



# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2014

Production, education and marketing of quality roundwood products

## President's Message

I hope this message finds you wrapping up a great year and that you are eagerly awaiting a large number from your tax preparer. Don't worry, thank you letters from the feds are slightly delayed...but they are in the mail.

In all seriousness, I hear of strong markets from many of our members. Our friends in the ranching business are finally seeing a boom year, which also bodes well for our markets. But in the same breath with all of the great demand I hear the all too familiar cry for more supply.

For as long as I can remember at our family business there has always been a need for more supply. Today's need for raw material is even larger, hog fuel, chip plants and other demands

also weigh on the supply and demand curve. Not only is more supply needed but more consistent supply is required. Asking business owners to lay out large allocations for capital infrastructure while rolling the dice on supply, leads to overly cautious growth and a hampered ability to manage the forests.

I would love to just point my finger at federal and state agencies and cry wolf...while there is blame to go around, the fact remains that funding the management of publicly owned lands has always been meager and borders on ridiculous. Adding litigation to the mix further reduces the funding allocated to timber management, a fact well known by those that throw special interest money at the technicalities of an overwhelmingly complicated sales process. And often fire suppression steals from the same coffers.

I am confident that many of you are very similar in your approach to advocating for our interests...which is to say that we are extremely busy running a business and can scarcely find the time to attend meetings, write letters and voice our concerns for our needs. I am sure all of us write a letter a day to representatives in hopes we turn the tide?

I know you are all saying that if those actively managing our forested lands would get after it, and that we shouldn't have to pound on the war drums to get timber put up in a diseased and

*Continued on page 3...*



*Touring Roundwood West from left: Rock Reman and Jody Parker of Hills Products, Kal Kovatch of Roundwood West, Christian Pfendler of Pfendler Post & Pole, Ronda Porter of Porterbilt, Dorene Pfendler of Pfendler Post & Pole, Janelle and Dave Archer of Hanson Log Products and Dave Guelff, founder of Roundwood West.*

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 dinner was hosted by Roundwood West Corporation at Karen and Kal Kovatch's in Seeley Lake Montana.

The Board members were treated like Queens and Kings. Karen and Kal went all out in welcoming the board members to their beautiful home for a very delicious Southern feed. Ribs, beans, salad and don't forget the cornbread that was piping hot to accept the butter. After dinner the guitars came out and some strumming and a lot of humming erupted. Not to worry, it all stayed PG: we had two very pleasant young adults Klaire and Klayton Kovatch to keep us adults in check.

Big thanks to the Kovatch Family for hosting this year's fall Board meeting.

## IRA Directors Meeting

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014

Present: Steve Tyser via FaceTime, Jody Parker, Kal Kovatch, Dave Archer, Ronda Taggart, Rock Reman, Christian Pfendler, Executive Administrator Karen Kovatch and guests Dorene Pfendler and Dave Guelff.

Meeting called to order by President Steve Tyser 8:15 AM.

Motion made to approve minutes from previous meeting made by Jody Parker  
And second by Ronda Taggart.

**Treasurer Report:** Kal Kovatch

First Interstate Checking:	\$7146.96
Vanguard Savings:	<u>\$4381.93</u>
Total	\$11,528.89

Treasurers Report Accepted by Rock Reman and seconded by Jody Parker.

### Old Business:

- **Reimbursement for speakers last year.** Ben Wudtke and Tom Troxel are happy to cover their expenses.
- **Annual Meeting Date March 13<sup>th</sup> 2015.** Karen Kovatch will move forward with the contract and work out some logistic issues with the Hilton.
- **Scholarship.** Is a go for the upcoming year. Karen Kovatch will update the forms and change the dates and put it in the Winter newsletter.

