



# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

*Production, education and marketing of quality roundwood products*

## *President's Message*

For the first time since I have been president of the Roundwood Association and writing these messages, I received several calls concerning various aspects of the last newsletter. First and foremost, let me take this opportunity to commend our members for reading the newsletter in its entirety and voicing your opinions. Second, I would like to thank those of you for the words of encouragement that I received. Thanks to all.

It seems the most controversy concerning the last newsletter was directed towards the minutes of the previous meeting and the mentioning of the fact that the association might want to describe the differences between doweled and peeled products in the next quality awareness brochure. The concerns were that opinions would be expressed without scientific data to back up the opinions expressed.

As I assured the people I talked to, at this point the Roundwood Association's position is that the issue is not between doweled or peeled products, but between poorly treated doweled and peeled products versus properly treated peeled and doweled products. This is what was presented in the minutes and this is the stand by the Roundwood Association. I would encourage everyone concerned about this debate to attend the annual meeting in March as I am proposing a block of time be set aside to discuss this issue. Yes, I will volunteer to moderate the discussion.

The annual meeting is shaping up to be "an absolutely don't miss event." The slate of speakers should prove to be motivating and extremely informational. Our industry is in a rapidly changing and growing mode right now, and anyone not keeping up with everything is going to be left behind. Please plan to attend.

I hope everyone has a prosperous new year. As the wind continues to howl and the snow continues to fall, I encourage everyone to take consolation in the fact that the days are now getting longer, and the next season will be Spring.

*—Norm Tyser, President*

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# 🕒 Minutes

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Our December 5<sup>th</sup> 2005 quarterly meeting was called to order at 9 am by President Norm Tyser. Participating in the call were directors Leo Pfendler, Rich Lane, Randy Gross, Jody Parker, Kal Kovatch, and Mike Sterling as well as Newsletter Editor Karen Kovatch.

Kal motioned to accept the minutes as they were printed in the newsletter. Randy seconded the motion. Kal gave the treasurers report and stated that we have \$5035.73 in our account and 3 new members.

## Old Business

Karen stated our website traffic is up by a third from November to December. The board would like to ask all the members to take a look at their own pages on the IRA website [www.intermountainroundwood.org](http://www.intermountainroundwood.org) to verify all the information is correct and do some searches to see if you experience any errors. If you do experience any errors please contact Karen so we can make the corrections.

Another issue on our old business agenda was CCA (Chromated Copper Arsenate) and its proper use. Jody did not find documentation giving the accurate description between agricultural and residential uses and applications. Currently, it mainly understood that round stock is allowed in agricultural settings and that is really it. There is no clear definition stating what is agricultural and what is not. In the treated lumber industry the uses are very detailed and descriptive. Industry has asked for definitions of the differences between the two areas but there are no agencies in charge of enforcing the uses or clearly outlining them. The liability is really on the wood treaters as far as labeling of the treated products but the final retailer is the one who has to educate the consumer. As far as an organization there is not enough information

out there to publish guidelines in our newsletter or on the website. One idea raised was a Dealer Education Program. (*Editor's Note: Although the government has created an unenforceable standard we encourage all members to sell by the laws applicable in their state.*)

The next topic was the Fuels & Schools programs by Leo. Leo is now supplying a school in his area wood peelings for their heat source. They are currently using about 15-20 tons a week as a fuel source. He is talking with the Forest Service in his area about getting wood available and therefore generate more waste for fuel uses. Jody stated that there are several schools in his area looking at using wood chips for heat. This might lead to more opportunities in other members' areas as more schools look at alternative fuels to reduce heating costs. Jody also says there is a small university in Nebraska that has been using wood chips for over 10 years for heat. (*Please see article on page 9.*)

Because Darrell Miller was unable to participate in the conference call he emailed his thoughts on the Roadless Issue to each director prior to the meeting. We will ask him for permission to print this information in the newsletter. (*Please see the article on page 4.*)

Next we further discussed the single-tiered membership versus current membership structure. Karen made a motion to start the process to change to a single tier membership. Jody seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Norm also mentioned that if any members would like newsletters sent to any government or state office we should forward those requests to Karen. (*Please see the article on page 14.*)

*Minutes continued on next page ►*

## New Business

Discussed the annual meeting plans. Karen has talked to Ruby's Inn in Missoula about getting the bigger room downstairs where the MLA was last year. We are expecting a good turnout due to the recertification this year. Karen has also talked to the new Montana Club restaurant next door about having our social night there to try to keep the members together for an evening of socializing. Everyone needs to mark their calendars for our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2006. Our social will be held on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>. We have spoken to several people about being speakers and right now we have four individuals lined up.

Mike brought up Steve Thorson from Forest Concepts who would like to help the IRA push post and pole plants as the biggest users of small diameter timber. Mike pointed out that collectively we use more roundwood than anyone else and we are having trouble with supply! (*Please see Steve's article on page 6.*)

Any articles for newsletter need to be sent to Karen by Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. The board discussed reviewing the membership list at our meeting next summer. Randy motioned and Jody seconded to adjourn. -Mike Sterling

## Smallwood 2006

I have agreed to speak at SmallWood 2006 in Richmond, VA. The title of my presentation will be 'The Evolution & Future of Roundwood.'

Thanks to Craig Rawlings at Montana Community Development Corporation, Kal and I will be representing the IRA as well as Roundwood West and I hope this will bring in some members for the Association from the other side of the country.

