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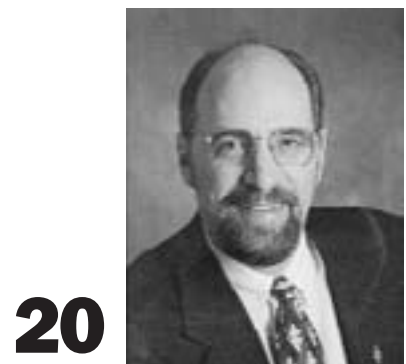
ON THE COVER

Winter in Minnesota.

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Minnesota
Timber Producers
Association



As I sit down to write this column our early December weather looks more like late October – being 50 degrees yesterday and raining today. I'm sure we are all ready for cold weather to set in so we can get started on our winter sales.

The TPA Executive Board has had several meetings recently. Some of the issues discussed include the timber harvesting

President's Column



guidelines which are being reviewed this year and the proposed DNR timber sale contract. Both subjects are very important to our members because we are affected by them each day on the job. We are also busy selecting candidates to be interviewed for our field representative from the many applications we have received recently.

With the market conditions somewhat questionable, I'm hoping everyone has a productive winter – and remember to log safely.

TPA Blasts Chippewa National Forest

The Minnesota Timber Producers Association (TPA) today blasted the government's management of the Chippewa National Forest. TPA labeled the U.S. Forest Service's management oversight of the Chippewa as "insensitive to the long-term economic hardship it was forcing on the logging families of northern Minnesota."

Focus of the TPA anger is contained in the public records that indicate that the Forest Service has drastically diminished the amount of timber being allowed for public sale in the Chippewa by more than 60 percent in just the past three years.

TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt accused the government of "filling the role of the Forest Grinch in delivering to Minnesota's logging families a holiday of uncertainty and unhappiness as a direct result of the agency's willingness to follow policies that are hurting the economy of northern Minnesota. This policy of strangling the amount of timber allowed for harvest has forced unjustifiable economic burdens on the backs of northern Minnesota logging families who depend on a reliable and predictable supply of timber from the Chippewa National Forest."

Brandt said that the Forest Service's continued adherence to this wrong-headed policy of harvest reduction is harmful to all segments of the state's now-fragile economy. "Anybody with any sense," Brandt said, "can see the kind of recession this state and our entire country is in right now. Our state is facing a deficit of almost \$2 billion dollars. As more and more loggers make less and less money because of fewer and fewer trees being set for harvest, the tax receipts of our state, our cities, our counties and our towns and villages is only going to become more dire.

"The same is true for the federal government," Brandt said. "The government treasury that pays the salaries of the Forest Service employees is being strangled into

deficit, in part as a result of lost revenues that normally would flow to the government from the sales of timber within the national forests," said Brandt.

The TPA's anger boiled over in the wake of the decision by the Blackduck Ranger District of the Chippewa National Forest to support a policy that will now offer 75 percent less timber volume than the district's original proposal earlier this year.

"The Winnie North Vegetation Environmental Assessment original proposal called for significantly higher timber harvesting volumes. Now, those essential harvest volumes are being cut dramatically as a result of the highly-questionable and enormously suspect policy reversal by the Blackduck District," Brandt said.

The revised Winnie North EA is proposing to conduct shelterwood harvests in old age (70-year-old) aspen stands. Shelterwood harvests are designed for tree species that are shade tolerant and regenerate by seeding themselves. Aspen is a shade intolerant species which requires direct sunlight to naturally regenerate itself.

The loggers organization estimates that by abandoning its previous position and resorting to the new proposal of untenable harvesting reductions, the Forest Service in the Blackduck District will be directly responsible for the loss of 71 jobs and almost \$5 million in lost revenues and economic activity in the region. The TPA is asking members of Minnesota's congressional delegation to pay particular attention to the fact that this vastly reduced timber allocation from the Chippewa will result in a loss to the federal government of almost a quarter of a million dollars.

"Not only is this the wrong management approach for the local economy, it jeopardizes the very forest stands to be managed. If the Chippewa goes forward with this approach for managing aspen, TPA sees a future of brush and not forest for these areas," concluded Brandt.

You meet a lot of nice people in this life. One of the nicest I had the pleasure of knowing was Babe Fellows. Babe passed away in November and he will be missed by all of us. As a long time director of TPA, he was always looking to the future. What should the organization be doing, what was best for everyone and how should

Executive Vice President's Column



how proud he was showing me the new ball field in Tenstrike one day when I stopped by. We always shared a little gossip after the Twins opening home game, which we usually both attended, though regretfully never together. Babe represented everything that was good about our organization and our industry. I will miss him.



There has been a lot of talk around the woods about DNR timber sale policies. First, DNR Division of Forestry Director Mike Carroll clarified this when he spoke to the TPA Board of Directors. Mike stated that timber sales would be five years in length. Enough volume to meet the revenue target agreed to with the legislature last session would be sold for shorter terms. This would amount to approximately 200,000 cords of the 800,000+ cords that the DNR will offer this fiscal year.

