the Directors .....11

---

Years Ago .....13

---



### TIMBER PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

**President**  
RAMON KILLMER

**1st Vice President**  
CLARENCE JOHNSON

**2nd Vice President**  
LOWELL PITTACK

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
RICHARD OLSON JR.

**Editor**  
WAYNE E. BRANDT

**Graphic Design, Editorial and Mechanical Production**  
STEWART-TAYLOR PRINTING

The Timber Bulletin is published six times annually, in February, April, June, August, October and December by the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, located at 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minn. Minnesota Timber Producers Association members receive the Timber Bulletin at an annual subscription rate of \$15 which is included in their membership dues. Periodicals postage paid in Duluth, Minnesota. Advertising rates and data on request. The views expressed in the Timber Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

**Postmaster: Please send address corrections to TIMBER BULLETIN, Minnesota Timber Producers Association, 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, Minnesota 55802, Phone 218-722-5013.**



No articles may be reprinted without written permission from the Minnesota Timber Producers Association.

As we go about our business, we are continually faced with increasing regulations. And, it doesn't look like things will change in the future. Regulations that are backed with reason and logic are easy to handle, but ones that are for "political correctness" are a little hard to understand.

This is why involvement in the political process takes on a more important meaning. Because most regulations are made by bureaucrats and not legislators,

## President's Column



it is necessary to work closely with the various agencies – federal, state and county.

By participating in the planning processes, we can inject our views and, hopefully, have an impact on the regulations that affect our businesses. Some think the answer is more money for our product. More money won't do much good if there is no product to harvest.

We have demonstrated that voluntary compliance with the existing BMP's and guidebook has worked well. We should showcase this every chance we get.

It is now time for me to get back to the bush – so everyone have a safe one.

## Fire Prevention in the Blowdown

The logging industry has been an important partner in the prevention and control of wildland fires for many years. In 2000, with almost a half million acres of drying, blown down timber in Minnesota, the logger's role in fire prevention and control is even more critical. The windstorms of 1999 took only minutes to do their damage, but the threat of massive wildfires in these blowdown areas is steadily mounting as the trees dry out. This threat will be with us for years to come.

Although large prescribed fires may seem like a healthy, natural way to "clean up" blowdown, fire behavior specialists say the amount of fuel present on these sites could easily make any fire uncontrollable and allow the fire to spread to healthy standing timber on public and private lands.

What should loggers be doing for fire prevention when the winter snow retreats? Some of the following activities are mandated by law or through timber sale regulations, some just need to become more of a habit, and some are just common sense:

1. Keep abreast of current fire weather. Using your own observations may be best, but listen for fire weather forecasts on the radio or television. Another alternative is the internet. The Minnesota DNR has a web site with current fire danger, burning restrictions, and fire weather forecasts. The address is <http://www.ra.dnr.state.mn.us/fire>.
2. Make sure all your equipment that requires spark arresters has them. Make sure they are in working order.
3. Avoid using any open fires, especially in the blowdown areas. Abide by all burning restrictions that are likely to be put into place in the spring.
4. Have a few basic fire fighting tools on hand at all times. A fire extinguisher for equipment fires is a must. Shovels and water in a backpack firefighting pump are also important and may be required by timber sale contracts.
5. Make your equipment available

for emergency fire control through equipment contracts with local forestry offices. Keep your equipment well maintained and ready to go at all times.

6. Watch out for your own safety and that of your employees by using extra caution when working in remote, poor access areas that may be difficult to evacuate quickly. Let fire control specialists know where and when you are working in these areas. Determine where your best safety zones would be and your escape routes.

The state legislature has reassembled in St. Paul for the 2000 session. Plans are for a short (ten-week) session which means a limited agenda. The most likely things to be acted upon will be

Executive Vice  
President's  
Column



another tax rebate bill, road and transit funding and a package of capital investments. As always, TPA will be on the job looking for opportunities and protecting your interests.

\* \* \*

On a recent trip to visit some of our members, I was impressed with the attention to safety on each job. Everyone is hard at it right now, but these operators were also giving attention to safe work. The landings were well laid out, operations were orderly and the logging was proceeding safely. LUA loss control representatives had been in the area that day and were pleased with what they had seen.

Speaking of LUA, their new Midwest Region vice president, Mike North, will be visiting some members soon. You have to like a guy whose office is in Florida who comes to see us in the winter.

\* \* \*

Mark your calendars now for the TPA annual meeting on April 28 in Duluth. DNR Commissioner Al Garber will be the banquet speaker and a full agenda for the meeting is being planned.

Commissioner Garber has been very open and accessible to TPA. The executive committee had an in-depth meeting with the commissioner and his senior staff several weeks ago. The biggest topic for the meeting was lagging DNR timber sale volumes. The executive committee also shared TPA's views on DNR planning, blowdown and other mortality as well as the agency's plans for the next fire season.

We are pleased that

Commissioner Garber has accepted the invitation to speak at our banquet and look forward to his remarks.

\* \* \*

I want to thank every TPA member who submitted comments 1) to the EPA on their proposal to classify silviculture as a point source and require permits for logging; 2) to the U.S. Forest Service on their roadless area policy; and 3) to the U.S. Forest Service on their planning regulations.

The Minnesota DNR, PCA and Agriculture Department all submitted comments to EPA opposing their efforts to regulate logging and silviculture. Additionally, the MN Forest Resources Council wrote Governor Ventura advising him about the issue and opposing the proposed regulations.

Information on these topics was sent to TPA members in December.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Bob Milne who has been named Beltrami County's new Natural Resource Management director (land commissioner). Milne's appointment came on a unanimous vote by the Beltrami County board. He succeeds Mark Reed who is now the deputy land commissioner in St. Louis County. TPA executive committee member Clarence Johnson served on the interview panel that screened candidates for the position. Milne has been employed by the county's natural resources division for 11 years and was its interim director after Reed's departure.

