



# Timber Times

Partners for Healthy Forests

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### 2018 Logger of the Year Shawn Cheeseman CRS Timber Products LLC



Shawn Cheeseman (left), standing with Mike Orndorff (Montrose Forest Products). Mike nominated Shawn for his excellent work and willingness to persevere while working in spruce beetle salvage. Congratulations Shawn!

*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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## *President's Message*

Let me just say that if you were not in Ignacio, Colorado on April 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>, you missed out and you were missed! Yes, it is almost the farthest south in the state you could have traveled, as the Walden folks attested to. It is always good to see the members and non-members at our annual meeting. I will make a plug for membership for those of you have been dancing on the fence whether to join or not - well we are a great group trying to make a difference. It really isn't any different from your daily activities because we all are trying to make a difference in our little worlds.

The Annual Meeting started off with some good information from Dave Dodd on maintenance, financing and advice on our day-to-day operations! All good stuff! The next speaker got all of us squirming in our seats as OSHA was in the House! We had a representative from the Englewood office come down and share some best practices for our industry. The individual was very jovial as we were still unsettled but it was very good with helpful information.

The business meeting was a success! There was great discussion on our finances due to the fact we are in the black, YAHOO! I want to thank all of the members, regular and associate for their commitment to the association. Please continue pursuing new members for having many members help make a statement!

During our end of the day gathering, Bruce Ward presented his latest video that highlighted some of our members. It was a very good video! Way to go Bruce!

On the 20th, we had many worthwhile speakers. My favorite was the panel of industry folks who presented about what they produce and the challenges that are present in their world. There was really good interaction between the panelist and the audience.

Finally, on Saturday, there was a forest tour of some San Juan National Forest treatments and a mill tour in Pagosa Springs at JR Ford's operation. Both were very informative and well attended.

Well, there is always next year! I want to thank Molly for all her hard work planning and organizing the event! Till next time let's be safe doing what we do and I thank all of you.

*Dan Casey*

## Congress Acts on Forest Management By Ben Wudke

We are seldom able to provide an update that highlights action from Congress to address forest management issues. However, there has been recent positive movement in Washington DC and we are hopeful Congress will make further progress in the near future.

For many years the Intermountain Forest Association, along with numerous other industry and conservation partners, has been working hard to move a legislative package that would “fix” the wildfire funding problem in the Forest Service. This has been a long-running problem that significantly disrupts FS budgets and reduces on-the-ground management activities. After hard-fought efforts, a “fix” to the wildfire funding issue was included as part of the omnibus spending package passed in March. Because nothing in DC can be simple, the “fix” isn’t either. For the remainder of FY 18 and in FY 19, an additional \$500 million was appropriated to fund wildfire suppression above the 10-year average. While this is a good start, early forecasts from the FS indicate that amount may not cover all the expected suppression costs this year and may need to “borrow” up to \$300 million additional dollars. The full “fix” takes effect in FY 20 and consists of freezing the 10 year average of suppression costs at the 2015 amount and then accessing disaster funding for actual costs above that average – effectively ending the practice of “borrowing” from within the agency and stopping the effects of an ever increasing suppression average that reduces budgets for other FS programs. This alone is worth a check in the win column.

Additionally, the omnibus included some potentially helpful forest management reform language including a temporary solution to the Cottonwood decision in the Ninth Circuit, changing the Good Neighbor Authority language to allow road reconstruction and maintenance, and changes to stewardship contracts including a new maximum term of *up to* 20 years. Out of the management reforms in the omnibus, the new 3000-acre Categorical Exclusion for hazardous fuels reduction seems to be getting the most press. Although this is another tool available for use by the Forest Service it is not without baggage. Namely, the new CE is tied directly to the 3000-acre Insect and Disease CE in the 2014 Farm Bill and all the caveats that come with it. That includes implementing any projects utilizing the new hazardous fuels CE only in the areas designated under the 2014 Farm Bill for treatment through the I&D CE. Despite being less-than-perfect, we are optimistic this new tool will be beneficial to the FS and allow more acres to be treated.

