

# TIMBER BULLETIN

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I'm sure you have all read what the Washington, D.C., USDA Forest Service thinks of loggers, as stated in the Roadless Area Conservation Internal Briefing Draft, Apr. 21, 2000, pages 3-190. If logging is "not a traditional lifestyle and occupational culture" I don't know what is. Do they think a logger can succeed "without having a high level of education?" To me it demonstrates how out of touch with the "real" world the USDA

## President's Column



Forest Service is, and the length they will go to justify their actions.

On a brighter note, it is time to make plans for the North Star Expo at Ironworld in Chisholm this year. A new feature this year is the old-time logging equipment display. The idea has been around for a few years and this year the mechanization committee will give it a try. I don't think we will see any horses, but there will probably be an early version of a J.D. crawler and vintage trucks. It is not too late to get a piece of equipment ready for the display. Look behind the garage and help the mechanization committee make this event a success. If you need more details, call the TPA office.

As always remember safety; a good motto may be: "we have time to work safe."

*Arthur Kell...*

## Grams Announces Forestry Hearing in Northern Minnesota

*"I believe this hearing will give us a chance to closely examine all of the issues surrounding the July 4th windstorm and the impact it will have on the region for many years to come," says Minnesota Senator.*

U.S. Senator Rod Grams announced on May 24 that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Forestry and Public Land Management has approved his request for a field hearing in northern Minnesota to examine issues including the impact of the July 4, 1999, windstorm and federal land management policies. Grams talked with subcommittee chairman Larry Craig (R-ID) about the problems facing northern Minnesota immediately after the windstorm and formally requested the hearing earlier this year.

"I am thrilled that Senator Craig has accepted by request to hold an oversight hearing of his subcommittee in northern Minnesota. I asked Senator Craig to conduct this hearing because of the great number of issues facing the northern part of our state. I believe this hearing will give us a chance to closely examine all of the issues surrounding the July 4th windstorm and the impact it will have on the region for many years to come. It will also give us a chance to address a number of other issues in the forest including timber harvesting and access for recreation," said Grams.

Grams also took the opportunity to thank Senator Craig for his help in getting approval for the hearing. Grams said, "I have been working with Senator Craig to bring this hearing to northern Minnesota for over two months. As the chairman of the forestry subcommittee, Senator Craig is one of the Senate's most knowledgeable members on forestry issues and I appreciate his involvement in this hearing."

Grams requested the hearing in a letter to Senator Craig on Feb. 9, 2000. In the letter, Grams wrote, "I am writing to respectfully request a field hearing in northern Minnesota of the energy committee's forest and public land management subcommittee. The proposed

hearing would center around forest health issues, the importance of the federal timber program, forest plan revisions now underway in both the Superior and Chippewa National Forests, and the difficulties facing the region as a result of a July 4, 1999, windstorm that devastated hundreds of thousands of acres of forest land both within and outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA)."

The hearing is tentatively scheduled to be held in Grand Rapids on July 7.

We have gotten a lot of good feedback on DNR Commissioner Alan Garber's keynote speech at the TPA Annual Meeting. People were impressed with his straight talk and direct manner. The commissioner followed his speech

## Executive Vice President's Column



Harry Fisher and Russ Allen asked questions about timber sale volumes, DNR staff

allocations and accountability, department decision making and potential BWCWA land exchanges. Each of them got an answer that was clearly understandable, even though it may not have been exactly the answer that was sought.

We appreciate Commissioner Garber taking the time to come to the Annual Meeting and look forward to continuing to work with him.

\* \* \*

On the topic of the DNR, we are very pleased that timber sale volumes have increased during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year. In fact, total sales volumes through the third quarter are about 100,000 cords ahead of the previous fiscal year. This put the DNR on pace to sell about the same amount of wood as they sold in fiscal year 1998. The fiscal year 1998 volume is about 100,000 cords less than the volume sold in fiscal year 1995 and about 200,000 cords less than the total from their area plans, but the increase from last year shows the DNR is headed in the right direction.

We appreciate the efforts of everyone in the DNR, from technicians and field foresters all the way up to the commissioner's office, that have caused this to happen. Implementing the DNR area plans, including the timber sale volumes, is the right thing to do for the forest. It's also the right thing to do for the economy.

\* \* \*

I always have mixed feelings when good people retire. I'm happy for them but apprehensive about the future. That's the case with LUA's Minnesota operations head Tom Hutchison retiring. Tom has been coming to the Annual and board meetings since long before I started. He's been a straight shooter who has had a very strong commitment to the TPA/LUA workers compensation program. The last few years have been easy with decreasing rates and a healthy program. It was tougher 10 years ago when rates were going up and the program had a multi-year seven figure cumulative deficit.

Tom was the guy who stuck with us through thick and thin and made the program work from the LUA side. I'm very happy for him and look forward to continue seeing him in the future. I'm sure our members feel the same.

\* \* \*

LUA has announced that Tom Hutchison will be replaced by Jack Anderson. Jack has had a long career in the insurance business, the last 20 years here in Minnesota. He has extensive experience in workers compensation and should be an asset to our program. We look forward to working with Jack.

\* \* \*

If you have internet access, check the industry's new web site at [www.minnesotaforests.com](http://www.minnesotaforests.com). You'll find sections for loggers and landowners which include safety alerts, a listing of MLEP members and sources of information on forest management. As more things come on line, you'll be able to check out past issues of the Timber Bulletin and find alerts on current issues and letters that you can send electronically to comment on them.

You may also want to check out the DNR Division of Forestry's site. Its address is [www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/) and it contains a wealth of information. Look for future harvest plans in your area, auction calendars, sale notices and detailed sale results.

\* \* \*

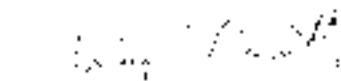
Mark your calendars for the North Star Expo which will be held August 11 and 12 at Ironworld in Chisholm, Minn. The Mechanization Committee has been working hard and it should be exciting to have the show at a new location. The committee is still looking for old time equipment to include in the show. If you have a piece that you would be willing to bring to the show, either restored or original, contact Linda Dumonsau at the TPA office.

\* \* \*

If you missed the Annual Meeting, check out the article in this issue of the Timber Bulletin. We appreciated having the DNR regional foresters and county land commissioners participate in panel discussions on their programs. The state and counties provide nearly 85 percent of the public wood that is sold each year. Having these key people at the Annual Meeting provided a great opportunity for our members in attendance.

\* \* \*

Finally, with the change in seasons comes a change in safety considerations. Things are different in the summer than they are in the winter. Take a few minutes to review safety issues with your crew. The injuries you prevent and premiums you save may be your own.



## Coming Events

■ **30th Annual Hardwood Lumber Grading Short Course**, Aug. 29-31, 2000, Cloquet Forestry Center (20 miles southwest of Duluth). Sponsored by the National Hardwood Lumber Assn., Owens Forest Products, and the University of Minnesota's Department of Wood & Paper Science. Contact Tom Milton at 612-624-5307 or e-mail [tmilton@forestry.umn.edu](mailto:tmilton@forestry.umn.edu) for more information.

# Sixty-Third Annual Membership Meeting



Robin Walsh, winner of the chainsaw.



Members listened and participated in the presentations.

The Minnesota Timber Producers Association's 63rd annual membership meeting was held Friday April 28, at Spirit Mountain Ski Resort in Duluth. President Ramon Killmer welcomed all the members and made introductions. Executive Vice President Wayne Brandt reported on the association's activities for the past year including legislation affecting the timber industry and the recently concluded legislative session. The committee chairmen reported on the activities and concerns addressed during the past year.

Chairman of the nominating committee, Dick Walsh, reported that the committee had

recommended the nomination of 44 current directors and the addition of the following members: Brian Giddings, Eveleth; Kent Jacobson, Cloquet; and Mike Warren, Grand Rapids. There were no nominations to the advisory committee.

Mike Kilgore, executive director of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, started off the morning program with an overview, update and the future direction of the council.