The DNR will also sell sales of shorter length where the stand conditions warrant it. This was clarified by Forest Management Section Supervisor Tom Baumann in an e-mail to Division of Forestry personnel. Tom's e-mail stated in part "While there is a need to accelerate the return of revenue to fulfill the requirements of the timber initiative, as prescribed by state statute the standard length of our auction sales continues to be five years. We may, however, for valid and definable silvicultural reasons, reduce the length of

individual sales to three years. Foresters need to specify these reasons on the appraisal report."

I think that this should clarify the length of sale issue both for TPA members and for DNR personnel.



The TPA executive committee directed that two task forces be established and that all members be invited to participate in them. This action and an invitation to participate was mailed to all of our members.

The first task force, chaired by past President Ray Killmer, was asked to identify issues for the Minnesota Forest Resources Council to consider as it reviews the voluntary timber harvesting guidelines. This task force has completed its work and submitted its list of issues to the council.

The second task force, co-chaired by executive committee members Lowell Pittack and Dale Erickson, is focusing on DNR timber sale administrative issues. Four years ago the DNR established the Timber Sale Working Group to look at similar issues. In the end, TPA felt that without the DNR offering its full allowable cut for sale, the recommendations really amounted to re-shuffling a deck with too few cards. Now that the legislature has funding the DNR to sell its planned cut, we are looking at these issues again.

The task force has met once and hopes to complete its work in another meeting or two. We will then sit down with the DNR to go over our issues and recommendations. If you are interested in participating in this task force, give the TPA office a call.



I don't usually put "canned" items in my column. As some of you know I'm a boater and this comes from a U.S. Power Squadron newsletter that I get, though I have seen it other places before:

This is a story about four people...Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but, Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was

Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody asked Anybody.

This story can apply to our jobs, our communities, our homes and, sometimes, to our association. It's a good little story to think about.

It also is right on the mark when you think about safety. Everybody knows safety is important. The Somebody that needs to work safely is you. Anybody can let their guard down for a second but Nobody wants Anybody to get hurt.

Have a safety meeting today as we head into the demanding winter logging season.



Even though our industry is facing a very difficult economic situation, we have much to be thankful for every day. Please accept my best wishes for a happy holiday season and a safe and better 2002.

Wayne Brandt
Executive Vice President

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY
2002 ORAL & SEALED
BID TIMBER
AUCTION DATES**

ORAL TIMBER AUCTIONS
11:00 a.m.

<u>Sale Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 21	Cotton Town Hall
April 18	Cotton Town Hall
August 15	Cotton Town Hall
October 17	Cotton Town Hall

**SEALED BID
TIMBER AUCTIONS**
9:00 a.m.

<u>Sale Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
June 20	Land Dept.-Duluth
December 19	Land Dept.-Duluth

TPA Submits Guideline Comments

Editor's Note: The following comment letter was submitted by TPA in response to the request for comments by the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. The comments were approved by the TPA board of directors at its December meeting.



Minnesota Timber Producers Association

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Phone 218-722-5013 • Fax 218-722-2065

December 14, 2001

Michael Phillips
Council Guideline Development Coordinator
MN DNR/Division of Forestry
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4044

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Following are the comments of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association on issues to be considered in the review of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council's Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guidelines:

- Consideration should be given to increase the area for landings and roads as a means of decreasing the amount of skidding that needs to be done;
- Consideration should be given to decreasing the amount of standing timber left around both open and non-open water wetland inclusions in timber sales, we believe that this is having a substantial impact on volumes available for economical harvest;
- The MFRC should review the overall environmental and economic advisability of harvesting on more acres to produce the same volume of wood when less wood per acre is removed by following the current guidelines i.e. it may be better to harvest more wood on fewer acres;
- Consideration should be given to modifying the recommendation to utilize water bars even when ground is frozen, this not practical or advisable and diversion may be better accomplished using other tactics (slash);
- The riparian peer review that was done by the MFRC included information that the residual basal area guidelines were too high for effective regeneration of many tree species, consideration should be given to revising this guideline by reducing the residual basal area recommendations;
- A more comprehensive index should be developed e.g. all references in the guidelines to "snags" or "leave trees" would be identified;
- The MFRC should consider modifying, eliminating or creating separate guidelines for small timber sales or timber sales that are comprised of multiple small blocks;
- The MFRC must complete a thorough economic analysis as required by MS 89A.05, including economic impacts, availability of acres for management and providing stable, sustainable and predictable supplies of wood;
- "Site" is not well defined for using the guidelines or for monitoring the use of the guidelines, "site" should include the entire management unit of the sale area not just the area on which harvesting is being done;
- Filter strip width recommendations should continue to be stated in ranges to recognize on the ground guideline application and minimum filter strip width recommendations should not be changed;
- Minimizing compaction in filter strips or RMZ's should be addressed in the guidelines by defining outcomes and not by layering restrictions e.g. winter harvest and special equipment;
- Consideration should be given to adding trees with permanent deer stands to the list of preferred leave trees;
- Changing thresholds for slopes and operations should only be done based on sound research as this will have significant impacts, especially in southeastern Minnesota;
- Consideration should be given to the impacts of seasonal pond guidelines on the cost of logging and losses of volume to public and private landowners;
- The guidelines should be changed to make it clear that "dry washes" are not subject to RMZ recommendations;
- Extreme caution should be used in dealing with any proposals to remove riparian areas from active management as this will likely have the effect of increasing economic pressures to convert important forestlands to non or less forested uses as a result of development.