Looking ahead, Congress has begun working on a 2018 Agriculture and Nutrition act (aka Farm Bill) that we hope will include a strong Forestry Title. An initial version of the Farm Bill has been passed out of the House Ag Committee and covers a sundry of topics from Secure Rural Schools, to the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program. It also includes many, but not all, of the provisions in Representative Westerman’s Resilient Federal Forests Act including numerous 6000-acre CEs to help manage our National Forests. There are plenty more stops along the way to enactment and it is far too early to tell what a final Farm Bill may look like. IFA and others are pushing hard for a strong Forestry Title in the final product. As part of that push, I recently participated in a round table discussion hosted by Sen. Thune to highlight Farm Bill priorities. Senator Thune holds a high rank in the Senate and has introduced a strong forest management bill: The Forest Management Improvement Act.

# FY 18 Forest Service Targets/Accomplishments

Here are updated targets and accomplishments to date:

- **GMUG** – 85,000 ccf target, sold 58,913 ccf - achieved 69%
- **Medicine Bow/Routt** – 119,700 ccf target, sold 22,606 ccf – achieved 19%
- **Rio Grande** – 90,700 ccf target, sold 50,412 ccf – achieved 56%
- **Arapaho-Roosevelt** – 18,500 ccf target, sold 497 ccf – achieved 3%
- **Pike-San Isabel** – 15,500 ccf target, sold 3,667 ccf – achieved 24%
- **San Juan** – 49,000 ccf target, sold 20,228 ccf – achieved 41%
- **White River** – 35,000 ccf target, sold 7,526 ccf – achieved 22%



## 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](mailto:coloradopitts@gmail.com) and I will be sure to include it the next month. **Let's be smart! Safety First!**



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](http://www.healthyforests.org) or  
Call Molly Pitts (928) 521-9476





# Legislative Reception and Forest Hearing

Continuing with the annual tradition, the Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA) once again partnered with the Colorado/ Wyoming Society of American Foresters (SAF), the Mountain States Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association (MSLBMD) and new this year, Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities (HFHC) to hold a Legislative Reception on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the City Grill in Denver. The primary purpose of the Reception is meet with state legislators and their staffers to educate them on important forestry issues within the state. Like always, the event was well attended, even with the Colorado Motor Carriers Association also holding a reception the same night.



