



TIMBER TALK

Your Voice for South Carolina Timber Harvesting

3RD QUARTER 2024



"A Better Understanding"

Mike Albrecht, President
American Loggers Council
June 25, 2024

On May 16, 2024, I had the distinct pleasure and honor to cosign, along with Forest Service Chief, Randy Moore, a "Memorandum of Understanding" between the American Loggers Council (ALC) and the USDA Forest Service.



Initiated by the Forest Service, this MOU was fully endorsed by the American Loggers Council Board of Directors at our April 19th Spring Meeting. Our ALC Executive Director, Scott Dane, deserves tremendous credit for steering this MOU effort, working with key Forest Service staff through sessions of editing and compromise.

The final result is a document titled, "American Loggers Council and USDA Forest Service Collaborative Efforts for Healthy Forests, Markets, and Logging Industry."

At this point, I suggest you let that rather lengthy title "sink in" for a moment. No, it is not a misprint. This title now represents what every American logger and every Forest Service employee should understand. We are now encouraged and expected to work collaboratively (read: together) to produce healthy forests, healthy timber markets, and a healthy logging industry.

To further underscore what we should all now understand, the MOU has a "Statement of Mutual Benefits and Interests." I will quote a portion of these mutual interests as follows:

"The Forest Service utilizes professional logging contractors and timber haulers through various contracts and agreements to accomplish forest restoration and hazardous fuels treatment projects on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The ALC works to support, as part of its mission, an economically viable, healthy, and sustainable logging workforce with a ready supply of timber and restoration by-products and robust markets to deliver raw materials to. The Forest Service depends on an adequate professional logging/hauling contract workforce to bid on Forest Service timber sales and contracts along with robust markets to deliver material to so that the National Wildfire Crisis Strategy and the goal of acceler-

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ating the pace and scale of forest restoration can be accomplished and sustained into the future.”

The press release that followed the MOU signing quotes Forest Service Chief Moore saying, “Loggers are on the front line every day, contributing directly to the health of the nation’s forests . . . while also creating jobs and strengthening local economies.” And I added to that: “America’s loggers are the “boots on the ground” providing essential wood products while helping to protect and restore our forests to their fullest potential. We cannot do our job without a strong working relationship with the United States Forest Service.”

In the discussions that followed the signing of this MOU, one of the Forest Service officials was inspired to say, “We are a team; we can’t exist without each other.” Well, if we are truly a team, and our goal is “working together for healthy forests, markets, and logging industry” . . . then who are we competing with? My answer: up until recently, there hasn’t been any other team – we’ve been faced off against each other.

Many, if not most, of you are better historians than me, although I find history fascinating and insightful. In my opinion, the best book chronicling the history of American forestry was published back in 1971. Written by Henry Clepper, it is titled, *Professional Forestry in the United States*. No, it doesn’t include the past 50 years, but it does provide a detailed and accurate accounting of the storied events that shaped America’s current forest management policies.

Chapter 1 is aptly titled, “The Plunder of the Pineries,” recalling when loggers and lumbermen operating in the 1800’s were described as, “villains, scoundrels, and thieves.” Chapter 10, titled, “Timber Famine Warnings: Prelude to Regulation,” ushers in the notion that America’s forests would soon be depleted. This concern gave birth to the US Forest Service and two teams. The American timber industry and the Forest Service began to battle in an undeclared war, perpetuated by misunderstanding.

There were cease fires along the way that allowed for progress. America’s wildfire events gave birth to Smokey the Bear, who became the Forest Service symbol for an effective wildfire prevention program, and despite a litany of government regulations, America built a vibrant

timber industry.

But misunderstandings continued to polarize the two sides, prompting Henry Clepper to note that, “to more than one contemporary observer, it appeared strange that, as industrial forestry became better, the attitude of the regulators became more critical.” As the design of logging equipment became more environmentally friendly, more public land was designated as wilderness, near natural, wild and scenic, and roadless. Timber operators are now licensed and take continuing education courses but remain untrustworthy in the eyes of many within an agency I still hear referred to as the “Forest Circus.”

Bottom line, in 2024, even though America’s forests now cover almost 800 million acres, we have become the world’s leading IMPORTER of softwood lumber. We are losing sawmills at the rate of about two per month. Over the past ten years, the Forest Service has lost 40% of its non-firefighting workforce.

It’s time for a reset.

Enter the 2024 ALC/USFS Memorandum of Understanding. This historic and very positive document outlines a path forward to promote the three priorities listed in its title: Healthy Forests, Healthy Markets, and a Healthy Logging Industry. It underscores the following statement made recently by Chief Moore as he addressed the Department of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee: “I can tell you with certainty that if we do not have a vibrant timber industry, we are not going to be able to manage our forests and keep them healthy and resilient.”

Let me say with certainty that the American Loggers Council completely agrees with Chief Moore’s statement, but a final step is required to make the MOU more than 3 holes punched into a binder. It needs to be circulated, read, and understood. Every Regional Forester should brief his/her staff. Every Forest Supervisor and District Ranger should brief their staff and employees. To have teeth, the concepts in this MOU need to be integrated into forest plans and there needs to be accountability showing progress in achieving the stated goals.

Every state logging association needs to share this MOU with their Board of Directors, passing it on to all their membership. The only way this MOU will result in additional acres treated, fires prevented, and more wood

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products for America, is to have it communicated through the Forest Service and the timber industry, thoroughly understood, and transformed from a "Memorandum" into an "Action Plan."

My request to you is that you read the Memorandum of Understanding for yourself. All the main points are discussed in the first 3 ½ pages. It takes ten minutes to read and understand it. If and when we agree with it, the doors of "understanding" and "action" open wider. You can find the MOU at www.amloggers.com: on the menu, go to News & Issues, Latest News, May 2024.