I read with interest on the SmallWood 2006 brochure, "Enormous quantities of biomass are being generated from thinning operations, land clearing and hurricane disasters." I realize in many parts of the country they are fighting weed trees which have little value.

However, we are surrounded by a sea of Lodgepole Pine and every week I hear of a yard who is scrambling for wood. I hope to bring to light the difficulty postyards have in the Pacific Northwest (and Wyoming) getting roundwood raw material although I will just be reiterating Darrell Miller's speech in 2004 regarding supply.

-Karen Kovatch

### IRA Board of Directors

Norman Tyser, President	(307) 742-6992	ntyser@wyoming.com
Randy Gross, Vice President	(719) 685-0444	rsgross1@adelphia.net
Mike Sterling, Secretary	(208) 722-6837	mike@parmapostandpole.com
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer	(406) 677-2300	roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net
Jody Parker	(605) 269-2233	jodyp@hillspg.com
Leo Pfindler	(406) 288-3817	drm3260@blackfoot.net
Rich Lane	(406) 721-2573	rlane@naturalresourcesolutions.com

### Newsletter, Classified Ads & IRA Website

Karen Kovatch, Editor	(406) 677-2300	info@roundwoodassociation.org
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### Business Directory Ads

Gary Marks	(406) 933-5981	gary@marks-miller.com
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# Roadless Update

IRA directors,

Sorry I won't be able to participate in your teleconference on Thurs. I will try to update you on the Roadless Lands issue.

I was asked by our Commissioners to participate on a citizen committee that was responsible for developing a list of recommendations that the Jefferson County Commissioners could present to Governor Schweitzer in early January. The Commissioners were given two months to come up with their recommendations which meant that we had less than one month to develop a plan because the Commission is required to run anything like this through the public participation process.

The requirements that are set forth in the Federal Register for this petition process are very specific about the information that is required if the petition is to be considered legitimate. After reviewing the requirements for the petition, the committee concluded that the time allotted by Governor Schweitzer was not nearly adequate to create a legitimate petition. It was frustrating to reach this conclusion especially knowing that the Federal Register allows until November 13, 2006 for the Governor to submit his petition.

Governor Schweitzer has made it very clear in meetings I have attended and in the news media that he is only interested in hearing if the Commissioners want to allow new roads or not to allow new roads to be built in Inventoried Roadless Areas. Most of the people I have spoken with consider this a very narrow view of the Roadless issue. Management of Inventoried Roadless Areas entails much more than just building or not building new roads. Management of these

lands should include discussions about forest health, fire mitigation needs, the wildland urban interface, future economic opportunities in timber and mining, future development near Roadless areas and recreational access requirements.

With the time we were allowed we found it necessary to keep our recommendations general in nature. The group decided that no new roads were needed in the identified IRA's and that existing roads be left intact to allow for reasonable access. Our conclusion was that management of Roadless areas is a dynamic process and is more involved than just if or where new roads are to be built. Roadless areas should have periodic reviews to determine the best current and future management practices required. This periodic review process should allow for local input on the management of the Roadless areas and allow the flexibility to adjust management practices with changing future requirements. This type of a procedure will also allow future generations to be involved in the management and decision making process as conditions and variables change. Another consideration is that each Roadless area may have different dynamics involved and the need for local level leadership to be actively involved in the process is essential instead of trying to manage a complex issue with a generic solution.

I was told that this was the same general consensus at a preliminary meeting the Governor held at the capital on November 28<sup>th</sup> with county commissioners from across the State. Most commissioners seemed to agree that no more roads are needed now, but they want the flexibility left to decide in the future. They also pushed for an extension of time to give Governor Schweitzer the information he

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wants and after several discussions relating to that he agreed to use **March 1<sup>st</sup>** as the deadline for counties instead of January 6<sup>th</sup>.

The petition process set forth by the Secretary of Agriculture specifically states that there is no guarantee that the petition will be accepted by the petition committee. I am quite sure that any petition that does not meet the requirements set forth will not be accepted. It is my understanding that those IRA's that do not receive a management plan under the petition process will be managed by the area Forest Plan. So basically management of IRA lands will revert back to the way it was before the Clinton Roadless Ruling.

My personal opinion is that there will not be a resolution to the Roadless issue in the near future. Although I would like to at least see the accessible portions of Roadless Lands remain in the suitable timber base, I am not sure it makes any difference because there are so many tools that the obstructionists can use to block the removal of timber. However, this pessimistic view plays into their hand and this is exactly what they want. So I will remain active in this issue and I recommend that all of you do the same.

*-Darrell Miller, Former Director  
Marks-Miller Post and Pole, Inc.*



## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual IRA Meeting Tentative Agenda

*The Montana Club ❖ Missoula, Montana ❖ March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

8:00AM	Registration	
9:00	Welcome	Norm Tyser, President
9:20	Membership Level Proposal	Randy Gross, Vice President
9:35	USFS Timber Supply	Bruce Fox, Director of Forest and Rangeland Management for the USFS-Northern Region
10:00	Break	
10:15	Fuel for Schools	Angela Farr, Biomass Utilization Coordinator
11:00	Non-industrial Private Forests	John Ottman, Forestry Marketing Consultant
11:30	Break	
11:45	Forest Concepts Projects Poles	Rich Lane, Director
12:30PM	LUNCH	
1:30	Clarify Doweled/Peeled Issue	Norm Tyser, President
1:45	Moisture Barriers for Fence Posts	Mike Freeman, Independent Wood Scientist
2:15	Break	
2:30	Roadless Issue	Hal Harper, Chief Policy Advisor to Montana Governor Schweitzer
3:00	Director Reelection	Norm Tyser, President
3:15	Adjourn	



The Montana Club is located on Reserve Street just off of I-90 exit 101.

