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An Overview of What Green Building Means to Forestry

BY ELAINE ONEIL AND BRUCE LIPPKE

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Bruce Lippke

"Green Building" first took on usage as the catch phrase for a system of sustainable building practices with an emphasis on energy conservation strategies that would substantially reduce the energy use over the life of the building. Subsequently, the definition has expanded greatly so that green building incorporates sustainability across the whole range of issues, from choosing the construction site and the impacts of neighborhood density, to material choices and even to specifics such as what kinds of resins are used in the wood and the relative impact of recycled wood versus local wood. Green building now implies both reduced energy and material use and climate change mitigation. The most forward-looking green building goals are to have net-zero buildings (no emissions) or even having buildings that store/produce more energy than they took to build/operate. Given the breadth of meanings attached to green building, and the likelihood that it is often used imprecisely or with a range of intended meanings, there is a real need for performance metrics based on scientifically verifiable data to support claims of relative greenness.

Performance metrics for evaluating "green"

Life cycle inventory (LCI) provides an accounting of all the inputs that go into making a product including energy and materials. It also quantifies the emissions to air, land, and water. These measurements provide an unbiased assessment of the environmental burden of producing a given product and can serve as scientifically verifiable data to support claims of relative greenness. For wood products, the data are usually provided for a functional unit such as MBF of lumber, metric ton of chips, or ft^2 of panel product. The LCI data are used to develop a life cycle assessment (LCA) of the product by grouping emissions into categories that provide estimates of how much global warming potential, acid rain, smog, ozone depletion, nitrification of water, or other environmental burdens are likely to result from manufacturing. These performance metrics are typically compared across a suite of alternative products to identify relative greenness for a given use.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHAN GOOD

This home in Cannon Beach, Ore., is considered "green" for a variety of reasons. It attained the Earth Advantage's platinum-level green-building certification; FSC-certified lumber was used for the concrete formwork, interior wall framing and roof structure, cabinetry, and incense-cedar columns. Windfallen trees were used for the interior heavy-timber framing, flooring, and stairway. The eco-roof is fire resistant, cuts storm-water runoff, is highly insulated, and should last over 50 years.

What Green Building Means to Forestry

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

Since 1998 the Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM) has been using LCI/LCA research protocols developed in accordance with International Standards Organization (ISO) requirements to quantify the environmental footprint of wood-based products. That research clearly articulates the environmental impacts of the growth, harvest, transport, and manufacturing of the dominant wood-based structural building materials produced in the U.S. today. It provides a set of performance metrics that can be used to quantify the relative greenness of competing wood and non-wood products and also highlights where process improvements can be made to reduce environmental impact.

Integrating performance metrics into a sustainability assessment

In addition to LCI work on specific product manufacturing and use, research has been conducted to link the environmental footprint back to the producing acre. Carbon accounting provides a system's analysis approach that links land-based LCI data to manufacturing LCI data to reveal the impact of production and land management decisions. Manufacturing and production emissions are converted to carbon dioxide equivalents for each stage of production. Wood, whether in a building or standing in the forest, has a well-established carbon equivalent. Foresters understand volume over age curves: carbon accounting is a matter of converting volume to stem, root, and crown biomass and converting biomass to carbon equivalents. In this way carbon accumulations are tracked from the seedling to stand maturity and across successive rotations to get the carbon equivalent in the forest, the wood products that come from that forest, and the energy used per acre of production.

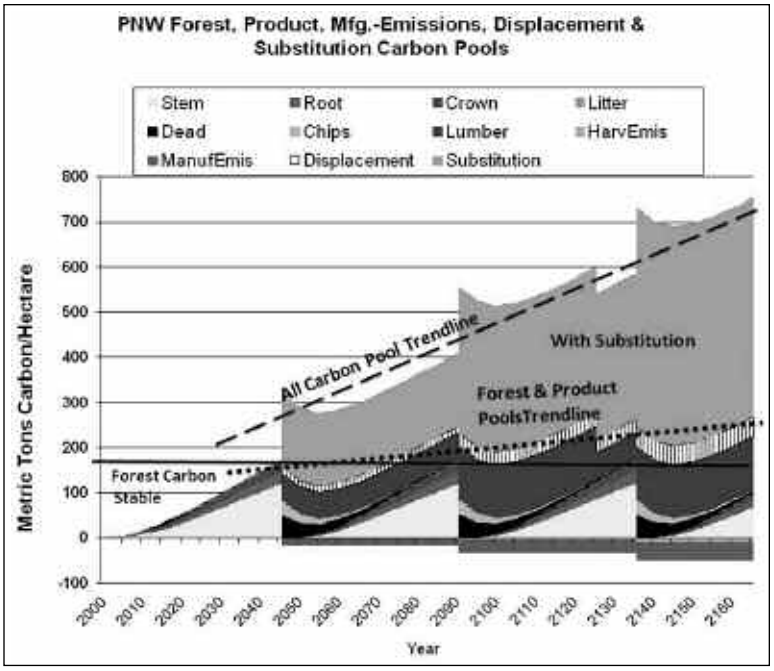

Figure 1. SOURCE: CORRIM

Figure 1 provides the carbon consequences of harvesting an acre of Pacific Northwest Douglas-fir forest managed on a sustained yield basis with products sent to a mill that produces the regional average mix of sawlog and chip products. The sawlogs are converted to solid wood products and they continue to store the carbon they contain (approximately 50 percent by weight) for the life of the product. In this example carbon is stored for 80 years, which is equivalent to the 1/2 life of residential construction. Implicit in this kind of analysis is that the harvested forestland sustainably produces forests and forest products without any reduction in growth capacity. The challenge going forward

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may be in demonstrating that a specific region, ownership, or wood basket is managed for a sustainable flow of carbon, as well as for other metrics that are now measured under various forest certification schemes in order to qualify products coming from that area as green building products.

Research effort has also been directed at understanding the relative environmental impacts of using wood in place of steel or concrete with similar functional roles. On average, CO_2 emissions are reduced by 3.9 tons for every ton of structural wood that is used in place of (substitutes for) competing products, giving a Carbon:Carbon substitution ratio of 2.1:1. Accounting for the substitution impact of using wood in place of high-energy alternatives in a carbon accounting framework links the LCA to the land base for a comprehensive synthesis of environmental impact. The substitution benefit shown in Figure 1 (top half of graph) illustrates that the substantial environmental benefits from using wood are in long-lived applications where they replace high-energy alternatives. Obtaining credits for these benefits in the context of green building or code development will be a major challenge.

Trends

Code development is a significant emerging trend. This autumn the International Code Council (ICC) will vote on an amendment to the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) to include whole building life cycle assessment. The outcome of that vote will determine if life cycle assessments of structural products, including wood products, will be needed for those jurisdictions that adopt the IgCC and pursue the whole building LCA elective for their projects. Other jurisdictions are entertaining legislation requiring LCA in building codes, but none have come to fruition yet. These trends toward quantifying the environmental footprint using LCA metrics means that increasingly producers will be asked to provide information on the life cycle impacts of their products, from cradle to grave.