The American Logger - A Legacy of Achievement

www.amloggers.com

Mike Albrecht has a master's degree in forestry from Duke University, is a Registered Professional Forester in California, and has worked for over 45 years in forest management and the forest products industry.

Mike currently serves as president of the American Loggers Council and is a past President of Associated California Loggers and the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference.



Timber Talk

*Your Voice
for South Carolina
Timber Harvesting*

Contact Crad Jaynes at
1-800-371-2240 or
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SCTPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Crad Jaynes, SCTPA President

First, our best wishes are extended to those impacted by the recent storm Helene. Our hope is those in the impact areas of western SC are receiving assistance and getting back to a sense of normalcy.

Helene was a powerful storm hitting Florida, Georgia, western South Carolina and North Carolina and east Tennessee. Here in South Carolina the storm created a lot of rainfall and tornadoes damaging homes, businesses and our forest lands.

At the recent SC Forest Recovery Task Force meeting the SC Forestry Commission's Russell Hu-bright provided a forest and timber damage assessment report. SC Forestry Commission conducted surveys to determine what the extent of the forest and standing timber damage had occurred.

Based on their aerial and on the ground surveys, the total number of acres affected was 232,820 with a timber value loss of \$46,363,053 for eighteen counties. The top five counties impacted were Spartanburg, Edgefield, Pickens, Greenwood and McCormick.

SCTPA contacted several loggers in the storm areas to see how much impact the storm had in their area. Some indicated little, and others indicated much damage. Some could not get back to the woods due to road closures and downed timber on job sites. It appeared to be a matter of location as to the damage that occurred.

SCTPA members Ron Poston, Ronnie L. Poston Logging, Inc., Josh Thompson, Howard Timber Corporation and Steve Smith, Cross Creek Timber, LLC traveled to western North Carolina to aid with moving timber out of roads and providing much needed aid. Thanks guys and thanks to others that may have gone that are not known now.

SCTPA attended the American Loggers Council 30th Annual Meeting in Sonora-Jamestown, California. The meeting attendance was one of the highest if not the highest for the ALC annual meetings.

SC was well represented with Crad and Brenda Jaynes, SCTPA, Bo Bo and Jeanne Seckinger, Jared and Crystal Seckinger, Seckinger Forest Products, Inc. Bob and Cindy Lussier, Great Woods Companies, Nick and Emily Carter, TimberRisk, LLC, Rick Quagliaroli and Sarah Stansel, Swamp Fox Agency, LLC and Donnie and Karen Watts, Palmetto State Insurance Agency, LLC.

The ALC meeting was at the Chicken Ranch Casino Resort in Jamestown, CA. This area is in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, and it was interesting for sure. The foothills are rolling hills of farmland, ranching and cattle and horse farms and no merchantable timber. But go toward the mountains and get up to about 3,000 feet elevation and we saw the "Big Trees." I'm talking about 5 and 6 tree stems to the trailer load. One load Brenda and I saw outside of Columbia, CA was a 3-log load. Wow... Big Timber moving to the Sierra Pacific Industries mills in Sonora and Jamestown.

One of the cool things we saw at the ALC Annual Meeting was the operation of an "operator-less, autonomous, grapple skidder. We went to the Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora and there

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in the rodeo ring, I guess you would call it, the skidder was being run by the operator stationed in his home with computer screens and controls, like playing a video game, outside of San Francisco some 100 miles away. Merritt Jenkins and his company Kodama Systems put the system on the skidder. Kodama Systems is based in Sonora. Really interesting to see it move logs there on the fairgrounds and see what the operator was looking at on his computer screens.

In speaking with loggers from across this country it was a constant reply that loggers across this country are not in good positions. Lost markets have occurred and are occurring now in our country's wood producing areas. I'll have a further article about the ALC Annual Meeting in our next issue.

So where are we now in SC. Again, our small state has received another kick in the teeth. Interfor shuttered the Summerville sawmill which to me was fully expected. Plus, with the announcement by Canfor Southern Pine to go to one shift at their Darlington mill and reduce operating and receiving hours at their Estill mill.

Georgia Pacific announced the change at the Prosperity, SC chip-n-saw mill to stop receiving roundwood and will use the cores from the plywood mill to produce lumber. As for my last information, the mill was still receiving roundwood, but I will say that information was from several weeks ago. Nonetheless, this change will dramatically impact on the loggers, wood suppliers, forest landowners and ancillary businesses throughout the midlands and Piedmont.

SCTPA has been in contact with our SC U.S. Senators' offices requesting their support for the Logger Economic Assistance and Relief Bill, S.4251. This bill would provide "America's Loggers" the opportunity to apply for and receive economic relief if the logging business has suffered economic injury from a natural disaster such as a hurricane just like our state has just witnessed. I would encourage all in SC to contact SC Senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott requesting they support this bill and move it out of the Senate into the U.S. House. Honestly it is my thought that we are dealing with a lame duck Congress due to the upcoming elections. But again, the best support comes from their constituents that vote.

This quarter has been slow for legislative issues due to the SC General Assembly being out for the summer. Another new session will begin next January. We will continue to partner with other associations to push for tort reform to our "out of whack" judicial system here in SC.

I hope everyone will try to attend our 2025 SCTPA Annual Meeting February 21 – 23 at the Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, Tapestry by Hilton. The facility is totally remodeled and upgraded and is one of the finest resorts on the Grand Strand.

I realize and know times are still tough due to lost wood receiving markets and reduced wood receiving amounts by mills. As I have researched and talked to many loggers and wood suppliers it is according to the area of operations. If you have markets, then it is workable. If no or reduced markets, it's extremely tough. But I hope and prayer is that we in SC can persevere and hang in there to have and sustain a viable professional logging force to continue to supply the wood needed to sustain our SC forest products industry.

