

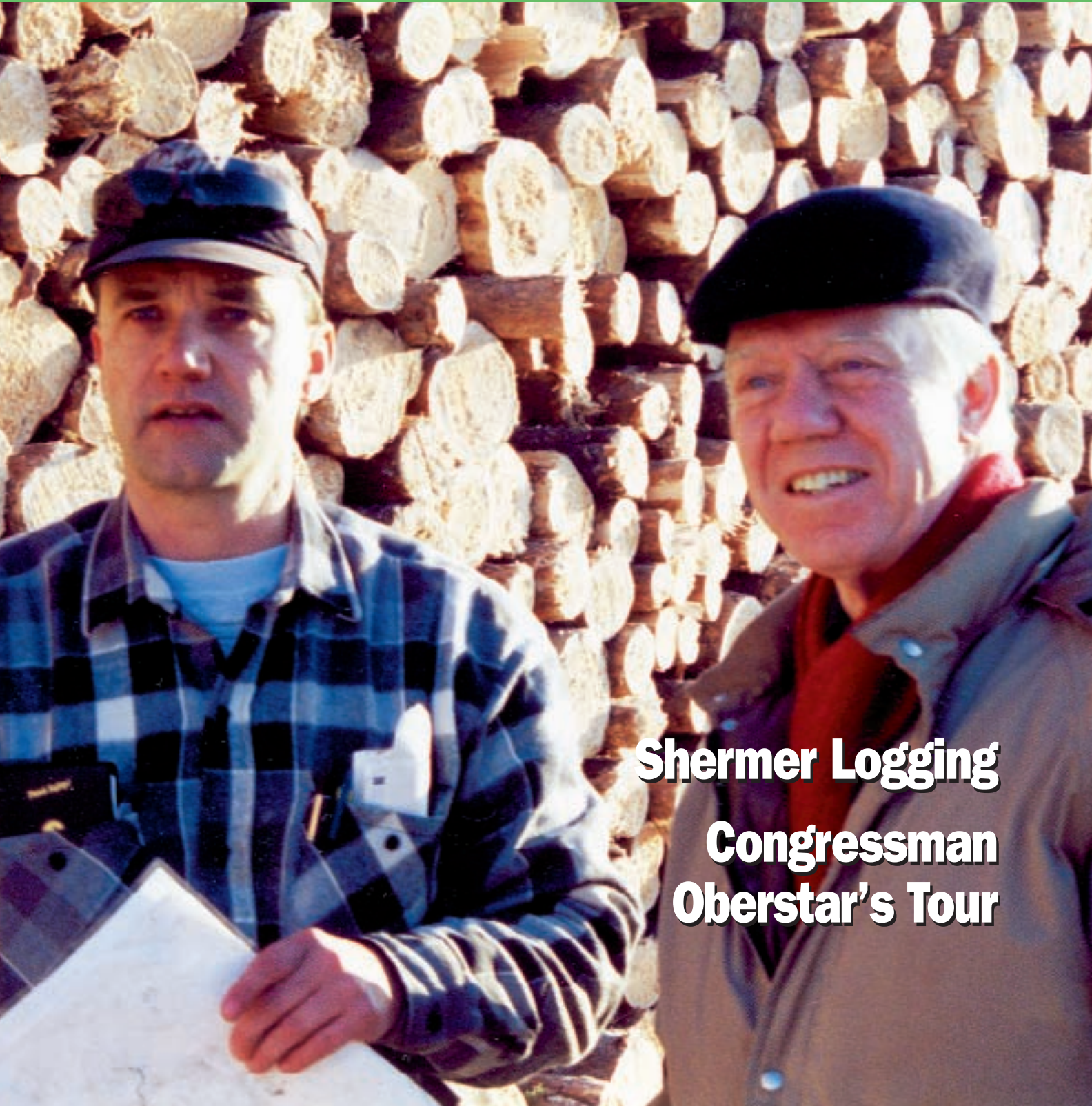
THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

VOLUME 57



**Shermer Logging
Congressman
Oberstar's Tour**

TIMBER BULLETIN

Volume 57
January/February 2001
Duluth, Minnesota

IN THIS ISSUE

Shermer Logging8

DNR Vision Statement12

Federal Timber Sales Under Attack14

Years Ago18

Meet the Directors22

Coming Events24

2001 Logsafe Program.....25

Loggers of the Past28

Classifieds.....34

Advertisers Index34



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ON THE COVER

John Rolle and U.S. Rep. Oberstar on the job north of Chisholm.

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.

Issn: 10973532 – USPS: 016208



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The TPA Executive Committee and members of the board of directors had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar in early January to discuss forest issues. Oberstar gave us a brief outline of how the Congress works and explained how the coalition of rural legislators keeps shrinking with each election. As the rural population decreases so does our influence

President's Column



on issues that affect our way of life. Forest policy is now being decided by public opinion polls, rather than professional forest managers. The bottom line is we all have to remember there is getting to be more of "them" than there are of "us." Extra effort will be needed, both in the forest and in public relations, to show loggers are doing a good job for the future forest.

On the legislative side things have not heated up much yet. At the federal level we have to wait and see how the new administration develops and takes shape. Statewise, it is the usual wait till March or April to get excited.

As it gets to be "break-up time" we all should review safety. Short-cuts usually turn out to be the long way around.

Patricia - Kell...

New Report Shows Minnesota Loggers and Landowners Using Forest Management Guidelines

New forest management guidelines developed by the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) are already common practice among many Minnesota loggers and landowners, according to the Minnesota Timber Producers Association (TPA). This conclusion is based on a draft-monitoring report submitted to the MFRC.

The report measured how loggers and landowners were complying with the forest practices recommended in the MFRC's new guidelines before the guidelines were even implemented. A high percentage of compliance was found in a random sample of sites that were either logged or planned for logging prior to the implementation of the guidelines.

"The results of this report are great news. They show that loggers and landowners began using many of these guidelines before they were even completed," said Wayne Brandt, executive vice president of TPA. "Generally, the results of this study exceeded our expectations, and we believe they illustrate that new forestry practices are the rule rather than the exception."

The survey specifically targeted sites that had either been logged or were planned for logging prior to release of the MFRC's timber harvesting and forest management guidelines in December 1998. Loggers, landowners and foresters were trained on complying with

the guidelines in 1999 and 2000.

The report measured how the guidelines were applied on land owned by state, county, federal, forest industry and non-industrial private forest landowners throughout Minnesota. A total of 108 harvest sites were identified through a random sampling technique and were monitored during 2000.

Of the sites monitored for the report:

Filter strips had less than 5 percent soil disturbance on 92 percent of the sites.

For lakes, perennial streams and open water wetlands, 50 percent of riparian management zones met the guideline recommendations for width and residual basal area.

Landowners and/or resource managers checked cultural and historic resource inventories on 52 percent of the sites prior to timber harvesting. The ETS species were checked on 67 percent of the sites prior to harvesting.

The average land occupied for site infrastructure (roads, landings, etc.) was at the 3 percent level recommended by the guidelines.

Slash was retained at the stump or redistributed back on the site at 73 percent of the sites.

"What this report illustrates is that loggers, foresters and landowners incorporate new information and knowledge as it becomes available," Brandt said. "In the past five years alone, loggers in this state have invested \$50 million in new, environmentally-friendly logging equipment and accessories and improved harvesting techniques to ensure a healthy forest environment."

**Mark your calendars for the
Minnesota Timber Producers Association
Annual Membership Meeting**

Friday, April 27, 2001

Spirit Mountain • Duluth, Minn.

DNR Commissioner Alan Garber has created a lot of interest in forest management with his proposals for a "Forestry Summit" and a demonstration forest project. The TPA Executive Committee met with the commissioner and his senior staff and discussed this and other topics.

Executive Vice President's Column



The commissioner wants to hold the summit to get some common agreement on approaches and on the demonstration project. The purpose of the demonstration project is to implement some of the ideas that he

has developed for forest management.

The TPA Executive Committee has directed that we work with the commissioner on these ideas. TPA has found the commissioner to be very open to our ideas and concerns. He has listened to and acted upon issues that we have brought to his attention.

