



Timber Times

Partners for Healthy Forests

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President's Message

Hello CTIA and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all! Another year has come and gone and we are all still plugging along! As the economy is going on like a freight train, hope you all are on board and not late to the station. It appears when one thing is going out of control there is another thing holding us back. It seems you may have too many orders and not enough supply of raw material or lacking in qualified employees. There always seems to be a counter balance we are trying to figure out. At least in my world, it does seem to balance out eventually. I believe it is called tenacity, persistence or maybe a never-give-up attitude!

Well I believe those traits describe our new Executive Officer Molly Pitts! If you get to know her you might see what I mean. I am looking forward to working with Molly and Ben Wudtke this coming year on timber issues. Reach out to them, for they are here to help.

Looking forward to the Legislative social come February 6th in Denver, so come and pin your representative down and ask some questions. Hope to see you there. Let us have a good safe productive year!

Dan Casey

The Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA) is an association of small, family-owned businesses committed to logging, processing and performing service work in the forests of Colorado. We are exceptional partners to the public and private stewards of our valuable and beautiful forests. We embrace Best Management Practices (BMPs) and sustainable forestry. To meet these values, we host annual continuing education classes on BMPs and conduct field audits to demonstrate our accountability to high quality, active management designed to promote long term forest health.

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Executive Director's Corner

As most of you know, I have been chosen to act as CTIA's Executive Director following Tom's retirement. I am very excited about this opportunity and am looking forward to working more closely with all of CTIA's members and getting to know you and your businesses even better.

For those of you who don't know me, I live in Salida, CO with my husband Jim and two teenage boys, Colby (age 15) and Caden (age 14). I have a B.S. in Forestry from Northern Arizona University and a M.S. in Natural Resources from Oregon State University. Prior to moving to Colorado in 2012, I was the Executive Director for the Northern Arizona Wood Products Association for 8 years. During that time, I co-chaired the Governor's Forest Health Advisory Board and was heavily involved with the White Mountain Stewardship Contract as we worked to rebuild industry in Northeastern Arizona.

Since moving to Colorado, I have been working as an independent contractor for various organizations including IFA, CTIA, HFHC, the National Forest Foundation, Rio Grande Water Conservation District, and others.

I am passionate about forestry and the responsible use of our national forests, and as the CTIA Executive Director, I look forward to working with the Forest Service and other land management agencies here in Colorado to not only provide jobs and wood supply to CTIA members, but also to get meaningful work done on the ground to protect our communities and forests from catastrophic wildfire and insects and disease. Through the use of safety flyers and Logger Education, my goal is to keep everyone safe! Lastly, I am here to help you. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email.



Colby (left) and Caden (right) as we packed out Colby's elk this past fall.

A Message from Ben Wudtke – IFA’s New Executive Director

As the new Executive Director for the Intermountain Forest Association (IFA), I am absolutely thrilled to have this opportunity and am excited to work towards solutions to issues affecting forest management across the Region. Many readers of the CTIA newsletter may already know me. For those who don't, please allow me to introduce myself a bit here.

For the past five years, Rapid City, SD has been home to my family with wife, Cristina, and our eight-year-old son, Mitchel. During those five years, I worked to find favorable solutions to forest management issues in the Black Hills region as the Programs Manager for the Black Hills Forest Resource Association. My time spent problem solving in the Black Hills has illustrated the importance of looking beyond differences, pulling parties together, and moving toward solutions as a team.

Before moving to Rapid City, I was employed with the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute and Colorado State University (where I received my undergraduate and graduate degrees). Although duties were varied, my principle activities were centered around conducting research across Colorado and continuing research in the Black Hills, along with related analytical work. Other previous employment includes stints with the Forest Service, an outdoor recreation outfitter, and retail management.

Through my work history, time spent backpacking through Wilderness in Colorado, and coaxing my trusty, rusty Ford into backcountry camp sites, I have a familiarity with a broad portion of the forests in Colorado. I have been a witness to the changes throughout the forests of Colorado and vividly recognize that what “we” were doing (or not doing) didn't work. Disturbances are a part of the natural cycle but never to the extent recently experienced. We *can* do better and we *do* have a choice in the scale of disturbances.

I am enthusiastic to continue working with those that already know me, and I look forward to working with new companies, individuals, and agencies toward accomplishing increased forest management to care for our forests.