Brenda and I wish you and your families a Happy, Blessed Thanksgiving and Blessed Holidays and Merry Christmas.

As always, I say... Log On & Truck Safe!

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C 20500

President Biden:

We are writing to formally request that you appeal to the new EU government about the need for a delay of implementation of the EU deforestation regulation (EUDR). Like you, Congress strongly supports efforts to combat deforestation throughout the globe. However, with less than four months left before enforcement of EUDR many questions from U.S. stakeholders remain unanswered. We strongly urge you to request a twenty- four-month delay of implementation and subsequent penalties to ensure that transatlantic trade disruptions are minimized, and sustainable forestry practices are recognized and encouraged.

With less than four months before shipments to the EU must comply with a complex new law, many constituent companies still lack critical clarity from EU officials on specific data requirements, data input systems and formats, and underlying definitions that will affect the entire U.S. forestry supply chain. While we collect and share an immense amount of data and information already, compliance with EUDR will require significant changes in how we collect, share, and report data – something that cannot happen overnight. Following our letter to Ambassador Tai in September 2023, many companies who export to the EU market have been hard at work over the last year trying to figure out how to comply with guidance documents that are incomplete, incompatible with U.S. practices, and confusing. Many stakeholders in the EU are raising similar concerns.

Without more time for implementation, billions of dollars of trade are at stake. Forest product exports from the U.S. to the EU are valued at over \$3.5 billion USD. Without legal certainty that U.S. producers can place products on the EU market according to EUDR compliance requirements, significant trade disruptions will result. The inability to ship to the EU will have cascading negative economic impacts, including devaluing U.S. timberlands, U.S. manufacturing job losses, reduced economic activity with trusted low-risk trading partners, raw material availability issues, and inflationary pressures for EU consumers.

Moreover, the U.S. Forest sector is pivotal to the EU-U.S. trade relationship, supplying key raw materials essential for numerous European industries including construction and paper goods. The U.S. forestry industry is the largest global supplier of specialty pulps for production of diapers and femi-

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nine hygiene products to Europe. Of the 1.6 million tons of fluff pulp used in the EU, 1 million tons come from the U.S. Furthermore, approximately 85% of global fluff pulp production comes from the U.S. Southeast.

A recent USDA assessment that found that U. S. agricultural and timber production is not driving deforestation in the United States: “Over the past 10 years, overall U.S. Forest and cropland area has been stable, with forest area at or near the largest than at any other time in nearly a century.” This is great news, and further proof that sustainable forest practices work. The United States is a global leader in modern sustainable forest management, and we are deeply concerned that well-intentioned regulations from Europe will disincentivize the huge investments U.S. Forest owners have made in the long-term health and sustainability of our forest resources.

We all must work together to effectively address global deforestation. However, failure to immediately address stakeholder questions and concerns could have significant negative economic effects on both producers and customers on both sides of the Atlantic.

It is imperative that you and your administration engage regularly with the European Commission (EC) and European Union (EU) member states through this process to ensure that the U.S. forest and forest products industry, and the 2.5 million Americans livelihoods that depend on it,, are not be harmed by the rushed implementation of a well-intentioned regulation.

Sincerely,

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2025 SCTPA ANNUAL MEETING



SCTPA is excited about our 2025 Annual Meeting to be held **February 21 – 23, 2025 at The Ellie Beach Resort Myrtle Beach, Tapestry by Hilton, 3200 South Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, SC.**

Ellie Beach Resort was formerly the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront. The entire resort has been completely remodeled and upgraded and is now one of the finest resorts on the Grand Strand. The resort has two hotels. One is the DoubleTree Resort, and one is the Tapestry Hotel. Registration, restaurant, bar and all lodging rooms have been remodeled and upgraded.

2024 has been again a very challenging year for the timber harvesting and timber supply segments with the mill closures and reduced wood flows due to market conditions. As we move into 2025, our meeting theme will be ... ***Overcoming Challenges While Trying to Survive!***

Friday's schedule will be a board of directors meeting, afternoon registration and evening welcome reception with food and entertainment. There'll be a DJ and some Karaoke. We'll have our LIVE AUCTION at the Friday Reception.

Saturday General Session speakers will be Rick Todd, President SC Trucking Association, Cam Crawford, President Forestry Association of SC and Josh Sandt, Region Manager Canfor Southern Pine and Forest Resources Association Chairman.

Saturday's luncheon featured speakers will be Montana Logger and Nationally Known speaker Bruce Vincent, Scott Dane, Executive Director American Loggers Council and Rick Quagliaroli, Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast.

Saturday's association business session will feature the association's 2024 financials, Board of Directors elections, any bylaws changes, awards and presenta-

tions. Drawings will be held for a nice rifle and/or shotgun and free stay at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Resort Myrtle Beach Oceanfront. Saturday evening is free to enjoy Myrtle Beach.

We'll have the gospel group Port City Quartet for our Sunday Prayer Breakfast to bless us with their Southern Gospel music and faithful testimony.

Our Silent Auction will be available with a variety of nice items for bidding. The prize drawings, live and silent auctions help the association financially and Log A Load for Kids. We encourage folks to contribute to the Silent Auction and Live Auction.

Exhibitors will be inside the conference center with their products and services. Outside exhibits of equipment, trucks, etc. will be in the parking lots.

Our meeting is a casual family atmosphere. We encourage everyone to bring your family and employees. Dress is business casual. We ask for attire suited for a business meeting is worn.

Registration, exhibitor and sponsorship packages will be mailed and available on the SCTPA website at the end of October.

Go ahead now and block the dates to join us February 21 – 23 for our 2025 Annual Membership Meeting.

Brenda and I look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach.

Best regards,

Crad Jaynes
President



Please Note:

Sponsor / Exhibitor Packages will be mailed separately to Allied Suppliers & Allied Supporters.