TPA may not agree with everything that is written or said about the projects and vision at each point in time. We have found Commissioner Garber to be someone who listens to and incorporates advice into his own ideas.

As of the writing of this column, we have seen three drafts of the commissioner's vision document. I have heard him speak on the topic at least five times. Each document and presentation has shown changes as the commissioner hears from people. His vision and the demonstration project continue to evolve.

You can count on TPA working constructively on these issues and continuing to advocate for our members.



Our long time assistant vice president, Bruce Barker, will be retiring at the end of April. Bruce has been a key figure in the

association and has made significant contributions to TPA and its members. Look for a review of his accomplishments in the next Timber Bulletin. And, mark your calendars for the TPA Annual Meeting on April 27 where Bruce will be recognized.



I hope that this will be my last report on the Lutheran church for awhile. As referenced in my last column, I did meet with the head of the Lutheran Office of Government Affairs and one of his staff members.

We had a good discussion about forestry issues and the church's positions. They assured me that they did not support ending timber harvesting on forest service lands. The reference to the church supporting this outrageous proposition has been removed from their web site.

As a follow up to our meeting with Bishop Strommen, he has written a thoughtful letter to the Lutheran Office of Government Affairs. Hopefully they will be more sensitive to the concerns of the church's entire flock.

One of the things that I've learned in this process is how relentless the anti-harvesting groups are. They obviously work the beat of the government affairs offices of all denominations. I also learned that many denominations maintain active lobbying offices in Washington, D.C. Some churches also have state-based lobbying operations.

It was all news to me.



We're back on the U.S. Forest Service appeals and lawsuit circuits. This is nothing new. One refreshing item has been frequent litigants Doug Wallace and Peggy Hunter finally coming clean. They're the Twin Cities residents who own a cabin on Lake Vermilion and have instigated current and past lawsuits and appeals in the Little East Creek area. Emboldened by their losses on every past issue, it now is being made clear that what they really want is their own preserve on

public lands in the area around their cabin. I guess some people figure that they ought to get "theirs" and to heck with anyone else.



The 2001 session of the Minnesota Legislature has gotten off to a slow start. This is not unusual during the "long" session years. The TPA Board of Directors adopted a strong set of objectives that focuses on forest management and timber availability. Look for reports on how these issues develop as the session moves along.



This winter is shaping up to provide some of the longest and best logging conditions in several years. I've had very few reports of accidents and injuries. This is great and a testament to everyone's commitment to safety. Keep up the good work and be especially mindful of safety as you work to fill contracts and finish jobs at the end of the winter season.

Looking for a cabin?



The two-mile stretch of ice road across the lake takes time when you can only travel at 7 mph.

Shermer Logging



Another load from Shermer Logging heads across Vermilion Lake.

When I talked to Clifford Shermer about coming out to visit his logging job he said "Sure, take the golf course road out of Cook, when you come to the T turn right and follow the truck tracks across Vermilion Lake. When you come off the ice take the first road to the right. It will take you right to our job." As I approached the lake through the alder brush I was greeted by a sign "NO SEATBELTS OPEN WINDOWS." Just beyond was a second sign "10 MPH." I continued on for about 150 yards and the road split. I wasn't sure which way to go, so I went left even though another sign said "stay right." I figured if I was on the wrong road I could always turn around and take the right fork. I could see for quite a long distance down the lake. It was a little overcast and hard to see the snow banks on the side of the road. Someone had stuck spruce and fir tops in the wind rowed snow banks which helped to distinguish where the road was supposed to be located. I came off the ice through

an ash stand on to high ground where a road turned off to the right. I hadn't gone 100 yards when Clifford drove up. "Well I see you found the place," he said. I wasn't sure I was going to get there. Especially when I saw the sign as I came off the ice that said "ROAD CLOSED AHEAD." "We are trying to discourage everyone,

other than the loggers working in the area from using these roads. My wife Mary made the signs," Cliff commented.

This is the second year that the ice road across Vermilion Lake has been used. When it was put in last year only empty trucks crossed the ice. This provided a one-way flow of traffic for several logging operations hauling blowdown timber harvested in the Little East Creek area over a series of narrow, crooked and hilly roads. By using the ice road across the lake they were able to decrease the round-trip time, reduce the fuel costs and increase safety by creating a one-way road. The road system, including the ice road, was a joint effort by Shermer Logging, Olson Logging, Inc., Ranisate Logging, Sokoloski Logging and Wagner Logging, who are all operating in the area. The Army Corps of Engineers did some calculations and recommended a minimum ice thickness of 26 inches in order to haul 80,000 pounds.

Mike Magnuson, DNR Division



Another load completes the trip across Vermilion Lake.

of Forestry, developed a package of materials on ice roads and ice conditions which he acquired from the Corps and some Canadian studies which he provided to the loggers operating in the area. "Both the Corps and Mike have been very helpful in providing information on ice roads," Clifford commented. "Shermer Logging is responsible for the ice road segment of the road system. With the early freeze in December we decided to haul loaded trucks across the ice this winter if we could get the ice thick enough to carry the weight. We



Brian skids another cleanup hardwood drag to the landing.



Clifford Shermer, owner of Shermer Logging and an experienced ice road builder.

There are two parallel roads on the ice that come together about 150 yards from each end. This allows both empty and loaded trucks to pass on the ice without being too close together. The other two important factors are weight and speed. As mentioned earlier, you need 26 inches of ice to haul 80,000 pounds. Shermer Logging decided to error on the safe side and limit their loads to about 70,000 to 75,000 pounds. When I was there the ice was 32 inches thick. The second factor, speed, is also of concern. When a vehicle pulls on to the road the ice settles and causes a wave to be created which moves along as the truck travels. If the vehicle moves too fast it can drive over the wave creating the opportunity for the ice to break. On this particular road the Corps has recommended a loaded speed of seven miles per

hour and an empty speed of 10 miles per hour.

Even considering the reduced speed and the lighter loads Cliff figures his savings on fuel and round-trip time are worth the effort. From his job to Cook, by way of the U.S. Forest Service 200



Tim Cornelius



Brian Cornelius

started tramping with pickups when the ice was about 18 inches thick. That was Dec. 20. Then we plowed with the pickups. Where the road comes off the ice on to the land the ice never really gets thick. We drilled holes and flooded the ice and allowed it to freeze. This helped thicken the ice along the shoreline."



The delimitter operated by Tim makes quick work of delimiting and topping another hardwood tree.

road, will take his trucks three (3) hours. If he hauls over the 2 miles of ice road his trucks can be in Cook in 45 minutes.

The job Shermer Logging is operating is a state timber sale that was purchased before the blowdown occurred. Actually there was very little blowdown that occurred on the sale. There is a real mix of species on this sale, including aspen, balsam, spruce, birch, maple and ash. They have markets for all the species. However, because of the location and the type of ground, this sale can only be logged in the winter time. Cliff wants to make sure that all 5,500 cords of wood are moved off this sale before spring breakup this year. He has made arrangements for an alternate landing on the Cook side of the ice road. Needless to say they are moving the wood as fast as possible.

They have completed the felling and bunching part of the operation and have moved the 425 Timbco with a hotsaw. All the felling and bunching is contracted to James Shermer, Cliff's brother.

The skidding is done with two 748 John Deere grapple skidders. They are equipped with 35.5 tires and they can put duels on when the ground is soft. They run chains year round. "We have less tire wear, slippage on rocky ground and the chains are less expensive than tires," Cliff commented. They have rented a third 748 John Deere skidder to help during the winter. They feed the Pro Pac delimeter which is mounted on a Komatsu carrier. "The skidder matches well

with the delimeter," Cliff commented. One skidder can keep the delimeter busy under normal conditions. The delimeter limbs, tops and decks the wood tree length by species. Most of the sorting is done during the felling and bunching; however, when the skidders are cleaning up there are some mixing of species in order to bring in a full grapple of wood.

The two 200 Serco loaders with 32 foot booms and Siro slashers take the treelength wood and cut it into 100-inch lengths for hauling.

Shermer Logging has four of their own trucks that do most of the hauling. Each truck has a center mount 7000 Serco loader. Sometimes during the winter they will contract with other truckers in order to get the wood moved before spring breakup. The four trucks were averaging 20 loads per day when I was there.