Appropriations/ NEPA Reform/ Lynx

Appropriations: 2018 has already started out to be a crazy year for appropriations, with a 69-hour government shut down taking place between Friday, January 19th and Monday, January 21st. Fortunately, Congress was able to pass a short-term spending bill that will expire on February 8th. Keep your fingers crossed that they can pass a budget, rather than several more CRs. Additionally, Congress has still not passed a fire-funding fix. Take a few moments and contact your representative and tell them this is a critical issue that must get resolved.

NEPA Reform: The Forest Service is currently taking comments on how best to reform the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CTIA signed-on to a letter prepared by the Federal Forest Resource Coalition (FFRC) that stressed the need for practical steps the Forest Service can take to reduce timelines and speed analysis, while still meeting both the letter and spirit of the Act. As quoted in the letter, “the Agency’s NEPA handbook was last comprehensively revised in 1992, more than 25 years ago. In the intervening quarter century, a litigation driven approach to NEPA has led the Forest Service to engage in exhaustive NEPA analysis, which has restricted the Agency’s ability to eliminate or prevent damage to the environment, which is one of the key purposes of the underlying NEPA Statute. In the intervening years, timber outputs from the National Forests declined from over 5.7 Billion Board Feet (in 1991) to just over 1.5 Billion Board Feet in 2002; a dramatic decline of more than 73 percent. Harvest levels have yet to fully recover to the roughly 6.2 Billion Board Feet called for in current National Forest Plans.”

Lynx: In a win for forest health and management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced in early January that they have determined the Canada lynx no longer need protection under the Endangered Species Act. This comes nearly two decades after a questionable decision to list the species, citing no threats to habitat or the species but a lack of “regulatory mechanisms” in place at the time of the initial decision. Forests throughout the range of the lynx have been suffering from a lack of pre-commercial thinning, timber harvest, and catastrophic wildfires and insect epidemics that accompany inadequate forest management. Although some groups have already said they plan to challenge the decision in court, this is a promising first step to helping fore healthy down the road to recovery.

SAFETY EMAILS

Safety is a *Primary Focus* for the Colorado Timber Industry Association and therefore, each month you will receive a safety email that covers topics relevant to both manufacturing and logging. If you find an interesting article or an OSHA related issue, please let Molly know at coloradopitts@gmail.com and I will be sure to include it the next month.

Let's be smart! Safety First!



IFA Annual Meeting/ Tom's Retirement

December 5th was the annual Intermountain Forest Association meeting with IFA members in preparation for the December 6th meeting with the Forest Service Regional Office and Forests from across Region 2. That evening, IFA members and Forest Service staff celebrated Tom's retirement with drinks and unique gifts. Not surprising, the most popular gifts were 2 stuffed animal lynx, one of which had been adopted from the World Wildlife Fund in Tom's name.

This annual IFA meeting presents a unique opportunity to discuss issues that affect the timber sale program across the region. This year's agenda covered a wide range of topics and included: FY 2018 planned timber programs within the Region, efficiencies from analysis to implementation, Region 2 vegetation management strategy, electronic log books, among other topics.

Region 2 is planning to increase timber volume sold in FY 18 over FY 17. This planned increase is part of an upward trend moving toward, but not yet meeting, the capacity of current forest products companies in the Region. Discussions recognized the need to increase salvage operations while the material is still merchantable and reduce future hazardous fuels. Although the planned timber target does not fully meet the current capacity of forest products companies, it was noted at the meeting that the target for FY 18 is 50 percent higher than the FY 11 target.

In addition to the topics listed above, attendees at the meeting also participated in a break-out session which afforded time to address issues specific to individual Forests and companies. Each break-out group then reported their recommendations and solutions back to the broader assembly. These individual discussions have been well-received by companies, and Forests, as a process to better address the needs of the companies and Forests, alike.

The annual meeting continued constructive meetings with FS staff from across the Region, with the goal of moving toward meeting forest management needs of the National Forests and the supply needs of forest products companies. Looking to 2018 and beyond, the Intermountain Forest Association will continue working with FS staff to build the Region 2 timber sale program and ensure it does not regress to previous levels that produced mill closures and forest conditions that lead to the destructive mountain pine beetle epidemic.



FY 18 Forest Service Targets

Following are Forest-by-Forest timber sale targets to FY 18:

- GMUG – 85,000 ccf
- Medicine Bow Routt – 119,700 ccf
- Rio Grande – 90,700 ccf
- Arapaho Roosevelt – 18,500 ccf
- Pike San Isabel – 15,500 ccf
- San Juan – 42,000 ccf
- White River – 35,000 ccf



Molly will be scheduling individual meetings with the Colorado Forests for late February/Early March to visit with the Forest Supervisors, District Rangers, and timber staff to discuss the FY 18 sale program, progress towards meeting targets, potential issues that could affect the annual sale program and operations, and long-term issues.