Log A Load for Kids coordinator Jody Grau reviewed this year's activities. The program will donate \$70,000 this year to the Children's Miracle Network (CMN). These dollars will go to the Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in

Minnesota. She then introduced Kim Olson and her daughter, Randeena, who is three years old. Kim discussed the problem Randeena was having and what Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare has done for her and the family. Randeena was not very talkative but she provided the emphasis to what her mother had to say.

A panel of county land commissioners including Dave Epperly, St. Louis; Dennis Hummertzsch, Koochiching; Tom Martinson, Lake; Bob Milne, Beltrami; Norman Moody, Cass; and Garrett Ous, Itasca, discussed "County Timber Program Now and in the Future." They each addressed the timber program in



A good time was had by all at the social hour and banquet.



President Ramon Killmer welcomed everyone to the 64th TPA Annual Meeting.



Several of the safety contest winners. Left to right, front row: Clarence Johnson, Johnson Logging; Marilyn Fellows, Land-O-Lakes Wood Preserving; Kelly Kimball, Kimball's Logging, Inc. Back row: Paul Lundberg, Lundberg Forest Products, Inc.; Tom McCabe, McCabe Forest Products Inc.; Steve Lof, Steve Lof Logging.

their county and commented on where their programs are going.

Mike Turner provided an overview and update on the Minnesota Logger Education Program. He reviewed this year's program offerings and encouraged everyone to participate.

Mike DonCarlos, DNR Wildlife, and Russ Peterson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, provided their perspective on the listing of the Lynx and "Where Do We Go From Here?" This topic, like several others, had lots of questions following their presentation.

Tim O'Hara, director of forest policy for Minnesota Forest Industries, provided an assessment of the DNR Timber Sale Program. His assessment showed the DNR has failed to sell their annual

targeted volume for the past several years. The volumes sold trend has been on a downward slope.

Darwin Anderson, Jim Brooks, Larry Hegstad and Chuck Spoden, DNR regional forest managers, DNR Division of Forestry, comprised the final panel of the afternoon program. They reviewed their Regional Timber Programs and then discussed where they were headed. There were lots of questions.

The social hour and banquet provided an opportunity to meet new members and visit with old friends. Thanks to the following social hour hosts:

Bridgestone/Firestone C&F Store  
Cummins North Central  
Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &

Frederick  
Interstate Detroit Diesel  
Lumberman's Underwriting  
Alliance  
Nortrax Equipment Co.  
Rihm Kenworth  
Road Machinery & Supplies Co.  
Russell & Herder Advertising &  
Public Relations  
Skubic Bros. International  
St. Joseph Equipment Inc.  
Stewart-Taylor Printing  
Tree Farmer Sales, Inc.  
Two Harbors Machine Shop, Inc.  
Ziegler, Inc.

The banquet program consisted of recognizing those companies that participated in the TPA Safety Contest and completed the year without any lost time accidents. They included the following businesses:

#### Logging Division

Company Name and Location  
C & M Walsh Logging, Park Rapids  
C.O. Johnson Logging, Blackduck  
Doug Brenner Logging, Grand  
Marais  
Doug Foster Logging, Ely  
Dukek Logging, Bagley  
Frenzel Logging, Kelliher  
JSF Logging, Blackduck  
Killmer Bros., Big Falls  
Kimball's Sawmill & Logging, Park  
Rapids  
Lundberg Forest Products, Solway  
M & R Chips, Grand Rapids  
McCabe Forest Products, Duluth  
Northwoods Chipping,  
International Falls  
Olson Forest Products, Bemidji  
Olson Logging, Inc., Orr  
Palmer Logging, Barnum  
Pittack Logging, Bovey  
Rajala Mill Co., Bigfork



Speakers on the county timber program were: Land Commissioner Tom Martinson, Lake County; Dave Epperly (not pictured), St. Louis County; Dennis Hummitzsch, Koochiching County; Bob Milne, Beltrami County; Norman Moody, Cass County; Garrett Ous, Itasca County.



Mike Don Carlos, DNR Wildlife, and Russ Peterson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, discussed the listing of the lynx.



Industries. Thank you to the following companies who contributed door prizes:  
 Carlton Saw & Knife  
 Champion International  
 Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick

Interstate Detroit Diesel  
 Lindsay Machinery  
 Minnesota Forest Industries  
 Nortrax  
 Potlatch Corp.  
 Rihm Kenworth  
 Road Machinery & Supply  
 St. Joseph Equipment

Without your support and generosity the annual meeting and other activities would not be as successful as they have been.

Root River Hardwoods, Preston  
 Skoe Lumber & Timber, Northome  
 Speck Logging, Bemidji  
 Todd Wass, Bigfork  
 Twin Rivers Inc., Bigfork  
 VanHorn Logging, Crosby  
 Wagner Forest Products, Remer

**Sawmill Division**

Company Name and Location  
 DeMenge Sawmill, McGregor  
 Land O' Lakes Wood Preserving,  
 Tenstrike  
 Page & Hill Forest Products, Big  
 Falls  
 Root River Hardwoods, Preston  
 Staggemeyer Stave Co., Inc.,  
 Caledonia

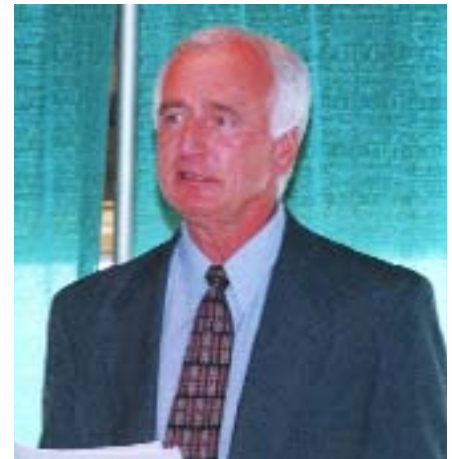
**Trucking Division**

Company Name and Location  
 C & M Walsh Logging, Park Rapids

Dick Walsh Forest Products, Park  
 Rapids  
 Doug Brenner Logging, Grand  
 Marais  
 Dukek Logging, Bagley  
 Frenzel Logging, Kelliher  
 JSF Logging, Blackduck  
 Kimball's Sawmill & Logging, Park  
 Rapids  
 Lake Nebagamon Trucking, Lake  
 Nebagamon Wis.  
 Lundberg Forest Products, Solway  
 M & R Chips, Grand Rapids  
 McCabe Forest Products, Duluth  
 Northwoods Chipping,  
 International Falls  
 Olson Forest Products, Bemidji  
 Olson Logging, Inc., Orr  
 Page & Hill Forest Products, Big  
 Falls  
 Palmer Logging, Barnum  
 Pittack Logging, Bovey  
 Rajala Mill Co., Bigfork  
 Root River Hardwoods, Preston  
 Skoe Lumber & Timber, Northome  
 Speck Logging Inc., Bemidji  
 Spring Lake Trucking, Spring Lake  
 Staggemeyer Stave Co., Inc.,  
 Caledonia  
 Steve Lof Logging, Akeley  
 Thomas Long & Son Trucking, Orr  
 Twin Rivers Inc., Bigfork  
 Wagner Forest Products, Remer

The featured speaker, Commissioner Allen Garber, MN Department of Natural Resources, was the highlight of the evening program.

The program concluded with the drawing for the door prizes. Robin Walsh was the winner of the grand prize drawing of the chainsaw donated by Minnesota Forest



Tom Hutchinson informed the attendees of the TPA/LUA on the worker's compensation insurance program. He also introduced Mike North, vice president of LUA. Tom is retiring this summer and will be missed by the Timber Producers Association.



Log A Load For Kids guest speaker Kim Olson and her daughter, Randenna.



Mike North, vice president of Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance.