All of the equipment is radio-equipped with the base at the shop. This gives complete communications for everyone. Shermer Logging has its own business band. They also operate on the Koochiching County business band which provides coverage between logging businesses. Cliff also has a cell phone in his pickup which provides access to equipment dealers, parts houses and 911 if an emergency should occur.

"We do quite a lot of our own road building which requires some additional equipment," Cliff mentioned. "We have a 650 John Deere bulldozer, a D3 Cat, a 690 John Deere with backhoe and an Austin Western grader. This allows us to take care of the road building, repairs and maintenance. Duane Palmer handles the road building aspect of the business along with the mechanic work on the equipment and any other job that needs to be done. He is a jack of all trades and a master of most."



An old winter road that was located on a 1954 aerial photo. No wood had to be cut, they just froze the road down.

Each operator does his own preventive maintenance on the machine he runs. Major repairs are done by the equipment dealers. They have a mobile shop that goes to the woods each day. It is equipped with hydraulic repairs for hoses and includes a hydraulic reservoir and pump so they can add or change hydraulic oil. Cliff believes it is cheaper to own new equipment than to spend all your time repairing old equipment.

"In this day and age you need good employees to operate this more modern equipment. They have to be dependable and educated," Cliff mentioned. "We have to pay good wages and overtime in order to keep experienced operators. Employee costs are up but so is the cost of equipment, fuel and timber. Nothing is cheap today."

Shermer Logging was started in 1990. Cliff's wife, Mary, does all the bookkeeping, payroll etc. "Mary runs the operation," Clifford informed me. She is presently in the middle of changing computers and programs for the business. Since they started, many things have changed. The equipment has gotten more sophisticated and so have the employees. Besides increasing costs, the availability of timber has gotten critical. This is quite obvious considering the stumpage prices being paid at the present time. Get out your crystal ball, everyone has an idea of the causes and solutions to these problems and each of them will work their way through this period of time.



Besides sawdust the slasher operator, Jason Wardas, makes 100-inch wood out of tree-length.

DNR Commissioner Releases Vision Statement, Sets Dates for Forest Summit

Minnesota DNR Commissioner Allen Garber has released the attached vision statement to guide a Forest Summit that will be held this spring. The statement reflects Garber's views on the direction that forest management needs to take in Minnesota. It is based on numerous meetings, forums and field tours in Minnesota, as well as Commissioner Garber's recent trip to Finland to examine forestry practices there. According to Garber, "The trip to Finland helped solidify some of my convictions about the direction forest management needs to take in our state to shape a better economic and environmental future for our forests."

Aspen is currently the mainstay of Minnesota's forest products industries. Garber argues that Minnesota should move away from overreliance on aspen by creating forests that are more diverse both by species and age. Through scientifically sound practices of thinning and selective harvesting, he argues, the state's forests can be managed to promote wildlife and recreation, while also increasing the supply of wood available for harvest.

Garber is calling for a Forest Summit, to be held May 30 through June 1 in northern Minnesota, to bring together the many diverse stakeholders who influence forest management practices. Garber is also calling for the creation of a demonstration forest to implement and showcase alternative management practices, saying, "One of my greatest concerns is the lack of trust, cooperation and agreement on how Minnesota's forests should be managed. I believe that this inability to reach agreement is one of the greatest impediments to shaping and achieving the desired future for Minnesota's forests for the long-term benefit of all Minnesotans."

A Vision for Minnesota Forests

by Allen Garber, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
January 23, 2001

Introduction

Over the past year and one-half, I have made a conscious effort to

gain a better understanding of the complex issues involved in the management of forest lands in Minnesota. Through numerous meetings, forums and field tours, my exposure to forestry practices and issues has helped me better understand the current state of forest management in Minnesota and provided a foundation from which I began to develop a future vision for the state's forests. A recent trip to Finland helped solidify some of my convictions about the direction forest management needs to take in our state to shape a better economic and environmental future for our forests. What follows is an overview of what my vision entails. It is fairly simple and straightforward. As such, it is not intended to address all of the technical details involved with its application. The concepts are not scientifically new. However, their application at a significant scale in Minnesota will present a basic change from how we have managed forest lands in this state over the past 20 to 30 years. I ask that you approach this vision with an open mind and consider the possibilities it presents for consensus and long-term solutions.

Reduced dependence on aspen

My vision is to reduce the state's dependence on aspen by shifting a greater proportion of future forest management to longer-lived conifer species and mixed species/age forests. Aspens are the predominant species and forest type in Minnesota, comprising more than 35 percent of forest type acreage and more than 30 percent of total growing stock volume. Aspen species also comprise 65 percent of the total timber volume harvested in the state. Aspens have historically been a significant component of Minnesota forests. However, aspen forests expanded substantially after the extensive logging of the late 1800s and early 1900s. While aspen forests will certainly continue in Minnesota, dependence on aspen managed through short-rotation clear-cutting has affected the diversity of

Minnesota's forest industries, led to an unreliable supply of quality wood, created an uncertain future for forest industry in the state, and reduced the diversity of Minnesota's forests.

Greater presence of longer-lived conifers

Longer-lived conifers, such as pine and spruce, were more abundant in Minnesota forests prior to end of the 1800s. Turn-of-the-century logging followed by extensive wildfires substantially reduced the presence of these species in the state with a resulting increase in aspen/birch forests. Longer-lived conifer species are well suited to multiple-entry, intermediate thinnings, longer rotations, and saw timber management. Increased presence of conifer species will occur over time through introduction in existing forests (e.g., white pine under-planting), direct conversion through planting, and through selective harvesting to encourage conifer species in mixed age/species forests. Greater management attention to longer-lived conifers will help increase the diversity of the state's forests and forest industry.

Greater proportion of harvest volume from thinning and selective harvesting

Eighty-six percent of timber harvesting in Minnesota comes from some form of clear-cut harvesting. My vision of the future is to reduce the proportion of timber harvesting that occurs through clear-cutting with a respective increase in harvest volume from thinning and selective harvesting. Increased thinning would occur over time from longer-lived tree species suited to multiple entry thinning and saw-timber management. Thinning would also occur in suitable aspen forests. Increased selective harvesting would occur in quality hardwood stands and other stands to increase the amount of mixed species and mixed aged forests. Increased volume from thinning/selective harvesting and management of

longer-lived species will decrease clear-cutting in the long run.

Greater proportion of harvest volume from saw timber

Nearly 77 percent of timber harvest volume in Minnesota is in the form of pulpwood. Only 11 percent is saw timber. Thinning, selective harvesting, reduced reliance on aspen, and increased presence of longer-lived species will increase the proportion of Minnesota timber harvesting in the form of saw timber. A greater proportion of saw timber will help improve the diversity of Minnesota's forest industries, provide more large tree/older forest habitat, and capture more economic value from our forests.

Hybrid poplar to help supplement wood supply

People involved in forest management in Minnesota have known for some time now that there would be a temporary (i.e., 10-20 years) shortage of mature aspen available for harvest beginning sometime in this decade. To help fill this pending gap in aspen timber supply and ease the transition toward greater use of thinning and selection harvesting, I believe we need to more aggressively explore additional opportunities to establish hybrid poplars on suitable abandoned crop lands across the state.

Greater cooperation and consensus

One of my greatest concerns is the lack of trust, cooperation and agreement on how Minnesota's forest should be managed to best address future environmental and economic needs. I believe that this inability to reach agreement is one of the greatest impediments to shaping and achieving a desired future for Minnesota's forests for the long-term benefit of all Minnesotans. I encourage all interests to enter into renewed dialogue with an open mind around the concepts I have laid out above and the possibility for innovative solutions to overcome long-standing barriers to agreement.

Demonstration forest

As a first, tangible step in

changing the direction of forest management in the state, I want to work with other forest landowners to establish a substantial (i.e., tens of thousands of acres) demonstration forest area(s) to implement and showcase management principles I have described above. A basic requirement of the demonstration forest area(s) will be that multiple forest ownerships are involved (i.e., state, federal, counties, forest industry, not-for-profit organizations, tribal lands) and that

all agree to work together to implement these alternative management approaches. Ideally, the area will contain established forest types and conditions suitable for immediate implementation of thinning/selective harvesting practices. Monitoring will be an essential component of a demonstration forest to track the effects over time on important forest attributes, such as timber production, wildlife game species, song birds, plant species, water quality and aesthetics.