The trend toward using LCA is generally beneficial to wood producers because the groundwork on LCA data development over the past 15 years supports the benefits of renewable resources. The environmental footprints have largely been shown to be positive relative to other materials. However, the emergence of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) as a marketing tool will require that the data used to derive the environmental footprint is current and reflective of the existing infrastructure and energy usage, so ongoing data updates will be required.

Challenges

Despite the favorable environmental profile of wood products, there are substantial challenges ahead for the forest industry as we move into an era where green building is the norm. The most imminent is the EPA tailoring rule that has been delayed three years while a scientific advisory board (SAB) evaluates the research to understand how best to account for emissions from biomass relative to fossil fuel. While not specific to green building, the outcome of these deliberations will impact the accounting methods applicable for biogenic carbon (burning biomass in place of fossil fuel), which could influence which energy source producers use for drying their products, production costs, carbon accounting protocols, and forest sustainability criteria. Regardless of the outcome, the SAB decision will influence the markets for low-value coproducts such as hogfuel and forest residuals—either increasing demand if biomass burning is shown to be less detrimental than fossil fuels, or reducing demand in the opposite case.

Producing an LCA from cradle to grave entails quantifying impacts from seedling to construction site and beyond through product use and demolition. The first two stages are within the control of the grower and manufacturer, while the in-use stage, recycling, and demolition are outside their ability to control. However, they are not outside their ability to influence through the growth, development, and promotion of products that: a) have a long service life; b) are re-usable; c) are recyclable; or d) can be recovered for their energy value. Recovering wood for its energy value ranks lower than recycling but exceeds land-filling. The length of service life and end of life alternatives have a significant impact on the overall life cycle analysis. Part of the challenge will be to identify where wood's environmental performance is better than competing products, and which alternatives are best. While these issues seem to be outside the realm of the producer they cannot be ignored if forest products are to play a significant role in green buildings.

Life cycle inventory and assessment research has identified wood as an environmentally friendly product when produced from sustainably managed forests. However, its inclusion as a green building product is not certain without the requirement for unbiased, verifiable LCA performance criteria that accounts for total stored carbon less production emissions within consistent system boundaries. Education and policy-related efforts are essential for the green building community to understand the full story from the forest to the buildings and beyond.

In the longer term, the take home message for the forester and land manager is that while growing wood sequesters carbon, growing it faster and using it effectively sequesters even more carbon. Keeping it on the stump meets an eventual carrying capacity limit without contributing to sustainable growth of carbon stores and emission reductions outside the forest. Using it for long-lived products maximizes the carbon benefits; and the longer it can stay in service, and the more times it can be re-used or recycled before it is eventually burned for its energy value, the greater that benefit will be. That condition will hold as long as we keep putting seedlings in the ground and managing the forest for sustainable long-term production. ◆

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Green Building Systems in North America: How Do They Compare?

BY CHRIS KNOWLES AND ARIJIT SINHA

Chris Knowles

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In North America, there are many green building rating systems representing local, regional, and national markets, including LEED, Green Globes, Energy Star, and the National Green Building Standard. Some of these systems focus solely on individual buildings, whereas others focus on neighborhoods and communities. All of these systems have market recognition, and many of them have been developed based on similar principles. Each of these systems has the goal of reducing the environmental impacts of a building over its life cycle. The overall objectives of these green building rating systems include reducing energy use, implementing techniques to save resources and reduce waste, reducing water use and managing wastewater, using more environmentally friendly materials, and improving indoor environmental quality. Although there are multiple green building rating systems in North America, there are clear market leaders with the LEED system being recognized as the major system for non-residential and multifamily residential construction, and the National Green Building Standard being recognized as the major system for residential construction.

There is no shortage of opinions on green building rating systems among those involved in green building markets. While there is significant overlap among these rating systems, the differences between these systems is the topic of debate. One of the most hotly debated differences is the way they provide credit for certified wood products. Below we will discuss the criteria for two of the major green building rating systems for non-residential construction: LEED and Green Globes. A specific focus will be placed on the role of wood in these green building rating systems.

LEED

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system, commonly referred to as LEED, was initially developed by United States Green Building Council (USGBC) in March 2000. The rating system has undergone several revisions since it was initially released with LEED 2009 being the current version. LEED 2009 contains the following specific rating systems: 1) New Construction (NC); 2) Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance; 3) Commercial Interiors; 4) Core and Shell; 5) Retail; 6) Healthcare; 7) Homes; and 8) Neighborhood Development. Each of the rating systems is composed of 100 points, which are divided among these five categories: Sustainable Sites; Water Efficiency; Energy and Atmosphere; Materials and Resources; and Indoor Environmental Quality. Additionally, up to 10 bonus points are possible through innovative design and consideration of regional priorities. The LEED system rates buildings at four levels: certified, silver, gold, and platinum.

Green Globes

The Green Globes rating system was developed in 2000 based on the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). Green Globes operates in both Canada and the U.S. and is operated by the Green Building Initiative (GBI) in the U.S. In 2005 GBI became the first green building organization to be accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a standards developer. The first official Green Globes ANSI standard was issued in 2010. Under this standard, buildings are divided into seven categories: 1) project/environmental management; 2) site; 3) energy; 4) water; 5) resources; 6) emissions; and 7) indoor environment. The Green Globes system has two categories for projects: New Construction and Continual Improvement for Existing Buildings. The Green Globes system rates buildings at four levels, ranging from one to four globes.

The LEED and Green Globes systems have significant overlap, representing approximately 85 percent of their rating systems. For example, both systems provide credit for material harvested, manufactured and/or sourced regionally, or within 500 miles of the job site. This is an important consideration for wood products as most major markets are with 500 miles of forest resources and manufacturing capacity.

There are, however, some significant differences between the two systems. The Green Globes system is often viewed as a more user-friendly system, with a web-based format that requires no special paperwork. The LEED system, by contrast, is more paperwork intensive and has a requirement for LEED consultants throughout the design/build process. The result is that the Green Globes system is often less expensive than the LEED system. However, LEED is much more inclusive of different types of construction and various end uses within the built environment.

Another significant difference between the two systems is that the Green Globes system puts slightly more emphasis on life cycle assessment (LCA) of materials and products for selecting building materials. LCA is increasingly becoming the tool to assess the overall "green" characteristics of a material including embodied energy, environmental performance, and service life of the material. Both LEED and Green Globes do not address LCA adequately. However, Green Globes provides consideration to the entire life cycle of the building material when selecting materials. The LEED system is currently under revision and it is likely that a greater emphasis on life cycle analysis will be incorporated

into the new rating system.