TPA thanks the MFRC for the chance to provide these comments. We urge the MFRC to proceed with great caution. Currently loggers and the entire forest products industry are facing the most difficult economic situation we have seen for many years. The MFRC should give strong consideration to reducing the cost of guideline implementation and be extremely reluctant to make changes that increase costs to loggers, landowners or wood consumers.

Sincerely,

Clarence Johnson
President

This paper is made from Minnesota trees.

Tenstrike Leader "Babe" Fellows Dies at 83

by Cathy Axvig, staff writer

People knew him as Babe, but the communities of Tenstrike and Bemidji also knew him as a visionary and an encourager. Roland "Babe" Fellows, 83, died Sunday from complications of cancer, leaving behind a legacy of community service.

Nicknamed after the legendary Babe Ruth, Fellows was born in Tenstrike where his grandfather, William Fellows, settled in 1885, establishing the first sawmill in Bemidji that year. He later built the first sawmill in Tenstrike.

"Actually that sawmill started the lumber business for us in this area," Fellows said in a June 2000 Blackduck American interview. "We've been in some form of timber or lumber ever since."

After serving in the Army Air Corps, Fellows also got into the lumber business by starting the Land O' Lakes Wood Preserving



Company with friend Norman Gladen.

Later Gladen sold his share to Fellows, who ran the company with his two daughters, Joan Pomp and Marilyn Fellows, son-in-law Dave Pomp, and nephews Ron and Mike Fellows. Fellows remained active in the business until he was prevented by his illness this past year, according to his daughters.

Although Fellows had a successful business, he also made time for the community. He served on the Beltrami County Historical Society Board, serving as president

one year. He also served several years on the North Country Health Services Foundation.

"He was a very creative man and concerned about community needs," said Pat Kelly, who worked with Fellows for about 10 years on the North Country Health Services Foundation.

Fellows was instrumental in starting the NCHS Foundation in the early 1990s and was highly resourceful and giving of himself, Kelly said.

That resourcefulness and his love of history, which he attributed to his mother, Goldie, led him to bring about the Fellows Family Museum, located at his boyhood home in Tenstrike.

Fellows chronicled the history of Tenstrike as well as the lives of many of the families who lived there. He collected information on everything from Tenstrike's early baseball teams to the town's heyday during the logging era.

The thousands of articles are displayed in the house as well as in outbuildings, one of which is home to two examples of old-time, horse-

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drawn fire department equipment.

He was a member of the Joint Economic Development Corporation, the Tenstrike Community Church, where he was on the board of trustees for many years. He also served as director of the Minnesota Timber Products Association.

He and friends began the Breakfast Club that started as four guys having breakfast, according to a friend who wrote Fellows a card Oct. 28. "But even more important is what you taught me about life, community service, business sense and just plain common sense," the friend wrote. "I am truly grateful

for your input, wisdom, the examples during our times together."

Another card written by a friend, states that he was a man of vision and initiative and carried them out to their completion.

Perhaps more importantly, his daughters say he was a visionary and they appreciated him for encouraging them to do whatever they set their minds to.

"He was a wonderful father, that goes without saying," said Marilyn Fellows.

He is survived by his two daughters. His wife, Pauline, died in 1995.

Reprinted with permission from The Pioneer, Bemidji, Minn., Nov. 6, 2001.

Nortrax Supports John Deere Special Fund for America

Nortrax Equipment Co. recently submitted a check in the amount of \$37,000 to the John Deere Special Fund for America, a special fund instituted by Deere & Company which provides Deere employees, dealers and customers the opportunity to send monetary aid supporting recovery efforts and victim's families resulting from the tragedies of Sept. 11. The John Deere Foundation launched the "John Deere Special Fund for America" with a \$250,000 contribution.

"These events changed the lives of all Americans, but for many families, changed them forever," stated Nortrax Midwest Region sales manager Travis Lynn. "We just wanted to help in some small way and felt that the John Deere Special Fund for America was the best avenue to do that," added Lynn. Nortrax took proceeds from new equipment sales in September and October to contribute to the fund. Customers who purchased new machines during this time frame will be recognized as co-contributors.

The John Deere Foundation's board of directors will administer the John Deere Special Fund for America and determine the best possible use of the special fund's assets. The foundation will report to all contributors concerning the use of donated funds.

Nortrax Equipment Company is a leading distributor of John Deere construction and forestry equipment with regional operations in the Upper Midwest, Northeast, and southern Florida. The Midwest Region's office, based in Eau Claire, Wis., coordinates the operation of seven service centers in Bemidji, Duluth, and Grand Rapids, Minn.; Ashland, Eau Claire, and Monico, Wis.; and Escanaba, Mich. The locations offer sales, parts, and service for John Deere, Hitachi, Timberjack and Fabtek products.