# 2000 Legislative Session Ends

The 2000 session of the Minnesota legislature adjourned after completing its work on May 18. Tri-partisan government caused the session to linger later than most people anticipated. While it was neither a budget or major policy year, there were a number of actions taken by the legislature which affect loggers, sawmillers, truckers and related businesses. Following is a summary of these issues:

## Forest Policy Issues

### Public Involvement in Timber Harvest Plans Chapter 485, HF3213

Requires that by July 1 each year, the DNR must provide a complete description of the public involvement process for timber harvest plans to the chairs of legislative committees with jurisdiction over natural resources policy and finance. The process must provide public notice and input in affected areas of proposed annual harvest plans. This issue was a very significant fight during the latter stages of the session. Environmental groups pulled out all the stops, even hiring additional contract lobbyists, to secure passage of language contained in the House file that would have mandated sale by sale review of all state and county timber sales. TPA chose to fight this battle in the Senate and was successful in preventing the damaging House language from being enacted. The Senate language, which becomes law, is rather benign.

### Timber Sales Chapter 485, HF3213

Makes various changes in timber sale procedures including bond requirements, length of permit, auction process, scaling, title and payment. Following are the major changes in timber sales from this legislation:

- Public Involvement Process (see above)
- Eliminates six sale limit for Intermediate Sales

- Eliminates three year limit on Intermediate Sales
- Reduces down payment to 15%
- Allows purchaser to elect paying for appraised volume instead of consumer scale on designated sales
- Eliminates 120 day time limit for bonding sales - this will require various changes in DNR policy which the TPA Executive Committee has discussed and is reviewing with the DNR

### Consolidated Conservation Lands Chapter 485, HF3213

These provisions designate certain Consolidated Conservation Lands as forestry or wildlife management lands with certain uses in order to eliminate disputes about the status of those lands, provide increased payment-in-lieu of taxes to support county infrastructure and provide a structure and forum for the counties and DNR to resolve issues and make common recommendations to the legislature.

### Standard Measurement of Wood Chapter 297, SF2691

In the Department of Commerce statute regulating contracts for the sale of wood, a definition is added for the term "board foot." If a measurement or scale is made of logs, Scribners' decimal C rule is declared to be the standard rule for determining board feet log scale.

### Heritage Forests Chapter 337, SF2546

Authorizes the DNR to establish Heritage Forest Areas within the following counties: the seven metro counties plus Blue Earth, Le Sueur, McLeod, Meeker, Nicollet, Rice, Sibley, Waseca and Wright. The county board must pass a resolution delineating and requesting establishment of the forest area. The DNR or a political subdivision may acquire conservation easements in the designated forests. Private landowners may establish their lands as heritage forest land by having a heritage forest stewardship plan prepared and by completing a stewardship

registration agreement.

### Wetland Law Consolidation Chapter 382, SF83

Amends state law relating to "public water wetlands" to simplify and consolidate regulation of wetlands with the Wetland Conservation Act of 1991. The public waters wetlands affected are defined as all types 3, 4, and 5 wetlands that are ten or more acres in size in unincorporated areas of 2-1/2 or more acres.

## Forestry Appropriations/Bonding

### Sustainable Forest Resources Act & MN Forest Resources Council

During the deliberations over the Environment and Natural Resources Supplemental funding bill, funding for the Sustainable Forest Resources Act & the MN Forest Resources Council in the second year of the biennium was eliminated by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee. TPA lead the effort to restore this funding which ultimately succeeded in the House Ways and Means Committee.

### Forest Bonding

Bonding Bill, Chapter 492, HF4078, Article 1, section 7, subdivision 14

\$1 million in state bond funds is appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for forest road and bridge projects and forestry recreation facilities. The money will be used for the reconstruction, resurfacing, replacement or construction of other capital improvements to state forest roads and bridges and forest recreation facilities throughout the state. The DNR is required to determine project priorities based on need.

### Cloquet Forestry Center Bonding Bill, Chapter 492, HF4078, Article 1, section 2, subdivision 8

The University of Minnesota received \$1,150,000 for research and outreach centers. Money from this appropriation will be used to remodel facilities and replace the sewage handling system at the Cloquet Forestry Center.

## **Wildfire Response**

Appropriations Bill, Chapter 488, HF2699, Article 3, section 4

\$1,459,000 is appropriated to the DNR for grants to Lake, Cook, and St. Louis counties for emergency communications equipment, emergency response equipment and emergency planning and training to respond to a major wildfire. Of this amount, \$227,000 is for Lake County, \$430,000 is for Cook County, and \$802,000 is for St. Louis County. St. Louis County must use a portion of the grant to purchase a NOAA warning system that can be used by all three counties.

## **Agroforestry**

Appropriations Bill, Chapter 488, HF2699, Article 3, section 19

A new financial assistance program for farmers who grow short rotation woody crops (hybrid poplar or other woody plants that are harvested for their fiber within 15 years of planting) is established in the Department of Agriculture. To be eligible for a loan, a farmer must be a member of a producer-owned cooperative that will contract to market the crop. There is a maximum of \$150,000 in loan eligibility for the life of the producer. The accumulative loan principle must not exceed \$75,000. The loan is intended to provide total financing for planting up to 160 acres and maintaining the crop for the first three years and partial assistance for years four through twelve. The Agricultural Development Authority is authorized to sell revenue bonds for the program. Section 5 of Article 3 appropriates \$200,000 for grants to one or more cooperative associations to facilitate the program. These grants must be matched dollar-for-dollar by non-state money. Article 1, section 10, subdivision 4 of the bonding bill appropriates \$200,000 from the general fund for loans to farmers. Notwithstanding the requirement of membership in a producer-owned cooperative, this money may be loaned to nonmembers, but at least 50 percent must be loaned to farmers who are members of a cooperative.

## **Forestry Appropriations**

Legislation was introduced to

provide additional funding for accelerating and improving the current forest inventory (FIA) and to provide additional funding for needed activities related to the Sustainable Forest Resources Act and the MN Forest Resources Council. This legislation did not pass.

## **Business Issues**

Workers Compensation Chapter 447, SF644

As a result of a surplus in the Assigned Risk Plan, a program that sells workers compensation insurance to employers unable to purchase the product in the private market, \$325 million is appropriated to pay for the state's ongoing liabilities from two workers compensation benefit programs that were repealed in 1995. This is expected to reduce the Workers Compensation Fund assessment rate for businesses from 30 percent to 20 percent. The bill will also benefit injured workers by increasing permanent partial disability for the first time in over 15 years.

## **OSHA**

Appropriations Bill, Chapter 488, HF2699, Article 2, sections 11-14 Permits a deceased employee's next of kin to receive information from and to consult with the Department of Labor and Industry regarding the department's investigation of OSHA citations against the employer in connection with the employee's death. Also provides that when any serious, willful or repeated violations of OSHA rules, or any failure to correct a violation causes or contributes to the death of an employee, the minimum total nonnegotiable fine which shall be assessed for all citations connected to the death is \$50,000 if there is a willful or repeated violation or \$25,000 if there is no willful or repeated violation.

## **Transportation Issues**

### **Transportation Funding**

Omnibus Transportation Bill, Chapter 479, HF2891

This landmark transportation funding bill has a total appropriation of \$459 million. Here are highlights:

### **Trunk Highway Construction**

**Bonds:** \$100 million in state bonds

for replacement and reconstruction of key bridges, improvement of the interregional corridor system, removal of bottlenecks and providing highway-related advantages for transit and right-of-way acquisition.

### **State Road Construction:**

Appropriates \$359 million to be available until June 30, 2003. \$177 million is for eliminating bottlenecks in the seven county metro area and \$177 million is for interregional corridors outside of the metro area. MnDOT must report to the legislature by August 1st of each year on the status of projects funded with this appropriation.

**Local Roads:** \$30 million is appropriated from the general fund. Of this amount, \$23.8 million is for county state-aid highways and \$6.2 million is for municipal state-aid streets.

**Local Bridges:** \$39 million is appropriated for the general fund to replace and rehabilitate local bridges.

### **Major Transportation Projects**

**Commission:** A new commission is created to review and comment on proposed major transportation projects (must be a MnDOT project of more than \$5 million that is a critical element of the system that has a completed EIS). Members are: the governor or designee, 4 citizens appointed by the governor, 7 senators and 7 representatives. MnDOT must report to the commission by July 1 of each year listing candidate projects. The commission must make comments on the report to the governor and legislature by September 30 of each year.