With respect to wood products, both systems provide credit for the use of certified wood. However, one significant difference is that the LEED system only provides credit for wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) while the Green Globes system provides credit for wood certified by FSC, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and the American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

This difference has caused strong reactions from many in the forest industry, which has resulted in LEED evaluating their stance on forest certification on several occasions. Each time this has been brought to a vote of their membership, strong support has been provided for only accepting wood from the Forest Stewardship Council. It is not likely that this stance will change in the near future. The crux of the issue is related to the perception of forest certification schemes. Design professionals generally view FSC as originating from non-governmental environmental groups and the other certification schemes as responses from the forest products industry. As a result, they feel that FSC is the gold standard from an environmental perspective and all other schemes provide lesser environmental protections.

Non-residential construction has always been an important market for wood products. However, the share of wood products in the non-residential construction market has always been fairly low, with steel and concrete dominating this market. The residential construction market, particularly single-family, has consistently been the largest market for structural wood products. While LEED has developed a rating system for homes, the National Green Building Standard has developed into the market leader for residential construction.

National Green Building Standard

The National Green Building Standard was established in 2007 through collaboration from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the International Code Council (ICC). This standard is the first and only residential green building rating system to receive ANSI accreditation. The standard is overseen by the NAHB Research Center. The standard has four threshold levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Emerald. In order to comply with the standard, a minimum number of features must be incorporated in each of the following categories: lot and site development; energy, water, and resource efficiency; indoor environmental quality; homeowner education; and global impact. The National Green Building Standard provides credit for certified wood in a manner similar to Green Globes, providing the opportunity to receive credit for wood certified under multiple certification schemes.

What's next?

In summary, the main challenges in acceptance of wood and wood-based materials in the green building industry are twofold. In the residential sector, wood is the predominant material of choice and is favored in the National Green Building Standard. However, with LEED entering into the residential construction sector, challenges do exist for non-FSC certified wood and wood products. Similarly for nonresidential commercial buildings, with LEED being the market leader, there is no incentive to use non-FSC certified wood in the rating system.

In addition to that, there are two more conventional and popular building materials to compete with, i.e., steel and concrete. In fact, the credit for certified wood is one of the least utilized credits in the LEED rating system. The primary reason for this is that FSC wood is generally more expensive than wood that is not certified. In the construction industry cost is king, so the less expensive option is generally the one that is selected. A secondary reason often given by specifiers is a difficulty in finding FSC certified material when it is needed. Most of the green building standards do not acknowledge the environmental benefits of wood and wood products. These advantages of wood may result in more resource and energy efficient buildings over their life cycle, which is the underlying objective of any green building standard.

While it is not clear what green building rating systems will look like in the future, it is clear that green building rating systems are moving toward performance-based systems. Some evidence of this move is the creation of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC). The IgCC, created by the International Code Council, will become a building code in early 2012, with most jurisdictions adopting it by 2015. It is divided into two parts, with one being similar to LEED or Green Globes, and another part dealing with code and jurisdictional requirements. Material selection in IgCC includes material reuse, recycled content, recyclable materials, bio-based materials, and indigenous materials. Under the bio-based materials, a wide number of wood certification programs are listed, including SFI, FSC, and any system conforming to Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) standards. Moreover, ICC provides third-party verified sustainable attributes of building products, called Validation of Attributes Reports (VAR). The VAR provides a benchmark for the green building standards and codes to refer to while selecting a material. IgCC strives to be the basis of all green building rating systems in the future. USGBC is currently in the process of developing a new LEED rating system that is expected to be released in 2012. The drafts that have been released for public comments show a move toward a more performance-based system. ◆

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Web Resources

For more information on rating systems, visit the following websites.

LEED: www.usgbc.org

Green Globes: www.greenglobes.com

National Green Building Standard: www.nahbgreen.org

International Green Construction Code: www.iccsafe.org

The Good News About Green Building

BY CASSIE PHILLIPS AND EDIE SONNE HALL

Cassie Phillips

Edie Sonne Hall

Green building means structures and processes that are environmentally responsible and resource efficient, taking into account the life cycle of the building and the materials in it. Green building includes design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and demolition.

Weyerhaeuser's commitment to green building begins on the forest floor. Over half of the wood products we produce in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, and Uruguay come from certified forests, and all of the wood we produce in North America comes from responsible sources, using the categories described in ASTM D7612-10, Standard Practice for Categorizing Wood and Wood-Based Products According to their Fiber Sources.

The forests Weyerhaeuser owns or manages in North America are certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) standard, and our forests in Uruguay are certified to standards adopted by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). We buy wood from other forest owners, many of them family forest owners (who make up the majority of wood suppliers in the U.S.) and many of whom are certified to the American Tree Farm System.

The next step toward green building is manufacturing. Weyerhaeuser's lumber, panels, and engineered wood products are all independently certified by the ICC Evaluation Service under its Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation™ (SAVE™) program, and can earn credits under all major green building programs, including:

- the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Green Building Rating System (LEED);
- the Green Building Initiative's ANSI/GBI 01-2010 Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings (GBI);
- ASHRAE 189 Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings (ASHRAE 189); and
- ICC 700 National Green Building Standard, developed by the National Association of Homebuilders and International Code Council (National Green Building Standard).

Weyerhaeuser also understands green buildings because we build them that way ourselves. Quadrant, Weyerhaeuser's homebuilding subsidiary in Washington, was the first homebuilder in the Puget Sound region certified as an Energy Star® builder. Another subsidiary, Pardee, was the first California production home builder to build an entire community to the National Green Building Standard.

Building green with wood is good news for the environment and it's also good business. By encouraging the use of wood, green building standards can help reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Wood outperforms other materials in "embodied energy"—the energy used in manufacturing and transporting construction materials—and it is unique among structural building materials because of its ability to store carbon over the long term. The structure of a wood-framed house can lock up as much or more carbon than the sum of the greenhouse gases emitted during harvesting, transportation, and manufacturing. And, at the end of the building's life, the wood can be reused, recycled, or used to produce energy.

Using wood translates to jobs for mill and forest workers—that's good news for American rural communities. And building green with wood also keeps forestland owners growing trees. Green building standards that recognize the goodness of wood tell forest owners that tomorrow's markets will reward their investments in forestry today. Countries with the lowest rates of deforestation occur in regions with the highest rates of industrial wood harvest and forest product output (www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/37326).

Not all standards understand or promote the benefits of wood. One green building standard, LEED, gives steel and concrete credit for recycled content while giving wood no credit as a material, despite its relative benefits. LEED credits only FSC-certified products, regardless of source, and so puts U.S. wood products at a compet-

PHOTO COURTESY OF GARY DARBY, WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY

Quadrant Homes, one of five homebuilding subsidiaries of Weyerhaeuser Company, builds homes in Washington State. Quadrant customers may have a home "Built Your Way" or may chose from newly-built homes in a number of locations around the Puget Sound.

itive disadvantage because FSC standards are often lower outside the U.S. We have experience in Uruguay, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, China, and eastern Canada where FSC standards reflect the norms for good commercial forestry and FSC certification is commonplace. The source of the conflict around forest certification is not that LEED gives credit for FSC wood from Oregon and Washington, where FSC standards are highly restrictive and have limited uptake, over SFI wood from Oregon and Washington. It's because LEED gives credit for FSC wood from these and other countries over SFI wood from Oregon and Washington, where SFI wood is grown under equal or better environmental standards.