An Autonomous Logging Machine Could Make Forestry Safer

Forestry is deadly. Could automating some logging tasks help?

By Susan Cosier, May 14, 2024

The first autonomous logging machine rumbled down a Swedish forest path and scanned for stacked logs to transport. It then scooped them up with a crane and loaded them onto its trailer. A new study of the truck-size robot, called a forwarder, suggests it could help forest workers with at least some deadly jobs.

"It's the first trial for us to see that the machine we built is perhaps capable of doing what we were dreaming it could do," says Pedro La Hera, a roboticist at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and lead author of the study, published in the *Journal of Field Robotics*.

Logging jobs are often demanding, requiring operators to multitask and endure nearly constant vibration while operating logging vehicles. Fatigued foresters don't always pay attention to other foliage in the area, the researchers say, and can damage the ecosystems around them. Logging is also dangerous; in the U.S., it has one of the highest fatality rates of any industry.

Roboticists, software engineers and forestry scholars in Sweden set out to automate some onerous logging tasks. They used GPS to set a path in a clear-cut area and equipped the vehicle with a computer vision system to help it identify, pick up and release cut logs. The predetermined task sequence demonstrates how, in a controlled environment, a machine with little to no human oversight could operate.

"It's definitely an advancement," says Thomas Douglass, a logger who owns Thomas Logging and Forestry in Guilford, Maine. "I, along with other contractors in this area, have problems getting help working in the woods, so I can see why at least making the forwarder an automated process

would be helpful."

For now, these vehicles' use may be limited to Sweden, where nearly all forests are managed for commercial logging, paths are well identified, and satellites provide information on logged areas. Loggers in the U.S., in contrast, harvest trees both in plantations and in natural stands where self-piloted machinery would face more challenges.

Still, the research highlights aspects of autonomous machinery that are worth developing further, says Dalia Abbas, a forester who has investigated the effects of



logging operations in environmentally sensitive areas. Eventually, Abbas says, she "would definitely hope that it takes into account the fuller range of where it's operating, whether it includes wildlife, other contaminants or bugs that come with the logs to avoid any infestations, and its sensitivity to the terrain."

Since the experiments took place, engineers have already improved the machine's maneuvering capabilities. The researchers are also pursuing other autonomous efforts such as planting seedlings. Although logging may always need human oversight, automating certain steps could make the process safer and more efficient, benefiting both workers and the environment, La Hera says.

SUSAN COSIER is a freelance journalist focused on science and the environment. She is based in Chicago. Follow Cosier on Twitter @susancosier



**South Carolina Timber Producers Association
2024 Annual Report
American Loggers Council Annual Meeting
October 4, 2024
Jamestown, California**

By Crad Jaynes, President & CEO

South Carolina's timber harvesting and wood supply sectors continue to have operational and business challenges in 2024. Wet weather due to storms has presented challenges creating wet tracts coupled with continued mill slowdowns and shutdowns.

The recent mill closing of Interfor's sawmill in Summerville, SC and the recently announced reduced operating schedules by Canfor Southern Pine for the Darlington and Estill, SC mills continue to place a strain on available wood receiving markets.

Now Georgia Pacific has announced the Prosperity, SC chip-n-saw mill will discontinue lumbering production from logs while maintaining plywood core sawing operations at the site. This change will not affect the plywood manufacturing plant at the Prosperity, SC location.

In 2023, SC has faced an excess of 3.7 million tons of wood and now that excess is even more tons with the reduction in markets. Loggers, forest landowners and wood suppliers have been impacted heavily by the reduced wood receiving markets.

Pulp, paper and container board mills have continued operating at reduced capacities with reduced wood inventories as mills are producing according to orders on hand. Available sawmill markets have remained somewhat steady depending on the end markets.

SC's loggers have endured longer wood order quota periods due to reduced wood inventories. With the closings and changes, other markets have not been able to absorb the excess, particularly pulpwood.

SC loggers have been hit with high inflation issues, high fuel prices and increased costs for goods and services and logging operations overall. Labor in the woods and the need for truck drivers and contract haulers continues.

Recently a statistic was released the SC logging force had seen an eleven percent drop in employment. Truck liability insurance availability and the high costs continue to hit loggers hard. SC is seeing economic attrition in the logging businesses, but the capacity to produce the needed volumes appears available. It's just the markets are not where they need to be for the end products, particularly for lumber.

The 2024 SC General Assembly did not have legislation impacting timber harvesting and timber trucking. As a member of SC Tort Reform Coalition and SC Supply Chain Defense Council, SCTPA supported the tort reform SC Justice Act. This legislation would have done away with the "search for the deep pocket" in liability lawsuits. The reform bill did not pass during the 2024 legislative session.

A study committee comprised of SC House and Senate members, Governor appointees, insurance representatives and others will look into SC's legal and judicial system as well look at the insurance markets to provide improvements and changes.

SCTPA supported The SC Department of Transportation's increased funding to be directed at bridge improvements and new bridges. SC has over 400 posted bridges throughout the state. This

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impedes the efficient transportation of raw wood products to wood receiving facilities.

SCTPA's 2024 Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC was February 23 – 25 with over 300 folks attending. American Loggers Council's Scott Dane, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company President Bill Dine and Rick Quagliaroli of Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast were featured speakers.

Two new and young board of directors, Ron Poston, Jr., Ronnie L. Poston Logging, Inc. and William "Buddy" Lominick, Jr., Big Pine Logging, Inc. were elected. Board members re-elected were Josh Key, Beech Island Timber & Construction, Inc. and John Rice, Rice Land & Timber, LLC. Griff Wilson, WilRidge Forestry, LLC received the 2023 SCTPA Gene Collins Logger Activist award.