## **Tax Issues**

### **Sales Tax on Logging Equipment** Passed in 1998

The sales tax on logging equipment will be totally eliminated on July 1, 2000. This was a top priority of TPA's for a number of years. The legislation that reduced and now eliminates this tax on our members was passed in 1998.

### **Forest Land Tax Study**

Tax Bill, Chapter 490, HF4127, Article 5, section 38



The Department of Revenue, in cooperation with the Forest Resources Council, is required to study the taxation of forest land in Minnesota. The study will include a review of the current application of property taxes to these lands and a review and comparison with other forest land tax policies. The study will include recommendations for changes in tax policy to encourage forest productivity, maintain land in forest cover, encourage the application of sustainable site level forest management guidelines, address impacts on local government revenues and changes in tax rates. \$50,000 is appropriated for the study, which must be completed and submitted to the legislature by December 1, 2000.

#### **Business Property Tax**

No action was taken this year on business property taxes. Reducing the class rate on business property (from 2.4 percent to 2.0 percent on the first \$150,000 of value and from 3.4 percent to 3 percent on value over \$150,000) was in the House

Tax Bill but fell victim to the three-way fiscal compromise. The House used almost all of the \$175 million for permanent income tax cuts. Income taxes will be reduced by .15 percent, .20 percent, and .15 percent respectively in the high, middle and low tax brackets. The surplus revenue that could have been used for business property tax relief went instead to lower motor vehicle registration taxes, a Ventura priority.

If you have any questions about these issues, please contact the TPA office.

# TPA Board Resolutions

**A**s part of the TPA Annual Meeting, the board of directors considered, discussed and passed the following resolutions:

## RESOLUTION

### DNR TIMBER PROGRAM

Whereas lands owned and managed by the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grow 1.3 million cords of wood per year; and

Whereas the DNR's planned volume of timber sales from 1986 - 1994 was 920,000 cords per year; and

Whereas the DNR's current planned volume of timber sales is 846,000 cords per year; and

Whereas the DNR sold 534,000 cords of wood in fiscal year 1999; and

Whereas the wood that the DNR has not offered for sale continues to age, die, break up, blow down and create significant fire and forest health risks; and

Whereas the shortfall in DNR timber sales is causing substantial hardship for TPA members and local communities in rural Minnesota; now therefore be it

Resolved that TPA urges the DNR to prepare initiatives both internally and for the next biennial budget that will allow it to offer its full planned volume of wood for sale.

## RESOLUTION

### FOREST PRODUCTIVITY

Whereas society continues to demand high quality forest products; and

Whereas there are many opportunities to increase the productivity of our forests through silvicultural and harvesting techniques; and

Whereas increasing the productivity of our forests can provide more wood to make products that the public demands and improve the health of our forests; now therefore be it

Resolved that TPA urges public and private landowners, the forest industry and the academic community to undertake programs

to improve forest productivity; and be it further

Resolved that TPA offers its support for such efforts.

## RESOLUTION

### SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Whereas the Minnesota Timber Producers Association (TPA) has a long-standing commitment to sound multiple use forest practices; and

Whereas TPA started up the Minnesota Logger Education Program in 1995 to improve the training available to loggers and to demonstrate to the public our commitment to professional logging practices; and

Whereas TPA has endorsed the MN Forest Resources Council's new Voluntary Site Level Guidelines; and

Whereas the American Forest & Paper Association began the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) several years ago to demonstrate sound forestry and logging; and

Whereas the SFI program has been active in Minnesota with both public and private landowners; and

Whereas the goals of SFI are consistent with the goals of TPA; now therefore be it

Resolved that TPA supports the SFI program; and be it further

Resolved that TPA encourages public and private landowners to participate in and become licensees of the SFI program.

## RESOLUTION

### CHIPPEWA AND SUPERIOR

## NATIONAL FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVES

Whereas the Chippewa and Superior National Forests are revising their forest plans; and

Whereas five of the six new alternatives prepared reduce timber harvesting; and

Whereas none of the alternatives address the economies of local communities; and

Whereas TPA submitted alternatives that have not been given any consideration; and

Whereas the Chippewa and Superior National Forests have violated their own planning process by including no harvest alternatives; and

Whereas the Chippewa and Superior National Forests have violated their own planning process by producing limited alternatives and failing to conduct the required benchmark analysis; now therefore be it

Resolved that TPA urges the Chippewa and Superior National Forests to:

- 1) direct their planners to consider and prepare a full range of alternatives, including the alternative submitted by TPA;
- 2) address local community economic impacts in all alternatives;
- 3) eliminate the no harvest alternative;
- 4) conduct the required benchmark analysis immediately; and
- 5) delay further forest plan revisions until these issues are addressed.

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

# Forest Resources Association, Inc.

formerly known as *The American Pulpwood Association Inc.*

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

## Travis Reed: National Outstanding Logger

The Forest Resources Association honored Travis Reed, of Reed Logging in Lincolnton, Ga., as the National Outstanding Logger for 2000 at its annual Awards Dinner on April 17 in Williamsburg, Va. FRA Chairman Bill Baughman presented Travis with an axe plaque and noted generous cash awards from Stihl and Husqvarna, as well as valuable equipment vouchers from Franklin Equipment and Tidewater Equipment.

Travis accepted the award, thanking first his father and mother, his wife, Gail, and daughters Shelli and Whitney, in addition to business partners Frank Riley and Hank Perkins, all of whom were present. He also thanked "some folks who are old friends of mine. Although I've only known them a couple of years" – both loggers and industry colleagues, many involved with Travis in guiding the Wood Supply Research Institute.

"Our industry is changing, and things are changing everywhere. And we must change what we do," Travis told the assembly of 350 loggers, forester, and their families. "but I won't apologize for what I do. I am a real environmentalist." He presented the logger's perspective by quoting Mark



2000 National Outstanding Logger Travis Reed, left, with Forest Resources Association Chairman Bill Baughman.

Twain: "The guy who holds the cat by the tail gets a whole lot more information than the guy who just reads about it."

Travis Reed's company, Reed Logging, sets some of the highest standards in the industry for safety, environmental compliance, business management, harvesting quality, and activism. Reed Logging's state-of-the-art communications system helps boost safety and productivity, resulting in zero lost-time accidents in the past seven years.

Travis keeps detailed and up-to-date records for his logging business using Cost Trakker and Ticket Trakker software. Travis was so impressed with this computerized record-keeping system that he became partners in Trakker Tech, the company that markets these software packages to loggers.

George O'Brien, International Paper's vice president of Forest Resources, says that "Travis Reed has not only demonstrated that he is a forward-thinking logging professional but has also seen fit to 'give back' through his leadership in advancing the causes of the forest industry." Travis serves on the American Forest & Paper

Association's National Forum and on the Wood Supply Research Institute board, and he is vice president of the Southeastern Wood Producers Association.

Travis encourages all loggers to take an active role in shaping the future of logging. Travis's advice to loggers regarding associations is, "If you are not a member – join! If you are a member – be active!"

Travis Reed joins a growing list of National Outstanding Loggers, including Buck Williams of Pennsylvania (1990 winner), M. M. Wright of Virginia (1991), Rick Lessard of New Hampshire (1992), Terry Peters of Wisconsin (1993), Buck Beach of Mississippi (1994), Don Paradis of Maine (1995), Tracy Gunter of South Carolina (1996), Randy and Debby Blomberg of Wisconsin (1997), Joe and Janet Cherry of Texas (1998), and Michigan's Jim Carey (1999). Nominees for this year's award passed through state-level recognition to regional award programs administered through FRA's technical division structure. The National Outstanding Logger is selected by a jury consisting of 25 national-level leaders in forestry and conservation.

The other nominees for this

year's national award were: Andy Arey, Arey Logging, Warren, Maine; Aaron Burmeister, Burmeister Logging, Seymour, Wis.; Jeff "Bodine" Dodgen, Jeff Dodgen Logging, Inc., Marcoot, Ala.; Jim Doll, Doll Lumber Co., New Hiram, Ohio; Bob and Joy Gardner, Gardner Logging & Trucking, Inc., Chewelah, Wis.