Because FSC standards are different in different places, the general claim inherent in LEED's wood credit—that FSC-certified products, regardless of source, come from better environmental practices than products certified to other standards—can mislead consumers. U.S. advertising law, as reflected in the Federal Trade Commission's Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims, or "Green Guides," requires specific, substantiated claims of both environmental benefits and the basis for comparing products. We have urged the USGBC to redesign the wood credits in LEED by applying the FTC's requirements.

We aren't the only ones to recognize that LEED's wood credit is neither green nor fair. The U.S. Forest Service released a study in October 2011 expressly recognizing that sustainable forest products are produced under all credible standards, including SFI, FSC, and Tree Farm. The study also promoted voluntary, consensus green building standards, ones that are adopted through processes characterized by openness, balance of interests, due process, an appeals process, and consensus decisions. This is already federal government policy, expressed in OMB Circular A-119 and the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-113). Voluntary, consensus processes are also important because they offer some protection—although not immunity—against private liability under U.S. antitrust laws.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CANADIAN WOOD COUNCIL

The University of British Columbia recently constructed a new Earth Systems and Science building on their campus in Vancouver. This beautiful wood building complex includes two- and five-story towers connected by an atrium. The building design incorporates Weyerhaeuser's Trus Joist® TimberStrand® laminated strand lumber panels into a unique floor system that combines wood, concrete and one inch of rigid foam insulation, known as an HBV building system.

The high bar for voluntary, consensus standards is set by those designated by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as American National Standards. The LEED standards are not ANSI-designated, and the USGBC has never used an open, inclusive, consensus-based process to address the wood issue. The USGBC's long-running effort to fix the problems with the wood credit did not meet any of the decision-making requirements in federal policy, and not surprisingly, the problems remain.

Fortunately, both the National Green Building Standard and GBI are American National Standards, developed through the full consensus processes, and ASHRAE 189 is equivalent. These are the standards that government agencies should be using for green building projects. The International Green Construction Code is also being developed through full consensus processes, and once approved, should serve as the model green building code for adoption by states and local governments.

Standards that recognize the benefits of wood for green building are good news for the environment and the economy, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

We'll leave the last word to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack: "Wood should be a major component of American building and energy design. The use of wood provides substantial environmental benefits, provides incentives for private landowners to maintain forestland, and provides a critical source of jobs in rural America." ◆

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Certification and the FSC Landowner and Sawmill Operator

BY LEE JIMERSON

From the perspective of a mid-sized, privately-held forest products manufacturing company that owns forestland, what currently gives us an edge in selling our wood products?

• Something that "separates us from the pack" and reduces our dependence on the commodity markets.

• Something that is sought out by architects, specifiers, and influentials.

• Something that is considered acceptable or even good by most environmental organizations, such as Greenpeace, WWF, and NRDC.

• Something that is recognized by LEED and The Living Building Challenge (think beyond LEED Platinum) as "best-in-class."

• Something that is authentic—certification is the marketing of integrity. When two traditionally diametrically opposed groups, industry and environmental groups, come together and agree on something, that creates credibility, something the market can believe in and support.

"That something" is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for The Collins Companies. We saw the FSC forest certification movement gaining steam in Europe back in the early 1990s. We knew that trends that catch on in Europe normally catch on in North America, albeit usually months, but sometimes decades later (for example, espresso and recycling). We felt we could meet the FSC standards, so we voluntarily sought out third-party FSC certification in 1992. We saw it as a way for our mid-sized forest products company to accentuate our strengths in business ethics and resource management.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLLINS COMPANIES

The LEED Gold Hillsdale Library in Portland, Ore., uses Collins FSC-certified ponderosa pine and white fir. Architect is THA Architecture.

LEED and The Living Building Challenge are green-building programs geared to reward the best (not

just good) products in each given product category. LEED 2012 will begin to address the deficiencies in comparing products across categories, such as comparing a certified wood stud to a recycled steel stud, but this will be a work-in-process over the next few years. Wood will prevail as the most environmentally sound building product and gain importance as life cycle analysis comes of age. The trick for LEED will be to ensure best-in-class wood is still recognized and sought after, while giving more credit to "good" wood (legally harvested and meeting local government standards) in general. The fear is that buildings seeking LEED certification will work to get one point for "good" wood, but won't work to get the extra point to include best-in-class wood. If that becomes the case, then best-in-class wood will be limited to the upper tiers of LEED certification, such as Platinum.

There now is a place for everyone in the forest products industry to "plug-in" to the various green building programs based on their level of commitment, strengths, and challenges—their shade of green. Some green building programs offer "introductory green" that meet minimum green standards. Other programs are "mainstream green," which bring it up a notch. Good wood currently has a firm place in these green building programs. The green building programs that focus on best-in-class, in all products, should continue to provide special recognition for certified wood that meets the highest and most encompassing standards.

Should good wood get more respect in certain green building programs? Yes.

Should wood that comes from forests managed best-in-class for forest and soil health, water, wildlife, social benefit, and timber get even more respect in all green building programs? You bet.

So what does green building mean to forestry going forward? At The Collins Companies, we aim to stay at the forefront of an ever-changing market. Today, it's about forest certification. Tomorrow, it might be about offering (third-party certified) carbon neutral wood, where we have tied our carbon credits back into the wood we sell. We will continue to look at the evolving marketplace and try to provide what the market wants, as long as it fits our business ethics and strengths.

Best practices in forestry will continue to evolve, placing more importance and value on the environmental services that forests provide, such as carbon sequestration. In return, forest products that come from these forests managed under best practices will be the undisputed greenest building product of the future. ◆

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLLINS COMPANIES

A natural working beaver pond is typical of the biodiverse, sustainable practices on the Collins Lakeview Forest in Lakeview, OR.

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U.S. Forest Service Promotes Wood Products as an Environmentally Preferential Building Material

BY BECKY GRAVENMIER, DONNA WIANS, AND CYNTHIA WEST

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In March 2011, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack directed the U.S. Forest Service (FS) to preferentially select wood in new building construction and actively identify opportunities to demonstrate innovative uses of wood as a green building material in all buildings over 10,000 square feet or more using recognized third-party green building standards. FS Chief Tidwell encourages the use of domestically harvested wood products wherever practicable and feasible in all FS buildings over 10,000 square feet, with a goal of increasing the ability to support the use of sustainably grown, domestically produced wood products, including wood from national forests.

A recent FS research life cycle analysis report released last month by the U.S. Forest Service indicates that wood should factor as a primary building material in green building (see http://1.usa.gov/nAWawq). The authors of *Science Supporting the Economic and Environmental Benefits of Using Wood and Wood Products in Green Building Construction* reviewed the scientific literature and found that using wood in building products yields fewer greenhouse gases than using other common materials and demonstrates the environmental benefits of using wood products for new building construction. Wood compares favorably to competing building materials. "This study confirms what many environmental scientists have been saying for years," said Secretary Vilsack. "Wood should be a major component of American building and energy design. The use of wood provides substantial environmental benefits, provides incentives for private landowners to maintain forestland, and provides a critical source of jobs in rural America."