America's Forests with Chuck Leavell

On January 24th, a preview event of the Colorado segment of America's Forests with Chuck Leavell was held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Tony Tooke, US Forest Service chief spoke during the VIP reception, as well as Governor Hickenlooper, and Chris Topik from the Nature Conservancy. Following the episode viewing, Chuck Leavell led a fireside chat with Brian Ferebee (R2 Regional Forester), Paige Lewis (The Nature Conservancy) and Jim Neiman (Neiman Enterprises). You can view the Colorado episode at:

<https://vimeo.com/248306293>

A webisode highlighting the Montrose mill and the need for forest management can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/243207679> Password 42dn



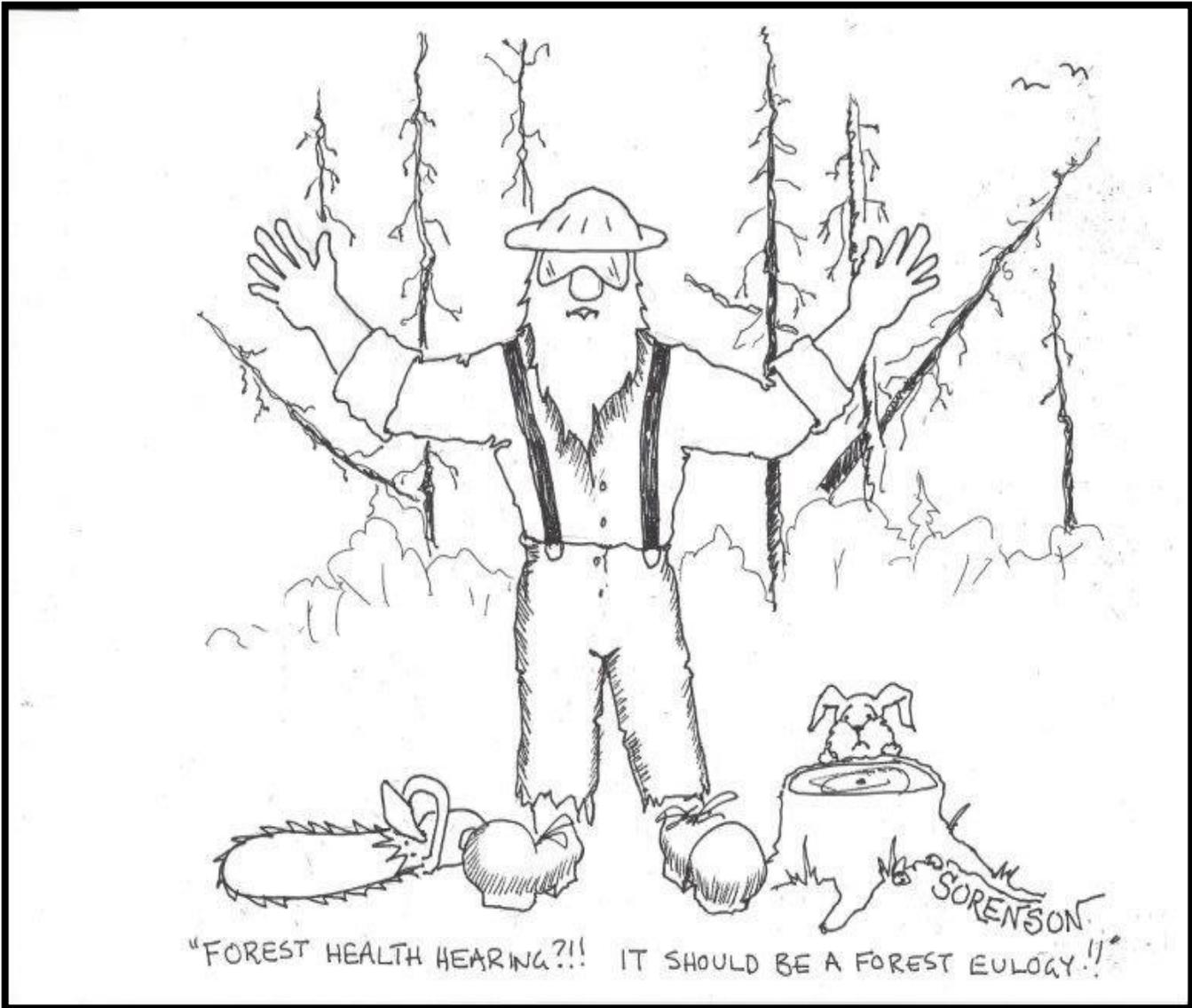
Chief Tony Tooke

Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar and plan on attending the following upcoming events:

- CTIA Legislative Reception will be held on February 6th from 5-7 pm at the City Grill in Denver.
- The Forest Hearing will be held on February 7th at the Capital, upon adjournment (typically around 9:30).
- The CTIA Annual Meeting and Logger Education are scheduled for April 19-20th, 2018 in Ignacio, Colorado. Once again, we are partnering with the CO/WY Society of American Foresters and the Colorado Tree Farmers. Look for registration information soon!
- **Logger of the Year** nominations are due by March 15th! Contact Molly for more information.





Healthy Forests



Healthy Communities

The Colorado Timber Industry Association continues to support the Healthy Forests Healthy Communities coalition because HFHC is a strong partner in bringing attention to natural resource issues in Colorado and throughout the US. To better serve you and CTIA, please let Molly know when local projects get started and when the Forest Service is completing NEPA, so she can help with writing and submitting editorials, comments and Action Alerts. We have to be vocal and stand up for forest management!

For more information:

**GO TO: www.healthyforests.org or
Call Molly Pitts (928) 521-9476**

Member Spotlight Leonard Peeling, Inc.

Leonard Peeling, Inc. is located in Fraser, Colorado and is owned and operated by Rick Leonard, his wife Cindy, and daughter Molly. The business was originally started by Rick's uncle in the 1940s, and at that time, was a primary subcontractor of Copper Industries. Rick and his dad later purchased the business in 1985. Leonard Peeling owns two peelers and utilizes logs from both private and federal land. Since Leonard Peeling does not have a logging operation, they purchase wood directly from loggers. During a good year, Leonard Peeling typically buys 800-1,000 truckloads of tree-length logs a year, which are turned into fence posts that are primarily sold into the agriculture market after being treated by a variety of treatment plants. Peeling waste from the operation is generally sold to Confluence Energy and Renewable fiber, and the log ends are usually sold to the biomass plant in Gypsum. Leonard Peeling has a total of eight employees, not counting Cindy and Molly.

When I asked Rick how long Leonard Peeling has been a CTIA member, he explained that his dad joined CTIA in the early 90s and Rick has continued the involvement with the Association. When I asked Rick why he continued his membership, he simply stated, "CTIA is an important voice in the industry and provides a unifying voice."



2018 Colorado Timber Industry Association Membership Application

Company Name: _____

Your Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

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____ New Member	____ Renewal	____ Mailing List Correction
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Please circle your company's primary business:

Logging	Primary Manufacturing	Secondary Manufacturing	Fuels Mitigation	Log Hauling
TSI Contractor	Road Contractor	Biofuels	Other Forestry Work _____	
SALES OF: Forestry Equip. - Trucks & Truck Equip. - Other _____				

Please circle your membership category:

Forest Products Companies	Associate Membership
Individual Operator	\$75
1-5 employees	\$200
6-15 employees	\$500
16-30 employees	\$1,000
31-49 employees	\$1,500
50+ employees	\$2,400
Maximum annual dues to IFA members \$1,000	
Bronze	\$100
Silver	\$250
Gold	\$500
Platinum	\$1,000

All Members Receive:	Electronic newsletters and periodic updates on forestry news and issues, along with a listing on the CTIA website.
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Advertising Opportunities

	Circle
(Free for Silver, Gold & Platinum) 1"x2½" Ad every Newsletter	\$50
(One booth free for Gold & Platinum) 8'x10' Booth at Annual CTIA Meeting	\$50
(One free for Silver Member) ¼ Page Ad for 1 issue	\$75
(One free for Gold Member) 1/2 Page Ad for 1 issue	\$125
(One free for Platinum Member) Full Page Ad for 1 issue	\$250

Check us out at:

www.coloradotimber.org

Membership Payment \$ _____

Advertising Payment \$ _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

Total Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Mail the completed application along with your check, to:

Colorado Timber Industry Association P.O. Box 32 Delta, CO 81416

Questions? Call Molly Pitts at 928-521-9476 or email coloradopitts@gmail.com



Businesses Supporting the Timber Industry



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Grand Junction, CO 81505
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1150 Oakhurst Drive
Broomfield, CO 80020
970-493-1121

Intermountain Lumber Consulting

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Black Forest, CO 80908
aklewin@aol.com
719-661-4587



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Hotchkiss, CO 81419
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