TPA looks forward to working with Bob Milne. He's likely to have his work cut out for him. Bemidji, the Beltrami County seat, has become a hot bed for the anti-harvesting crowd.

\* \* \*

The anti-harvesting crowd lost big in front of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in December. They were challenging the adequacy of the

GEIS on timber harvesting and forest management. We all remember the GEIS. The state spent \$1 million to do some 6,000 pages of analysis on forestry issues and it turned out very positive. Well the anti-harvesting crowd has never liked it. So they got it in front of the EQB again.

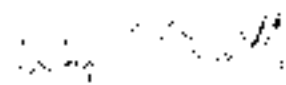
The environmentalists put on a full court press with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) and the state Audubon Society in the lead. TPA presented our views vigorously in this process. The DNR was represented at the December meeting by assistant commissioner for operations Brad Moore and Forestry Division planner Jon Nelson. They did an excellent job in presenting the facts as did EQB staff.

At the end of the day the EQB voted unanimously that the GEIS was still adequate. The Audubon Society's state director called the EQB a farce in the newspaper. Nothing like leading with your chin.

We anticipate that MCEA will sue over Boise Cascade's air permit request, which is the issue that triggered this GEIS adequacy review. If this lawsuit happens, it will further show that their main commitment is to generating controversy and litigation.

\* \* \*

I would like to offer my congratulations to Dave Ohms on his recent promotion to vice president of Information Services for Potlatch Corp. We're sad to have him leave our state but appreciate his steadfast support for timber harvesting and his participation in TPA.





Wesley brings in another drag of balsam and spruce with the John Deere 648G grapple skidder.

# John Rolle Logging

**A**s I turned north on state highway 65 at Swan River the snow fall lessened. By the time I reached Nashwauk it was daylight. I continued north and turned east on Itasca County Road 54 for about two miles where I turned north onto a recently bladed woods road

across a rather swampy looking area which contained some stands of black spruce. There was no fresh snow on the ground and it had completely stopped snowing. As I climbed a short grade to higher ground there was a fork in the road. Down the left fork a pickup was parked. As I drove up I could see a feller-buncher working through the trees. When I got out of the pickup and headed for the machine it shut down and TPA Director John Rolle, owner of John Rolle Logging, stepped out. "How



John Rolle, owner of John Rolle Logging.



The Komatsu strips the limbs off of another balsam.

were my directions?" he asked. "They were excellent," I replied. John had moved his Tigercat 845B onto this Itasca County timber sale the day before. "I like to have two days of wood ahead of the rest of the crew. This allows me to take time to visit with you today. Tomorrow, 60 Chisholm fifth grade science students are going to visit my logging job and I will explain what we are doing and how logging starts a new forest while making use of the wood to provide jobs and products that people need," he commented. John, his wife, Mary, and their



From left to right, Mike Anderson, Gary Fosso and Wesley Fosso.

children live in Chisholm. He enjoys hunting and the outdoors. After completing two years of college, in 1980, John purchased his first cable skidder and started logging as a subcontractor. Today he has his own logging business. "If I had to pick one factor that has contributed to my success I would have to say it is my crew. They are the best. They are good workers and know what needs to be done. They know how to operate the equipment and how to take care of it," he mentioned.

"With that said, there are still issues and concerns in the logging business. One of the biggest problems I face now is fuel costs. I use 200 gallons a day and the price has just about doubled in the last

year. Another problem that concerns me is the quality of the wood. A lot of it is old and as a result it has a lot of insect and disease damage. I cut a lot of balsam in this area and more and more of it is being killed by the bud worm," John stated.

"There are also a number of positive things happening. We are finding it easier to market more species such as maple, basswood and birch. If you get into a decent run of wood there are better markets for bolts and sawlogs," John mentioned.

We drove back out to Highway 65 and went north several miles to the sale that his crew was working. This sale is also an Itasca County sale with a similar species mix including aspen, balsam, birch, maple and spruce.

Wesley Fosso was doing the skidding with the John Deere 648G grapple skidder. He does most of the sorting that wasn't done with the feller-buncher. He was full-tree skidding to the delimeter. Wesley has worked for John for 12 years.

Gary Fosso, yes, he is Wesley's brother, operates the Komatsu PC 200 with Denis delimeter. He does some of the sorting, especially when it comes to spruce and balsam. John said that they use this machine to delimb about 85 percent of the aspen they harvest and most all of the other species. Gary has been with the company for 3½ years.

Mike Anderson does the slashing with the Serco 170-R loader and slasher. While we were there he was working a tree-length deck of aspen. He was doing a nice job of decking the 100 inch sticks. Mike has been with the crew for 10 years.

The company only owns one truck and lowboy to move equipment. They contract the hauling of the wood. John said they keep three trucks hauling steady. John commented that the logging business keeps him busy without having to worry about the wood hauling and trucks. He enjoys what he is doing and plans to keep on logging. When I asked him if he had any plans to grow or change his operation, he stated that he likes the size and production of the operation and unless things change he sees no reason to change anything. With the size of his operation, John is still able to be a productive worker along with the rest of his crew and that is what he wants.



John cuts another aspen with a Tigercat equipped with a hotsaw.



Mike slashes another grapple of tree-length aspen.

# Forest Resources Association, Inc.

formerly known as *The American Pulpwood Association Inc.*

The following articles are reprinted with permission from *The American Pulpwood Association Inc.* The *American Pulpwood Association Inc.*, soon to be known as the **Forest Resources Association Inc.**, is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. APA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

## "Forest Resources Association": American Pulpwood Association Changes Its Name

On January 1, 2000, the American Pulpwood Association Inc. will change its name to the Forest Resources Association Inc., to reflect its emerging identity, as outlined in its ongoing strategic planning process. "We are committed to meeting the changing world of wood supply and forest management by changing ourselves," stated APA Chairman Jim Fendig. "The new name reflects new breadth in our membership and in the resources we represent, as we position ourselves for the future."