DRAWINGS COURTESY OF USFS

Rendered drawings of Juneau Forestry Sciences Laboratory at Auke Lake.

The research study found that harvesting, transporting, manufacturing, and using wood in lumber and panel products in buildings yields lower air emissions, including greenhouse gases, than resource extraction and manufacturing associated with other traditional building materials. The use of wood products benefit the environment by storing carbon and new forest growth continues to sequester carbon. The FS report also identifies that greater use of life cycle analysis in building codes and standards would benefit the environment. The findings indicate that the use of wood in building construction can have less impact to the environment than some recycled materials currently recognized as a green building material in sustainability standards. The FS encourages recognition of life cycle assessment by the green building certification programs to ensure materials would be assessed based on their true environmental impact.

The FS agency has an impressive 11 LEED certified buildings in 10 states. The Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station is in the process of constructing two new green buildings: a new green laboratory and office building in Juneau, Alaska, and a remodel and addition at their laboratory in Corvallis, Ore. The following case studies highlight the use of wood products in these two new buildings, which are anticipated to meet LEED silver certification.

Case Study: Juneau Forestry Sciences Lab Project

The PNW Research Station just broke ground on construction of a new laboratory and office facility on the west shore of Auke Lake, adjacent to the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, Alaska. The project area is located 10.6 miles northwest of downtown Juneau. The building was carefully designed to be aesthetically pleasing and to minimize the environmental footprint of the building site as the area is mostly forested wetlands. The 11,400 square-foot facility design will complement the existing architec-

ture styles on the adjacent campus, and will be constructed to minimize impacts to the environment. The facility is designed to sit back from the lake and a filter strip of trees will protect views from across the lake.

The use of regional wood and wood products in both the structure and building finishes are featured in the building design. Certified wood is not available in Alaska and would have to be shipped over 1,800 miles from Seattle, Wash. Therefore, yellow cedar wood from the icy straits in Hoonah, Alaska, will be used in construction of the building exterior. The building interior will include the use of all wood stud framing, glulam beams, and engineered wood trusses. The building exterior will also feature two cedar panels carved in local tribal designs to honor the area tribes. The energy-efficient building will utilize a geothermal ground source heat pump that will greatly reduce the operation and maintenance costs for the facility.

Construction of the laboratory has just begun and is expected to be completed in late 2012.

Case Study: Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab Remodel and Addition

The opportunity arose for the Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor's Office to co-locate with the PNW Station Corvallis Forestry Sciences Laboratory when the US Geological Survey decided to vacate the existing building. Funding was acquired to demolish the 1960s, energy-inefficient east wing (17,000 square feet) of the laboratory and replace it with an energy efficient 9,700 square foot two-story building. This reconstruction project will reduce the laboratory footprint by 7,300 square feet, saving maintenance and energy costs.

Although the project is slightly smaller than the 10,000 square feet required for LEED silver certification, the station is constructing the facility with this goal in mind. Station engineers are hopeful that it may be possible to accrue enough points to achieve LEED gold certification due to the high level of reuse of materials, recycled content and renewable materials, the use of certified wood, and optimized energy performance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USFS

The Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab remodel and new addition will be completed in January 2012; it is anticipated it will meet LEED silver certification.

The design for the facility places an emphasis on wood and wood products in both the structure and building finishes. A conscious decision was made to use wood products in the structural design of the building exterior, and wood posts, glulam beams, engineered wood trusses, and wood studs, rather than steel, in the building interior. An effort was made to re-use the existing rare wood veneer finish panels from the east wing for wainscoting in the new building, and to use the existing tongue and groove in wood ceilings for the new space. The existing carved wood doors from the old building have been incorporated into the new wing as wall art. Certified wood products for the project include interior doors, OSB and plywood sheathing, glulam beams and engineered wood trusses, and structural wood columns, as well as studs. Certified clear-stained red cedar from a local source has been used on the building exterior. The building exterior is 60 percent certified wood, 15 percent manufactured stone veneer, and 25 percent energy-efficient windows and Hardie panels.

The project is nearly complete and PNW Research Station and Siuslaw National Forest employees are expected to move into the new wing in late January 2012.

Conclusion

These two case studies suggest that greater flexibility is needed in green building certification processes to acknowledge the environmental benefits of wood as a building material. The use of wood building standards for future FS construction projects may afford an opportunity to acknowledge wood as a preferable building material, and may award more credit for the use of sustainably grown, locally produced wood products. ◆

Becky Gravenmier is a Science coordinator for the PNW Research Station in Portland, Ore. She can be reached at 503-808-2851 or bgravenmier@fs.fed.us. Donna Wians is the station engineer, PNW Research Station, Portland. She can be reached at 503-808-2524 or dwians@fs.fed.us. Cynthia West is director, Resource Use Sciences, Washington Office. She can be reached at 703-605-4195 or cdwest@fs.fed.us.

WoodWorks Expands to Washington and Oregon

BY DWIGHT YOCHIM, RPF

April marked a new beginning for the U.S. WoodWorks program, which seeks to increase the use of wood in non-residential and multi-family buildings. We do this by providing free education, resources and one-on-one project support to architects, engineers, developers, and others, with the goal of helping them design and build wood structures more easily and at less cost.

In April, the WoodWorks pilot came to a close and two independent audits confirmed that significant positive results had been achieved. Most notable was the fact that, as of March 31, WoodWorks field teams were supporting (or had supported) more than 500 building projects valued at more than $128 million in direct increased wood sales to the industry—and the same amount again in indirect sales.

As a result, the board and funders unanimously agreed that WoodWorks should not only be continued, but expanded to the entire Continental U.S. With a plan of phasing in additional states over time, this year's focus is on several new regions—including major markets in Washington and Oregon. The board also approved a new strategy that emphasizes building types and systems with the strongest growth potential, including schools and universities, mid-rise/multi-family, corporate franchises, and building systems such as cross laminated timber, tall walls, and panelized roofs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT TODD

WoodWorks focus areas include mid-rise buildings, schools, and building systems such as cross laminated timber, panelized roofs, and tall walls—all of which are increasing the possibilities for wood construction. The Marselle Condominium in Seattle includes five-and-a-half stories of wood over a concrete podium deck.

Motivating specifiers to choose wood

If I were to poll the readers of this magazine about wood's key benefits, I'm guessing that its value as a green building material would be near the top of the list.

As foresters, we couldn't be more familiar with the fact that wood grows naturally and is renewable, or the central role of sustainability in North American forest practices. Many of us

Online Calculators Show Wood's Cost and Carbon Benefits

Cost Calculator: To demonstrate wood's cost advantages over concrete and steel, WoodWorks recently launched a new cost calculator in partnership with RSMeans. Users simply select a building type and U.S. average or state/city, and the calculator draws on the latest Costworks data to provide a comparison of wood and non-wood materials (aggregate of steel and concrete) for the shell or whole building.