Log A Load For Kids Program

Log A Load For Kids is an annual campaign which encourages loggers and others in the forest products community to provide financial support for their local Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals. The program provides excellent opportunity for loggers to demonstrate their professionalism and commitment to community services.

The Forest Resources Association Inc., is proud to be the national sponsor of the Log A Load For Kids program. FRA is a non-profit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

Wisconsin's Debby Blomberg to Lead Log A Load National Advisory Group in 2002

Debby Blomberg, the initiator of Wisconsin and Michigan's Log A Load for Kids program, assumed the leadership of the National Log A Load For Kids advisory group at

the Log A Load For Kids national conference, Oct. 20-22. This year's national conference, sponsored once again by Timberjack Corp., provided a forum for Log A Load program leaders from around the country to share their campaign successes and to seek ideas for improving their Log A Load programs.

Debby Blomberg, co-owner of Blomberg Logging in Ogema, Wis., succeeds Betsy Luoto of Cross & Crown, Inc. (Logging) in Carlton, Ore., as Log A Load For Kids national chairman. "I've always had a heart for helping children and want to see the best for them," said Debby as she began her term as national chairman. Debby prefaced her remarks by thanking Betsy for her dedication to the Log A Load For Kids program. During Betsy's term, the Log A Load For Kids program grew to its current level of raising nearly \$3 million annually from almost 30 participating states.

CMN's Log A Load For Kids Champion

On Oct. 21, the national Log A Load For Kids advisory group

recognized Page Stroup of Charlotte, N.C., as the winner of its first annual Log A Load For Kids CMN champion award. This award recognizes the accomplishments of a Children's Miracle Network (CMN) director or other CMN employees on behalf of his or her state or local Log A Load For Kids program.

Page Stroup is the Children's Miracle Network director at the Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C. Her work and dedication have been key in boosting her area's Log A Load For Kids to the forefront among Charlotte's CMN hospital donors.

Page has developed strong relationships with the local Log A Load For Kids committee. She attends and hosts Log A Load group meetings, conducts personal tours of the Charlotte Children's Hospital, coordinates Log A Load media coverage, and gives the program strong recognition during CMN's annual TV broadcast. Her warmth, charisma, and energy shine through every relationship she establishes, whether it's a hug for a pediatric patient, a forceful pitch to a business leader, or support for a CMN sponsor like Log A Load For Kids.

Page has been instrumental in developing an "interstate" Log A Load For Kids golf tournament and auction, held annually in North Carolina, that has raised over \$500,000 in two years for many CMN hospitals around the country. She and her office provide staffing for this event and assist in processing donations and mailing confirmations. Johnny Hall, of Industrial Wood Products, who founded this huge golf tournament, has written: "I have worked with Page for four years. We have raised a half-million dollars. This would not have been possible without Page. The devotion, love and passion that she exudes while working diligently for the kids is extremely infectious. Page continues to be my inspiration for charity work."

During the award ceremony, national Log A Load For Kids Advisory Group Chairman Betsy Luoto thanked Timberjack for its sponsorship of this First Annual

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Incoming National Log A Load For Kids Advisory Group Chairman Debby Blomberg, left, thanks outgoing Chairman Betsy Luoto, right, for her two years of service to the National Log A Load For Kids program.

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Log A Load For Kids CMN Champion Award, and she recognized this year's other CMN Champion award nominees: Lorrie DuBois of Eveleth, Minn.; and Debi White of Eugene, Ore.

Janet Ison: Log A Load For Kids Volunteer Champion

On Oct. 21, 2001, the National Log A Load For Kids advisory group honored Janet Ison of LaFayette, Ala., as the recipient of its First Annual Log A Load For Kids Volunteer Champion Award. This award recognizes her outstanding accomplishments on behalf of her state Log A Load For Kids program.

Janet has served as state chairman for Alabama's Log A Load For Kids campaign since 2000. Despite her busy schedule as a full-time teaching assistant, wife of logger Anthony Ison, and mother of two, she has helped to



Janet Ison, right, winner of the National Log A Load For Kids advisory group's first annual Log A Load For Kids volunteer champion award, with national advisory group Chairman Betsy Luoto, left.

raise thousands of dollars for Alabama's Log A Load For Kids program, and she has promoted Log A Load For Kids at dozens of fundraisers and other events. In her first year as Alabama's

chairman, she organized a sporting clay competition that raised over \$75,000. Janet finds innovative ways to increase donations at Log A Load fundraisers, supplying a fish tank to fill with donations or auctioning a jar of nuts and bolts.

National Log A Load For Kids Advisory Group Chairman Betsy Luoto presented Janet with a \$250 award check, compliments of Timberjack Corp., the Log A Load For Kids national conference and award sponsor. "Janet is the type of person that every state Log A Load For Kids program would like to be blessed with," stated Betsy.