The SC Forest Recovery Task Force was formed in 2024 by SC State Forester Scott Phillips and Forestry Association of SC President Cam Crawford to bring wood supply chain stakeholders together to work to seek additional wood using markets to locate in SC. Also, the Task Force is working with the SC State Ports Authority, SC Commissioner of Agriculture, SC House and Senate members and government officials to establish an Ag Bulk Port in Charleston for the export of raw wood and agricultural products. SCTPA participates on the SC Forest Recovery Task Force trying to assist SC loggers and wood suppliers.

SCTPA has been working with the SC Department of Transportation's Oversize and Overweight office and SC State Transport Police to allow a wider lowboy width to transport larger and wider logging equipment units. Some progress has been made on this issue.

The SC Bulk Agriculture Annual Permit Program through SCDOT continues to provide the opportunity for hauling roundwood and wood chips at 90,000 Pounds GVW on "SC Shielded and Secondary Roads" only, not interstates.

SCTPA continues to partner with the Forestry Association of SC and the SC Forestry Commission for issues related to the timber harvesting and timber transporting segments.

SCTPA continues participation on the Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Logger Training Steering Committee, SFI State Implementation Committee, SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers Tour Steering Committee as well as partner with the Forestry Association of SC and the SC Trucking Association for forestry, timber harvesting and trucking issues. SCTPA participated in the 2024 weeklong SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers Tour in June.

As South Carolina's professional timber harvesters, wood suppliers and timber truckers continue to face challenges, SCTPA will continue to assist timber harvesting and wood supply business professionals meet and exceed the challenges for improved economic, production and market opportunities.

SCTPA is proud to be THE association representing, servicing and advancing the professionals harvesting, supplying and trucking South Carolina's sustainable forest resources.



EU OFFERS TO DELAY CURBS ON FOREST PRODUCTS AFTER AN OUTCRY FROM TRADE PARTNERS

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union on Wednesday, October 2, offered to delay by a year or more the introduction of new rules that would outlaw the sale of products that degrade forests following an outcry from several governments claiming that it will damage trade and hurt small farmers.

The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, said it would delay the rules scheduled to start at the end of this year until Dec. 30, 2025, for large companies and until June 30, 2026, for small companies, if the 27 member countries and the bloc's parliament agree.

The "deforestation regulation" is aimed at preserving forests by only allowing forest-related products that are sustainable and do not involve the degradation of forests. It applies to things like cocoa, coffee, soy, cattle, palm oil, rubber, wood and products made from them.

Critics say it discriminates against countries with forest resources and would hurt their exports, while supporters insist that it will help save forests on a global scale. Deforestation is the second-biggest source of carbon emissions after fossil fuels.

In offering to delay the regulation by a year, the commission said that "several global partners have repeatedly expressed concerns about their state of preparedness" for the rules, most recently during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Officials from leading exporters of affected commodities — including Brazil, Indonesia and the Ivory Coast — fear the regulation could act as a trade barrier, hit small farmers and disrupt supply chains.

But even EU governments, including in Austria and Germany, have also sought to water the regulation down or delay its introduction.

The commission conceded that "the state of preparations amongst stakeholders in Europe is also uneven. While many expect to be ready in time, thanks to intensive preparations, others have expressed concerns."

In addition to offering a delay, it published additional guidance to better clarify the rules for companies and to help national authorities enforce them. The commission encouraged EU member countries and the parliament to endorse the delay by the end of this year.

Greenpeace said that European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has condemned the world's forests to another year of destruction by proposing the delay. It noted a U.N. finding that an area of forest about the size of Portugal - 10 million hectares - is cut down worldwide each year.

"Ursula von der Leyen might as well have wielded the chainsaw herself. People in Europe don't want deforestation products on their supermarket shelves but that's what this delay will give them, for another 12 months," Greenpeace's EU forest policy director Sébastien Risso said.





Fix Our Forests Act Passes Congress

Despite opposition from conservation groups and the Biden Administration, the U.S. House of Representatives in late September approved passage of H.R. 8790, the “Fix Our Forests” Act.

The vote was 268 to 151, with 55 Democrats breaking with the administration to vote in favor of the legislation. Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Representative Scott Peters (D-CA) introduced the bill together. The same duo also co-authored the “Save our Sequoias” Act last year.

In urging their colleagues to support this legislation, Westerman and Peters asserted that the act is aimed at restoring forest health by encouraging active forest management to prevent wildfires and protect communities and by expediting environmental analyses, reducing frivolous lawsuits, and increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration projects.

“This year wildfires already have burned over seven million acres of forests and over 1,000 homes and other structure,” Peters remarked. “After decades of mismanagement and misguided fire suppression tactics, there is scientific consensus on the solution: active forest management.”

Peters added that forest management that could remove much forest fire fuel (dead trees, dry vegetation) are often delayed for years by environmental reviews and litigation. “While we wait for analysis, forests burn down, air pollution worsens, and the threats posed by climate change to our local communities are exacerbated.”

The Fix Our Forests Act, Peters concluded, will “simply and expedite the most critical management projects while maintaining strong environmental standards.”

Earlier this year Westerman introduced the bill by stating, “America’s forests are in jeopardy. Insufficient management driven by bureaucratic red tape and frivolous litigation have turned vast swaths of our federal forests into overgrown and unhealthy timber boxes.”

Among its provisions, the Fix Our Forests Act aims to grant forest management projects faster approvals in areas deemed to be at high risk for wildfires. It also seeks to reduce time frames for judicial reviews around such these projects. Significantly, the bill would exempt these wildfire prevention projects from review by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Support for the bipartisan legislation came from a broad mix, including industry and even some environmental groups. Still, more than 85 environmental groups united in opposition to the bill’s passage. In a joint letter, the bill’s opponents argued that “This legislation purports to be about sound forest management and fire, but it is really about stifling citizen voices, removing science from land management decisions, and legislating a large-scale rollback of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on millions of acres of federal lands. Its sweeping provisions remove scientific review and accountability to benefit the short-term interests of extractive industries.”