Federal Timber Sales Program Under Attack

We've all seen and heard about timber industry opponents chaining themselves to trees, lobbying for legislative changes, even engaging in eco-terrorism to block logging in national forests.

In the last 10 years these groups have found a new tool: litigation. The combined strategies have had a dramatic effect on the forests – and even more dramatic economic impact on taxpayers.

The national forest system encompasses 192 million acres of land in 44 states. In Minnesota, the two national forests, the Superior and the Chippewa forests, total 2.8 million acres. Wisconsin's Chequamegon and Nicolet national forests total 1.5 million acres.

From this large expanse of land, the U.S. Forest Service is charged with managing a significant amount of the wood resources needed to meet the everyday demands of the American people.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that every federal timber sale decision

first undergo a detailed analysis of its environmental impact. If it shows a potentially significant impact, an environmental impact statement is required. The process means many timber sales take two to three years from the date they're planned until they're sold at public bid.

The revenue from the national timber sale program is deposited in the General Treasury in Washington, D.C. But 25 percent of the revenues are returned to the states where the specific timber sales occur. In 1990 the Forest Service sold 9.5 billion board feet of timber (enough to build 600,000 homes), generating total timber revenues of \$1.4 billion.

In that same year, national forests in Minnesota sold 192.5 million board feet of timber; Wisconsin sold 138.8 million board feet. The 25 percent revenue sharing provision transferred about \$680,000 to Minnesota state government in 1990 from its two national forests; Wisconsin received \$601,859 from its two national forests.

About 10 years ago, a few activists began a campaign in the western states to stop the sales of timber from the national forests. They found a tool in Forest Service appeal procedures for timber sales.

Their strategy was to appeal every timber sale on each targeted national forest. Others challenged selected timber sales for specific reasons. Every appeal diverted Forest Service staff time and financial resources from normal duties. The result: Operating costs in those targeted forests increased, while the volume of timber actually harvested decreased.

The strategy was effective in the western states and has been adopted by others to reduce federal timber sales across the country. One of the last regions to be targeted was the Lake States Region, including Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Appeals of federal timber sales here have become increasingly routine since 1996.

For a few years, the Forest Service kept track of a separate

(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 14)
expense known as NEPA litigation. The Superior National Forest, for example, recorded dramatically escalating NEPA litigation expenses; \$1,970 in 1996; \$20,200 in 1997; and \$226,000 in 1998, when the government ceased separately tracking these expenses.

While some might speculate that reducing the amount of timber sold from our national forests is of little consequence, consider these facts:

- Wisconsin ranks the forest products industry as its second largest behind food products and processing. The industry employs more than 102,000 people paid nearly \$3 billion in wages annually.
- Forest products are Minnesota's No. 3 manufacturing industry, employing about 61,000 people, paid wages of about \$2 billion in 1999.
- National forest timber sales have fallen from 9.5 billion board feet in 1990 to 2.2 billion board feet in 1999.
- Sales on the Superior National Forest fell from 101 million board feet in 1990 to 48.7 million board feet in 1999. Jobs created by the timber sales program fell from 893 in 1990 to an estimated 558 in 1999.
- In the Chippewa National Forest, timber sales fell from 91 million board feet in 1990 to 48 million board feet in 1999. (The projected

total in 2001 is just 18 million board feet.)

- The Chequamegon National Forest has generated consistent sales levels for many years, selling 59.5 million board feet in 1999. It is one of the few forests in the country where sales levels have been stable.
- Sales in the Nicolet National Forest fell from 80 million board feet in 1990 to 48 million in 1999. Another significant, but less frequently discussed, impact is the loss of revenues to local governments. For example, 25 percent of the revenue from federal timber sales is shared with counties and other local governments for school expenses and road maintenance. This revenue sharing was enacted by Congress to compensate local governments for school expenses and road maintenance. This revenue sharing was enacted by Congress to compensate local governments for the tax exempt status of the national forests.

In 1990, \$327 million was shared with local governments. That fell to about \$124 million in 1999. Total annual payments to local governments have decreased in the last decade due to the reduction in timber sales, even as the price paid for timber has increased dramatically. If 1999 timber sales equaled 1990 levels, revenue sharing payments to local

governments across the U.S. would have been more than \$500 million. The Superior National Forest would have produced about \$1.3 million for Lake, Cook, St. Louis, and Koochiching counties, instead of the \$653,000 actually distributed.

Appeals and litigation often result in forest management decisions made by judges rather than by the trained resource management professionals.

Whether this anti-logging campaign is a contributing cause to the declining health of national forests and increasing occurrence of severe forest fires likely will remain a hotly disputed issue.

Locally, we have lost jobs and federal revenue sharing money and will continue to be impacted by the attack on the federal timber sales program.

Aide to Former Congressman Arrested in Tree Spiking

Franks B. Ambrose, a self avowed member of the Earth Liberation Front, has been arrested in an Indiana tree spiking incident. Ambrose, Midwest organizer for the American Lands Alliance, is an aide to former Indiana Congressman Jim Jontz.

Jontz, a well known anti-harvesting zealot when he was in Congress has not commented on the arrest.

Ambrose was arrested by Indiana authorities after they traced the 10-inch spikes, which were driven into trees slated for harvest, to him. Other reports trace a car seen near the site of the spiking to Ambrose. Indiana authorities indicate that they believe others may have been involved in the incident.

The Earth Liberation Front has claimed credit for numerous acts of ecoterrorism including the torching of a Boise Cascade forestry office and arson fires at a New York housing development. The group has claimed to have done more than \$30 million in damage during their ecoterrorism blitzes.

The penalty for tree spiking in Indiana is up to 18 months in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Ambrose has proclaimed his innocence.

Years Ago

20 YEARS AGO

- Mike Latimer retired from Blandin Paper Co. after nearly 25 years. He joined Blandin as its first forester. Later he was appointed Blandin's first director of public affairs, a position he held until his retirement.
- National forest timber sales offered by the Forest Service will remain at 11.9 billion board feet under the Reagan Administration's revision of former President Carter's recommendation for fiscal year 1982.

30 YEARS AGO

- Superior National Forest Supervisor Craig W. Rupp has been reassigned as assistant to the deputy chief in charge of the National Forest System, in Washington D.C. Rupp will be responsible for multiple use planning and resource coordination on all 154 national forests.
- Alfred J. Withoff will be the new vice president and general manager of Blandin Wood Products Co. Groundbreaking activities for the plant should coincide closely with Withoff's arrival.
- Robert Herbst became Minnesota's first commissioner of natural resources in early January. He replaces the outgoing Jarle Leirfallow, the last commissioner of conservation.

MLEP Announces Its 2001 Continuing Education Program

The Minnesota Logger Education Program (MLEP) Board of Directors is proud to announce its 2001 Continuing Education Program for Minnesota's logging community.

The 2001 MLEP workshops will be delivered at nine locations throughout the state during late-March and throughout April to an anticipated 600 logger participants. The workshops will provide participants with Identification, Timber Harvest Monitoring, Timber Availability, and Legislative Updates.

The workshop series is co-sponsored in support by the Forest Resources Association, Inc., the Minnesota DNR – Division of Forestry, Minnesota Forest Industries, Inc., the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, the Potlatch Corporation, the St. Louis County Land Department, and the University of Minnesota – Extension Service.

For more information regarding MLEP, or to register to attend, please write or call: MLEP, 510 Board of Trade Bldg., Duluth, Minn. 55802; 218-722-5442; www.mlep.org.

Congressman Oberstar's "Wood Fiber" Tour

Eighth District U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar, in response to the significant problems in the forest products sector, conducted a fact finding tour during the second week of January. The tour included a meeting with the TPA Board of Directors, a morning at TPA director John Rolle's logging job, and stops at Potlatch's Cloquet operations, Trus Joist Weyerhaeuser, UPM Kymmene's Grand Rapids Mill, Boise Cascade, Hedstrom Lumber and the Stora Enso Duluth Mill.