APA President Richard Lewis noted that "Members and industry allies have strong feelings about American Pulpwood Association's reputation and the history associated with that name. Although we're committed to retaining the core values that guide all association activities, the need to position ourselves to engage the future required a hard look at everything we do. That meant examining our identity."

Chairman Fendig states that the association's board was revising its membership and dues categories and would complete development of more inclusive membership categories during the spring of

2000. "Like APA, the Forest Resources Association will succeed by its commitment to on-the-ground projects and by helping members apply their skills toward common solutions to timber harvesting and forest resource challenges. In today's world, that means extra efforts to form liaisons with allies in other countries and to empower our network of members to defend access to the forest resource, on the ground and through new technologies."

## Revised "Logging Safety Resource Guide" Available

The American Pulpwood Association Inc. has published the fourth revision of its *Logging Safety Resource Guide*, a catalogue of logging safety and training materials available from nearly 40 different suppliers.

"This descriptive listing can be of great help to logger training and education coordinators who are revising and improving curriculums," stated Steve Jarvis, APA director of forestry programs. "Everyone involved in the push for improving safety can use the *Guide* to review what's out there."

The 34-page guide divides forest operations safety among eight general topics:

- Site Preparation, Tree Planting, and Precommercial Thinning
- Chain Saws and Manual Felling
- Mechanical Felling and Processing
- Skidding and Forwarding
- Loading and Landings
- Transportation
- Woodyard Safety
- General or Miscellaneous Safety

Under each section, the *Guide* introduces videos, handbooks, pamphlets, and other education and training resources, along with complete pricing and ordering information. Appendices list recent APA Safety Alerts and safety-oriented Technical Releases, as well as other, recently available sources

of information.

APA's *Logging Safety Resource Guide* (99-A-14) is available from the American Pulpwood Association Inc., 600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 350, Rockville, Md. 20852; 301-838-9385. The price is \$15.00 for APA members, \$30.00 for all others, shipping included. Please enclose payment with order, or phone to authorize a credit card draft.



APA's *Forestry Guide for Non Foresters in the Southeast*.

## Orienting Journalists and Opinion Makers: APA'S "Forestry Guide for Non Foresters"

The American Pulpwood Association has published a 61-page booklet for foresters and loggers to distribute to journalists and other members of the public, to provide them with a basic background to the science and practice of forestry in the Southeastern United States. The *Forestry Guide for Non Foresters in the Southeast* presents the history of forest use in the region, provides background on forest types and tree species, and outlines ecological and wildlife management issues, while providing basics on mensuration and surveying. Sources for more information and extensive glossary of terms are also included.

APA Chairman Jim Fendig stated, "If we aren't happy with how the media view our operations, (continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

one reason is that they are getting too much of their background information from interests which oppose forest management. This compact, attractive booklet can help any friend of forest industry make a meaningful contact with a member of the media or other opinion maker."

The *Guide* is a work of APA's Southeastern Technical Division's Media Relations Committee. As the committee affirms in the *Guide's* Foreword: "In this publication we have outlined in layman's language what foresters do and why they do it."

APA's *Forestry Guide for Non Foresters in the Southeast* (99-A-15) is available from the American Pulpwood Association Inc., 600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 350, Rockville, Md. 20852; 301-838-9385. The price is \$5.00 to APA members or \$10.00 to all others. For orders of 50 or more copies sent to one address, the price is \$2.50 per booklet to APA members or \$5.00 per booklet to all others. Please enclose payment with order, or phone to authorize a credit card draft.

## Environmentalists Torch Boise Cascade Office

**A** Christmas Day fire destroyed Boise Cascade's Monmouth, Ore., regional woodlands office. The Earth Liberation Front cackled in a press release that they had used four buckets of diesel fuel and a timer to start the fire. Fortunately, no employees were injured in the holiday fire.

The FBI continues to investigate the act of eco-terrorism under federal domestic terrorism statutes. This is the latest in a series of violent acts directed at public agencies, private citizens and forest products businesses.

While no violent acts of this scale have occurred in Minnesota, previous out of state and local extremists have camped out on logging jobs and chained themselves inside U.S. Forest Service offices. Additionally, the radical Ruckus Society has conducted training sessions in

Minnesota to organize protests. Session attendees have included the leader of SWAN, a group that appeals and sues over nearly all U.S. Forest Service forest management decisions.

## Mobile Equipment Fire Precautions

by *Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance*

**I**n the last few years there has been a significant increase in the number of equipment fires. The cost to a logging business, including down time, loss of production and the repair or replacement of the equipment, is extremely expensive. These fires can also affect the cost of insurance. The following hazards and safety precautions are not all inclusive; however, they provide a good base for consideration in respect to equipment fires.

### Some Common Fire Hazards

1. Accumulation of debris inside mechanical compartments, such as building up oil, grease and fuel from leaks and spills.
2. Faulty or damaged electrical system wiring and components.
3. Overheating brakes.
4. Heavy buildup of flammable materials around rotating drive shafts.
5. Welding and cutting during maintenance and repair.
6. Vandalism.

These safety precautions may make your job easier in reviewing mobile equipment.

1. Separate the mechanical compartment from the engine and hydraulic pump and hose area. There should be a fire wall or shield between these two compartments.
2. Protective shields should be installed on all sides, top and bottom to protect the internal components and help keep debris out of these hot areas.
3. All opening on top of the hood area should be sealed or restricted so debris cannot fall onto the engine area.
4. Mount batteries in a safe and

protected area. A nonconductive top shield for the battery should be used to prevent contact with conductive items.

5. All electrical wiring that is direct-wired should be fused or run through the electrical fuse panels and properly maintained.
6. Electrical disconnects should be installed and mounted close to the batteries. This ensures the batteries are isolated from the rest of the electrical system when the equipment is not in use or during emergency shutdown.
7. Maintain a fully-charged multipurpose fire extinguisher at a minimum of ten pounds in size within each piece of mobile equipment.
8. Perform housekeeping, housekeeping and more housekeeping, especially in dry and heavy debris work areas. Before, during and after operating, housekeeping should be followed up.
9. Periodically pressure wash and clean all equipment, a minimum of twice a year, and preferably, as often as it takes to maintain a clean machine.
10. Utilize a steam or pressure washer to clean and wet down the floor and to stand by whenever welding and cutting on your equipment.