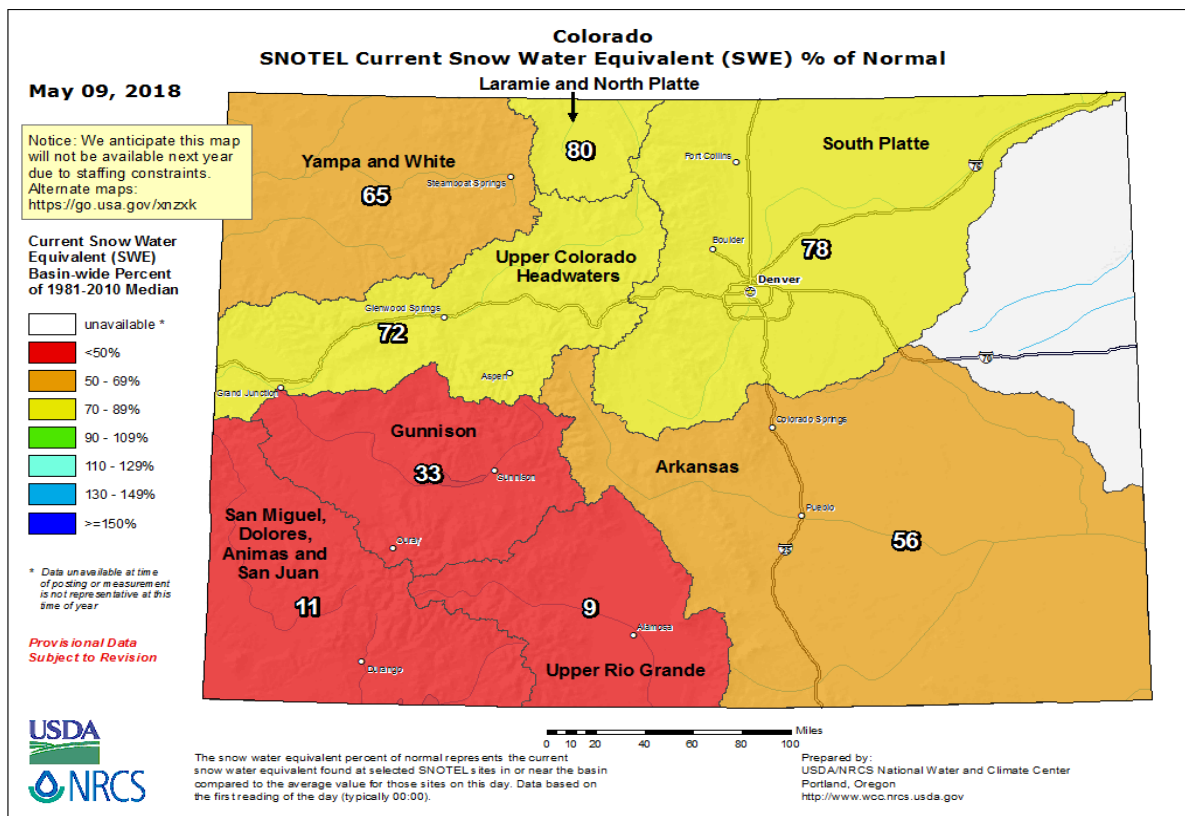
Those testifying included: State Forester Mike Lester (CSFS), Deputy Regional Forester Jacque Buchanan (USFS), Dan Casey (CTIA President), and Lyle Laverty (past Chair of CO/WY Society of American Foresters). CTIA used this opportunity to highlight the following:

- Colorado's forests are in jeopardy, especially with regards to insects and disease and the risk of catastrophic wildfire. To prevent landscape level epidemics, we must focus on actively managing our forests to increase diversity and resilience. It is also crucial that we continue to maximize salvage efforts before the wood deteriorates.
- Annual snowpack across the state is down significantly. We must be taking action now to protect life and property.
- Region 2 of the USFS increased and for the most part, met their timber targets across the state in fiscal year 2017. Dan encouraged further use of the Good Neighbor Authority.
- Dan thanked the legislature for adopting SB 17-050 last year, while also encouraging them to look at other ways of funding the grant program.
- Dan encouraged members of both the House and the Senate to consider passage of SB 18-042 – a bill to create an agriculture and forestry workforce development program that will provide incentives to businesses to hire interns.

# Colorado Snowpack / Wildfire Season

Unlike the winter of 2017, the 2018 winter failed to show up in a lot of places throughout the state. Unfortunately, that means that snowpack is down for almost every watershed, some significantly. Here is the data as of May 9<sup>th</sup>:

- North Platte – 80% of normal
- South Platte – 78% of normal
- Colorado – 72% of normal
- Yampa – 65% of normal
- Arkansas – 56% of normal
- Gunnison – 33% of normal
- San Juan/ Dolores – 11% of normal
- Rio Grande – 9% of normal



Not surprisingly, officials throughout the state are worried about not only water and irrigation, but also the threat of wildfire. Some areas in Southern Colorado have already been designated with drought declarations, making farmers and ranchers eligible for federal aid. According to the Denver Post, this wildfire season could be the worst since 2012 and 2013 - the years of the Black Forest, Waldo Canyon and High Park fires. The state has already experienced some devastating fires including the 117 wildfire that burned 42,795 acres in El Paso and Pueblo County. This early fire season has prompted some counties to enter fire restrictions months earlier than normal.