TPA directors had a frank exchange with Congressman Oberstar during a two-hour evening session in Grand Rapids. "Congressman Oberstar has been a leader in Washington on keeping the U.S. Forest Service selling at least some wood," said TPA President Ray Killmer. "He came to us during our busiest season and listened to our problems and ideas about how to solve them. We are hopeful that he will be able to influence others in Washington."

The dawn broke bright and clear as TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt brought the congressman, John Schadel of his Duluth office, and Tim O'Hara, MFI's vice president of forest policy, out to John Rolle's logging job north of Chisholm, the congressman's home town. Rolle and his crew were in the midst of harvesting several blocks of state and private wood on winter accessible ground.

During three hours in the woods, John Rolle explained what he was doing, how he was doing it and what he saw as the challenges and opportunities for today's modern logger. With numerous stops at recent and active cuts, and new regeneration, middle-aged and mature stands Rolle explained what was going on. Rep. Oberstar had the chance to see John's crew felling, skidding, delimiting, slashing and loading and have it all explained to him.

The congressman also had a chance to relate to Rolle the time he had spent as a young man working for the Rolle family's concrete block business in Chisholm. Oberstar

later remarked that John had the Rolle family's intensity and commitment to progressive



Rep. Oberstar makes a point during meeting with the TPA Board of Directors.

business that has been known in Chisholm for many years.

During briefings and tours at the various mills, the congressman heard detailed information about current conditions in the paper, solid and engineered wood sectors.

"I want to thank TPA for arranging this tour. We are at a critical juncture for our loggers and wood products manufacturers. Finding solutions and building coalitions to benefit the wood products and steel industries are my top priorities right now. I am committed to doing everything I can to help build a better future for loggers in our state," said Rep. Oberstar at the conclusion of the tour.



Howard Hedstrom, president of Hedstrom Lumber, explains tough times in the softwood lumber business to Rep. Oberstar.



TPA President Ray Killmer and TPA directors at meeting with Rep. Oberstar.



TPA directors at Oberstar meeting.

2001 Concurrent Topics Workshops

The Minnesota Logger Education Program Board of Directors is proud to announce its 2001 logger education workshop opportunities. Nine workshops will be presented during late March and throughout April 2001 at the following locations:

**March 26 - Winona, April 3 - St. Cloud,
April 4 - Brainerd, April 9 - Grand Rapids,
April 11 - Cloquet, April 18 - Bemidji,
April 23 - Eveleth, April 24 - I. Falls,
April 25 - Grand Rapids**

Co-sponsored in support by the Forest Resources Association, Inc., MDNR - Division of Forestry,

Minnesota Forest Industries, Inc., Minnesota Timber Producers Association, Potlatch Corporation, St. Louis County Land Department, and the University of Minnesota – Extension Service.

Note: Evening sessions will not be offered during 2001

MLEP members may attend the full day-length workshop outlined below (in addition to LogSafe training), to complete 2001 educational requirements. Workshop participants will be able to choose which location they would like to attend as well as choose which topics they will attend during the morning and the afternoon.

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Registration and Refreshments			
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions and Workshop Overview			
8:15 - 9:00 a.m.	<i>Showing of St. Louis County's Video "People and Forests"</i>			
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Introduce Concurrent Sessions and Divide Participants			
9:15 - 10:45 a.m.	<i>Silviculture & Timber Cruising</i>	<i>Timber Harvest Monitoring</i>	<i>Tree Species Identification</i>	<i>Timber Availability & Legislative Update</i>
10:45 - 11:00 a.m.	BREAK – Refreshments Provided			
11:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Conclusion of Morning Workshop Topic Offerings			
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Buffet Provided on Site Divide Participants for Choice of Afternoon Offerings			
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	<i>Silviculture & Timber Cruising</i>	<i>Timber Harvest Monitoring</i>	<i>Tree Species Identification</i>	<i>Timber Availability & Legislative Update</i>
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	BREAK – Refreshments Provided			
3:15 - 4:45 p.m.	Conclusion of Afternoon Topic Offerings			
4:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Evaluation and Conclusion			

Pre-registration is required at least two weeks prior to workshop delivery dates. MLEP members and employees, attendance is free. All others, \$40.00.

For more information or to register for attendance, please write or call: MLEP, 510 Board of Trade Bldg., Duluth, Minn. 55802; 218-722-5442.

Minnesota Timber Producers Association *Meet the Directors*

Gordon Dobbs was born in Littlefork, Minn. His father, Elmer Dobbs, was the owner of Dobbs Logging Inc. and was an active TPA member for many years. Gordon started work in the woods full time in 1981. He took over Dobbs Logging Inc. when his father retired. He is now the owner of the business and an active member of TPA's Public Relations Committee. Gordon was elected to the TPA Board of Directors in 1996.

Gordon completed high school in Littlefork. He and his wife, Lori, still live in Littlefork but a few years ago they built a new home that they share with their two children, Kaitlyn and Ethan. His family, and especially the children, tend to keep him busy when not working. The family



enjoys camping, which manages to keep Gordon busy during some of his free time. He does manage to find time to still enjoy some of his own interests such as hunting, fishing and trapping.

Conference to Highlight Young Forests

The University of Minnesota Duluth Continuing Education program, along with other educational and resource management agencies, will host a conference titled: "The Role of Young Forests in Maintaining Biological Diversity in the Great Lakes Region." The conference, initiated by the Ruffed Grouse Society, will be held Thursday, March 29, at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center.

Featured speakers include Dan Dessecker, senior wildlife biologist with the Ruffed Grouse Society; Bill Berg, wildlife research biologist, Minn. DNR; Jim Woehr, senior scientist, Wildlife Management Institute; Frank Thompson III, USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station; and Norm Moody, Cass County land commissioner.

The goals of the conference are to demonstrate current conditions and trends in forest age and composition; to detail relationships between young forests and various wildlife species; and to educate resource professionals on population trends and habitat requirements of early-successional wildlife species.

"We are very pleased that the university, the Ruffed Grouse Society and the other sponsors are convening this conference," said TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt. "All we've heard for the past decade from some quarters is a constant drumbeat about old forest habitats. This important conference will address the need for and benefits of young forest habitats in our forest ecosystem."

The cost for the conference is \$20. Registration information can be obtained from the University of Minnesota Duluth Continuing Education, 251 Darland Building, 10 University Drive, Duluth, Minn. 55812.

Chippewa National Forest Withdraws Timber Sales

In the last two months the Walker Ranger District of Chippewa National Forest has withdrawn two proposed timber sales. In November, the district withdrew a the Otto Ecosystem Stewardship Project and on January 25 the Storm 2000 Salvage Environmental Assessment was withdrawn.

The Otto Ecosystem Stewardship Project assessment covered nearly 13,000 acres of national forest land and proposed harvest on an estimated 1,800 acres. The project analysis began in February 1999 and after two years of analysis the project was withdrawn with no indication that it would be re-initiated. In total, more than 840 hours of staff time and \$17,900 were expended on the project. The acting district ranger cited several reasons why the project was withdrawn, which include local tribal concern of timber management, red-shouldered hawk, and special management complexes (reserved areas to be evaluated by the forest plan revision process).

More recently the Walker District withdrew the Storm 2000 Salvage Environmental Assessment. This project proposed to salvage blowdown timber on approximately 1,400 acres of national forest lands. It was withdrawn because of threats of an appeal and that the analysis conducted by district staff would not hold up in a legal challenge. The district anticipates after additional analysis that a new decision will be issued in June. Hopefully, the timber will still be worthy of salvage by this time.

Prior to these announcements the Chippewa only planned to offer 25 million board feet for the current fiscal year. The withdrawal of these timber sales will only make the already dismal timber program of the Chippewa only worse.

Nortrax Equipment Co. Acquires Timberjack Product Line from St. Joseph's Equipment

Nortrax Equipment Co. recently announced the acquisition of the Timberjack product line from St. Joseph's Equipment located in La Crosse, Wis. The acquisition includes all forestry product, parts, and machine inventory from St. Joseph's La Crosse, Wis.; Duluth, Minn.; and Iron River, Mich. stores. In addition, Nortrax will acquire and

operate the Iron River store as a Nortrax business.