### New Business:

- **Ideas, Themes and Speakers** The who and what for the annual meeting. Kal Kovatch and Rhonda Taggart will check with their local rangers for their districts. As a backup Steve Tyser will check with Tom Troxel. Kal Kovatch will call Rich Lane to talk about sorting logs at the new chipper in Bonner MT. Rock Reman will check with a new safety company that will do onsite OSHA inspections. Karen Kovatch suggested we look into new equipment/marketing ideas for speakers.
- **Door Prizes:** Give away one room at the Hilton, Cabela's gift card.
- **Newsletter Deadline:** October 15<sup>th</sup> 2014
- **Next Board Meeting:** Teleconference is set for December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 at 9:00 AM.

8:45 Jody Parker motioned to adjourn the meeting and Rock Reman seconded it.

*After the meeting, we toured Roundwood West Corporation's yard, and what a nice yard it is. The only thing missing was a small stream of water to wet a hook. But Karen's Dad, Dave assured me I wouldn't have far to walk to fish. Karen and Kal have the perfect office to work out of. The view is 360 degrees of a vibrant Lodgepole forest. Karen and Kal showed us how their dowel machines hummed. And those 2 machines can make roundwood more round and shiny. Thanks again to Roundwood West Corporation for the fine hospitality you showed the Board of Directors.*

—Dave Archer, Secretary

## ...President's Message Continued

dying forest. There is some truth in all of that but we come back to the hamster wheel again and find that it is all very complicated and underfunded.

So how do we make our voices heard, how do we convince the public that our needs for supply coincide with their need to have a healthy, managed public forest? Unless you are planning on hiring your own attorney and advocate for your own business, I recommend supporting those that regionally and nationally advocate for us every day while we tend to our individual businesses.

The first that comes to mind is no stranger to the IRA. The Intermountain Forest Association (IFA) has spoken for us at our annual meeting on many occasions. Director Tom Troxel and programs manager Ben Wudtke of South Dakota and Nancy Fishing of Colorado battle on our behalf every day. Consider a membership to fund your voice and look them up at [intforest.org](http://intforest.org).

In Montana there is the Montana Logging Association at [logging.org](http://logging.org) and Montana Wood Products Association at [montanaforests.org](http://montanaforests.org). The Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming are bolstered by the work of the Black Hills Forest Resource Association (BHFRA), an offshoot of the IFA headed up by Ben Wudtke.

These are just a few of the many associations that allow us to get our work done while still having our voices heard. The days of hoping that common sense will prevail when faced with funding crises and frivolous litigation are no longer realistic. Reach into what's left in your account after you pay those taxes and consider putting some of it to work squeaking away against the poor ideas that weaken our public lands and our businesses...after all the squeaky wheel is the one that gets greased!

—Steve Tyser, President



*Found on Facebook: Here's hoping you have few customers who fence like this!*

## Director Position

There will be an opening on the IRA Board of Directors in March of 2015. Save the date for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Missoula, MT. Contact any director to put your name in the hat to be nominated for this coveted position!

## 2015 Scholarship

Watch for information in the next issue of the IRA Newsletter on the IRA Scholarship opportunity for students affiliated with members of the IRA. Students are encouraged to contact Karen Kovatch for an electronic copy. The \$500 scholarship will be awarded at the Annual Meeting.

# What is a Sawmill?



*Last day at Diamond Match, Superior, MT  
Photo courtesy of Dave Guelff.*

*Editor's Note: Submitted by Dave Archer of Hanson Log Products. This was written by Dan Hanson's grandfather Andy Hanson who ran Andy Hanson Timber Products from 1934-1977 in Buffalo, WY. Without many changes this might be appropriate for a postcard!*

A sawmill is a poorly arranged collection of inadequate and obsolete machinery used to convert logs into sawdust and slabs. It is constantly submerged in a series of cataclysmic disasters of fluctuating intensity, some of which have disturbed seismographs as far away as Cleveland. Owned and operated by one or more optimistic idiots and run under the thin guise of respectability know as Lumber Company.