The bill now moves to the Democrat-led Senate; if it receives and wins a vote there, it will move to the desk of the President. While it was critical of the legislation, the Biden administration has not vowed to veto it.



SCTPA Comments: This legislation is and has been long overdue. This bill is simply to allow active sustainable forest management to be practiced thus reducing wildfire risks, promoting healthy forests and enhancing the forests to be a part of keeping rural communities healthy.



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That seems to be a common sentiment amongst a number of logging business owners when it comes to considering how they can improve the way they handle a fundamental part of their logging operation: tracking, receiving revenue for, and paying for the loads they produce.

The problem is: often they don't even know their methods are broken until they try another method.

And then they see the **time they were wasting** with their old methods, and **the money they were leaving on the table** from loads that were paid incorrectly, and the **ticket errors** that their old methods never allowed them to catch. I can say these bold comments because our clients have repeatedly made these observations to me over the years— all because they were willing to embrace a new way of doing things.

Sometimes the most positive outcomes in our lives - and our businesses - come from “making improvements” rather than just “making do.” And those improvements allow us to get ahead instead of just get by.

The last time you bought a new machine for the woods, chances are, your old one was probably still working. Yet you embraced the change because you believed a new machine would help you be more productive.

In the same way, doesn't it make sense to consider making a positive change to enhance productivity in the office?

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Georgia-Pacific Modifies Operations at Two Lumber Facilities

By Dakota Smith, September 13, 2024

CAMDEN, Texas — Georgia-Pacific announced that it is modifying lumber operations at two lumber facilities in Camden, Texas, and Prosperity, South Carolina.

Over the next couple of months, these sites will discontinue lumber production from logs while maintaining plywood core sawing operations. The modifications will not have an impact on Georgia-Pacific's plywood facilities located within the same complexes as these lumber operations.

Georgia-Pacific Lumber President Fritz Mason said: "Georgia-Pacific has an excellent workforce at both Camden and Prosperity Lumber, and our employees should be commended for maintaining competitive facilities for many years. However, in the past year we have experienced historically challenging market conditions. As a result, the decision was made to modify our current operations at these two facilities.

Our goal is to effectively run the current lumber operations at Camden and Prosperity to give us time to adequately address employee transfers and potential relocations. After the allotted run time, the sites will only saw plywood cores."



SCTPA Comments: Here is another "kick in the rear" for South Carolina's forest landowners, loggers and wood dealers. Georgia Pacific's Prosperity chip-n-saw mill has been a mainstay wood receiving facility for our SC loggers in the midlands and piedmont areas for forty years. It's going to have a significant economic impact on the areas surrounding the Prosperity mill.



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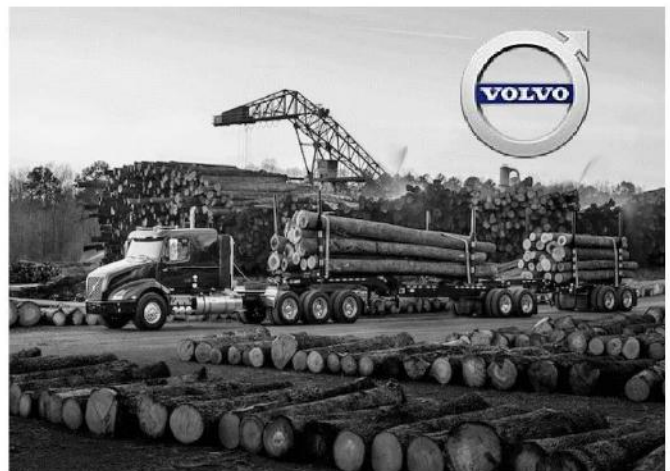


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David Shealy: Office: 803-771-0176 Cell: 803-467-7605

Jonathan Myers: Office: 803-744-3711 Cell: 864-436-0198

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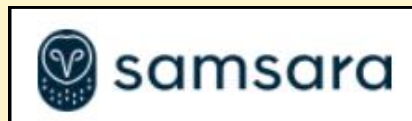
Dash cameras have proven their worth and value in many accidents to where the truck driver was not at fault in an accident. Dash cameras help to avoid the “he said, she said” situations in accidents. And of course, the dash camera can show a driver being at fault in an accident as well. Even if the driver was at fault, having the dash camera could potentially assist in the accident investigation and the outcome.

Our litigious society now with all the screaming predatory plaintiffs’ attorneys are out to get the most out of an accident for lawsuits. So why not try to protect your business and your drivers by installing dash cameras to improve driver and trucking safety, training and perhaps a little more peace of mind.

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Christian Houston-Floyd is the Samsara Account Executive. His direct contact is 470-502-6900 extension 3 or online at christian.houston@samsara.com.

SCTPA is proud to provide this Samsara program as a member benefit and service. It is highly recommended trucks be equipped with GPS and Onboard Cameras regardless of system brand.