For example, the calculator shows that the shell of an average one-story wood school in the U.S. costs 21 percent less to construct than the shell of a non-wood school. The results also include cost index and price variation of materials—dispelling the myth that wood doesn't perform well when prices are viewed over time.

Carbon Calculator: To demonstrate wood's carbon benefits, this calculator uses the volume of wood in a building to estimate how much carbon the building stores, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions avoided by using wood instead of steel or concrete, and the time it takes North American forests to grow that volume of wood.

Both calculators are available at www.woodworks.org/resources.

are familiar with life cycle assessment (LCA) studies, which consistently show that wood is better for the environment than steel or concrete in terms of embodied energy, air and water pollution, and other impact indicators. Most of us are well versed in wood's carbon benefits—namely that wood products continue to store carbon absorbed during a tree's growing cycle, keeping it out of the atmosphere indefinitely, and that substituting wood for fossil fuel-intensive materials results in "avoided" greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, I'm guessing the majority among us also know that the industry derives more than half of its energy from renewable biomass.

Obviously, wood is an inherently green building material, and WoodWorks does a lot to promote these credentials. However—and this may surprise you—we have discovered, through opinion surveys, focus groups, and extensive interaction with specifiers, that environmental impacts rarely factor into the choice of structural material.

Building owners and designers are much more likely to choose wood because it costs less and is accepted by code for the specific application, or because it's infinitely versatile. Or the fact that wood buildings are faster to erect and adaptable—on the job site, during renovations, and at the end of the structure's useful service life.

WoodWorks approaches project teams with all of these messages, and so far (touch wood) it's working. In the first four months of this year, the program added 37 new building projects to the list, with an estimated value of $22 million in increased wood sales to the industry.

The Washington Forest Protection Association, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and Oregon Business Development Department are working to support our efforts in the region. I hope you'll do the same by visiting the WoodWorks website at www.woodworks.org with an eye to leveraging the resources we provide. Make use of our materials on your own website and with your customers. Consider participating in a Wood Solutions Fair. If you know of a great wood building, nominate it for a Wood Design Award. WoodWorks is a collaborative initiative and we'd welcome your support. ◆

Dwight Yochim, RPF, is the national director of WoodWorks, based in Vancouver, B.C. He can be reached at 604-639-0749, or dwight@woodworks.org.

Upcoming WoodWorks Events

WoodWorks West Wood Design Awards, Deadline for entries, January 13

Portland Wood Solutions Fair, Oregon Convention Center, March 13

Seattle Wood Solutions Fair, Washington State Convention Center, March 15

Council Active Between Meetings

BY CHUCK LORENZ,
BOB ALVERTS, AND LYNN SPRAGUE

As reported in an earlier issue of the *Western Forester*, the Council met in June. Over the summer various Council committees, including Finance and Investments, Strategic Planning, and Executive, have met either by conference call or in person to prepare for the Council meeting at the National Convention in Hawaii. Due to the convention timing, Council will meet for one-and-one-half days, rather than the usual half-day convention meeting.

Stabilizing SAF's financial picture continues to be on the front burner. The new tiered-dues structure is in place for 2012 membership renewals and significant incentive programs are also in place. Included in that package is a new agreement between SAF and American Tree Farm System, "Partnership for Better Forests," providing up to $100 in membership incentives for certifying family forest tree farms. Work continues in the non-dues arena as well. District 2 Council Representative Bob Alverts is playing a major role here.

Recently the *Forestry Source* contained opinion pieces related to how SAF might proceed with respect to engaging the growing number of individuals working in the "broad field of forestry" that might otherwise not consider themselves "foresters." As the Strategic Planning Committee has been working this year, this has been one of their focuses. Those of us in attendance at the Oregon and Washington State SAF's joint annual meeting in Portland heard SAF President Roger Dziengeleski talk about SAF's "Hedgehog Strategy" aimed at identifying and focusing SAF's programs on those things we are the best in the world at, passionate about, and fit within our resources.

National election for SAF vice president and regional elections for new Council Representatives in Districts 1, 4, 7, and 10 will have been completed in November. If your chapter has not yet selected its officers for 2012, now is the time to complete that process. OSAF and WSSAF will hold the Leadership Conference (an annual event since 1975) on January 20-21 at the Monticello Hotel in Longview, Wash. Agenda and registration information can be located on the website at www.forestry.org/leadership or on page 18.

Several Northwest members are being recognized and receiving awards this year:

• Russell T. Graham, Inland Empire SAF member, is the 2011 recipient of the Award in Forest Science for distinguished individual research.

• Steve Strauss, Oregon SAF member, received the Barrington-Moore Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in biological research leading to the advancement of forestry.

• Former Oregon SAF member and currently a member of the Intermountain SAF Darrel Kenops is the recipient of the John A. Beale award.

• Bruno Meyer was named District 2 Presidential Field Forester.

• Individuals elected to SAF Fellow in District 1 and 2 are: Peter Heide, WSSAF; Phillip Anderson and William Berrigan, IESAF; and John Garland, OSAF.

This also serves as a reminder that it is time to begin preparing nominations for national and state society awards including Fellow, district field forester, and a suite of science and leadership awards. ◆

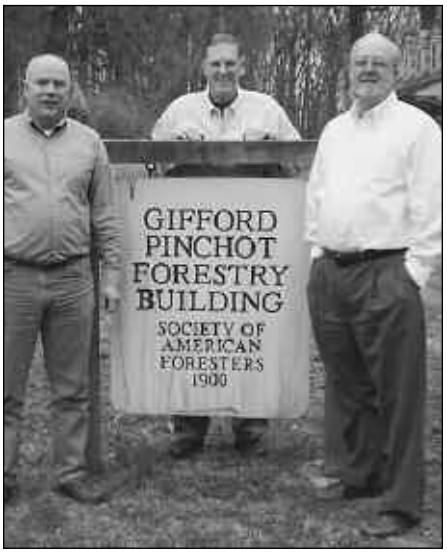

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERNIE HOUGHTON

Left to right: Council representatives Bob Alverts, Lynn Sprague and Chuck Lorenz.

District 1 Council Representative Chuck Lorenz can be reached at 360-951-0117 or c_4str@yahoo.com. District 2 representative Bob Alverts can be reached at 503-639-0405 or balverts@teleport.com. Lynn Sprague, representing District 4, can be reached at 208-761-3492 or GLSprag@aol.com.

Wildlife and Forestry: SAF Chapter Spends an Afternoon in the Woods

BY DOUG RUSHTON

September 30 saw the Central Washington Chapter of SAF touring the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area, focusing on forestry operations. Situated primarily on Manastash Ridge south of Ellensburg, the L.T. Murray is one of Washington's larger wildlife areas and is popular for elk hunting, but also for ATV use, hiking, wildlife viewing, and scenic vistas. A highlight of a winter visit can be watching the elk being fed in the winter at the Joe Watt gate.