Bill Jones, with the Alabama Loggers Council, has written: "Janet Ison is a winner for Log A Load. If you have any doubt about that, just ask to see her scrapbook – but have your wallet ready, because there is no telling what you might have to contribute to Log A Load. We are very proud of what she has done for our children's hospitals in Alabama." Janet's scrapbook is an ongoing record of the many Log A Load events she has participated in.

Janet was the winner from a slate of six outstanding Log A Load volunteer award nominees, including: Jerry Birchem, of Britt, Minn.; Allen Boatright, of Tallahassee, Fla.; Johnny Hall, of Climax, N.C.; John Kimbel, of Kingston, Tenn.; and Anna Swaim, of Little Rock, Ark.

News From Around the Woods

Dean Sullivan Announces Departure

Al Sullivan, dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Natural Resources, announced that he will step down as dean in September 2002. Sullivan will have served as dean for 10 years. A native of Mississippi who came to Minnesota from Penn State University, Dean Sullivan played an active role inside the university structure. He also chaired the Minn. Forest Resources Council's Research Advisory Committee and served on the GEIS Implementation Roundtable.

Zumeta Appointed MFRC Executive Director

The Minn. Forest Resources Council appointed Dave Zumeta executive director at its November meeting at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Zumeta is a 20-year employee of the Minn. DNR with previous work experience in the private sector and with the state of Indiana. He holds a Ph.D in forest policy and economics from the University of Minnesota. Zumeta provided primary staff support for the Division of Forestry director during the GEIS study, the GEIS Implementation Roundtable and the early stages of the Minn. Forest Resources Council. "I am very pleased that someone of Dave's accomplishment would accept this position. He is fair, balanced and knowledgeable. We're very comfortable with this choice," said TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt. Zumeta succeeds Mike Kilgore who is now an assistant professor in the U of M's College of Natural Resources.

Chelseth Departs Potlatch

Archie Chelseth has retired from Potlatch after 22 years as the

company's Public Affairs director in Minnesota. During his years with Potlatch Chelseth shepherded permitting for the company's massive pulp mill rebuild in Cloquet as well as permitting for OSB and sawmill construction and expansion projects. A Duluth native, Chelseth was a frequent attendee at TPA Annual Meetings and was long an advocate for loggers and labor in industry deliberations. Minnesota Forest Industries has announced that it is retaining him to provide government relations services.

German Lumber at Duluth Port

November saw the first shipment of German lumber into the Port of Duluth. Some 5 million board feet of lumber, enough to build 300 homes, arrived on its way to Lake States Lumber in Aitkin. "It's a sad day when people are forced to import wood at the same time we've seen sawmills in the region closing. Importing 2 x 4s from Europe seems a little ridiculous when we've got some of the most productive forest in the world right here," said TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt.

Flax Paper Draws Flack

The Minot, N.D., paper has reported that plans are underway for a "treeless" paper mill in Walhalla. The \$53 million project intends to use flax straw for making paper. Dr. Patrick Moore, the keynote speaker at TPA's 2001 Annual Meeting, spoke about using agricultural products to make paper and indicated that it might make sense environmentally if we had a spare continent laying around to grow crops on.

Virtual Recreationists

This week, Michael Milstein at the Portland Oregonian broke a story

that the Forest Service has been overestimating annual recreation visitors by as much as 70-80 percent. Instead of almost a billion forest visitors, the new figures show that only about 209 million people actually visit our national forests each year. The previous administration used the large forest visitor numbers as the justification for a dramatic shift in the management emphasis on the national forests. It was the same flawed data and projections that were used to justify drastic reductions in timber management programs and to claim that recreation jobs would replace forest products jobs in our rural communities. Now we know why those service jobs never appeared, the recreationists were just numbers on budget requests from the agency.

What seems to have been happening is that recreation staff were inflating numbers, based mostly on guess work, and were counting some visitors as many as four or five times. It turns out that back in the FY98 Interior Appropriations, Congress asked the Forest Service to reassess the visitor use numbers. Now the question is will the agency revise all those forest plan decisions that emphasized recreation over timber management and will they justify all the funds they have been appropriating based on only 20 percent of the forest visitors? My bet is that Congress will hold a few oversight hearings on this issue.

from Chris West, AFRC NEWS, November 16, 2001

Sierra Club Hits Another Branch on the Stupid Tree

The *Timber Bulletin* reprinted an article in the July/August issue which observed that the Sierra Club had fallen out of the stupid tree and hit every branch on the way down. The Sierra Club has now hit another branch on its organizational stupid tree with a lawsuit filed in

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Michigan challenging the Yaba Environmental Assessment on the Ottawa National Forest. The suit challenges the decision but asks the judge to suspend all aspen sales on national forests in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota pending a region wide study of aspen management. Counsel for the Sierra Club in this suit is the same attorney who has filed most of the unsuccessful appeals and lawsuits on the Superior National Forest in recent years.