# A Run to the "Littles"

by Wayne Brandt

Colder by the lake fits Duluth on many summer days but not when Lake Superior is open in the winter. It was around zero early one January morning when I left my house heading for the Little Alfie/Little East Creek area to visit a few TPA members. My truck was a little stiff but I was looking forward to the day outside; beats the heck out of the office or St. Paul.

It was 20 below zero over the top of the hill. I caught TPA president Ray Killmer on the cell phone around 6:30 a.m. to report in on some of the issues we were working on. Ray, like all TPA president's, has gotten used to these odd-hour calls. It was a short conversation, just the facts. Ray had truck problems that morning.

I pulled over in Orr to call the office around 8:15 a.m. After returning a few phone calls that had already come in and pulling on

some cold weather gear (it had warmed up to 17 below) I headed east for Buyck, the Echo Trail and Forest Road 200.

One of Bimbo Wagner's trucks was pulled over to the side on Forest Road 200. I was glad to see him and hopped out to talk. My truck doesn't have a CB and I'd already met seven loads of tree length since Orr. After a ten minute wait for another truck to pass, I followed him in.

With the lawsuits over Little Alfie and the Little East Creek Road, I'd been this way before. Several times. We dropped down off the end of the 200 road and came to Little East Creek. After stopping, I looked at the temporary bridge that had been put in over the creek.

The bridge placement was a first-class job. Pristine snow, good angles to the temporary road and no impact on the creek. I took a few pictures. Later, I talked to some of the guys that installed the bridge. They said they had a big audience from the public agencies during installation and were proud of the job they'd done.

Wagner's had a very well organized landing laid out. I stopped and visited with his crew chief. He gave me the low down on their job. Nice guy, but who do you meet out in the woods that isn't. After checking for any additional trucks that might be coming out, I headed south again.

A few miles down the trail, I came across Greg Olson's buncher in a patch of blowdown. Actually, there's more blowdown than standing timber in most of this area. The operator had the wrenches out and was trying to fix a seal on the boom. He didn't have the right sized wrench and was heading to the shack.

It was 14 below, positively balmy, and time for morning coffee when I pulled on to Olson's job. His crew invited me into their shack and said Greg would be in shortly. One of the guys had spent the night in the shack. He said he could hear the rapids on the Vermillion River and that he watched the northern lights.

Greg came in, followed a little while later by Warren Johnson who  
*(continued on page 9)*



Temporary bridge installed over Little East Creek.



Blowdown from July 4 windstorm south of Little East Creek.



(continued from page 8)

was felling for him. We talked about his job, timber, stumpage availability (or the lack of availability), lawsuits, TPA, blowdown and politics. Warren advised the buncher operator on the size of wrench he needed and helped him find a seal for the boom.

They told me where to find Cliff Shermer – back up the road and down a spur to the south. Cliff later told me that he found the line for this temporary road on some old aerial photography. Once he found the line it was easy to reopen the old road bed.

A few miles along, I found an operator visiting with a DNR forester. He was a good guy. Out helping on the road flagging and cruising some more state timber. Who says the DNR foresters spend all of their time in meetings. This guy was working. It had warmed to about twelve below.

Cliff was laying some corduroy onto an approach when I found him. I got a short wary look

from him when I pulled up and then a big belly laugh when he recognized me. I hadn't been able to reach him to let him know I was coming. We visited about a bunch of things. Cliff volunteered to be on the mechanization committee to help with the North Star Expo.

By now it was nearly 12:30 p.m. and time to head for International Falls. I stopped back in Orr at the gas station for a sandwich to go and can of pop. With a few extra minutes before my meeting, I stopped at Bergstrom Wood Products. Rod was on the phone and his wife Marilyn was set to take over scaling from their son Darren who was headed out.

We talked for awhile and I used their washroom to change out of my cold weather gear and into "meeting" clothes.

5:10 p.m. and time to head back to Duluth. The ride back gave me some time to think about the day. You can't understand logging operations, forest management, or

nature for that matter, if you don't get out in the woods.

Listening to the operator's pride in the job he'd done building the temporary bridge, seeing a young fellow straddling a boom to change a seal in below zero weather so hydraulic fluid won't leak on the ground and hearing the hopes and fears of our members; all of this makes the daily frustrations of the ongoing battles to maintain our way of life and improve our forests worthwhile.

And, it makes me proud of each and every TPA member.

8:10 p.m. and 14 below over the hill. Four below at home. A great run to the "Littles."

## TIMBER BULLETIN Subscription Order

Please ENTER my subscription to the Minnesota Timber Bulletin (six issues per year). Payment is enclosed for:

1 year \$15     2 years \$28     3 years \$40

Please type or print clearly.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my GIFT SUBSCRIPTION to the Minnesota Timber Bulletin (six issues per year) to be sent to the name below. Payment is enclosed for:

1 year \$15     2 years \$28     3 years \$40

Please type or print clearly.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

TPA Services, Inc., 903 Medical Arts Bldg., 324 W. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802

Note: Existing subscriptions will continue at their current rate until they expire.

## "Trakking" the Cost of Logging

**A**LC member and SFI Forum logger, Travis Reed of Lincolnton, Ga., and forester Frank Riley have teamed up to create 21st century logging computer software. Their company, Trakker Technology, Inc. has developed "Cost Trakker" and "Ticket Trakker," especially for loggers.

Cost Trakker is an equipment cost tracking system that tracks and reports machine costs, crew costs and total company costs. This package allows the equipment owner/operator to take control of their company's spending. Cost Trakker has the capability of helping a company reduce their operating costs and therefore increase profits.