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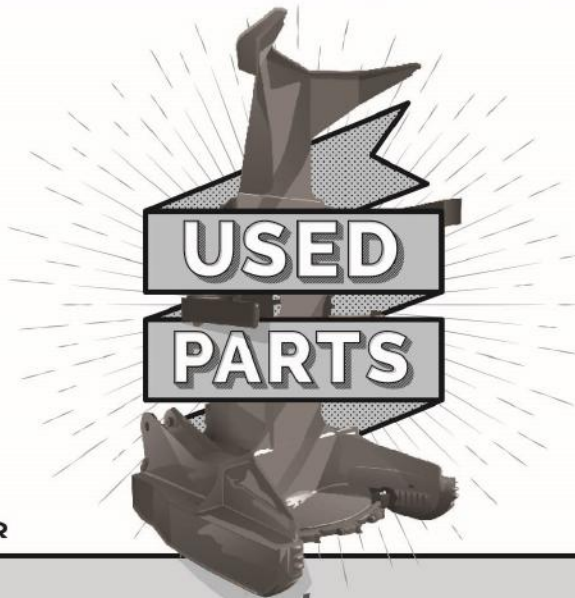
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Team Safe Trucking Driver Safety Training Programs

South Carolina Timber Producers Association is providing your company with **Team Safe Trucking Driver Refresher Training Program**. TST training courses are the most convenient and user-friendly truck driver safety training courses available. They focus specifically on transportation of forest products. Trainees can access TST training courses at any time using a smart device or computer with internet access. A detailed record of completed courses, the training material used for training, the date and time the training was completed, and a training certificate is available for each course completed through the online training management platform. This information can be made available to business owners, insurance companies and logger associations. The convenience of “on-demand” driver safety training will save time and money, allowing more time for productivity while complying with governmental and insurance carrier mandates. These courses can be accessed free of charge. This unique training platform is designed with input from forest products truck drivers, owners, and other experts across the nation.



Team Safe Trucking Driver Safety Training Modules Outline (additional modules available covering various subjects)

The South Carolina Timber Producers Association Educational Sponsor Website

southcarolinatimberassociation-teamsafe.talentlms.com - (31 courses) Driver Refresher Training Program Courses
Group Key: SCTP Association

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The Team Safe Trucking trainings include the following:

Introduction to Team Safe Trucking, Clearances, Driver Condition, Distracted Driving, Driver Qualification, Preventing Rollovers, Vehicle Condition, Speeding

Driver Refresher Training Courses:

Passing and Being Passed, Coupling and Uncoupling, DOT Inspections, Right of Way, Backing, Following Distance, Railroad Crossings, Fatigue, Turns and Curves, Driver Training, Fleet Safety Programs, Breakdowns, Alcohol and Drugs Part 1, Driver Selection, Mill Safety Challenges, Multi-contractors, Entering and Exiting, Mill General Safety, COVID19 & Wood Roads, Alcohol & Drugs Part 2, Maintenance & Vehicle Condition, Accountability, Loading and Unloading, Fall Prevention, Basic Operation, Hours of Service Requirements, Driver Orientation, Fatigue and Wellness Awareness, Control System and Dashboard, Post-Crash Procedures, Pre- and Post-Trip Inspections, External Communications, Basic Control, Whistleblower/Coercion, Shifting and Operating Transmissions, Trip Planning, Backing and Docking, Drugs/Alcohol, Coupling and Uncoupling, Medical Requirements, Safe Operating Procedures, Visual Search, Communication, Distracted Driving, Speed Management, Space Management, Night Operation, Extreme Driving Conditions, Advanced Operating Practices, Hazard Perception, Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies, Railway-Highway Grade Crossings, Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions, Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions Part 1, Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions Part 2, Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions Part 3, Roadside Inspections, Maintenance, Non-Driving Activities, Introduction to Non-Driving Activities Part 1, Introduction to Non-Driving Activities Part 2, Handling and Documenting Cargo, Environmental Compliance Issues

S C Timber Producers Association
Crad Jaynes, SCTPA President & CEO
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601 Carola Ln, Lexington, SC 29072
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After months of hard work, we have launched our new website. Members will now have access to their SLC invoices 24/7 with a member login! Amongst the new features are the "find the nearest station" to my location feature, an approved national tires and parts dealers with location info, fill out an application on-line and other features that will assist in the improved communication with our members. The SLC's founding "Cost-Cutting Mission" continues!



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August 14, 2024

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 200-A
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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

We, the undersigned forestry associations representing forest landowners, loggers, state foresters, and the forest industry, stress the importance of having diverse markets for the full spectrum of forest products including sawlogs, pulpwood and biomass. Collectively, our members manage private forestlands of this nation, sustainably harvest forest products, and are the primary employers in many rural areas.

Having robust opportunities for utilizing forest-based products helps tremendously in keeping forests as forests and ensuring the environmental and economic benefits of this nation's renewable and sustainable forests. Utilizing all products generated from timber management increases efficiency and helps meet the demands of a growing population. It also helps improve forest health, reducing the risk and severity of wildfires, insects, and disease.

Our interest in biomass stems from the understanding that the practice of sustainable forestry depends on diverse and robust markets for forest products – particularly for harvest residues and low-grade or poor-quality materials generated as a by-product of timber harvesting. It also helps to address climate change issues by displacing fossil fuels with biogenic, carbon-beneficial biomass and reducing the incidence of catastrophic wildfires.

Biomass can be an energy source for almost all applications, including:

- Thermal energy – used to heat spaces or for industrial applications, e.g., community buildings, forest product manufacturers facilities, or homes in rural areas
- Electricity – used to provide power to homes and businesses via the utility grid or directly and
- Transportation fuels – used to power cars, trucks, trains, ships, planes and other transport.

Utilizing forest products, including biomass, provides important markets for low-grade wood, often associated with timber sales, and offers a range of benefits, including:

- Local economic benefits – biomass is sourced locally and is processed or consumed near where it is generated, providing significant economic benefits to rural areas;
- Energy security and price stability – biomass is a price-stable energy source, not subject to wild

(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 26)

swings as seen in global markets for commodity fossil fuels. Because it is generated domestically, it provides the user and the nation with a secure, local energy source;

- Forest management opportunities – markets for a full range of forest products support sustainable forest management. By having markets for cull, off-species or off-specification stems, diseased or damaged material, slash, and other low-grade wood, foresters and landowners are able to conduct responsible timber harvesting that supports healthy and productive forests;
- Markets for residuals – When sawmills turn logs into lumber, significant volumes of mill residues – chips, sawdust, and bark – are generated. Having diverse and dispersed markets for this material supports the operation of mills, which provide a critical market for forest landowners. Biomass markets – of all types – can and do support sawmill operations and the critical markets those mills provide;
- Forest industry supply chain – markets for biomass support the landowners, loggers, truckers, and others that grow, harvest, and transport forest products.