The Outstanding Logger program is designed:

- 1) to recognize outstanding logging contractor performance;
- 2) to raise the visibility of competent, professional independent logging contractors in the forestry community;
- 3) to encourage other independent logging contractors to emulate the outstanding performance of the award winners; and
- 4) to improve forester-logger relations by publicly recognizing outstanding logging performance as an essential element of every planned timber harvest.

## Hanington Honored for Safety

On April 17, the Forest Resources Association conferred its 2000 H. H. Jefferson Memorial Safety Award on Maine logger Steve Hanington, in recognition of his operation's innovative and thorough safety practices and programs.

FRA Chairman Bill Baughman congratulated Steve at FRA's annual award dinner, in Williamsburg, Va. Roger Legault of Denharco added his congratulations, providing a special plaque and cash award.

"You really can't put a price on life or death," Steve told the assembled loggers and foresters. "I think of my children, Eric and Danielle, and I think that is the reason anyone in the forest products business should be concerned about safety. Think about your family." He asked for a moment of silence in memory of those who have died following the profession of logging.

Stephen Hanington is president of Hanington Brothers, a second-generation logging business in



Forest Resources Association Chairman Bill Baughman, left, congratulates Steve Hanington, winner of FRA's 2000 H. H. Jefferson Memorial Safety Award.

Maine. In 1994, Steve set out to improve Hanington Brothers' logging safety program by conducting regular safety meetings for their 44 employees and 11 subcontractors.

In 1996, the company formed a safety committee, comprised of both company supervisors and employees. Twelve employees voluntarily completed a 30-hour OSHA compliance course. All employees have been trained in advanced first aid methods, well beyond basic first aid and CPR training requirements.

Recently, Hanington Brothers conducted the Logger Rescue Program, which teaches ways of transporting injured workers safely out of the woods, on all logging operations. To improve the program's effectiveness, Steve purchased two utility trailers and outfitted them with emergency equipment. The cost of each trailer is approximately \$5,000, but Steve reiterates that the difference between life and death has no price tag.

# Truck Driver Safety Workshops

Log Truck Driver Safety workshops were held the week of April 17 in Bemidji, Cloquet and International Falls. One hundred drivers attended the three sessions. For the first time those attending the workshops could get eight hours of credit for MLEP training. With the conclusion of the three workshops this year, 921 drivers have completed the training.

Russell Howard, with Northland Insurance Co., reviewed the "Six Second Rule" with a series of slides and questions. He also presented a series of slides showing first-time accidents for drivers with over 20 years of experience. The conclusion of his program included an excellent video, "A Driver's Story," which covered several safety areas and the emotional suffering of a driver who was involved in a fatal accident.

The State Patrol and the Commercial Vehicle Inspectors went over the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) "Out of Service Criteria," and other safety inspection concerns. They also spent a considerable amount of time going over truck weight laws, tiedown requirements, spring road restrictions and postings. As usual there was considerable interest by those in attendance.

Trucks were provided by Lundberg Logging for the Bemidji workshop, Ron Beckman Timber Harvesting for the Cloquet workshop and Mannco Trucking at the International Falls workshop. The support by the logging and trucking businesses has been excellent and is appreciated.

Guy Wold, Dave Amundson, Kevin Dalhman, Bob DeRoche, Dick Olson and Bruce Drotts all did an excellent job as discussion leaders for the workshops. These individuals have been involved in the program for many years. They have been major players in making this program a success.

The Truck Driver Safety Program is in need of several more discussion leaders. At present if one of these individuals is unable to participate we will not be able to provide this program as we have

in the past. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested in being involved in

this program contact the TPA office or one of those individuals mentioned above.



One half of the participants at the Bemidji workshop.



Russ Howard asked the workshop attendants some questions about what they saw in the slide. There was not always agreement as to what was in the picture.



Greg Lind going over some of the out-of-service criteria as they look over the truck.

# Years Ago

## 20 YEARS AGO

- Edwin F. Erickson was elected Potlatch Corp. vice president and general manager of the Northwest Paper Division by the company's board of directors. Erickson will replace Richard N. Congreve, who was elected a group vice president by the directors.
- St. Regis Paper Company breaks ground at their Sartell mill for a 200 million dollar expansion which will triple production and increase the permanent work force by 200 positions.
- J. C. "Buzz" Ryan's new book "Early Loggers in Minnesota - Vol. III" is being published.

## 30 YEARS AGO

- William M. MacConnachie Jr., vice president of lands and timber for Northwest Paper Co., Cloquet, has been elected president of the American Pulpwood Association. He is the past chairman of Minnesota's Forest Industries Information Committee and past chairman of the TPA union negotiating committee.
- Jay H. Craven, U.S. Forest Service, deputy regional forester named Eastern Regional Forester. He will replace George S. James, who will retire after 37 years with the U.S. Forest Service.
- Gerald J. Bach will be the new instructor for the Forest Harvesting Technician course at the Duluth Area Institute of Technology. The past two years Mr. Bach has been a forester for Consolidated Papers, Inc., headquartered at Sugar Loaf landing on the North Shore.

## Roadless - Mindless - Clueless

In a stunning move, the Clinton Administration and their ideologically driven appointees in the U.S. Forest Service have announced that nearly 60 million acres of National Forest lands (61,000 acres in Minnesota immediately and potentially an additional 700,000 acres) will be off limits and designated as "roadless" areas. The thinking behind this proposal is best shown by the following passage from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (chapter 3-190) which pretends to describe loggers and rural communities:

*"Even reasonably prosperous timber-dependent communities are among the least prosperous rural communities, having high seasonal unemployment, high rates of population turnover, high divorce rates and poor housing, social services and community infrastructures. Moreover, timber industry jobs are dangerous, having high injury and mortality rates. Many people enter the wood products industry because it provides opportunities to earn high wages without having a high level of education. For these people, what is at stake is not a traditional life style and occupational culture, but rather an accessible route to a middle class lifestyle."*

# Obituary

**F**rank Fixmer died April 3. After graduating from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University in 1933 with a degree in forestry, he worked from 1933 to 1938 with the USDA Forest Service in its Civilian Conservation Corps program and on the Nicolet National Forest. He went on to work for six years with the Wisconsin Conservation Department and assisted in the development of Washburn and Burnett County forests in northwest Wisconsin. In 1944, he became Mosinee Paper Co.'s first forest manager, a position he held until retirement in 1978. Fixmer was a co-founder of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin in 1976 and served the organization in the positions of secretary-treasurer (1976-96), executive board (1996-99), and emeritus board member and archivist. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame in 1997. Fixmer joined the Society of American Foresters in 1935 and was elected SAF Fellow in 1984.

# Log A Load 2000 Fundraising Exceeds \$2.75 Million

Loggers from 30 states, working in coalition with forest products businesses and forestry dealers, raised over \$2.75 million for local Children's Network (CMN) hospitals during the 2000 Log a Load For Kids™ campaign. Monticello, Ark., logger Joe Griffith and National Log A Load Advisory Group Chairman Betsy Luoto of Carlton, Ore., presented a \$2.75 million check to CMN host John Schneider during the CMN Champions National Television Broadcast from Walt Disney World on June 4. Luoto told America's children watching the broadcast: "When you pass a log truck, be sure to wave, because that logger may be carrying that load just for you."

Log A Load For Kids is an annual campaign which encourages loggers and other forest products people to donate the value of a load of logs to local non-profit Children's Miracle Network hospitals and to conduct fundraisers to support them. "We raise funds for CMN hospitals because, although the trees we harvest are a renewable resource, children are our most precious resource. We have a big heart for kids!" Griffith told CMN's national audience. The Log A Load program generates significant media coverage in some local and regional markets.

North Carolina's Log A Load program led the way again this year, raising \$526,000. Alabama was second with \$460,000 and Arkansas ran a close third, with \$450,000. Total funds raised by the end of the June 4 broadcast follow, with sponsoring organizations noted. This year's 30 states include first-time participants Connecticut, Idaho, Oklahoma and Texas.