Watch for your dues notice and meeting registration packet containing motel information coming soon! To request a registration packet contact Karen Kovatch at [info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org) or call (406) 677-2300

IRA Board of Directors meeting to follow. Everyone is welcome!

# Regional Positioning for Roundwood Influence

## *The Challenge of Contradiction and Inconsistency*

This is the “Tale of Two Conflicting Issues.” One, the survival, success and sustainability of the Roundwood industry. The second, the acceptance, adoption and successful implementation of the specific intent of legislation and regulations by Federal, State and Local Agencies.

The following words are extracted directly from your website. The Intermountain Roundwood Association (IRA) represents the economic and educational interests of harvesters, producers and marketers of roundwood and associated products, materials and supplies. You provide members with a central and unified voice at state, regional and federal levels concerning timber issues, the forest products industry, wood-preserving standards and healthy forest initiatives. You seek a consistent and stable supply of raw materials; present a united voice to government agencies and congressional delegations, seek good alternatives for hazardous waste disposal; find state and federal loan opportunities for small businesses; uncover new markets for our products, disseminate information on regulations, and educate the public on the need to thin timber stands to provide a healthy environment and prevent stand-destroying fires. The IRA continually works with its members to portray a united industry to government agencies.

You are undoubtedly the most active best organized most effective organization of your type in the industry today. As a member company, we are proud to be a part of this critical effort. Your preeminence, position on issues and successes deserve recognition and

emulation on a broader regional scale where it can induce a much more significant impact on emerging public policy.

The Health Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) was passed in October, 2003 and signed into law on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003. It was the result of the healthy forest initiative which intended to conduct fuels reduction through thinning activities, particularly in urban interface areas, to lessen the likelihood of catastrophic forest fires. It was also conceived to encourage and stimulate economic development, job creation and sustainability in rural communities that have been decimated by environmental over-regulation and intervention, mill closures and suspension of natural resource based business activities.

Unfortunately, a great deal of the intent of HFRA has been caught up in the ever present bureaucratic net of research, regulation and cumbersome purchasing practices. There is no doubt that successful introduction and implementing new legislation is a steep learning curve before clarity is achieved.

In a letter dated March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004, in a letter to Senator Mike Crapo R-Idaho and Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Restoration, I offered some predictions of future reactions from passage of HFRA:

1. The agencies will attempt to expand their labor pool to address thinning issues on an internal basis, waiting to see what happens in the fall elections.
2. The large timber companies have vast resources and will lobby hard for their position to once again cut sawlogs.

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3. The small diameter communities and companies are not very well organized. They have a high level of frustration. They will begin to attack the agencies in a random barrage of criticism. The agencies will naturally retreat from political pressure. The potential for collaborative and cooperative solutions will slide away as each small group tries to gain enough advantage to survive.
4. The new fire season will arrive, come and go with no comprehensive plan in place or any cooperative relationships established.

I suggested a possible solution would be for the Senate Agriculture Sub-Committee on Forestry to intervene in an oversight role. This did not mean it would want to beat up the agencies, but rather, help aggressively stimulate and facilitate cooperative and collaborative relationships between agencies and constituents that would present an honest and realistic chance for success. My predications proved to be reasonably accurate.

On March 16, 2004, I testified before a Senate Subcommittee Hearing on Rural Development in Cascade, Idaho. I stated, that while through funding from HFRA the Forest Products Laboratory and Research Stations spend millions on research, few of the products make it out in the market place. Perhaps a better interim program would be for the agencies to be mandated to commit a percentage of those funds behind the small diameter manufacturers to fill the gap and create hundreds of new jobs. I indicated this would necessitate the agencies "stepping up" to the plate in a partnership in a cooperative manner and buying and using our wide variety of products. I also suggested we needed to involve local citizen representatives, Conservation Districts, Resource Advisory Councils and other local agencies to speak out that we use local roundwood materials and local labor in our local areas. Only then could

we create new jobs and revitalize rural economic development.

This year, I spent most of the summer in Washington DC working on acceptance of WoodStraw, our new soils and erosion stabilization product made entirely from scrap fishtail veneer. While the product was developed, tested and peer reviewed in cooperation with the USDA Small Business Innovation Program and the Rocky Mountain Research Station, the challenge was to get the USFS and BLM to step up and complete the watershed cycle by procuring the product for use on their own projects. Intellectually and technically they had no problem "talking the talk"; however significant problems arose in the bureaucratic purchasing procedures where they have had extreme troubles accepting the change necessary to "walk the walk". On October 26, 2005, the same Senate Subcommittee on Forestry held a hearing on Research. The USFS Research contingent, university/academic community and research think tanks all showed up to present positions for increased funding. I submitted testimony suggesting that, while research remained an important element, it would result in nothing productive if the products were never introduced and implemented "ON THE GROUND". During the hearing Chairman Crapo admonished Dr. Ruth Barbuska, USFS Deputy Chief of Research, to make a concerted effort to work directly with the private sector to get roundwood products into the marketplace.