We encourage you to continue the USDA Forest Service's support for a full range of forest products supporting a viable forest industry in the rural communities where they operate and take lead in developing markets for biomass generated from actively managing forestlands. This will provide significant economic and environmental benefits while securing and diversifying the country's energy portfolio and supporting healthy, resilient forests for thousands of forest landowners, loggers, and industry workers across this nation.

Thank you.



Tim O'Hara
Interim President

Forest Resources Association

Cc: The Honorable Homer Wilkes, Under Secretary -Natural Resources and Environment Chief Randy Moore, USDA-Forest Service



SCTPA MEMBER BENEFIT & SERVICE



MICHELIN & B. F. GOODRICH TIRE SCTPA MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

SC Timber Producers Association is proud to offer this Member Benefit Program. SCTPA has partnered with Michelin and B. F. Goodrich (BFG) to offer ACTIVE dues paid members the opportunity to save money on tires through this program.

SCTPA President Crad Jaynes said, "SCTPA is pleased and proud to partner with Michelin North America to offer this valuable and cost saving opportunity for our members. Our members are always our first priority and when our association can provide a cost saving program like this, it is a "win" for everyone. I appreciate Michelin partnering with us in this program."

This program is available to ALL active dues paid members in all SCTPA member categories. Members are able to visit any local Michelin dealer. Program requires an application be completed and the use of a credit or debit card.

MEMBER PROCESS FOR SCTPA MICHELIN & BFG TIRE PROGRAM

1. Contact SCTPA to receive active member number, membership period and member status (logger, wood dealer, etc.).
2. Must be an Active Dues Paid SCTPA Member.
3. Interested SCTPA members should reach out to your local Michelin Tire Dealer.
4. Contact Michelin's Sharon Warner, 386-479-1169, email sharon.warner@michelin.com to receive an application. Sharon will ask questions regarding number of tires to be purchased, who pays and how.
5. Sharon Warner will verify active membership with SCTPA's Crad Jaynes.
6. Once application is verified, it will be sent to Michelin for approval.
7. Michelin will provide the customer with a Bill To and Ship To Number. At that time, the member will have to Register their account at **Michelinb2b.com** and upload the member's Credit or Debit Card.
8. Program available to ALL members registered as active dues paid SCTPA members.
9. Program available for Michelin and B.F. Goodrich tires. Tires available are Truck, Light Truck, Passenger Car & Agricultural, Industrial & Off Road Tires & Retreads.
10. Once a member is registered on Michelinb2b.com, member will have access to all their purchase reports and tire pricing.
11. Members can go to any Michelin dealer to purchase tires.
12. Tires cannot be ordered online or shipped to the customer. Must go through a Michelin dealer.

SCTPA is pleased to offer our members this tire discount program on the high quality tire products offered by Michelin Tire and B. F. Goodrich Tires. Should a member have any questions, feel free to contact Sharon Warner or SCTPA.

9-8-23

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Mark Your Calendar

October 2024

- 24 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Hampton Inn Harbison, Columbia, SC.
31 Happy Halloween! BOOOO!

November 2024

- 5 - 8 Forestry Association of SC Annual Meeting, Marriott Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach, SC.
18 Forestry Insurance Company of the Southeast, Shareholders' Meeting, Nashville, TN.
28 Happy Thanksgiving! Eat Mo' Turkey!

December 2024

- 10 SC SFI State Implementation Committee Meeting, SC Forestry Commission Headquarters, 10:00 a.m., Columbia, SC.
12 SCTPA Board of Directors Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Hampton Inn Harbison, Columbia, SC.
24 Christmas Eve... Santa Claus Is Coming to Town!
25 Merry Christmas!
31 New Year's Eve!

January 2025

- 1 Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025!

February 2025

- 21 - 23 SCTPA 2025 Annual Meeting, Ellie Beach Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC.

SCTPA is available to those needing to view the 2024 SFI Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Update Video to continue to be SC SFI Trained for the July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 period. Contact SCTPA and a group live class or individual live class can be arranged.

District Meeting dates are subject to change. Meeting notices will be mailed, posted on SCTPA Facebook page and listed on the website www.scloggers.com prior to scheduled meeting.

Members & Non-Members are encouraged to attend our district meetings to know what the issues are affecting the industry.

Need SFI Trained DVD Class or other training?

SCTPA can provide the New DVD Training Module for SFI Trained status. SCTPA is an approved DVD training class facilitator and will be scheduling classes during the year. Other training programs are available for safety, driver training, equipment lockout & tagout, hazardous materials spill control on logging sites and forestry aesthetics.

Truck Driver Training Workshops will be scheduled. Watch the Mark Your Calendar section of this newsletter for dates.

Notices for SCTPA workshops & events will be forwarded.

Crad Jaynes
President & CEO
SCTPA

PO Box 811, Lexington, SC 29071
800-371-2240 Fax: 803-957-8990
bcjpaw@windstream.net

Kathy Fudge
Communications Director
SCTPA

PO Box 811, Lexington, SC 29071
803-608-3357
khfudge@gmail.com

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*"Serving the Forestry Industry
For Over 35 Years."*



Our Mission

The Mission of the South Carolina Timber Producers Association is to serve as the voice for timber harvesting and allied timber businesses to advance the ability of its members to professionally, ethically, efficiently, safely, environmentally and profitably harvest, produce and transport timber to meet the timber supply demands of our state by providing continuing educational and training opportunities, distributing timber harvesting, hauling, manufacturing and selling information, representing our members in national and statewide legislative activities, and aggressively promoting, supporting and conducting programs of state, regional and national advocacy.