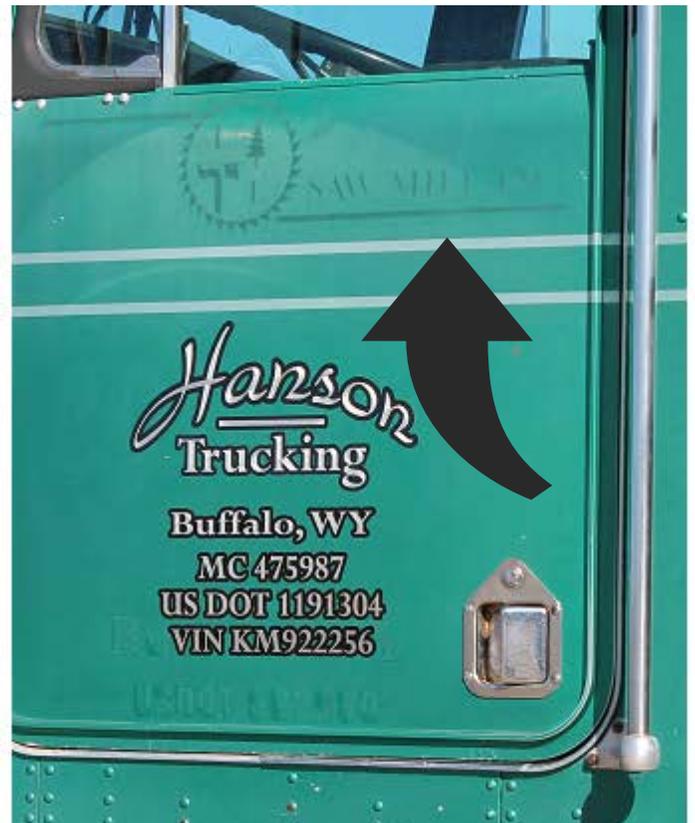
It provides for a Gawd awful number of families, all local, state and federal governments, several machine shops, and a bookkeeper. Its only income is derived from the sale of a byproduct consisting of some odd shaped pieces of wood know as lumber which is sold to people of questionable intellect, mostly in the middle part of the United States.

The gross income of any sawmill is divided approximately as follows: 60 per cent is for logs and raw material, 30 per cent for labor, 10 per cent for maintenance. Point zero, zero for the

management. One can easily see that this adds up to some of the most beautiful cases of stomach ulcers in the history of medical science.

There are four basic types of sawmills and I name them in the order of their most flagrant stupidity.

1. New mills under construction. Nothing good can be said for this group.
2. Those who have made enough credits during the summer run to cold deck enough logs to run all winter in order to pay for them.
3. Those who ran all summer and expect to run all winter on logs hauled over a winter road which they will never pay for.
4. Those to say "to hell with it" and take up truck farming. 🚛



*Look close: A shadow of the sawmill logo is still visible on this truck door!*

# Business Directory

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# Membership Information

## Meetings

Members are encouraged to participate in the quarterly director meetings throughout the year as well as our next annual meeting tentatively scheduled for **March 13<sup>th</sup> 2015**. 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 next Board of Directors meeting will be **December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014** via teleconference. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact President, Steve Tyser for more information.

## Advertising

Business Directory Ads:  
Contact Karen Kovatch (406) 677-2932 or  
[info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org)

## IRA Websites

Log on at:  
[www.intermountainroundwood.org](http://www.intermountainroundwood.org)  
[www.facebook.com/RoundwoodAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/RoundwoodAssociation)  
Email: [info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org)

## New Members

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.

### IRA Board of Directors

Steve Tyser, President	(307) 742-6992	<a href="mailto:lodgepole@wyoming.com">lodgepole@wyoming.com</a>
Jody Parker, Vice President	(605) 269-2233	<a href="mailto:jodyp@hillspg.com">jodyp@hillspg.com</a>
Dave Archer, Secretary	(307) 684-1402	<a href="mailto:dave@hansonlogproducts.com">dave@hansonlogproducts.com</a>
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer	(406) 677-2300	<a href="mailto:roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net">roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net</a>
Ronda Taggart	(406) 363-1456	<a href="mailto:ronda@porterbiltlog.com">ronda@porterbiltlog.com</a>
Rock Reman	(605) 269-2233	<a href="mailto:rockr@hillspg.com">rockr@hillspg.com</a>
Christian Pfendler	(406) 288-3817	<a href="mailto:pfendlerpp@gmail.com">pfendlerpp@gmail.com</a>

### Newsletter, Advertisements & IRA Website

Karen Kovatch, Editor	(406) 677-2932	<a href="mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org">info@roundwoodassociation.org</a>
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# 2014 IRA Membership Application Form

Please return this form and \$100 payment to: (Sorry, we do not take credit cards.)