Ticket Trakker is a new and innovative software package designed to produce weekly settlements for log tickets and track production for modern logging and timber companies.

Owners Travis Reed and Frank

Riley are committed to the goals and mission of the American Loggers Council and have made a commitment to give both ALC and its member states a commission for every software package sold in their state. In addition, Trakker Technology, Inc. has a marketing program available to ALC members that would enable them to sell the software in their state.

For more information, please contact Trakker Technology, Inc., P.O. Box 966, Lincolnton, Ga. 30817; phone 706-359-6696; fax 706-359-3319; e-mail: [timbertech@g-net.net](mailto:timbertech@g-net.net).

## Potlatch Promotes Dave Ohms

**P**otlatch Corporation has promoted Dave Ohms to the position of vice president, Information Services. Ohms has served as woodlands manager in Minnesota for the past 15 years. Dave and his family are in the

process of relocating to the Lewiston, Idaho, area.

Dave Ohms has been active in TPA as a director. He served on the TPA task force that organized the MN Logger Education Program (MLEP) and later served on the MLEP board. He also was active in the American Pulpwood Assn. and numerous other organizations.

"TPA congratulates Dave on his promotion and thanks him for all of his contributions," said TPA president Ray Killmer.

Potlatch is expected to name a new woodlands manager in February or March of this year.

## Coming Events

- **TPA Annual Membership Meeting**, Fri., Apr. 28, 2000, Spirit Mountain, Duluth, Minn.
- **North Star Expo**, Fri. and Sat., Aug. 11 and 12, Ironworld Discovery Center, Chisholm, Minn.

## Minnesota Timber Producers Association *Meet the Directors*

**R**od Bergstrom was born in Loman, Minn., into a family that was in the logging and sawmill business. Even before he finished high school he was working in the woods. He started in the family logging business in 1964.

Rod is president of Bergstrom Wood Products Inc. in International Falls. The company consists of a sawmill and pallet manufacturing plant.

Little Fork, Minn., is home for Rod, his wife Marilyn, and their three children. Marilyn works full time for Bergstrom Wood Products.

Rod has served TPA in several capacities including the Mechanization Committee and the Group Health Trustees, both of which he chaired. He was elected to the board of directors in 1975 and served as TPA president in 1992-1993. Presently Rod is chairman of the public relations committee.



Even with all of the TPA activities Rod is involved in he still finds time to serve as president of the Little Fork Lutheran Church Board, president of the Koochiching County Land Use Committee and on the Koochiching County Tax Forfeit Land Committee and the Hwy. 53 Long Range Plan Commission.

When he is not working for himself or someone else Rod does find time to enjoy some hunting and fishing.

input from our visitors and offer them the services and information they want."

Timberjack is the world leader in the development, manufacture and distribution of forestry equipment and service parts. The company's net sales in 1998 were EUR 530 million, and it employed some 1,900 people in more than 10 countries. Today Timberjack machines are operating in over 80 countries throughout the world.

## Timberjack Today Web Site Provides Complete Online Information and Merchandise

**T**imberjack Corporation, the North American marketing center for the world's leading manufacturer of purpose-built forestry machines, has a new website that makes Timberjack apparel and gift items available at the click of a mouse. Found on the World Wide Web at [tjtoday.com](http://tjtoday.com), these "JACK-cessories" include caps, jackets, shirts, mugs, and just about any Timberjack gift item imaginable.

Customers can easily make their selections at [tjtoday.com](http://tjtoday.com) via credit card using the site's secure ordering system. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

"JACK-cessories" is the newest

addition to the growing [tjtoday.com](http://tjtoday.com) website, which is linked to the company's official corporate website, [www.timberjack.com](http://www.timberjack.com). Visitors to [tjtoday.com](http://tjtoday.com) can see an online version of Timberjack's North American news video, also called TJ Today. In addition to interviews, [tjtoday.com](http://tjtoday.com) visitors can view information about Timberjack products, order product videos, register for upcoming classes at Timberjack's Atlanta Training Center and find the latest in forestry news throughout North America.

"The TJ Today website is a result of growing requests by North American loggers and forestry professionals for a casual, yet informative place to find the latest Timberjack news instantaneously," says Sandi Fallowfield, the company's communications manager. "JACK-cessories is simply the newest addition to the site as we continue to respond to

# Consolidated Papers to Voluntarily Assess Forest Management Practices

*BioForest Technologies to complete independent, nonbiased review*

**C**onsolidated Papers, Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer Gorton M. Evans has announced that BioForest Technologies Inc. has been selected to conduct the papermaker's first voluntary, independent, third-party audit of the company's U.S. forestlands, forestry practices and wood procurement policies.

The thorough review will include a comprehensive assessment of Consolidated's compliance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>SM</sup> (SFI<sup>SM</sup>) of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) which Consolidated formally committed to in 1995.

"This review keeps a promise we made to voluntarily have credible nonbiased forestry experts take a close look at our forestlands and our forestry practices," said Evans. "These independent specialists will review our forestry record, visit our forest and talk with our wood supplier. These experts will tell us what we are doing well, and they also will tell us what we can do better."

Evans said the company is confident that its forestry practices are consistent with the highest standards of sustainable forestry.

"Understanding that continuous improvement is a way of life at Consolidated, we won't rest on our forestry laurels. We will make improvements where necessary, and we will report to the public both our strengths as well as areas that need improvement," Evans noted.

The audit is expected to begin mid-summer 2000 and be completed by early fall. Shortly thereafter, a report of the findings will be available in printed form and on Consolidated Papers' Web site.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>SM</sup> is a comprehensive system of principles, objectives and performance measures that integrates the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil, and water quality. It requires working with nature to ensure the

future of the nation's forests. It's based on the premise that responsible environmental practices and sound business practices can be integrated to the benefit of landowners, shareholders, customers and the people they serve.