# Forest Health Advisory Council Update

## May 2018

On behalf of the Forest Health Advisory Council, the Colorado House of Representatives has passed a formal tribute recognizing the importance of forest health to the citizens of Colorado. Introduced Friday, May 4 by Reps. Marc Catlin and Jeni Arndt, the bipartisan tribute emphasizes the need for sound stewardship of the nearly 25 million acres of forestland in Colorado.

The FHAC is very pleased that the Omnibus bill (specifically Division O. regarding Fire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities) that was recently passed by Congress will provide a Federal fix for most of the problems that the United States Forest Service (USFS) has been facing surrounding wildfire budgeting and the erosion of funding in the budget for active forest management programs. These are issues that the Council has been very concerned about and were priorities for finding a comprehensive fix. Thank you to the Colorado legislature for supporting this fix at the Federal level.

Pursuing a long-term solution to reestablishing governmental immunity for State agencies to conduct prescribed burns throughout the State remains a top priority for the Council. The Council promotes the importance of prescribed fire as a tool for State agencies when working on active forest management and promoting healthy forests in Colorado.

In addition, the FHAC will be pursuing working with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to further promote the importance of the critical relationship between forest health and water quantity and quality in Colorado, as Colorado is home to 9 major river basin headwaters. Additional funding for forest health project implementation within the CWCB Projects Bill is something that the Council will be discussing with the CWCB, potentially for the 2019 legislative session.



### Skidder for Sale

1998

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\$30,000

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## Member Spotlight

### West Range Forest Products, LLC

West Range Forest Products (WRFP), CTIA's newest member, is located in Gypsum, Colorado. The company was started in 2012 and according to Tanner Shelley, Operations Manager for WRFP, they specialize in forest management including logging and biomass operations. They work all over the state on federal, state, and private lands and are the current contract holder for the long-term stewardship contract on the White River. Over 90% of the work they do takes place on federal lands.

West Range Forest Products currently has 15 employees and 27 independent contractors that manage 2 full logging sides as well as operate 2 horizontal grinders. They provide over 100,000 tons to Eagle Valley Clean Energy (13 MW biomass plant) and another 40,000-50,000 tons to local mills. They also work closely with the Summit County chipping program, which helps local landowners remove hazardous fuels from their property and provides an outlet for non-merchantable material. When I asked Tanner why they recently chose to join CTIA, he replied, "it is important to be part of Association that can help advocate for the business." He also stated "safety is super important."



Helping fight the 2017  
Peak 2 Fire in  
Breckenridge

Pictured left to right:

Craig Jensen, Tanner  
Shelley, Steve  
Rothamich, and Andrew  
Montoya.



## 2018 Colorado Timber Industry Association Membership Application

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing List Correction

### ***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	Bronze	\$100
6-15 employees	\$500	Silver	\$250
16-30 employees	\$1,000	Gold	\$500
31-49 employees	\$1,500	Platinum	\$1,000
50+ employees	\$2,400		
Maximum annual dues to IFA members \$1,000			

<b>All Members Receive:</b>	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](http://www.coloradotimber.org)

Membership Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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](mailto:coloradopitts@gmail.com)



## Businesses Supporting the Timber Industry



2358 I-70 Frontage Rd.  
Grand Junction, CO 81505  
970-243-7090



PO Box 1598  
Gypsum, CO 81637  
970-524-2401

### Intermountain Lumber Consulting

16645 Bar X Road  
Black Forest, CO 80908  
[aklewin@aol.com](mailto:aklewin@aol.com)  
719-661-4587



### Duckworks Auto Parts

291 E. Bridge Street  
Hotchkiss, CO 81419  
970-872-2580

### MSLBMDA

Dena Cordova-Jack  
9034 E. Easter Pl. Ste. 103  
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