During this summer of work I used my considerable contact network on the Hill and within the Agencies to pursue our agenda. I eventually made significant progress and success in breaking down traditional barriers and am on the verge of watching the change to ultimately come from within. But I also often

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felt like the "Lone Ranger" longing for the cooperation and support of small businesses with similar issues and needs. Several times I encountered some of my peers from other small roundwood businesses also trying to confront the inherent obstacles on their own account.

As a result of this experience, it now occurs to me that it would be very important to accept the challenge to significantly expand the Model developed by the IRA into neighboring States to create a Regional organization, that together, would have considerably expanded influence in promoting our agenda. IRA's membership percentage wise is concentrated in Montana, with several members in each of the other adjacent states. However, I believe an opportunity to create an increasingly powerful regional identity through expand membership

bases in both numbers and disciplines. For example, I have put the Rural Policy Advisor to the Governor of Oregon together with the IRA Board to consider expanded involvement. I believe this could be the case throughout the entire region. I encourage you to give consideration to expansion of the IRA Scope of Influence for the benefit of all of those that need representation for their specific issues. I believe it is the right time to take a strong position in the debate surrounding the "Tale of Two Conflicting Issues."

Here is to a Happy and Prosperous New Year for each of you!!!

*Steve Thorson is a lobbyist and Business Development Director for Forest Concepts, an IRA member.*

## *Recertification Agenda*

This year the IRA will once again cosponsor a recertification for pesticide applicators i.e. treaters. The State of Montana Department of Agriculture will be conducting the course on March 16<sup>th</sup> in Missoula, Montana. Contact and registration information will be included in the IRA Annual Meeting Registration Packet.

Industry speakers will include:



✘ Mike Freeman, a Consulting Independent Wood Scientist in Wood Preservation from Memphis, Tennessee who will present "Current Laws and Regulations that Affect the Wood Preservation Industry."

✘ Jim Basler from Woodland, Washington with Osmose, Inc., will cover Wood Preservatives currently on the market.

✘ From Manitou Springs, Colorado, IRA Director Randy Gross, Copper Care Wood Preservatives will moderate a question and answer session on wood preservative labels and material safety and data sheets.

If you are not on the IRA Newsletter mailing list or do not receive a IRA Annual Meeting Registration Packet contact Karen Kovatch: Phone: (406) 677-2300 or email [info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org)

# Black Hills News

## Nebraska college conserves fuel chip by chip

By Bill Harlan, Journal Staff Writer

CHADRON, Neb. -- Half a dozen public institutions in the Black Hills are considering converting to wood-chip heating fuel - inspired in part by Chadron State College.

Chadron, Neb., 100 miles south of Rapid City, is near pine-covered ridges, similar to those that skirt the Black Hills. A single contractor supplies the college with about 8,000 tons of wood chips a year, made from slash, which is left over wood from logging in those small pine forests.

Chadron State's chip-fired boilers heat 20 buildings - or about 1.1 million square feet of classrooms, dormitories, laboratories and offices. Even the Student Center and Armstrong Gym are heated by wood chips.

Wood-chip fuel saves the college about \$150,000 a year, or about 40 percent of the college's total heating bill. "And that's a pretty conservative number," college vice president Ed Hoffman said.

In fact, Chadron's system is one of the most successful wood-chip heating plants in the nation, according to Jeff Forward, a wood-chip heating expert based in Montpelier, VT. "It's a terrific example of how this can work." Forward is working with the state of South Dakota and with a Montpelier-based nonprofit organization - the Biomass Energy Resource Center -to see whether schools and other public institutions could heat buildings with slash from logging in the Black Hills.

The supply of slash from logging in Black Hills National Forest dwarfs the supply available to Chadron State, and Black Hills schools are considering whether to apply for grants for feasibility studies that might eventually lead to wood-chip demonstration projects.

Chadron State's plant, which has been operating for 14-years, has moved well beyond the demonstration- project stage.

In 1990, the college received almost \$1 million from Nebraska Department of Energy to install two Hurst wood-fired boilers for the college's central steam-heating plant. The grant called for a 10-year payback in energy savings over natural gas and fuel oil. It took seven years, Hoffman said.

The system is backed up by natural gas, which kicks in when temperatures dip below zero degrees, but Hoffman said that system hasn't been needed much during recent mild winters.

Hoffman also emphasized that Chadron State's wood-fired central steam-heating plant isn't anything like heating with a traditional wood stove or even a pellet stove.

Contractor John Hahn, who supplies wood chips to the college, creates chips of uniform size, which are slightly smaller than a pack of cigarettes - and moisture content - which is less than 40 percent.

About every couple of weeks, Hahn delivers chips by truck either directly to a 100-ton storage bin at the heating plant or to a nearby storage yard.

The bin at the heating plant has a "live floor" with moving slats that feed chips into conveyors. The conveyors, in turn, feed augurs, called "stoker screws," that deliver chips at a steady, precise rate to two large fire boxes - one under each boiler.

The heating plant could burn as much as 60 tons of chips a day in severe weather, Hoffman said. In its 14 year history, however, the single-day record is about 48 tons.

The rest of the heating system works like it did when it was fired by natural gas and fuel oil. Steam is pushed through pipes that heat water in heat exchangers. The hot water circulates and heats the buildings. ➤

This year, the college is beginning to use wood-chip boilers to heat its absorption chillers, with an unlikely result: wood-fired air conditioning.

The downside of wood-chip boilers, Hoffman said, is that they require more attention from the five-person boiler crew. "They really deserve a lot of credit for making this work," Hoffman said.