The Forest Resources Association Inc. (FRA) is the Log A Load For Kids program's national sponsor. FRA, formerly the American Pulpwood Association Inc., is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent

Alabama	(Alabama Forestry Assn./ Ala. Loggers Council)	\$460,000
Arkansas	(Ark. Forestry Assn./ Ark. Tbr. Producers Assn.)	450,000
California	(Associated California Loggers)	33,000
Connecticut	(Timber Producers Assn. of Connecticut)	2,000
Florida	(Florida Forestry Association)	115,000
Georgia	(Georgia Forestry Association)	107,150
Idaho	(Intermountain Forest Association)	5,400
Indiana	(Indiana Forest Industry Council)	22,071
Kentucky	(Kentucky Forest Industries Association)	12,150
Louisiana	(Louisiana Loggers Council)	22,655
Maine	(Professional Logging Contractors [PLC] of Maine)	40,000
Maryland	(Maryland Forests Association)	2,063
Mich./Wis.	(Timber Producers Assn. of Mich. and Wis.)	131,364
Minnesota	(Minnesota Timber for Humanity Foundation)	70,000
Mississippi	(Mississippi Loggers Association)	40,000
Missouri	(Missouri Forest Producers Association)	1,600
Montana	(Montana Logging Association)	24,920
New York	(Empire State Forest Producers Association)	6,321
N. Carolina	(North Carolina Forestry Association)	526,000
Ohio	(Ohio Forestry Association)	110,284
Oklahoma	(Oklahoma Forestry Association)	15,000
Oregon	(Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.)	121,000
Pennsylvania	(Pennsylvania Forestry Association)	20,000
S. Carolina	(South Carolina Forestry Association)	97,812
Tennessee	(Tennessee Forestry Association)	100,851
Texas	(un-sponsored)	900
Virginia	(Virginia Forestry Assn./ Virginia Loggers Council)	107,572
Washington	(Washington Contract Loggers Association/ Log Truckers Conf.)	65,000
West Virginia	(Mountain Loggers Inc.)	60,000
	<b>NATIONAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,770,113</b>

logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.



Arkansas logger Joe Griffith, left, and Log A Load For Kids™ National Chairman Betsy Luoto of Oregon proudly display the \$2.75 million check they presented June 4 on behalf of the Log A Load across the U.S.A.

# Log A Load for Kids Timber Harvest

by Bruce Barker

**W**ednesday, May 3, was a beautiful day. The sun was out and the weatherman was predicting temperatures in the high 70s as I turned east from Rutledge on county road 33 and followed the signs to the landing. This project was the combined effort of three major organizations, Habitat for Humanity, the Society of American Foresters (SAF), and the Log A Load for Kids, they will log and deliver the wood to the mills, where it will be processed into lumber and other products. These products will be donated towards the construction of homes for low income families. Yes, everything including the construction of the home is donated. Families that are selected are required to donate a set number of hours in the construction of Habitat for Humanity homes. Their mortgage is based on the family income.

Starting with the stumpage, which in this case is jack pine and aspen, donated by two private landowners, Carl and Estella Wolfe and Mark Hanson, the harvesting was primarily a salvage cut which included ice- and wind-damaged trees along with some green timber. The intent of the harvest was to provide for both natural regeneration and planting along with the reduction of fuels in case of fire. The logging is being done by Bircham Logging, Ron Beckman Timber Harvesting, Pittack Logging and Reiger's Logging. Each of these companies have provided a cut-to-length system for this job. The hauling was donated by a large number of logging and trucking companies. All the logging companies and their employees are donating their time and equipment. The value of the wood delivered will be divided between Log A Load for Kids and Habitat for Humanity. The mills involved in this project are Potlatch Corporation, Rajala Companies and Consolidated's Lake Superior Paper Industry mill in Duluth.

Consolidated Paper Inc. will match the dollar value of the wood up to \$10,000, which will go to Log



**Timberjack harvester fells another tree. The timber in the background contains some of the trees that were damaged by the 1995 ice storm and others damaged by blowdown last year.**



**Scott Pittack of Pittack Logging processes another jackpine as the harvesting moves forward.**



**After opening the timber harvest, DNR Commissioner Allen Garber, on the right, visited with TPA Director Mike Reiger, owner of Reiger's Logging.**



A Load for Kids. Potlatch Corporation and Rajala Companies will donate a volume of their product, equal to the amount of raw material they receive, to Habitat for Humanity. These products (lumber, OSB, etc.) will be used by Habitat for Humanity in the construction of the homes. Boise Cascade Corp. also contributed funds to this project, which helped to make it successful.

DNR Commissioner Allen Garber welcomed the attendees at the harvest site and commended those individuals from the DNR and industry for their efforts in this worthwhile program. He supports forest management and harvesting on both public and private land. He believes we are doing a good job of managing and harvesting and encourages us to continue using the BMP's and guidelines in our activities.

Fred Ebel, Society of American Foresters, commended those



From left to right: Jeff Schommer, Mike Reiger, Bill Hensel, Ron Beckman, and his wife, Barbara, take a moment to visit during a lull in the activities.

involved in this project for their efforts. As a result of Minnesota's Forest for Humanity Program, the SAF has adopted the program nationally. Needless to say, the Minnesota program is still one of the most active in the country.

Other speakers included Children's Miracle Network, Champion Family, Rory and Kim Olson and their three year old

daughter Randeena. Habitat for Humanity and Log-A-Load for Kids are both worthwhile programs. TPA would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in this project. This activity speaks volumes for all those involved in forest management, timber harvesting and the forest products industry.

## Minnesota's Log A Load Donates \$70,000

Minnesota's Log A Load For Kids donated \$70,000 to Gillette Children's Specialty Health Services during the Children's Miracle Network telethon which was broadcast in early June.

This year's contribution from Minnesota's logging community exceeded the non-profit's goal by \$10,000 and represents an increase of \$20,000 from last year. Log A Load For Kids ranks fifth among the top 10 contributors to CMN statewide.

Don Evans, a volunteer Log A

Load For Kids board member from Grand Rapids, and Kris Anderson, a logger from Effie, presented the check during the June 4 broadcast from KMSF-TV studios in Eden Prairie.

"This is an outstanding effort by many people in the logging community and it deserves recognition," said Evans. "It's just one more example of the value that loggers bring to all the people and communities of Minnesota."

The biggest share of Log A Load For Kids' contributions this year focused on two week-long

volunteer timber harvests. Loggers, landowners, equipment dealers and truckers all donated their labor, supplies and goods for the benefit of children with chronic health problems who are treated at Gillette's main facility in St.

Paul and at outreach clinics conducted regularly throughout the state. Individual donations of loads of timber and cash by independent loggers made up the second largest share of the \$70,000 total, followed by a variety of fund raising events conducted by Log A Load For Kids and its timber industry supporters.

Minnesota is one of 30 Log A Load For Kids chapters working to raise money for children's hospitals throughout the nation. The national Log A Load For Kids effort was started by a single logger in South Carolina in 1988. Today, individual logger donations continue to make up the heart of this charitable organization. All donations remain within the state in which they were raised.

During 1999, Minnesota Log A Load For Kids was reorganized and is now operated under the auspices of Minnesota Timber for Humanity, a non-profit corporation qualifying for 501(c) 3 tax exempt status. A volunteer board of directors works with a part-time coordinator based in Bemidji to carry out its annual fund raising efforts.

More information may be obtained by contacting Jody Grau, state coordinator, at 218-759-4751.



April 27, 2000

Mr. Wayne Brandt  
Executive Vice President  
Minnesota Timber Producers Association  
903 Medical Arts Building  
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mr. Brandt:

I want to take this opportunity, on the occasion of your annual meeting, to thank you and the Minnesota Timber Producers Association for the leadership you provide to policy-makers in Washington and Minnesota on matters so important to the future of our state.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to work with the Timber Producers Association and its members on a broad range of issues important to the timber and paper industry in Minnesota. I have visited your facilities and walked in your forests. I have seen first hand the dedication of Minnesota's timber and paper mills to their employees and a quality product. I know the commitment you have made to the communities in which you operate and to the health of the forests which supply your operations.