Lawsuit Proceeds to Supreme Court

An appeal of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy's (MCEA) lawsuit against the Minn. Pollution Control Agency and Boise Cascade has been accepted by the Minnesota Supreme Court. MCEA lost in Koochiching County District Court and then won their appeal in the Minn. Court of Appeals. The MPCA and Boise Cascade then appealed to the Supreme Court. TPA, Minnesota Forestry Association, Wood Fiber Employees Joint Legislative Council and Minnesota Forest Industries were allowed to file an amicus brief supporting the MPCA and Boise Cascade. Trout Unlimited, The Izaak Walton League, The Audubon Society, Sawbill Canoe Outfitters, Piragos Northwoods Co., Clean Water Action, Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness and Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness were also allowed to file an amicus brief in support of MCEA.

The core of the MCEA suit is a challenge to the use of voluntary forest management guidelines in Minnesota. MCEA prefers regulations and seeks to have them implemented through air and water permits.

Potlatch Corporation Names Frank Carroll Minnesota Public Affairs Director

Potlatch Corporation (NYSE: PCH) has named Franklin O. Carroll regional director of public affairs, headquartered in Cloquet, Minn. Carroll succeeds Archie D. Chelseth, who has elected to take early retirement after 22 years with the company.

Carroll has been the company's



communications manager for the western region, headquartered in Lewiston, Idaho, since 1997. In his new position, Carroll will be responsible for community relations and communications for Potlatch pulp, paper and wood products operations in Minnesota, and will serve as governmental relations counsel for the company in northern Minnesota and St. Paul.

Prior to joining Potlatch, Carroll served in a variety of public affairs positions with the U.S. Forest Service in the western United States. A native of Arizona, he holds a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and a master's degree in public administration from Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. He has written extensively on the subject of natural resource management and is accredited by the Public Relations Society of America.

Chelseth joined the company as director of public affairs in Minnesota in 1979 after a distinguished political career in Minnesota that included work with both the legislature and the governor's office as well as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. During his tenure with Potlatch, Chelseth served as a member and president of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board and as a founding member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees, in addition to serving on the Cloquet School Board.

Potlatch Corporation is a diversified wood and paper products company with operations in seven states and 1.5 million acres of forestland in Arkansas, Idaho and Minnesota.

TPA Board Meeting

The TPA Board of Directors met on Dec. 13 in Grand Rapids. A highlight of the meeting was a spirited presentation by DNR Division of Forestry Director Mike Carroll. Carroll, appointed earlier this year by DNR Commissioner Al Garber, went through his priorities and views of state land management. He also clarified the DNR's position on the length of timber sales (see Executive Vice President's column for details). After responding to questions from the board, Carroll received an enthusiastic round of applause.

Other speakers included Dave Zumeta, newly appointed executive director of the Minn. Forest Resources Council; Jan Hacker, executive director of the Minn. Forest Resources Partnership and MLEP's Mike Turner.

The directors reviewed that status of the TPA/LUA workers compensation program with LUA's John Hill. Hill reported that the workers compensation rate for logging would remain the same as it has since 1999 and that the sawmilling and trucking rates would also remain unchanged in 2002. Hill also reported on the impacts of September 11 on insurance and reinsurance and responded to questions.

Dick Olson, chair of the TPA Group Health Trustees and Shirley Hanson, plan administrator, reported on the group health plan which will terminate at the end of 2001. TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt and Dan Zobel of Otis Magie reported on the new TPA-endorsed health program. Zobel answered questions from the group and stayed to answer additional questions.

The board of directors also approved budgets for 2002 and received an update on litigation. Finally, three resolutions were passed the text of which follow.

Resolution

R.L. "Babe" Fellows

Whereas Babe Fellows served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association (TPA); and
Whereas Babe Fellows was active

on the TPA Safety Committee and gave unselfishly of his time for many other TPA programs and activities; and

Whereas Babe Fellows was a leader in his profession and his community and tirelessly sought to improve both for the betterment of all; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association honors, recognizes and expresses its thanks for Babe's contributions and life; and be it further

Resolved that the Board of Directors also expresses its sincere sympathy to Babe's family at this passing and celebrates his life.

Resolution

Chippewa National Forest

Whereas the Chippewa National Forest is responsible for managing 700,000 acres of publicly owned forestland; and

Whereas the Chippewa National Forest has a management plan in full force with a stated Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) of 79 million board feet per year; and

Whereas the ASQ in the plan has never been amended; and

Whereas the Chippewa National Forest has performed miserably in achieving their ASQ for many years; and

Whereas in Fiscal Year 2001 the

Chippewa National Forest only sold 25 million board feet of timber; and

Whereas there appears to be no significant effort underway by the Chippewa National Forest to achieve their ASQ in the future; and

Whereas the Chippewa National Forest's forest management activities are continuing to deteriorate by proposing reckless silvicultural treatments such as shelterwood harvests in old age aspen stands; and

Whereas the huge decreases in forest management and timber sales on the forest are having significant negative effects on the timber dependent communities in and around the Chippewa National Forest; now therefore be it

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association condemns the actions and inaction of the Chippewa National Forest which jeopardize both public forest resources and the economy; and be it further Resolved that the USFS Region 9 Forester take immediate action to resolve the dismal performance of the Chippewa National Forest.