Operators check conveyors at regular intervals throughout the day, and the level of oxygen delivered to the fire boxes must be carefully monitored.

At the end of every shift, operators shut down the fire boxes for five to 10 minutes to remove ash and unburned "clinkers." The system actually produces very little ash. The ash is collected in a small roll-off container, then dumped at the local landfill.

This year the college is spending \$110,000 to add oxygen sensors and more efficient motors for pumps and fans.

But Hoffman said wood chips had clear benefits, in part because the price has remained stable. "It's a very predictable fuel," he said. In fact, every college and university in Nebraska had to apply for extra funding this year for heating except Chadron State.

The college had to get an air-quality permit for its wood stacks, but Hoffman said on most days, no smoke is visible. Fire-box temperatures range from 950 to 1,100 degrees, and combustion is almost complete.

Hoffman also noted that wood-chip heating is a carbon-neutral process. That is, the carbon from ponderosa pines already is part of the atmosphere's carbon cycle. Fossil fuels, in contrast, add carbon.

The wood-chip system provides local jobs, too, in both supply and in plant operation. All the college's wood chips come from private land. "We haven't burned a chip off the

Nebraska National Forest," Hoffman said.

Black Hills National Forest, however, has an extensive logging program. Local, state and federal officials in South Dakota are studying how the national forest could supply "biomass fuels" to schools and other institutions.

Greg Josten of the state Division of Forestry and Resource Conservation is directing a program of small grants - \$3,000 to \$5,000 each - for feasibility studies. Grants are being considered in Rapid City, Hill City, Hot Springs, Belle Fourche and in the Lead-Deadwood schools, Josten said. Black Hills State University, which is next to the Pope & Talbot sawmill in Spearfish, also is considering a wood-chip study. So are the state Veterans Home in Hot Springs and the Hot Springs Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Josten said.

Meanwhile, a staggering amount of slash piles in Black Hills National Forest is simply being burned in place this month. "We've got 41,000 hand piles and 2,100 machine piles," national forest spokesman Frank Carroll said. The machine piles are 100 feet long by 30 feet wide. "It's a massive bio-energy resource that's ready to use," Carroll said.

Black Hills National Forest officials will lead a field trip to Chadron in January so that school officials and others can inspect Chadron's wood-chip heating plant.

The Black Hills contingent will find a cheerleader for wood-chip heat in Hoffman. "It's the right thing to do," he said. "It goes back to whole notion of what we can do to support an alternative energy policy for the nation."

*Editor's Note: Thank you to Director Jody Parker for passing this article on to the IRA. One of the topics at our Annual Meeting will be the Fuels for Schools program.*

*See you at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IRA Social March 16th!*

# *Environmentalists ordered to post \$100K bond*

*Editor's Note: Every once in while there is some good news to pass on. Thanks to Darrell Miller for pointing this article out. By Roberta Forsell Stauffer - The Montana Standard - 12/23/05*

BUTTE (LEE) — In an unprecedented move at least in Montana, Chief U. S. District Judge Donald W. Molloy has ordered environmental groups suing over Butte's Basin Creek timber sale to post a \$100,000 bond that would be forfeited should they lose their appeal.

The U.S. Forest Service requested the bond, arguing the agency alone could lose \$400,000 to \$600,000 if logging is delayed for a year pending this appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court.

Molloy acknowledged the bond amount is much less than the Forest Service requested, yet large enough to "ensure meaningful accountability" if the appeals court upholds his earlier ruling that this project is in the public interest and should proceed.

The Forest Service has contracted with Townsend-based R-Y Timber, Inc. to remove beetle-killed trees from roughly 1,600 acres south of Butte. The project's purpose is to reduce future fire risk to homes along Roosevelt Drive and to the Basin Creek watershed, source of roughly 40 percent of Butte's water.

Butte-Silver Bow also intervened in the lawsuit, fearing the county will have to build a costly water treatment plant if a large-scale fire moves through.

Ed Regan, resource manager for Townsend-based R-Y Timber, Inc., applauded the judge's decision and called the move "very rare." "This is going to require the environmentalists to put their money where their mouths are," Regan said. "Instead of just the cost of a 37-cent stamp, Judge Molloy is making these groups accountable for their deeds. Now they have something to lose."

R-Y logging contractors were all set to work through the winter on this sale until Nov. 21 when Molloy issued a stay pending the appeal.

Just relocating equipment cost \$15,000 to \$20,000, Regan said, and the longer the dead trees stand, the less value they'll have. The bond would help cover a portion of the damages should the Forest Service prevail.

"I think it's fair," Regan said. "If they have a meritorious lawsuit, they should not be afraid to put up a case bond."

Michael Garrity, executive director of Alliance for the Wild Rockies, said the groups plan to appeal the bond amount and have no intention of paying it. "There's no precedent for this so we're confident it will be overturned," Garrity said. "If it were allowed to stand, it would have a chilling effect on citizens who are trying to stop illegal logging and protect fish and wildlife on public lands." Garrity believes timber companies should be concerned about the high bond amount, too. The tables could turn, he said, and in cases where logging is found to be illegal, companies could be forced to post bonds to restore old growth forest they've damaged. "We win more cases than we lose," Garrity said, adding that the three nonprofits "don't have anywhere close to \$100,000 in assets."