"This is a very positive move for Nortrax," stated Nortrax Midwest Region Vice President and General Manager, Tim Murphy. "Since the acquisition of Timberjack by Deere and Company last year, we've set our sites on procuring this account. We've got a strong presence in the Northwoods and Timberjack is the premier player in mechanized timber harvesting equipment." Murphy added, "This partnership will be positive for Nortrax, for Timberjack, and most of all for our customers." Deere and Company announced the purchase of Timberjack in April 2000.

Nortrax will represent Timberjack at all of its nine locations throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the UP of Michigan. The Iron River, Mich., location will become a full-fledged Nortrax operation, offering sales, parts, and service for John Deere, Hitachi, Timberjack, Fabtek, and Timbco products.

Nortrax Equipment Co. 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 offices are based in Eau Claire, Wis. Sales and service centers operate in Bemidji, Duluth, and Grand Rapids, Minn.; Ashland, Eau Claire, Monico, and Schofield, Wis.; and Escanaba and Iron River, Mich.

Coming Events

- **The Log Truck Driver Workshops** will be held at the following locations:
Wed., Apr. 4 – Holiday Inn, Winona
Wed., Apr. 11 – Deep Portage Conservation Reserve, Hackensack
Thurs., Apr. 12 – Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids
For more information or to request a sign up sheet, please call the Minnesota Timber Producers Association office at 218-722-5013.

2001 Logsafe Program

The Logsafe program provided by the Department of Labor and Industry, Consultation Division for 2001 will be offered on the following dates:

SPRING SEMINARS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 28	Rochester	Best Western Apache
April 3	North Shore	Grand Superior Lodge
April 4 & 5	Eveleth	Eveleth Inn (Old Holiday Inn)
April 10 & 11	Grand Rapids	Sawmill Inn
April 12	Cloquet	Cloquet Forestry Center
April 17 & 18	Int'l Falls	Holiday Inn
April 19	Cloquet	Cloquet Forestry Center
April 23 & 24	Brainerd	Brainerd Inn (Old Holiday Inn)
April 25 & 26	Bemidji	Northern Inn

FALL SEMINARS:

October 3	Rochester	Call LogSafe (location selected later)
October 10	North Shore	Grand Superior Lodge
October 16	Int'l Falls	Holiday Inn
October 17	Bemidji	Northern Inn
October 18	Brainerd	Brainerd Inn
October 23	Eveleth	Best Inn (Old Holiday Inn)
October 24	Grand Rapids	Sawmill Inn
October 25	Cloquet	Cloquet Forestry Center
December 20	Chisholm	Iron World (special session, call Logsafe)

SCHEDULE & TOPICS:

7:30 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m.	Opening Presentation
8:15 a.m.	Sessions Begin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track I • Track II • Track III
10:00 a.m.	Break
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Sessions Resume <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track I • Track II • Track III
2:30 p.m.	Break
4:30 p.m.	Session End

TRACK DESCRIPTION

- **Track I** - CPR / First-Aid - both of which are required for all employees working on a logging site. The CPR Course will be from 8:15 a.m. - 12 noon. First-Aid Training will be offered from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Track II** - Chainsaw Safety
 - PPE
 - Safe operating procedures
 - Proper felling techniques
 - Maintenance (will be offered from 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- **Track III**
 - OSHA Logging Standard
 - Overview
 - Forest Resources Association video on standard
 - Slips and fall prevention
 - Back injury prevention
 - Hazard recognition
 - Hydraulic system safety
 - Leakage/Stored energies
 - Cylinder dangers
 - Trouble shooting techniques

For registration or additional information contact the LogSafe office by calling 1-888-234-1217.



TPA Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt addresses the board of directors.

TPA Board of Directors Meeting

The TPA Board of Directors met in Grand Rapids, Minn. In significant actions, the board adopted a six-point strategy on increasing timber availability during 2001. The board adopted resolutions urging the DNR to modify its current work plan to increase timber sales to 800,000 cords – the full amount in their current management plans; demanded that the Chippewa National Forest increase their sales to the average of the past 15 years and that the chief of the Forest Service and the regional forester take immediate steps if the Chippewa is not willing or able to accomplish this; commended Jerry Rose for his service as director of the DNR’s Division of Forestry.

The TPA board also implemented a dues increase for all members and restructured several membership categories. The board approved budgets and objectives for 2001 and heard presentations from various speakers including John Hill, LUA regional manager, Terry Weber, Forest Resources Partnership and Shirley Hanson, TPA Group Health Plan administrator.

Resolution

DNR Timber Sales

Whereas the annual growth of

wood on DNR-administered lands is 1.3 million cords per year; and

Whereas the total annual volume of sales in DNR area forest management plans is approximately 800,000 cords per year; and

Whereas the DNR sold 619,000 cords of wood in fiscal year 2000, and

Whereas the DNR work plan’s target for timber sales in fiscal year 2001 is 596,000 cords; and

Whereas DNR-administered lands continue to suffer significant mortality; and

Whereas there is a critical shortage in the availability of timber for sale; now therefore be it

Resolved that TPA strongly urges the DNR to modify its fiscal year 2001 work plan by increasing proposed timber sales to 800,000 cords; and be it further

Resolved that TPA intends to work with and support the DNR and legislature in implementing the timber sales levels contained in the current approved DNR area plans.

Resolution

Chippewa National Forest Timber Sales

Whereas the Allowable Sale

Quantity for the Chippewa National Forest is 79 million board feet per year; and

Whereas many TPA members depend on the continued management of the Chippewa National Forest; and

Whereas the Chippewa National Forest has 133 full-time employees who are directed by law to manage the forest’s nearly 700,000 acres including offering timber for sale; and

Whereas the Chippewa National Forest has announced that it will offer only 17 million board feet of new timber for sale during the current fiscal year; and

Whereas this level of sales represents barely 10 percent of the wood grown on the forest each year; now therefore be it

Resolved the TPA demands that the supervisor of the Chippewa National Forest offer for sale at least the average of the past 15 years timber sales (68 million board feet); and be it further

Resolved that if the Chippewa National Forest is unwilling or unable to implement this minor amount of forest management, that the regional forester and the chief of the U.S. Forest Service take immediate steps to resolve this critical management problem.

Resolution

Commending Jerry Rose

Whereas Jerry Rose has served as director of the Division of Forestry for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 14 years; and

Whereas Jerry Rose has been a frequent participant in TPA meetings, activities, programs and functions; and

Whereas Jerry Rose has always held a strong commitment to a strong economy and sound management of forest resources; and

Whereas Jerry Rose has been an exemplary public servant who has always been a credit to the citizens of Minnesota in dealing with many difficult issues; and

Whereas Jerry Rose has always had an open door to TPA and its members; now therefore be it

Resolved that TPA commends and thanks Jerry Rose for his work as DNR Division of Forestry director; and be it further

Resolved that TPA wishes Jerry Rose only the best in his future endeavors.

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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

Early Fire Control

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*



For the past 90 years, northern Minnesota has enjoyed a period of fairly wet weather, free from any large forest fires. Now, in the fall of 1978, we have had fire conditions following a very dry spring and summer with many fires throughout the northern half of the state. And, while

the condition is bad to say the least, it is not new.

From the time logging began in the state in the 1840s, the northern half of Minnesota has been confronted with many dry years and bad fire conditions. In the early years of logging, forest fires were

not much of a problem to the logger, mostly because the logging camps operated only during the winter months and settlers had not started to open up the land for farming. While there was some loss to the companies, it was mostly in fire-killed timber. In a few cases, fire may have been of some help in removing brush and debris, making logging easier.

However, following the Hinckley fire of Sept. 1, 1894, when logging camps and equipment and much standing timber were destroyed along with over 400 lives, the loggers, like the settlers, became aware of the terrible threat to life and property that uncontrolled forest fires could cause. When the town of Chisholm was wiped out by another fire on Sept. 4, 1908, with vast damage to property and timber, loggers became even more aware of forest fires. The Chisholm fire burned over 20,000 acres with two million dollars' worth of standing timber.