Resolution

DNR Timber Sales

Whereas the management of state owned and DNR administered forest lands is a primary interest

of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association (TPA); and Whereas the timber sales that result from this management are very important to TPA members, their employees and the economies of both local communities and the entire state; and Whereas TPA has consistently communicated these views to the DNR and the DNR has heard and acted upon them; and Whereas the DNR Division of Forestry has significantly increased timber sale volumes;

now therefore be it Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association commends the DNR and the hard working employees of the Division of Forestry for their greatly increased accomplishments; and be it further Resolved that the Board of Directors thanks the employees of the Division of Forestry for the increased workloads they have taken on to sell and administer these timber sales.

TPA Sets New Course for Health Insurance

TPA has embarked on a new program for providing health insurance for members. TPA has endorsed the Otis-Magie Agency's products for health and related insurance. The offerings will provide both more options as well as increased health coverage and limits.

The TPA/Otis-Magie program is led by Dan Zobel. Information has been mailed to all TPA members and informational meetings were held in International Falls and Grand Rapids. TPA members interested in the program should contact Dan Zobel at 218-625-2121 or 800-241-2425.

In addition to health and related insurance products, Otis-Magie can provide TPA members with value-added, cost-effective "cafeteria" benefit programs. These programs can provide important tax savings for TPA members and their employees.

"We're very pleased with this new program," said TPA President Clarence Johnson. "The insurance world has changed and we're changing with it in order to offer products and services that benefit our members."

This new program was initiated after a decision was made by the TPA Group Health Plan Trustees to terminate its program at the end of 2001. After struggling for several years and seeking numerous options and solutions, the trustees reached the conclusion that the best course of action was to end the program.

Many other small self-funded group health programs, like the TPA self-funded program, have been terminated in recent years. Rising costs, small group size, ever increasing rates and adverse selection have all harmed these funds.

The TPA Group Health fund operated successfully for 18 years and provided important health coverage. It was an innovative approach to solving a significant problem for members when it was initiated.

LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Days of Busy Tote Roads

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*



Persons not familiar with the logging industry of the past often refer to the ice logging roads as tote roads and tell of some tote road running across some big swamp.

But “tote roads” were the routes over which supplies were “toted” into the camps—and rather than running across swamps and lowland, they wound around on the hills.

“Toting” is a little known part of the early logging industry, but a very important part. In a way, tote teamsters and horses were the most important part because before a camp was constructed a way had to be found to bring in lumber, tarpaper and nails, and as soon as camp work began, supplies and food for the men and horses were needed regularly—including a good amount of “lubrication” and stuff.

Whenever it was decided just what

timber would be cut in the winter ahead, the “walking boss” and “timber cruiser” would lay out the route for toting in supplies from the railroad, lake or river. Tote roads were laid out as much as possible on highland and often wound around and around on the hills to avoid swamps and wet areas.

Some lumber for new camps was usually hauled in on the snow the winter or spring before. Much of the toting was done in early fall before the ground froze or the first snow fell. Some swamps and wet places had to be hard-packed with timber cut from the sides of the road before horses could cross.

In heavy clay at Keweenaw County the problem was how to get through the mud that always developed during the rainy season of the fall.

I have seen the wheels of wagons ball up with clay so that they could not be

hauled with six horses—and the empty wagons had to be abandoned until the weather dried out. Some of the worst of these mud roads were in the area around Northome and Wirt.

The whole of St. Louis County had its rocky tote roads, with the Thompson Rapids tote road east of Shields and the Britton Rapids tote road along the Cloquet River being the very worst.

“Tote wagons” were heavy wagons, built to carry heavy loads and to stand the bouncing from rock to rock on north-eastern Minnesota roads—and to survive the mud and sand of the western part of the state.

Usually four horses were used to haul these wagons, but it was not uncommon to see six horses hitched to a single wagon. In the fall when camps were just getting started, several six-horse teams were used—one following the other. Tote

Tote team and wagon depart camp, near Alden Lake Dam, early on a spring morning in 1918.



teams were different than the heavy sleigh horses—they had to be fast foot and able to cross swampy areas if necessary.

Tote teamsters were also a special breed of lumberjack and got top pay in the industry. They were all great men in handling horses and usually had their pick of the best horses available, as the companies recognized how important it was to have supplies reach the camps on time.

These teamsters had to know how legal the teams and supplies over the bad roads. Bunkhouses were filled with stories about which tote teamster was the best and which company had the best tote teams.

In my opinion, the greatest of all of these was Frank McMinn, a quiet Scotsman who drove for the Cloquet Northern Lumber Company. His four horses—Baldy, Pete, Nig and Rowdy—were known by all the lumberjacks.

And when the camp clerk told them that the camp supply of snuff and tobacco was running short or all gone until the tote team arrived, they would all feel relieved if they knew Frank McMinn and his trusty four horses were on the tote wagon.

In his later years, Frank worked on the Cloquet Fire Patrol for me and told me of his many days as a tote teamster. He lived to be over 80—a great tote teamster and gentleman—and was found frozen to death in his cabin on M'equaywan Lake.