Julie Weis, the Portland, Ore.-based attorney representing Butte-Silver Bow, believes that if the bond order holds, the logging operation could start up again if the groups don't put up the money. "You have to comply with that requirement in order to keep your stay," Weis said. "If they say they can't post the bond, then I think the project could proceed."

Both Weis and Butte District Ranger Steve Egeline said they're pleased with the judge's latest order and think the bond is appropriate.✉

# *Postsaver USA – The Simple Solution to Inground Post Decay*

*By Mike Freeman*

As the lumber industry adjusts to new guidelines on the use of chemicals to treat wood, it continues to look for safe and cost-effective ways to maintain and grow its market share.

An old-fashioned idea with a high-tech twist is gaining ground. The product is called a Postsaver boot or sleeve. Postsaver combines traditional technologies in a modern design. The system consists of a specially formulated polyethylene boot lined with an inner layer of a meltable bituminous sealant that seals the lumber. And the idea is a time-tested one. Polyethylene has been used successfully for more than 50 years in many applications, including geo membranes and vapor barriers. Bitumen has been used successfully for more than 1,100 years to protect timber in ground-use applications. The non-toxic boot provides a double-barrier system to restrict soil-borne decaying organisms, nutrients and moisture that cause decay and premature post failure. A specialized application machine is required to heat shrink the product to the vulnerable area of the post. The heat-shrinking process liquefies the bitumen and drives it into the wood. This provides a secondary moisture-resistant layer while the polyethylene outer layer provides a tough physical barrier.

The Postsaver barrier is a complimentary process designed to protect both treated and untreated lumber for below-ground post applications. In an attempt to answer environmental and economic concerns, Postsaver offers a new foundation for developing new technologies in the industry by allowing pressure-treaters and manufacturers to soften the chemicals they use. With a physical barrier, you can potentially lessen the strength and quantity of chemicals to

treat for above-ground contact. In addition, chemical leaching is minimized significantly. Postsaver USA does not sell the product directly to lumber yards and other outlets. The Postsaver system is designed for businesses that want to differentiate their products by adding value to them. Postsaver products are locally applied to lumber at independently owned and operated application facilities. All application facilities are third party quality monitored for quality assurance.

As with any new technology, one of the biggest issues involves standards and approvals. Postsaver is currently seeking written standards from the American Wood Preservers' Association and expects to receive an ICC-ES evaluation report sometime this year. In addition, four recent technical reports from three well-respected wood research organizations have demonstrated the performance of the barrier preservative system including a subterranean termite test.

Every segment of our industry is looking to reduce liability and increase profits, including the fencing, deck, pole building, utility pole, piling, organic farming, street sign and bridge businesses. For all of us, alternatives to wood create their own issues, including plastics and steel, which are not as resilient, possess low impact characteristics, they are costly and are not considered a renewal resource.

Please plan to visit Postsaver USA's booth at the annual meeting in Missoula, MT to discover how the Postsaver program can add value to the products your business provides.

In addition, Mike H. Freeman, Independent Wood Scientist, will be giving a formal paper on Barrier Wraps and Postsaver at the IRA Annual Meeting on March 17, 2006, in Missoula, MT. [www.postsaverusa.com](http://www.postsaverusa.com)

# Business Directory

Please support our sponsors!

## Johnson Systems Packaging & Repair

P.O. Box 1325 ♦ Bozeman, MT 59715

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Fax (406) 587-8136

We encourage all Roundwood Association members to try our products and service. We offer fine quality banding, strapping tools, seals and strapping tool repair at reasonable prices. With warehouses in Sheridan, WY; Bozeman, Missoula and Kalispell, MT we can usually offer next day delivery of your packaging requirements.



Manufacturing state of the art rounding/doweling machines.

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Hud-Son Portable Sawmills • Forest Trailers

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Email: dgreen08122@msn.com

Fax: (303) 450-9295

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## Your Single Source Solution

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Missoula, MT 59808

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1 (800) 735-7161

**Brian C. Miller**

Res: (406) 728-1197

Cell: (406) 370-2900

**Bus: (406) 721-2580**

e-mail: mslasaws@centric.net

Web site: www.missoulasaws.com

Arch Wood Protection

Randy S. Gross  
Products Manager  
Phone (719) 685-0444  
Email: rsgross1@adelphia.net  
www.coppercare.us



**Copper Naphthenate Concentrate**

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-Effective

-Dip or Pressure Treat

-Appealing Brown Buckskin Color



**Dowel mills, production post & pole machinery**

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Sales Manager

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

Office

**406-449-2213**

Cell

**406-431-5882**

Fax

**406-449-3465**

# IRA Membership Proposal

After much discussion, mulling, contemplating and gnashing of teeth the Board of Directors passed a motion to change the membership status of the IRA.

The proposed status would consist of one level of membership. Those members would receive the newsletter, be included on the IRA website and have their own webpage and have the right to vote on Association issues. The cost to join would be \$100.

We are very concerned about losing any supporting members in this process. We hope they will come on board as full members. We also want to make sure all government and other officials making industry decisions about timber are on our newsletter mailing list. Please pass those on to me so I can get them on the mailing list.

This single membership will make the book keeping, website maintenance and other IRA business more streamlined and easier to do. It should help with costs and confusion. Any comments about this issue need to be brought to the attention of any of the directors.