Wildlife area manager Shana Winegeart and state wildlife forester Doug Kuehn displayed several areas of forestry operations with a management objective of improving wildlife habitat. An area of particular interest was a partial cut in 2003 where a selected number of high stumps per acre were left for nesting birds. A minimum of 10 feet high, forester Kuehn was pleasantly surprised when his efforts were rewarded with bird use in just one year. Manager Winegeart related to us a main management challenge is dealing with ORVs, where the use has been long-established but in some areas is contrary to management objectives.

It was a nice way to spend a sunny Friday afternoon, and seeing manager Winegeart's and forester Kuehn's obvious enthusiasm and dedication as they told us about their work was inspiring. ◆

Doug Rushton is chair of the SAF Central Washington Chapter. He can be reached at drushton21854@gmail.com.

(left) Stand condition prior to treatment in 2003. In 2004, birds started using the stumps that were purposefully cut high.

(below) Stand conditions after the 2003 cut for 35' x 35' spacing. The result was a lot of undergrowth species beneficial to many forms of wildlife were released. Note high stumps for wildlife.

Department of Fish and Wildlife forester Doug Kuehn, L.T. Murray manager Shana Winegeart, Inland Empire Chair Lloyd McGee, and NRCS' Erin Kreutz examine area treated.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOUG RUSHTON

South Puget Sound Honors Golden Members

BY PAULA KAISER

On Tuesday, August 9 the South Puget Sound Chapter honored their Golden Members with a luncheon at the Poodle Dog restaurant in Fife. In attendance were Stan Humann, Bill Horn, and Dick Pierson, and from the Green River Community College Student Chapter were Ronnie Kipling, Peter McClusky, Ranae Laske, Kimberly McGinnis, Michael Mikel, and Dick Hopkins.

Golden Members in attendance received 50-year SAF pins: Frank Shirley (52 years), Bill Balka (54 years), Wendell Clark (56 years), Robert Witter (56 years), Stanley Blinks (60 years), Pat Cummins (61 years), Norm McDonell (61 years), Jay Gruenfeld (55+ years), and Ben Harrison (50 years). Pat Cummins asked the group to remember a member we lost this past June, Michael Lazara. He passed away in June; he was 91 years old and his wife stated in an email to me that he was an "Avid Forester."

The South Puget Sound members told stories of their times in the woods and why they have stayed members after all these years even after retirement. They gave some good insight to why they stayed members. Frank Shirley told of how he was laid off and lost his first wife within weeks of each other in the 1980s and how SAF was not just a group of foresters, they were friends, and these friends helped him through this tough time and then helped with him working again. His statement was, "there is never an unemployed forester, just a forest consultant." ◆

Paula Kaiser is South Puget Sound Chapter co-chair and Green River Community College forest manager. She can be reached at 253-833-9111 x4367 or pkaiser@greenriver.edu.

SAF Hosts French Foresters on Northwest Silviculture Tour

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELINE DAVID

The French forestry tour included a stop at the 5,477 feet Washington Pass (left to right): AFI Treasurer Roland Burrus, Besancon, France; Professor Max Bruciamacchie, Nancy, France; Si Balch, Brooklin, Maine; Kirk David, Athol, Idaho; and AFI President Roland Susse, Binges, France.

BY KIRK DAVID

During six beautiful, rain-free autumn days in the Northwest, in the spirit of the United Nation's designation of 2011 as the International Year of the Forest, Inland Empire and Washington State SAF members hosted a contingent of French foresters from the Association Futaie Irreguliere (AFI) and Pro-Silva Europa on a tour through Washington and Idaho forests.

The seed for this September 18-23 tour was planted in 2006 when these same French foresters invited a group of American foresters and forest owners to France and Germany to view and comment on AFI's many years of silvicultural research, experiments, and results. Their tour demonstrated implementation of forest management on private ownerships by utilizing seed germination, seedling establishment, and selective logging that favored individual crop trees. AFI originated this effort due to considerable problems with the traditional coppice and standards treatment regulated by their government. Many of the American foresters enjoying AFI's impeccable hospitality agreed that this methodology was quite successfully being prac-

ticed in the United States.

As a result of the trip to Europe, an offer was extended to AFI to view examples of silviculture evident in the U.S. SAF member Si Balch from Maine (and Pro-Silva USA) arranged for AFI members to tour northeastern U.S. deciduous forests in 2008.

The 2011 tour featured examples of forest management in the "conifer capital of the world" under many different management objectives on family forests, industrial properties, and state and federal lands. On the maritime side, the trip included a visit to Washington's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Bryon and Donna Louck's family forest, the University of Washington's Pack Forest, and Green Diamond Resource Company land. Inland stops included a tour of the North Cascade Smokejumper Base, a restoration silviculture project on the Methow Valley Ranger District, silviculture projects on the Sinlahekin and Sherman Creek Wildlife Areas, family forest operations at the K Diamond K Ranch, a tour of the Avista Energy Plant and fuel treatments on their adjacent property, a tour of Vaagen Brothers Lumber mill, a recent Washington Department of Natural Resources timber sale, and a full-day tour of the Forest Service's 100-year-old Priest River Experimental Forest. That evening, at the Inland Empire SAF Annual Meeting, Professor Max Bruciamacchie from Agroparistech-ENGREF University in Nancy, France (where Gifford Pinchot studied forestry), presented a formal explanation of AFI's findings.

Northwest SAF members that planned and conducted the tour included Josh Anderson, Bill Berrigan, Kirk David, Russ Graham, Randall Greggs, Pete Heide, Terrie Jain, Bryon Loucks, Adrian Miller, and Andy Perleberg. ◆

Kirk David is a member of the Selkirk Chapter and serves as an executive councilor for the Inland Empire SAF. He also serves as the executive director of the Idaho Forest Owners Association. He can be reached at 208-262-1371 or kirkdavid@earthlink.net.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DICK REID

Terrie Jain (left) talks research at the Inland Empire annual meeting at Priest Lake Experimental Forest while the French forestry contingent and others look on.

Russ Graham (on ATV) discusses seed issues during the Inland Empire Field tour. Left to right, Ralph Cornwall, Chuck Lorenz, and French foresters.