In the fall of 1910, 18 years after the great Hinckley fire, another fire struck Minnesota along its northern boundary and wiped out the towns of Baudette and Spooner. The year 1910 was the hottest and driest on record so far, and on Oct. 9, the forest fire, driven by a southwest wind, rolled in on the two towns and reduced them to ashes with the loss of 42 lives. Following this fire, public sentiment demanded a better fire control system, and as a result the legislature of 1911 appropriated funds and passed laws setting up a system of rangers and ranger districts throughout the forested area of the state.

These laws required loggers and timbermen to burn slashings and report their mittings, putting loggers directly into fire control work by the reduction of what was considered a fire hazard. Rangers issued notices for disposal of whatever slash they considered hazardous. Railroads and logging companies were required to patrol their railroads and take steps to see that their locomotives did not set fires. Each camp foreman became responsible for carrying out the fire control and prevention within his camp operations area. Besides this, fire patrolmen were used to patrol all engines



over the logging spurs.

With the coming of railroad logging and the operation of steam jammers, the chance of fire became much greater. Fire fighting and control still remained the responsibility of the district rangers. However, ranger districts were large and greatly undermanned, and the rangers depended pretty much on the logging companies to cover their work areas.

In order to supplement the work of the scattered state rangers and patrolmen, some of the larger companies hired summer patrolmen for their operations and timber stands. With the help of the weather, fires were cut down in number considerably between 1911 and 1917. However, with the dry weather of 1917, followed by another dry year in 1918, fires again began to get out of control. Many small fires were burning throughout the area and with a hurricane wind developing on Oct. 12, fires rolled over the towns of Moose Lake, Cloquet, and the smaller villages of Kettle River, Lawler, Munger, Brookston, Adolph and all the area in between, even threatening the city of Duluth. Property damage was estimated to be \$28 million and 436 lives were lost.

In order to try to establish blame for the fire for fires, as it was found that there were at least six distinct strips of burned over areas, many lawsuits were started to collect damage from the larger lumber companies and the railroads.

Since the railroads were under government control at that time, the government finally paid most of the claims. While the lumber companies won all of their suits, it cost them many thousands of dollars. After the 1918 fire and the damage claims, all the logging companies operating in northeastern Minnesota greatly increased their efforts to control any fires that might start in their operations or logging areas and result in claims for damage. Several fire control organizations were formed to work with and under the direction of the district rangers.

The Oliver Iron Company woods operation in the Brimson and Burnside area had set up a system of fire patrolmen who worked throughout their operations during the summer months. This was composed of camp clerks, foremen, straw bosses, cruiser and other supervising personnel who worked in the camps during the winter months. In case of fire, they used the little fire equipment available in the camps.

In 1919, the first private fire control organization, known as the Wales Forest Protective Association, was established with Noah Bottineau in charge and Leo Fay as his assistant. Their headquarters was set up at Scott Junction on the Wales branch. This organization assumed responsibility for all fire control in the area lying east of the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad in St. Louis County, consisting of

about four townships, and about 10 townships in Lake County lying south of Township 59 and north of Township 54 as far east as Range 9. This relieved the state of a large portion of District 3 and gave the chance to spread help to other portions of District 3, which was greatly undermanned.

The Wales Forest Protection Association was financed by several companies that had timber operations and stands of timber in the area. Each company paid according to the number of acres in its holdings. Some of the main timber holders in this area were the Oliver Mining Co., Cloquet Tie and Post Co., North Star Timber Co., Consolidated Paper Co., Scott Graff Co. and the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Co. They built and maintained lookout towers, telephone lines, and carried on all fire protection work with as many as 25 patrolmen working during the summer months. Most of their travel was done by foot or by railroad motor car.

West of the Iron Range, between the Range and Duluth, the timber was mostly owned by the Combined Weyerhaeuser Companies of Cloquet and many camps were in operation. The few patrolmen they had helped some in controlling fires, but the summer of 1922 proved to be a bad fire season. In August a large fire started

near White Face station on the Duluth Winnipeg and Pacific Railroad and burned through to Markham. Much of the standing pine timber in 55-15 and 54-15 was burned. The National Guard was called out to help fight this fire, which was brought under control with the help of some rain. All of the burned timber had to be cut in order to salvage some of it.

The Combined Weyerhaeuser Companies had been planning to expand their protection program for some time, and following this 1922 fire, action was taken. James Ryan, my father, had been directing the mapping of the 1918 fire and handling the field work in connection with the lawsuits filed against the companies. He was called into the office of William Kenedy, general manager of the Cloquet companies, and given the job of setting up a fire control organization similar to the Wales Association. This was to cover the companies' work area west of the Duluth and Iron Range Railroad in St. Louis County south of the Iron Range.

The organization would differ from the Wales Association in being financed by the Cloquet companies only. More time and effort would be spent in collecting information on fires that might protect the companies from suits. However, the main objective would be the control and

Timber destroyed by one of Minnesota's early fires.





A crown fire in action and one of the early wooden lookouts built by the Fire Patrol Association throughout the Cloquet Fire Patrol District. Some of these towers were replaced later by steel lookouts.



suppression of fires. This organization, as the Wales organization, was to be under the approval and direction of Percy Vibert, the ranger in District 3 at Cloquet. In 1923 Vibert's district consisted of most of St. Louis County south of the Range and extended across Lake County to the Cook County line. During the spring of 1923, plans were made to establish headquarters at the crossing of the DNE Railroad and Highway 4 known as the Vermilion Trail. The organization was known as the Cloquet Fire Patrol Association, and lasted from June 1, 1923 to Feb. 1, 1930. In setting up the boundaries of the area to be served by the association, we took over districts that had been manned part-time by state-paid men at Cotton, Markham, Central Lake and Hiwabik, thus giving Vibert a chance to hire more men in the fringe areas to the south and west.

In May of 1923, buildings were set up at the headquarters site, consisting of a combination bunkhouse, kitchen and office, a two-stall garage, a speeder house, a warehouse and food storage building, and an ice house. A four-stall garage and two log cabins were built in 1924 as well as hose racks, etc. I had been working as a pulpwood scaler and log cutting inspector for the St. Louis Mercantile Co., one of the Weyerhaeuser companies. I was transferred to headquarters to work as supervisor of this organization under the supervision of my father, who had other duties with the companies, such as checking contract loggers and timber estimating supervision. However, much of his time during the summer months in the first years of the organization was spent at headquarters.

We built lookout towers (several wood towers at first, later replaced by steel towers) and telephone lines. Much of our travel was by railroad motor car or "speeders," with men on hand speeders patrolling after the jammers and locomotives. We had charge of all the brush-burning around logging camps and along railroad spurs that were to be used during the summer months. Patrolmen were assigned to fire control wherever there were company men working along the rivers during the drives. During the spring of 1926 we had 600 men burning brush during the month of April. We set up a system of patrol beats that were covered regularly throughout the district with register boxes where patrolmen would record the weather and conditions. Watchmen were stationed at timber landings along the railroad where fires might cause considerable damage.

Our fire protection area covered all land south from Township 59 to and including Township 63 and parts of Township 62 in Ranges 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, parts of Range 17 and also in the Hall Junction operations in Ranges 18 and 19. We also had a special

man in the Beaver Rivers operations in 51-15 during the summers of 1924 and 1925. During the peak years we had about 28 summer patrolmen. Most of these men were straw bosses, camp clerks and scalers who went back to work in the lumber camps during the winter months, with only two or three men working over winter checking slash.

All railroad patrols were under our supervision and we ordered that the trains be patrolled whenever we thought the danger of them starting fires existed. Besides the regular patrolmen, we had men stationed in the camp work areas who would work checking jammers, locomotives and work areas. These men would work the duration of the particular job, lived in the camps under our direction and were paid by us.

Upon the organization of the Cloquet Fire Patrol Association, all camp foremen clerks were notified that they were to give us the greatest cooperation, that all work would stop and the crews turned over to us in case of fire and that they must enforce any rules on fire prevention that the association might prescribe. All of the association's regular patrolmen were commissioned by the state Forestry Department and had the full power of state rangers. We employed about 15 seven-month patrolmen during most of the time the association was in operation. During the later years some state funds were available and a few of our men were paid from those.