We are also proposing to change the year in which dues are prorated for new members. The proposed changes to the IRA By-laws would be as follows:

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Any person, firm or corporation engaged in the production or marketing of roundwood and associated products in the territory served by this organization, shall be eligible for membership in this corporation. Membership shall consist of voting ~~and non-voting~~ members. Those voting members shall pay a nonrefundable annual fee of \$100.00 ~~Those non-voting members shall pay a non-~~

~~refundable annual fee of \$25.00~~ The above annual fees will be reviewed at the first (1st) annual meeting of every year. Dues for new members shall be prorated quarterly *if they rejoin the association the following year.*

–Karen Kovatch

## Product Definitions

Everyone loves to check those little boxes on the membership application form. However sometimes members contradict themselves or pick products they are associated with but don't really sell! **Remember these are for the Product Locator feature on the website so chose the products you sell!** Here are the definitions once again:

**Architectural Products** - Roundwood used with the intention of producing a specific look or design. Not necessarily structural in nature.

**Archways** - Decorative or functional arch over gates or entrances.

**Barn Poles** - Highway sign posts.

**Barrier Wrap** - Wrap used for wood protection.

**Biomass** - Wood residues as related to roundwood.

**Building Poles** - Roundwood that is commonly used vertically as supports for structures.

**Corral Rails or Panels** - Rails used for animal enclosures.

**Custom Sawing & Machining** - Customer-owned raw materials can be sawed into lumber, peeled for roundwood uses or machined for unique applications.

**Doweled Products** - Roundwood with a tenon on the end to fit in a hole.

**Doweled Rail Fencing** - A fencing system using rails with tenons on the ends of the rails which fit into a corresponding hole in a fence post. This product can be made using machine-peeled, doweled or hand-peeled materials.

**Doweled Wood** - Roundwood turned to an exact diameter the entire length. Machines used for this process are often called rounding machines or dowelers.

**Engineered Structures** - Pre-engineered structures using roundwood as the major components. Examples include pavilions, truss systems, kiosks and bridges.

**Fence Posts** - Roundwood 10' or shorter in length designed to be placed in or on the ground for attachment of horizontal members or wire. These can be pointed and capped or blunt; butt treated, full-length treated or untreated.

**Fence Rails** - Roundwood used horizontally on a fence. These can be full round or half round, split rails, peeled, doweled or unpeeled.

**Fencing Material** - Any roundwood components used to construct a fence, including fence posts, hinges, latches for wood gates, lag bolts, nails, and staples for attaching rails and wire to a post.

**Gates** - Rails and posts usually assembled using drilling and tenoning. This structure is designed to swing or hinge out of the way to produce an opening in a fence.

**Gazebos & Kiosks** - Small free-standing roofed structures made of roundwood, usually open on one or more sides.

**Guardrail Posts** - Round or square posts used for attaching highway guardrail.

**Hand or Deck Railings** - Roundwood structures that provide safety around high open areas such as decks or lofts.

**Hand-peeled Wood** - Roundwood with the bark removed usually done using a draw knife.

**Handling Equipment** - Rolling stock such as loaders, forklifts, skidders and log loaders used for handling roundwood.

**Hardware** - Hinges, fasteners or couplers used on roundwood products.

**Hogfuel** - Biomass used to fire boilers in the production of energy.

**Horse Jump Rails** - Rails used in the sport of horse jumping.

**Jack Leg Fencing** - Fence posts consisting of two posts which are either drilled and doweled or notched to fit together to form an X that sits on the ground. These are also called Buck Fence and Crotch Posts.

**Landscape Products** - Roundwood products or lumber used in landscaping such as retaining walls or decorative boarders. Includes decorative chips or mulch.

**Livestock Bedding** - Shavings, chips or sawdust used for animal bedding.

**Log Components** - Roundwood supplied to log home and furniture manufacturers.

**Log Furniture** - Any rustic or western furniture manufactured from roundwood such as chairs, tables or beds.

**Lumber** - Rectangular wood including timbers and cants as opposed to roundwood.

**Machine-peeled Wood** - Roundwood with the bark removed by a machine.

**Manufacturing Equipment** - Machinery used in the production of any roundwood products.

**Pole Barns** - Structures made with roundwood.

**Tipi Poles & Hogan Logs** - The framework for Native American tipis (also spelled tepee or teepee) and Navajo hogans.

**Treated Wood** - Roundwood with the bark removed and then treated with wood preservative.

**Treating Facility** - Any plant using wood preservatives to dip or pressure treat roundwood.

**Tree Stakes & Crop Poles** - Roundwood used to support saplings or crops; includes hop poles.

**Unpeeled Wood** - Roundwood without the bark removed, commonly called "Barkies."

**Utility Poles** - Vertically placed poles used for power transmission.

**White Wood** - Roundwood with the bark removed by any method; untreated.

**Wood Preservatives** - Chemical preservatives used to treat roundwood to prevent decay or rot and prolong the useful life of the product.☞

# Membership Information



Thank you for inquiring about the Intermountain Roundwood Association.

Our organization is a nonprofit corporation representing the economic, educational, and social interests of roundwood producers. Anyone engaged in or interested in the harvesting, manufacturing, or marketing of small roundwood and associated products is eligible for membership in our organization.

Our association has been working for a consistent and stable supply of raw materials; presenting a united voice to government agencies and congressional delegations on those issues facing our association; working with government agencies on hazardous waste disposal alternatives; working to find State and Federal loan opportunities for small businesses; locating new out of region markets for members products; providing information on State and Federal Regulations; distributing a quarterly newsletter with pertinent information; providing advice to members in their dealings with governmental regulatory and land management agencies; and educating the public on the need to thin timber stands to provide a healthy environment and prevent stand-destroying fires.