Those are just some of the reasons why I have felt compelled to defend and support the timber and paper industry in Washington, D.C. Your industry is so important to many of the things Americans take for granted in their daily lives. Little do people realize that the work done in and around Minnesota's forests can dramatically impact so many of the most basic things in a family's life.

Despite the importance of the work you do, however, there are those in our nation who would like to end logging on federal land and impose increasingly restrictive federal regulations on logging and manufacturing activities. Not long from now, Congress will once again be debating annual funding bills and the federal timber program will come under its yearly attacks. I want you to know that I am committed to once again fighting these attacks and standing up for the timber and paper workers of northern Minnesota.

I am also committed to fighting the Environmental Protection Agency's unending appetite for expanding its regulatory reach to forestry activities and reversing 30 years of considering forestry activities as a non-point source. I have already written to the EPA asking them to withdraw the regulations and I am currently reviewing legislation that would prevent the EPA from acting while the National Academy of Sciences studies the issue and completes a report to Congress.

Finally, I know northern Minnesota will be faced with tremendous challenges in the coming years due to the July 4th windstorm in and around the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The tremendous damage created by that storm is a tragic testament to what can happen when our forests are left without proper forest health management. I only hope that we can work to ensure those areas of our forests that lie outside the BWCA are not managed in a way that makes the windstorm of 1999 pale in comparison to a windstorm in the future.

Again, thank you for your cooperation and friendship. I look forward to working with you in the future to protect the health of northern Minnesota's forests and the economic viability of the timber and paper industry for years to come.

Sincerely,

Rod Grams  
United States Senator

# BWCAW in Transition

by Mimi Barzen, *Roots*, May 2000,  
Minnesota Department of Natural  
Resources

**E**ver hear of a derecho? Maybe, but then again, maybe not. However, thousands of people know it if you give them a date. Try July 4, 1999. A derecho, while not a tornado, can seem like one. In reality, it is a severe thunderstorm accompanied by extended periods of high-speed, straight-line winds. Supposedly they are rare in northern Minnesota, but after two derechos in only four years, that doesn't seem to be true anymore.

While much of the storm-damaged trees from 1995 have been salvaged, the same cannot be said for the timber downed in 1999. Because of this, we now have a big enough problem to garner attention from seven different public agencies including the Minnesota Legislature and the Office of Tourism.

## Fuel and People

The biggest threat is wildfire. With the "downed" trees stacked in places up to 20 feet deep, not much is touching the forest floor. With the trees suspended in the air, even a large-diameter tree can lose enough moisture to burn readily if ignited. Considering that more than 350,000 acres of trees are uprooted, snapped off, or tipped, the fuel load is incredible. Estimates go as high as 150 tons of fuel per acre in blowdown areas.

When you consider that the average fuel load in a prescribed burn is no more than 15 tons, this is a vast sea of kindling. Add to the equation the influx of 12,000 visitors per day to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), many of whom consider the wilderness experience incomplete without a campfire, and a volatile situation is the result.

To add "fuel to the flames," 650 cabins and resorts are scattered along a 50-mile long, two-lane, dead-end road that rests in the midst of the blowdown area outside of the wilderness.

North of Grand Marais, in

Canada, is a vast stretch of timber that is on contract with 70 logging companies. Ontario plans to have the trees harvested in the next five years or so and doesn't want to see its resource go up in flames.

## Past Experience

Is this much to do about nothing? Paul Tiné, fire specialist for the U.S. Forest Service, stated, "it's not a matter of if a fire will occur but when." Past experience certainly points in that direction. A few years ago, inattentive campers left a campsite with a fire still smoldering in a fire grate on Romance Lake. There had been little precipitation over the course of several weeks. All it took was a stiff wind to ignite a fire that burned through a healthy forest for more than 10,000 acres. It began in Minnesota, consuming 4,000 acres of timber along the way, but was not contained until it had burned even more land in Canada.

Prescribed burns in the Superior National Forest have burned for 45 days due to the heavy duff or ground cover. A wildfire, with its intense heat, would burn significantly longer.

## The Impact

What this all means is that on any given day during the snow-free season, a large-scale fire is a definite possibility. According to an executive summary put out by the Superior National Forest, any time there is below normal precipitation for three to eight months, below normal relative humidity for 10 days, or above normal temperatures for 10 days, fuels are drying rapidly. This creates a potential for fire-behavior problems. If two of the above occur at the same time, any new fire starts in the blowdown are expected to create fire behavior that will defy all containment actions. If winds at the time of the fire start are above 10 miles per hour, fires could spread more than seven miles a day. Worse yet, a fire within the blowdown could easily become plume-dominated.

A plume dominated fire sounds impressive, but not something you want to be around to experience because this type of fire creates its

own weather. Smoke columns can rise anywhere from 30,000 feet to 50,000 feet. As the smoke rises, it will draw in more air from the perimeter of the fire, fanning the flames. Eventually, the rising hot air will cool, changing the strong upward pull of air downward. Wind speeds can reach 40 miles per hour as air rushes back to the ground, sending fire brands in all directions. Spotting can take place three miles or more beyond the plume.

## The Offense

Because of this, fires within the blowdown area of the BWCAW will be treated differently. Ground crews will only be allowed to fight fires if the fire danger is low. Air support will go out on every fire unless called off by the crew boss.

In areas most severely impacted by the blowdown, crown fires will not be a problem, but fires will be more intense, spread faster, and be harder to control. Crown fires will still be a problem in areas where only a portion of the timber is affected. Spot fires are also a threat.

Action to reduce the risks of wildlife are already in motion. Special approval was given to the Superior National Forest last year to harvest timber along the Gunflint Trail where resorts and cabins are located. Mastication or shredding of some of the trees has also occurred as has rearranging the fuel, getting the wood closer to the ground so it can rot.

Yet to come is prescribed burns within the wilderness area. Forest Service officials hope to burn between 30,000 and 60,000 acres over the course of the next several years. Burn units will be between 500 and 1,000 acres, depending upon natural boundaries. The idea behind the burning is not to stop large fires from occurring, but to slow the rate of spread by burning in a patchwork pattern.

The wheels may seem like they are turning slowly, but not when you consider the Forest Service has to prepare four environmental impact statements before any burning takes place. If approved,

## Minnesota Timber Producers Association *Meet the Directors*

**D**irector Lowell Pittack was born in Pierce, Neb., where he did not do much logging until after he moved to Minnesota. By this time he had completed high school and two years of collage. He presently lives in Bovey, Minn., with his wife, Judith. They have two daughters and a son. At last count there were six grandchildren.

Lowell got into the logging business around 1980. Presently he is the owner of Pittack Logging Inc. He is very active in TPA, serving on the transportation committee and as chairman of the membership committee. Lowell was elected to the TPA Board of Directors in 1992 and as an officer of the association in 1997. He is presently serving as 2nd vice president.

Lowell has been active in the development of the Minnesota



Logger Education Program (MLEP) and served as the first chairman of the MLEP Board of Directors. He also serves on Blandin's Advisory Board on Community Issues.

Hunting and traveling with their 5th wheel camper are two of Lowell's favorite pastimes when he isn't working. We also understand that he does some fishing when Judith can drag him away.

These four types of drivers may drive the "farm truck" on a class C license. It is important that the mileage restrictions be noted in these and other statutes that address this issue.

*Are loggers also covered under the farm definition in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations?*

No, farmer means any person who operates a farm or is directly involved in the cultivation of land, crops, or livestock which are owned by that person, or are under the direct control of that person. FMCSR Part 390.5.

## TPA Group Health Plan Announces Increased Rates

**I**ncreased health benefit payments for TPA members, employees and their dependents have caused the TPA Group Health Plan trustees to announce rate increases effective July 1. Benefit payments for the first five months of 2000 were 50 percent more than they were for the first five months of 1999.