When the association was formed in 1923, the Combined Cloquet Companies had about 700 to 800 million board feet of pine still standing. All of this virgin timber had been harvested by 1929. Of this, about 500 million was in the Stroud area, the balance was in the 55-15 Comstock Lake area west of Mile Post #4 on the Iron Range Railroad in 57-13, in 55-12 around Stone Lake, in 51-15 on the Beaver and several lesser scattered blocks.

In the summer of 1924 some 100 million board feet of cut logs were hung up in Island Lake when the power company drew off the water. This created a bad fire hazard and some logs burned.

Some 20 large 200-man camps and 30 or more jobber camps were in operation during the life of the association. The fire-fighting equipment was cached throughout the district and was composed mostly of hand tools and pump tanks. At headquarters we had large amounts of hand tools and pumps, blankets, dishes and tents to handle fires and men who had to be fed and camped.

During most of the time, our first line of defense for fire suppression came from the camps, and when they were not in operation, lumberjacks would be picked up from the employment offices in Duluth. Settlers and local people were used in the fringe and settled parts of the district. Much of

our transportation was by railroad speeder and up to 12 motorcars were operated by the association. While we cannot take all the credit, as the weather did cooperate, the fire loss in our district from 1923 to 1929 was cut down considerably. We had several fires of around 200 acres, but all were brought under control without too much loss.

In the fall of 1929 we had what was known as the "Harvey fire" that burned along the west side of 55-15 and into 56-15. However, it was not until shortly before the association was dissolved that we had a really bad fire. While we were enjoying pretty good success in our district, the Wales Association to the east of us had several large fires in the spring of 1928 that burned over most of two townships (56 57-9).

My father had taken another position with the companies and in 1929 the supervision of fire control work came under Ed Marshall, an ex-supervisor of the Chippewa National Forest who had been hired by the companies to head their forestry program. Reggie Vibert, brother of the ranger Perry Vibert, was given some of my father's duties and was on the payroll of the association that last six months of 1929.

In late fall of 1929, the companies decided to dissolve the association and on Feb. 1, 1930, all equipment of the association, along with a sum of money, was turned over to the state so they could assume the job of taking care of any fire hazards that may have been left by the logging operations in the firm of slash.

Thus, after about seven fire years, the Cloquet Fire Patrol became a thing of the past. During the time it was in operation the checks of the Cloquet Tie and Post Co., nonoperational at this time, were used to pay for all the men and supplies. Most of our fire fighting was done at the rate of 40 cents per hour and most of our patrolmen were paid \$100 per month plus room, board and expenses.

During the time that the Cloquet Fire Patrol was in existence, two other associations sprang up. One was known as the Kabetogamn Fire Patrol Association and handled fire control in the operations of Virginia and Harry Lake Counties. The other was known as the Colvin Fire Patrol Association and handled fires in the Galvin branch of the International Lumber Co. (M&O) in Keweenaw County. Both of these were short-lived. The Oliver Mining Co. still maintained some patrolmen in their Burnside holdings but not to the extent of the association.

From the time the state Forestry Department was set up in 1911 until the closing of the logging camps in the early 1930s, the logging camps were the first source of organized fire crews and with private fire control organizations, loggers played a large part in early fire control.



These photos all show destruction of 1921 fire—including a settler's home (above) and cars abandoned and burned in a field in the Hay Creek fire.



The Holstein cow and the spike back above suffocated but were unsmoked in 1921 fire. The deer below suffocated and burned.



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.

NEW POSITION

Field Representative. Timber Producers Association of MI & WI (TPA).

Timber Producers Association is seeking a professional to represent the forest products industry, primarily in the upper part of Michigan, with legislative duties to include work in Lansing.

Applicants must be self-motivated, possess excellent written/verbal communication and computer skills. Applicant must have working knowledge of the forest products industry and excellent people skills. Knowledge of government procedures/policies and legislative process is preferred. This position requires travel within the state of Michigan, with periodic travel to the TPA office in Wisconsin. Send cover letter, resume and salary requirements to: Nadine Bailey, president, Timber Producers Ass. of MI & WI, P.O. Box 1278, Rhinelander, Wis. 54501 (application deadline is March 15, 2001).

USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

FOR SALE

CABLE SKIDDERS

1965 C4 TF.....\$ 4,000
C4 TF.....8,500

GRAPPLE SKIDDERS

1993 450C TJ, low hours,
dual function.....50,000
1993 518C Cat, new trans.....49,000
S-10 International.....14,000
1990 548D JD.....POR
1988 548D JD.....34,000
1978 640 JD, dual function.....21,000
1980 640 JD, dual function,
rebuilt trans.....23,000
1994 648E JD, dual function.....POR
1993 648E JD, dual function...56,000
1989 170XL Franklin, 6-cyl.

Cummins, new tires.....30,000
1995 F67G Clark Ranger dual
function, 4,723 hours,
35.5x32 rub., very clean.....49,000

CRAWLERS

1990 650G, 6-way blade.....42,000
1996 D3C LGPIII, new U.C.....38,000
1988 D4H LGP, 6-way blade...45,000
1987 D4H LGP, 6-way blade,
encl. cab43,000
KNUCKLE BOOM LOADERS
1989 160A Barko on tandem
truck, joy sticks 60" Siiro
slasher.....39,000
1986 1187B Case log loader.....30,000
1987 210C 6 cyl. JD slasher
package.....27,000

Prentice 90 on tandem truck,
19' bed9,500
1987 XL 175 Husky19,000

HARVESTERS

Hahn harvester.....15,000
1995 LS2800 QEX Linkbelt
w/453 ProPac meas.
system95,000
1993 Risley Black Magic
Lim-mit 200095,000

FELLER-BUNCHERS AND SHEARS

1979 40 Drott, shearhead17,000
1986 490 JD w/20" Timbco
shearhead35,000
1993 T445 Timbco, w/22" Quadco
sawhead w/side tilt.....145,000
1992 643D JD w/18" sawhead
new tires39,000
1993 Risley Black Magic,
w/Risley sawhead120,000
1976 544B JD, 20" shear21,000
1990 Super T Bell, 24"28,000
1988 910 Cat, 17" shearhead,
rebuilt trans.....37,000
1987 311B Hydro-Ax.....20,000
1987 411B Hydro-Ax.....20,000
1986 511B Hydro-Ax, 6 BT
Cummins.....POR

WHEEL LOADERS

1979 544B JD18,500
1979 544B JD19,500
1981 644C.....28,000

MISCELLANEOUS

1994 511E Hydro-Ax
20" sawhead.....57,000
1997 72" circular slasher12,000
1990 210C JD 4x4 backhoe20,500
Terrain King 6300 self-propelled
sweeper.....8,000
20" Koehring sawhead to
fit 643 JD9,000
1989 490D JD excavator32,000

We have other equipment not listed.

New and used parts,
new and used tires and chains.
Something you're looking for?

Give us a call. We may have it or
be able to locate it for you!!!

We are distributors for
Aftermarket Parts, Rud Chains
and Hanfab Slashers

NORTHERN TIMBERLINE
EQUIPMENT, INC.

6000 Co. Rd. 8
Littlefork, Minn. 56653
Phone 218-278-6203
Fax 218-278-6716
Richard or Cam Hardwig

ADVERTISERS INDEX

American Forest & Paper Assoc.....	30
American Interstate Insurance	17
Bridgestone/Firestone	13
Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.....	16
General Diesel	17
Great Lakes Trailers.....	27
Hedstrom Lumber Co.....	18
Itasca Greenhouse.....	19
Jake's Quality Tire	5
LM Products.....	19
Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance.....	23
Menominee Industrial Supply.....	14
Mundt & Associates	24
Northern Engine & Supply	23
Nortrax	35
Ponsse USA	7, 22
Rice Blacksmith Saw & Machine.....	11
Road Machinery & Supplies.....	29
Sawmill Sales & Supplies	6
Schaefer Enterprises.....	34
Schaeffer's Specialized Lubricants.....	17
Southern Minnesota Construction.....	23
Stuart's, Inc.	2
Telmark.....	15
United Truck Body	25
Wausau Sales Corp.....	34
Ziegler Inc.....	36