## Advertising

Business Directory Ads.....\$140/Year

(Size of a business card.)

Classified Ads..... \$35/Issue

(Up to size of a business card.)

## Website

We are online! Log on at:

[www.intermountainroundwood.org](http://www.intermountainroundwood.org)

E-mail: [info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org)



*Nine Mile, MT - Morbarking in 1973. John & Vivian Christensen on the outfeed, Dave Guelfff feeding the peeler.*

## Meetings

Members are encouraged to participate in the quarterly director meetings throughout the year as well as our annual meeting. The board conducts four meetings, usually two teleconference meetings and two physical meetings each year. Members are welcome to raise concerns and contact directors with specific issues and any questions.

The 18<sup>th</sup> **Annual IRA Meeting is on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006** in Missoula, Montana. Contact Karen Kovatch for meeting information and a registration packet (406) 677-2300 or [info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org) Don't forget the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IRA Social** the night before the meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>! The directors will have a board meeting following the Annual Meeting. Contact Norm Tyser for meeting information (307) 742-6992.

# IRA Membership Application Form

Please return with \$100 dues payment to:



Intermountain Roundwood Association  
 Calvin Kovatch, Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 1275  
 Seeley Lake, MT 59868

## PHOTO OR LOGO IMAGE

Remember to include one photo or image to accompany your business or organization description. You may email photo to [info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org)

Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

This is how your membership will be listed on the back of the newsletter and on the website.

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Toll Free: [Optional] (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.intermountainroundwood.org](http://www.intermountainroundwood.org)

Information for your page on the IRA website:

## DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Limited to 150 words Attach separate page or send electronically to [info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org)

## LINK SUGGESTIONS

Please list any websites you feel would be beneficial as links to the IRA website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## PRODUCT LOCATOR CATEGORIES

Please choose all products and/or processes which apply to your operation. This information will be used in the *Product Locator* feature on the website. See page 14 of this newsletter for product description definitions.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural & Structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Jump Rails                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Products     | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse Jump Rails                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineered Structures      | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Products                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gazebos & Kiosks           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Products                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand or Deck Railings      | <input type="checkbox"/> Log Furniture & Log Home Components |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pole Barns                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Log Components                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tipi Poles & Hogan Logs    | <input type="checkbox"/> Log Furniture                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biomass                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Poles & Stakes                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biomass                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Poles                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hogfuel                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Stakes & Crop Poles            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Bedding          | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Poles                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Treating & Milling Services         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corral Rails or Panels     | <input type="checkbox"/> Custom Sawing & Machining           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Rail Fencing       | <input type="checkbox"/> Treating Facility                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Posts                | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Preservatives                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Rails                | <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Wrap                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing Material           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Preservatives                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Leg Fencing           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood, Lumber & Barkies              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gates                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Products                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archways                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Wood                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gates                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-peeled Wood                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware & Equipment       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handling Equipment         | <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-peeled Wood                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Treated Wood                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing Equipment    | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpeeled Wood                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highway Products           | <input type="checkbox"/> White Wood                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Poles                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guardrail Posts            |  |

# *INTERMOUNTAIN ROUNDWOOD ASSOCIATION*

## ***2005 INDUSTRY MEMBERS***

Archeion-Design  
All American Timber Company  
Allweather Wood Inc.  
Alpine Products of Condon  
Ayers & Baker Pole & Post, Inc.  
Baker Timber Products, Inc.  
Bear Creek Timber Products, Inc.  
Bouma Post Yards  
Bourbon Valley Corporation  
Community Smallwood Solutions, LLC  
Copper Care Wood Preservatives, Inc.  
Cowboy Timber  
Flathead Stickers & Dowel Mill  
Forest Concepts, LLC

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Gebhardt Post Plant & Sawmill  
Hills Products Group  
Lodgepole Products Company  
Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc.  
Montana Community Development Corp.  
Myrstol Post & Pole Company  
North Idaho Post & Pole, Inc.  
Panhandle Forest Products  
Parma Post & Pole Inc.  
Pfendler Post & Pole, Inc.  
Pickaroon Timber Products, Inc.  
Pineda Post & Poles, Inc.  
Porterbilt Company, Inc.

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Ranch Service & Supply Company  
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Rocks & Pines Fence Company  
Roundwood West Corporation  
Ruby Valley Pressure Treating & Post Co.  
Small Diameter Log Company, Inc.  
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Southern Oregon Round Stock  
Tricon Timber, LLC  
Turtle Dove Post & Rail  
United Wood Products, Inc.  
Universal Forest Products  
Wheeler Lumber, LLC

## ***2005 SUPPORTING MEMBERS***

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Department of Forest Products, U of Idaho  
Doubletree Logging & Construction  
Green Forests, Inc.  
Hunt's Timbers, Inc.  
ISK Biocides, Inc.  
Midwest Fence Company  
Montana Tool Company

Montana Wood Products Association  
Osrose, Inc.  
Pacific Wood Preserving  
Results! Marketing & Communications  
Rocky Mountain Enterprises  
Round-Wood Systems  
Smurfit-Stone Container  
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Sullivan & Mann Lumber Co., Inc.  
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USFS, Bonners Ferry Ranger District  
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USFS, Helena National Forest  
USFS, Seeley Lake Ranger District  
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