Most all camps had from one to two trips a week for the tote team when

camps were in operation. Supplies were brought in by railroad to some siding where the tote teamster picked them up. Often the companies had a man stationed at the railroad siding to bring perishable supplies inside so they would not freeze while awaiting the arrival of the tote team.

Weekly supplies were mostly food for the men and horses and plenty of snuff and tobacco. Hay, as a rule, was hauled in over the ice logging roads during the winter months—usually on Sundays when logs were not being moved. In the earlier months, hay came over the tote roads.

Most toting was usually from 6 to 12 miles, but there were places where toting was done up to 75 miles, and there were places where supplies had to be toled to a lake or river, loaded onto a boat and hauled across, and then loaded again onto a tote wagon for the trip into camp.

This was true for some of the very early camps, such as those operating along the Little Pork river, where supplies came in from Tower across Lake Vermilion and were then toled to the camps to the west.

Considerable toting was done out of Duluth for the logging camps that operated within 25 miles of town and at one time there were 10 tote teamsters working out of the old Palmer House Hotel on First Street.

Most tote teamsters worked the year around, making two or three trips a week with supplies during the winter, supplying the wigwags during the

drives, and hauling lumber and building supplies to new camp locations during the summer.

They often left camp before daylight and returned after dark. On longer roads, they left camp before daylight, stayed the night at the railroad or source of supply, and returned to camp the next night.

Some tote roads were so long and so rough that they had to change teams half way to give the horses a chance to rest up. Toting was no doubt the hardest work for both men and horses that the logging industry had to contend with.

As a rule men were not allowed to ride on the tote wagons on their way to and from camp, but they could put their "turkey" or pecksack on the wagon and walk behind. This was often easier than riding the wagon as it bounced from rock to rock.

Many of the Forest Service roads of today follow the routes of the old logging camp tote roads. But most of these old tote roads are now grown over with underbrush in the low spots and have trees 12 inches in diameter growing in their centers where they cross the highlands. But on the crest of almost every ridge of highland, one can find evidence of where men and horses struggled in their efforts to keep supply wagons coming and timber rolling in the earlier camps of the 1890s and early 1900s.

When zooming down these forest trails in your snowmobile this winter, try to reflect on the hardships to man and beast as they worked over these tote roads in the early days of logging.

Heavy tote sleighs moved supplies into camps during wintertime.



Travel Information Available to Wireless Callers at 511

Minnesotans can now access information on weather, road conditions and construction information simply by dialing 511 on their wireless telephones.

"We're very proud to be among the first states in the country to launch this innovative and extremely helpful 511 service," said Commissioner Elwyn Tinklenberg. "It is an integral part of our national and state commitment to continually enhance safety, improve traffic management and enable the public to make wise travel decisions." Tinklenberg chairs a national policy committee guiding the implementation of the service nationally.

By spring 2002, Twin Cities Metro Area traffic information is also expected to be available on 511. Voice activation and access via landline telephones are also being pursued. In the future, additional services on 511 may include public transit and tourism information. At this time, there is no extra charge for the 511 service, outside of normal airtime or any roaming charges for wireless phone users. Nearly all of the wireless providers in Minnesota are participating.

Road conditions and construction project information can be found by selecting a section of road by segment or by mile-marker. For more information on the 511 service, contact Ginny Crowson, Traveler Information Coordinator, at 651-284-3454.

Information is updated as conditions change. Traveler information is also available on the Mn/DOT website, www.dot.state.mn.us and by calling toll free, 1-800-542-0220 from both wireless and landline telephones.

Labor Supports Boise

December 12, 2001

Forest Products Industry National Labor Management Committee backs Boise Cascade in responding to environmental extremists. A major national labor management

committee is supporting Boise Cascade's efforts to respond to the lies and misrepresentations of the Rainforest Action Network (RAN). The Forest Products Industry National Labor Management Committee (LMC) is our industry's national vehicle for labor management cooperation on shared public policy issues. One of the LMC unions, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBC), responded to the falsehoods contained in an advertisement placed by RAN in The New York Times on Sept. 7 and mailed letters to the heads of the organizations who endorsed the RAN ad.

In the letter, Mike Draper, the UBC's western region vice president, told signers that: "The RAN advertisement is purely a symbolic move devoid of the facts, designed to reshape consumer demand for forest products and invoke sympathy among the American public. By signing this ad, you are not protecting the environment, but simply participating in a slick publicity campaign against the working men

and women in the forest products community." You may read the complete letter at www.labormanagementcommittee.org (Internet access required). PACE International Union also issued a statement in support of BC. PACE International Union President Boyd Young applauds Boise Cascade Corporation for "their role as a responsible corporate citizen, providing consumer products for millions of citizens and thousands of jobs for working Americans, while leading the industry as an environmental steward of the land."

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Classifieds

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

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FOR SALE

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Cummins, new tires.....30,000
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1978 540B JD, 23.1x26 tires.....21,500
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1989 Lufkin trailer.....15,500
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