Consolidated owns and manages nearly 700,000 acres of forestland in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ontario, Canada. The company obtains the fiber required for its papermaking operations from these renewable forests; from private, national, state and county forests; and from sawmill byproducts and recycled scrap paper.

Beyond prudent forest management, Consolidated Papers also has pledged to voluntarily align its corporate Environmental Management System (EMS) to ISO 14001 international standards and to adhere to AF&PA's Environmental Health & Safety Principles Verification Program.

Consolidated's EMS initiative provides a structured management framework to achieve environmental goals and objectives. It starts with a strong commitment by top management to environmental responsibility. It will clearly define environmental policies, goals and objectives, and establishes procedures, responsibilities and controls to achieve the targets. Formal reviews are required to ensure that the system continues to meet its objectives. It involves all employees at all levels of the organization.

The goal of aligning the company's EMS with ISO 14001 international standards is to add value to the company in terms of internal efficiencies, reduce liabilities, increase customer confidence and progress toward continuous environmental improvement.

## **Profiles:**

Consolidated Papers, Inc. is North America's largest producer of coated and supercalendered printing papers for the printing and publishing industries. In addition,

the company is a leading producer of coated specialty papers and manufactures paperboard and paperboard products. Consolidated also produces elemental chlorine-free kraft pulp from virgin wood fiber for its own use and recycled pulp from printed, preconsumer and postconsumer scrap paper.

Consolidated employs approximately 6,800 people. The company is headquartered in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., and operates manufacturing facilities in Biron, Kimberly, Niagara, Stevens Point, Whiting and Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., as well as in Duluth, Minn.

To learn more about Consolidated, visit the company's Website at <http://www.consolidatedpapers.com>.

BioForest Technologies, headquartered in Rockford, Mich., is a multidisciplinary forest services company. Along with their office in Ontario, Canada, BioForest conducts consulting, training, and auditing throughout North America.

# Years Ago

## 20 YEARS AGO

- Blandin Paper Co., Grand Rapids, and the Hanna Mining Co., Hibbing, have entered into an agreement under which Blandin will establish a forest management plan and timber market program on lands controlled by Hanna in Itasca, St. Louis, Aitkin and Crow Wing counties.
- Art Ennis, manager of public affairs for Boise Cascade Corporation, International Falls, retired the end of January after a 31-year career with the company. He will be moving to Washington, D.C., to establish a governmental affairs consulting service.
- Lansin Hamilton, Crow Wing County land commissioner, announced the addition of Tom Cowell to his staff. Hamilton said the addition of a third forester to the land department is a result of the expanding programs and responsibilities. Tom will be primarily responsible for all activities in the southeastern two-thirds of the county.

### ■ RARE II Study Explained

The U.S. Forest Service has completed a two-year study, capping a 10-year review, of the wilderness suitability of 62 million acres of roadless land in the 187-million-acre national forest system. This study was RARE II – the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation.

The purpose of RARE II was to let Congress and the nation address the serious continuing controversy over how national forest lands and resources will be used. One aim was to settle which lands were to be available for general recreation and commodity users – so that all roadless lands would not be tied up indefinitely simply because they could be considered for wilderness.

With the completion of RARE II, which included a lengthy public involvement period, the Carter Administration announced its decision in April 1979: 15.4 million acres for wilderness; 36 million acres for nonwilderness uses, and 10.6 million acres for further study.

H.R. 6070, Rep. Thomas S. Foley's (D-Wash.) "National Forest Multiple Use Management Act of 1980:"

1) Reaffirms the President's RARE II decision by directing that the 36 million acres recommended for nonwilderness continue to be managed for nonwilderness multiple use, in accordance with the 1974 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act as amended.

2) Sets a deadline of Jan. 1, 1984, for Congress to act on the 15.4 million acres the President recommended for wilderness. If Congress doesn't designate the land as wilderness by that date, it will be managed for nonwilderness multiple use, in accordance with RPA.

3) Sets a deadline of Jan. 1, 1985, for the Administration to make a decision on lands set

aside for further study. Congress would have until Jan. 1, 1987, to act on "further study" lands which the Administration recommends for wilderness between now and Jan. 1, 1985. If at any time the Secretary of Agriculture determines, under RPA, that any of the land is not to be recommended for wilderness designation, that land immediately will be managed for nonwilderness multiple use.

4) Some current primitive areas were included in the RARE II study. The President recommended that some of them be returned to nonwilderness multiple use management. The bill directs the release of these lands for nonwilderness multiple use enactment.

5) Current primitive areas which the President recommended be designated wilderness will be managed for nonwilderness multiple use after Jan. 1, 1984, if by that date Congress does not pass legislation designating these wilderness.

The bill does not preclude the Forest Service, Congress or the President, at any time in the future, from recommending any of the RARE II land for wilderness under the periodic land use planning required by RPA.

H.R. 6070 would reaffirm existing statutes that require Congressional action to place land in the wilderness system, and until Congress acts to designate national forest lands as wilderness, these lands would be managed for uses other than wilderness.

## 30 YEARS AGO

- The timber harvest from Minnesota's two national forests (Chippewa and Superior) for FY 1969 was 19,301,000 board feet (48,252 cords) of sawlogs and 165,700 cords of pulpwood.
- Duluth Area Institute of Technology will graduate its first class from the Forest Harvesting Technician's course. The course, initiated by the Timber Producers Assn. and under the auspices of the Institute, commenced last fall and on June 30, 1970, will graduate 10 young men interested in a career of operating forestry and logging equipment.
- Rajala Timber Co. opened its sawmill just west of Deer River on U.S. Hwy. 2. The facility is owned and operated by Art Rajala and two of his sons, Dean and Jack. The plant features the use of a high production, chip-and-saw which manufactures, with one pass, lumber and softwood tree-length.
- Jack Rajala, Rajala Mills Co., Bigfork, Minn., has been elected president of the Northern Hardwood & Pine Manufacturers Assn., Inc.
- Alvin A. Ulm, a research fellow in forestry at the University of Minnesota has been awarded the Northwest Paper Foundation Fellowship for 1969-1970.
- Lynn (Chris) Peterson has joined the staff of Blandin Paper Co. He recently graduated with a bachelor of science degree in forestry from the University of Minnesota.