Healthcare costs nationwide have been spiraling upward for the past several years. Most group health plans increased rates 20-50 percent in 2000. Some plans have discontinued offering coverage and some large employers have quit providing any coverage.

"Our plan trustees reviewed this matter very carefully. We did not feel that it would be fair to change what the plan pays for in the middle of the year. The trustees voted to raise the rates so that we could run the plan on a break even basis again," said Dick Olson, junior chair of the TPA Group Health Plan trustees.

"We built our reserves up for several years and then lost money in both 1999 and the first half of 2000. We've weathered storms like this before and we will weather this one. It is very important that we offer coverage that is affordable to our members, many of whom cannot get coverage from other plans," Olson concluded.

The announced rate increases range from 10 percent to 26 percent for the various options and types of coverage contained in the plan.

## Commercial Driver License and Medical Certificate Requirement

**I**n the last few months several transportation issues have been raised. These issues deal with commercial motor vehicles and pertain to logging trucks. This explanation is based on Minnesota Statutes at the conclusion of the 1999 legislative session. In the past several years Minnesota has adopted into statute major portions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations as prescribed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

*Does a log truck driver need to have a medical certificate and a commercial driver's license (CDL)?*

Yes, a log truck driver must have a medical certificate and a CDL if he is driving a commercial motor vehicle (a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 1,001 pounds or more).

*Are there any exemptions that a log truck driver could qualify under that would not require him/her to have a*

*CDL and a medical card?*

Yes, if the truck is registered as a "farm truck" as defined in Minnesota Statute 168.011, subd. 17 and is driven by the owner which is either, farmer or logger who harvests and hauls forest products only, to transport logs, pulpwood chips, railroad ties and other raw and unfinished forest products from the place of production to an assembly yard or railhead when the transportation constitutes the first haul. There is another reference to Statute 171.02, subd. 2, (1) that talks about "farm trucks" operated by the owner, immediate family member, an employee not primarily hired to drive truck, within 150 miles of the farm, or an employee hired to drive the truck during the first, continuous transportation of agricultural products from the production site to a place of production within 50 miles of the production site or storage site.

## Con-Con Land Designations Determined for 260,000 Acres in Northern Minnesota

The fate of approximately 260,000 acres of Consolidated Conservation (Con-Con) Lands in seven northwestern counties has been determined. A thorough public input process during the past year, led by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), was designed to determine the management and use of these Con-Con Lands. That process culminated when Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a bill designating approximately one-half of the land as state forests and one-half as wildlife management areas. Legislators, county and local officials, and individual citizens participated in a process that led to the land use determinations that have now been signed into law. The bill, which also includes revisions to timber sale rules and ATV use on public lands, passed both houses of the legislature by overwhelming margins.

Con-Con Lands are state-owned lands that Minnesota received in exchange for paying off ditch

bonds issued by seven Minnesota counties in the early 1930s. According to state law, these lands are to be used for “conservation purposes” and managed by the DNR. Over the years, much of the land has been designated as management units or sold to private landowners. Approximately 100,000 acres of Con-Con Land, provisionally designated as wildlife management areas by then-retiring DNR Commissioner Joe Alexander in 1991, must still go through the legislative process to legally determine the permanent fate of those acres.

The bill signed into law Monday was a compromise that considered interests of local governments, motorized vehicle users, and environmental, recreational and hunting organizations, according to DNR Commissioner Allen Garber.

“This successful effort shows what can happen when people with strongly divergent views work together rather than dig in their heels,” Garber said. “This issue

would never have been resolved this legislative session without some skilled legislative leadership and a willingness to compromise among all interests. The leadership among DNR staff during this process makes me proud.”

DNR Deputy Commissioner Steven Morse, a former state senator who works closely with the legislature, said, “This bill is a major achievement for this agency and the people of the state, and we ought to pause and reflect at least briefly on our success.”

During the coming year, the DNR will begin a process that will lead to recommended designations of the remaining Con-Con Lands.

## Closed Forever

In early May the Forest Service proposed the Roadless Area Conservation Rule that would prohibit the construction or reconstruction of roads within inventoried roadless areas. Nationwide the proposed rule would reserve 43 million acres from multiple use. In Minnesota, the proposed rule would prohibit construction of roads and timber management on 77 acres on the

Chippewa National Forest and 60,802 acres on the Superior National Forest.

A second portion of the rule directs national forests to identify unroaded areas during forest plan revisions. Given the vagueness of the definition of an unroaded area this could potentially be any acre outside a roadbed. Additionally, the proposed rule may limit access to non-federal public and private forest lands.

TPA has prepared some comments and posted them on the Minnesota Forest Industries

website. These comments can be sent electronically to the Forest Service. We encourage you to access the MFI website and send an electronic postcard to the Forest Service opposing the proposed roadless area rule or clip and mail the comments below to the Forest Service. The MFI website can be accessed at [www.minnesotaforests.com](http://www.minnesotaforests.com). Comments on the rule must be received by the Forest Service by July 17. Below are the comments that are posted on the MFI website.

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USDA Forest Service–CAET  
Post Office Box 221090  
Attention: Roadless Areas Proposed Rule  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84122

I oppose the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and urge the Forest Service to withdraw the rule due to the proposal's biases, lack of credible data analysis, and not recognizing the local variability of forests and forest management practices across the nation. The type of analysis and information needed to make decisions regarding the management of roadless areas must be developed at the local level in order to be successful in conserving and managing national forest lands.

The Forest Service failed to address a broad range of alternatives in the draft environmental impact statement. Virtually all the alternatives, excluding the no action alternative, are identical. The Forest Service dismissed alternatives that would allow for the full consideration of road construction in project and forest level planning for all roadless areas. The Forest Service dismissed these alternatives by claiming that they did not meet the direction provided by the president. This dismissal of legitimate alternatives indicates that the outcome of the proposed rule was predetermined and the Forest Service has prepared documentation to justify a predetermined outcome.

The Forest Service failed to provide adequate analysis to make reasonable decisions. The draft EIS was prepared within nine months. Very little data analysis was performed over this period and little credible data was provided to make reasonable decisions regarding the impact of the proposed rule. No information was provided on the values of roadless areas, the types of flora and fauna being protected within these areas, or even the size or configuration of these areas on specific national forests. The Forest Service also chose to ignore research that shows the value of forest management for wildlife species, or include research that shows that most recreation takes place within the proximity of roads. It's ironic that the Forest Service can develop a proposal that reserves 43 million acres of forest land in a shorter time period than it takes to develop an EIS to salvage blowdown on the Superior National Forest or provide access to private property.

The Forest Service has proposed a top down one-size-fits-all policy. The Forest Service administers land all across the United States. The forest types, topography, and climate all blend to make each forest virtually different from one another. In Minnesota, for example, most forest roads are built in the winter and hardly discernable after timber harvest is completed. Additionally, monitoring of water quality best management practices in the state show over 90 percent compliance and that the guidelines are 99 percent effective in protecting the water resource. We fail to see the Forest Service rationale that road building to access managed forests has detrimental effects on water quality in Minnesota. A predetermined one-size-fits-all policy developed in Washington, D.C., does little to recognize the variability of forests across the United States or the hard work of the forest resource professionals to develop sustainable forest management practices. The types of data analysis and information needed to make decisions regarding the management of unroaded areas must be made at the national forest level to most effectively manage and conserve our national forests. Further, I fail to see the value of non-federal public or private forest landowners in collaborating with the Forest Service to improve or develop statewide forest management practices when the management of these lands is dictated from Washington, D.C.

I strongly object to the offensive and derogatory language on page 3-190 of the draft EIS. The Forest Service characterizes forestry workers as uneducated, unstable and unmotivated. It states that many people enter the forest products industry because it provides opportunities to earn high wages without having a high level of education and would take another job if one were available. This type of language serves no useful purpose in the document and only serves to promote negative public perception about the hard working people in the forest products industry.

Again, I urge the Forest Service to withdraw the proposed roadless area rule and allow decisions regarding the management of roadless areas to be made at the national forest level.

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_