**Intermountain Roundwood Association**

**Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer P.O. Box 1275, Seeley Lake, MT 59868**

1 Name of Business or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Additional contact and services information for receiving newsletter and for your personal IRA web page.

Like our Business or Organization on the IRA Facebook page.

New member: Complete remainder of this form.  Current Member: Make changes as noted.

Current Member: No changes this year. **Stop here, as tempting as it might be; do not check any more boxes!** ☺

2 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY for your page on the IRA website.

Email to [info@roundwoodassociation.org](mailto:info@roundwoodassociation.org), limited to 150 words. Remember to also attach one photo or logo image to accompany your business or organization description.

## PRODUCT & MEMBER LOCATOR CATEGORIES

Please check boxes below for all products you sell and processes which apply to your operation. This information will be used in the **Product/Member Locator** feature on the website. Call (406) 677-2300 or log on to our website [www.intermountainroundwood.org/printableProducts.jsp](http://www.intermountainroundwood.org/printableProducts.jsp) for product description definitions.

### Architectural & Structures

- Architectural Products
- Engineered Structures
- Gazebos & Kiosks
- Hand or Deck Railings
- Pole Barns
- Tipi Poles & Hogan Logs

### Biomass

- Biomass
- Hogfuel
- Livestock Bedding

### Fencing

- Corral Rails or Panels
- Doweled Rail Fencing
- Fence Posts
- Fence Rails
- Fencing Material
- Jack Leg Fencing

### Gates

- Archways
- Gates

### Government & Educational

- Educational
- Government
- Research

### Hardware & Equipment

- Handling Equipment
- Hardware
- Manufacturing Equipment
- Shipping & Packaging Materials

### Highway Products

- Barn Poles
- Guardrail Posts

### Jump Rails

- Horse Jump Rails

### Landscape Products

- Landscape Products

### Log Furniture & Log Home Components

- Log Components
- Log Furniture

### Poles & Stakes

- Building Poles
- Tree Stakes & Crop Poles
- Utility Poles

### Professional Services

- Consulting
- Forestry
- Professional Services

### Treating & Milling Services

- Custom Sawing & Machining
- Treating Facility

### Wood Protection

- Barrier Wrap
- Wood Preservatives

### Wood, Lumber & Barkies

- Doweled Products
- Doweled Wood
- Hand-peeled Wood
- Lumber
- Machine-peeled Wood
- Treated Wood
- Unpeeled Wood
- White Wood

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# *INTERMOUNTAIN ROUNDWOOD ASSOCIATION*

## *2014 Members*

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Baker Timber Products, Inc.	Multifab, Inc.	Thunderbolt Wood Treating
BJ Timber Consulting	Osmose, Inc.	USFS, Seeley Lake Ranger District
Bouma Post Yards	Panhandle Forest Products	Viance, LLC
Eagle Stud Mill, Inc.	Parma Post & Pole, Inc.	Vintage Woods
Forest Business Network, LLC	Pfendler Post & Pole, Inc.	Western Wood Preservers
Forest Products Distributers, Inc.	Pickaroon Timber Products, Inc.	Institute
Gebhardt Post Plant & Sawmill	Plum Creek Timber Company	Wheeler Lumber, LLC
Hamilton Hinge Company	Poles, Inc.	Whispering Pines Pole Company
Hanson Log Products	Porterbilt Company, Inc.	Windmill Ventures, LLC
Hills Products Group	Ranch Service & Supply Co.	Woodlandia Corporation
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*The view is always better with roundwood!*



*Snow capped peak in autumn on the Swan Mountain Range, Montana.*