# Minnesota Timber Producers Association

909 Medica Arts Building • 324 W. Superior St. • Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
Phone 218-722-5013 • Fax 218-722-2055

January 17, 2000

Comment Clerk  
TMDL Program Rule  
Water Docket (W-98-31)  
Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Comment Clerk  
NPDES/WQS  
Water Docket (W-99-04)  
Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: Comments on proposed rules on the Water Quality Planning and Management Regulation, the NPDES and federal anti-degradation policy (Federal Register vol. 64, no. 162, August 23, 1999)

To the Environmental Protection Agency:

The Minnesota Timber Producers Association (TPA) was formed in 1937. Our members include loggers from throughout the state along with small sawmills and allied businesses. We write to express our strong opposition to EPA's proposed rule which would reclassify all silvicultural activities as point source under the Clean Water Act.

**If this rule goes forward, it will be a clear statement to loggers that even if we do the "right thing" we will be subject to the full regulatory and enforcement hammers of the federal government.**

In 1989 Minnesota implemented voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. These plans were developed by a cooperative group of stakeholders including three levels of government, loggers, industry, private landowners and environmental advocacy interest groups.

These BMPs were updated and expanded to include wetlands in 1995. Ongoing monitoring has shown compliance with the guidelines exceeding 90 percent and the effectiveness of the guidelines at protecting water resources at 99 percent. **All of this has been done voluntarily.**

Loggers in Minnesota have spent in excess of \$45 million on new logging equipment and accessories in the past three and a half years. Much of this cost has been to further protect water quality and our forest resources. Our members have also voluntarily borne the operational costs of complying with water quality BMPs.

Now, the EPA comes forward with this proposed rule to grab the power to regulate and require permits to solve a problem that does not exist and, if it ever existed, has long since been solved.

We find EPA statements that this authority would only be used in extreme circumstances to be an insult. The EPA and the states already have sufficient authority to act in extreme circumstances.

We can only conclude that the sole purpose of this proposed regulation is to provide another avenue for environmental special interests to file lawsuits under the Clean Water Act to halt forest management and silvicultural activities.

**Our members have done the right thing in voluntarily protecting water quality through voluntary BMPs. We are proud of our record. Proposing this rule is the wrong thing to do. Implementing the rule would be a disaster. TPA strongly urges that this rule be withdrawn.**

Sincerely,

Ray Killmer  
President

*This paper is made from Minnesota trees.*

## Timberjack Teams up with Operations Lifesaver to Promote Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety

**T**imberjack Corporation, the North American Marketing center for the world's leading manufacturer of purpose-built forestry machines, has teamed up with American organization Operation Lifesaver to increase awareness about highway-rail grade crossing safety.

Timberjack plans to incorporate the Operation Lifesaver message into a variety of marketing and advertising vehicles. These include Timberjack training videos, their electronic news magazine, *TJ Toady*, their customer magazine, *Timberjack News*, and a presence on their informational Web site, *tjtoday.com*. Also, the company plans to promote Operation Lifesaver as part of the Timberjack exhibit during upcoming industry trade shows.

Founded in Idaho in 1972, Operation Lifesaver has grass-roots programs in 49 U.S. states and supports an active, continuous public information and education program to help prevent and reduce crashes injuries and fatalities and improve driver performance at the nation's 263,000 public and private highway-rail grade crossings. On average, nearly 3,500 highway-rail grade crossing crashes occur each year in the US.

"We are very happy to be a partner with Operation Lifesaver," said Timberjack's Communication Manager, Sandi Fallowfield. "Promoting awareness about such an important safety issue in the timber harvesting industry is an integral component of Timberjack's ongoing mission of doing more for today's forestry professional."

"Of course, our overall goal is to reduce the total number of tragic crashes that occur with vehicles and trains at crossings," she said. "But, due to the high number of crossings located on logging roads throughout the nation, Timberjack is focusing on creating awareness with regard to the special dangers involved with logging trucks at these junctions."

Operation Lifesaver President Gerri Hall said gaining the support of Timberjack is important to the organization. "Through their years of safe operation throughout the US, Canada and the world, Timberjack has influenced their workers and the communities in which they operate," she said. "We hope our partnership with them will have the same positive influence on safety awareness at highway-rail grade crossings throughout our many forest areas."

Timberjack is the world leader in the development, manufacture and distribution of forestry equipment and service parts. The company's net sales in 1998 were EUR 530 million, and it employed some 1,900 people in more than 10 countries. Today Timberjack machines are operating in over 80 countries throughout the world.

## TPA Blasts Enviro's Over Latest Lawsuits

**L**et it burn is the policy of environmental extremists in our state," said TPA President Ray Killmer, in response to two new efforts by environmental groups to get into court.

The Friends of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness have filed suit in federal district court to block timber harvesting in the Seagull Creek area of the Gunflint Trail corridor which was devastated during last year's July 4 windstorm.

Additionally, the Superior Wilderness Action Network (SWAN) has asked federal Judge Donavon Frank to reopen their lawsuit, which he previously dismissed, to block salvage logging in the Little East Creek area southeast of Orr, Minn.

"We've all seen their statements in the paper about how concerned these groups say they are about fire and its impact on tourism, public safety and forests. Now, they're showing their real cards. Their actions show that they want fire to roll through the forest and anything else be damned," concluded TPA's Killmer.



Example of type of blowdown near Little East Creek that environmental groups are suing to prevent being salvaged.



Healthy regeneration in same area that survived the July 4 windstorm.

# Roadless Area Proposal Debate Ignores Impact on Private Forestland

*Reprinted with permission of Minnesota Forestry Assn., vol. 3, no. 1, January 2000*

A recent proposal by the U.S. Forest Service to eliminate road construction – and therefore most forest management activities, within inventoried roadless areas of all national forests – has stirred a lot of controversy. The Society of American Foresters estimates the proposal could impact as much as 80,000 acres in the Superior and Chippewa National Forests.

There are compelling arguments on either side of this issue. Environmental interests argues that road construction in roadless areas will damage wildlife habitat, reduce water quality, restrict dispersed recreation opportunities and negatively impact biodiversity and forest health.

Professional land managers argue that elimination of road construction and reduction of management activities will unnecessarily reduce human access to national forests for recreation and hunting; make fire control efforts less effective; restrict biodiversity to that found primarily in “old growth” forest conditions; and negatively impact local economic, cultural and social values. They also argue that better decisions about road construction are made locally on a case-by-case basis rather than on a national, one-size-fits-all basis.

So far in this debate, it appears that no one has considered that a decision to further reduce or eliminate management and harvesting on public land is not done in a vacuum. Restricting harvesting on public land does not mean that we harvest less timber. Instead we shift the harvest to other ownerships – primarily forest ownership. We shift harvest from land that receives the very best professional management expertise our tax dollars can buy, to land that receives minimal professional management assistance.

One can argue that restricting harvest on public land is good for NIPF landowners. If you reduce timber supply from public land,

prices increase and the NIPF landowner makes more money. That may be true if you consider only the financial benefit of selling wood. But if you also consider the potential negative environmental and economic impacts that can occur when timber is harvested without professional assistance, the story can be quite different.

In Minnesota, some 150,000 non-industrial private landowners own about 43 percent of all forestland. Collectively, they account for about 50 percent of the 4.5 million cords of wood harvested annually in the state. Yet only 20-25 percent of all private forest landowners have a stewardship plan or receive professional assistance in managing their forest resources. While landowners normally want to do the “right thing” when harvesting timber, the unfortunate fact is that they often don’t know how to do the “right thing” and often don’t get the assistance they need. Add to that the reality that many forest landowners don’t know how to determine the quantity, quality and value of their timber, and the shift from harvesting on public land to private land looks even more risky – environmentally and economically.

While environmental interests make good arguments for restricting management and harvesting on public land, they are also watching what is happening on privately owned forestland. As a result, many states already have forest practice laws that restrict landowner choices and are expensive to enforce. If NIPF owners aren’t good stewards, Minnesota could have one too. That is why MFA urges landowners to get a forest stewardship plan and to use professional assistance to practice responsible forest management. Professional help may cost a little extra, but it will be cheaper and better than paying for expensive forest practice regulation and being told how you can

manage your forest resources. Remember, no matter which side of the Forest Service road construction issue you are on, the final decision will ultimately affect private owned forests.



## Deere & Company Acquires Timberjack Group of Helsinki, Finland to Create World's Leading Producer of Forestry Equipment

Two world leaders in the production of forestry equipment today announced they will join forces when Deere & Company, Moline, Ill. (USA), acquires the Timberjack Group, Helsinki (Finland), from the Metso Corporation of Finland for \$600 million. Timberjack reported annual sales of \$580 million in 1998.

"The acquisition of Timberjack represents a major step in our global growth strategy. We are pleased to have a company of such strength join the John Deere family," said Hans W. Becherer, chairman and chief executive of Deere & Company.

Pierre Leroy, president of the corporation's Worldwide Construction Equipment Division, added, "This is a bold move that signals our continued drive to grow worldwide and offer the broadest range of solutions for our customers."

"Timberjack and John Deere are recognized around the world for quality and customer focus," said Mikko Rysa, president of Timberjack. "These two strong brands will be maintained and leveraged in combination to broaden our customer base and world leadership."

Both companies said Timberjack's current management will remain and that the forestry products operations of both Timberjack and John Deere are important for the long-term success of the union.

Leroy said Deere and Timberjack would achieve cost saving in product design, supply management and manufacturing efficiencies while further enhancing Deere's renowned customer support capabilities.

There will also be an immediate focus on serving current customers and dealers of both John Deere and Timberjack, Leroy said. In some markets, some products will be

dual branded for distribution to both Deere and Timberjack dealers. This broadens the product line available to Deere dealers and gives Timberjack dealers access to services from John Deere Credit and Deere's customer support infrastructure.

The transaction is expected to close early in calendar year 2000 pending regulatory approvals in the United States and by the European Commission.

Timberjack is the world's leading manufacturer of forestry machines, with its products in use in more than 80 countries. It has manufacturing facilities in Finland, Sweden, Canada and the United States. Deere, the world leader in agricultural machinery, also is a leading supplier of timber harvesting equipment and attachments in North America, with manufacturing operations in the United States and Canada.

For more information about the companies, please visit their WWW sites at

[www.metsocorporation.com](http://www.metsocorporation.com)

[www.deere.com](http://www.deere.com)

[www.timberjack.com](http://www.timberjack.com)

## Superior National Forest Welcomes New District Ranger

Jackie Andrew recently became the new ranger at the Tofte Range District on the Superior National Forest. Jackie takes the reins from Jo Barnier who had managed both the Tofte and Gunflint Ranger districts after Tofte Ranger Duane Kick took a reassignment to the forest headquarters in Duluth.

Jackie has worked in five regions in the National Forest System. She started her career in Northern Arizona as a timber marker on the Kaibab National Forest. She has worked on national forests in Georgia, Alaska, and Idaho. Jackie worked on the Boise National Forest prior to moving to Minnesota.

Jackie grew up in Sante Fe, N.M. and attained a bachelor's degree in forest management from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Jackie is married and has an eight-year-old daughter, Kelsey. Jackie's husband, Jim is working in Grand Marais for the Forest Service on the storm recovery efforts following the Independence Day storm.

Jackie's husband had worked on the Isabella Ranger District and had always wanted to come back to northeastern Minnesota. "We are happy to be here! The Superior offers the opportunity to work with a broad range of problems," said Jackie.