2012 WSSAF/OSAF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

January 20-21, 2012 – Main Ballroom, The Monticello Hotel, Longview, Washington

All SAF members are invited to participate in the 2012 Leadership Conference to be held at the historic Monticello Hotel in Longview, Wash. The conference will cover a wide range of issues related to leadership. While focused on the Society of American Foresters, the topics are of value to anyone that is active in nonprofit organizations. An array of speakers will cover the topics of general perspectives on leadership, meeting management, fundraising, and financial management. John Barnwell, Assistant Director of Forest Policy at the SAF National Office, will be in attendance. We would like to offer student scholarships to this event, so if you can contribute toward this effort, please see the registration form below. We look forward to seeing you in Longview.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012

9:00 a.m. – Registration Opens
9:30 – Concurrent OSAF and WSSAF Executive Committee Meetings
Noon – Lunch and Welcome – **Tom Hanson**, 2012 WSSAF Chair, and **Norm Michaels**, 2012 OSAF Chair
Luncheon Speaker: **John Barnwell**, Assistant Director, Forest Policy, SAF
1:00 p.m. – SAF Structure and Bylaws – **Bob Alverts**, District 2 Council Representative
1:40 – Parliamentary Procedure – **Mike Cloughesy**, 2011 OSAF Chair and Oregon Forest Resources Institute
2:00 – Chapter Officer Duties – **Tom Hanson**
2:20 – Chapter Finance Procedures – **Chuck Lorenz**, WSSAF Treasurer, and **Steve Cafferata**, OSAF Treasurer
3:00 – SAF Policy Statements – **Harry Bell**, WSSAF Policy Chair and North Olympia Chapter
3:30 – Break
4:00 – What You Need to Know About the SAF Northwest Office – **Lori Rasor**, SAFNWO
4:30 – Becoming a Leader: Shortcuts to Success – **Margot Hanson**, Life Coach
5:30 – No-host Cocktails
6:30 – Dinner and Keynote Speaker U.S. Representative – **Jaime Herrera Buetler** (invited)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012

7:00 a.m. – Breakfast
8:00 – Ethics – **Ann Forest Burns**, American Forest Resources Council, Former WSSAF Chair, Former Council Representative
8:30 – Fundraising – **Mike Mosman**, Vice President, Port Blakely Tree Farms
9:10 – Fundraising Techniques – **John Walkowiak**, District 1 Council Representative Candidate and Former WSSAF Chair
10:00 – Successful Meetings – **Paula Kaiser**, South Puget Sound Co-Chair
10:30 – Effective Chapter Newsletters: A Recipe for Membership Communication Success – **Ted Reiss**, Emerald Chapter Newsletter Editor
11:00 – How to Use the Website – **Adrian Miller**, Website Committee and 2011 WSSAF Chair
11:30 – 2011 National Convention Review – **Adrian Miller**
11:50 – Annual Meeting Updates – **Harry Bell** and **Steve Ricketts**, WSSAF, and OSAF Representative TBA
Noon – OSAF Goals – **Norm Michaels**
12:15 p.m. – WSSAF Goals – **Tom Hanson**
12:30 – Adjourn and group lunch

MEETING LOCATION AND LODGING

The meeting will take place at The Monticello Hotel, 1405 17th Avenue, Longview, WA 98632; 360-425-9900; 877-425-9902; www.themonticello.net; reservations@themonticello.net. A block of rooms at the Monticello Hotel have been reserved at the rate of $67.50 to $76.50 in the motel annex and $162 to $225 in the hotel. Mention the SAF Leadership Conference to receive the reduced rates. Reserve early as the hotel has limited rooms; however, alternative lodging is available nearby. Check the website at www.forestry.org/leadership for a list.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee is $105 and includes lunch and dinner on Friday, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The student rate is $50. There is no late fee, but registration by January 11 is appreciated. Return completed registration and payment information to: SAF Leadership Conference, SAF Northwest Office, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; fax 503-226-2515. Checks should be payable to Washington State SAF. Visa and MasterCard accepted. Questions? Contact Michele at 503-224-8046 or michele@safnwo.org.

SAF CFE HOURS

This program is approved for 10.5 Category 2 SAF CFE credits.

Registration Form – 2012 WSSAF/OSAF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

January 20-21, 2012 — The Monticello Hotel, Longview, Washington

Registration includes all materials and meals (Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday breakfast and lunch)

Name _____ SAF Chapter _____ Email _____

Address _____ City/State/ZIP _____ Day Phone _____

Special dietary needs? _____

$ _____ $105/person regular conference registration

$ _____ $50/person student conference registration

$ _____ Contribution toward student scholarships

$ _____ **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED**

Return form & payment to:
Leadership Conference, SAF Northwest Office, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; 503-224-8046; fax 503-226-2515; michele@safnwo.org

– PLEASE REGISTER BY JANUARY 11, 2012 –

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ **Check** (enclosed) ☐ **Credit Card** (Visa/MC)

Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: _____

Make checks payable to WSSAF

Calendar of Events

Forest Road Drainage, Dec. 8, Vancouver, WA. Contact: WFCA.

Oregon Land Use Law, Dec. 8-9, Portland, OR. Contact: The Seminar Group, 800-574-4852, info@theseminargroup.net.

Fuel Reduction on Steep Slopes, Jan. 10-11, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI.

Mechanized Harvesting, Jan. 18-19, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI.

2012 Oregon/Washington State SAF Leadership Conference, Jan. 20-21, 2012, Longview, WA. Contact: Tom Hanson, 425-820-3420, tom@inforestry.com.

Basic Road Design, Jan. 23-26, Corvallis, OR; March 13-16, Redding, CA; April 10-13, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: FEI.

Forest Stand Dynamics Short Course, Jan. 30-Feb. 3, Pack Forest, Eatonville, WA. Contact: Barbara Ruth, 203-432-5117, barbara.ruth@yale.edu.

11th Annual Foresters' Forum, Feb. 8-10, Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: Jennifer Childers, 208-667-4641, jennifer_childers@ifaconsulting.biz.

Cable Logging, Feb. 21-24, Corvallis, OR; April 16-19, Boise, ID; May 14-17, Cranbrook, B.C. Contact: FEI.

Unit Planning and Layout, Feb. 27-March 1, Corvallis, OR. Contact: FEI.

Pacific Northwest Timberland, April 19-20, Portland, OR. Contact: The Seminar Group, 800-574-4852, info@the-seminargroup.net.

Helicopter Logging, April 20, Boise, ID. Contact: FEI.

OSAF Annual Meeting, April 25-27, Seaside, OR. Contact: Jim Culbert, jhculbert@yahoo.com.

WSSAF Annual Meeting, May 2-4, Port Angeles, WA. Contact: John Walkowiak, 253-320-5064, jewalkowiak@harbornet.com.

SkylineXL 2.1, May 8-9, Covallis, OR. Contact: FEI.

SERNW Beyond Borders: Conference 2012, May 15-18, Victoria, B.C. Contact: Josh Jensen, 360-733-4311, jjensen@anchorqea.com.

Joint Western Mensurationists/ Western Economists Annual Meeting, June 10-12, Newport, OR. Contact: WFCA.

Contact Information

FEI: Forest Engineering Incorporated, 620 SW 4th St., Corvallis, OR 97333, 541-754-7558, office@forestengineer.com, www.forestengineer.com.

WFCA: Western Forestry and Conservation Association, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221, 503-226-4562, richard@westernforestry.org, www.westernforestry.org.

Send calendar items to the editor, *Western Forester,* 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; rasor@safnwo.org.

We Remember

Michael P. Lazara
1920-2011

Michael P. Lazara died at age 91 on June 16, 2011, and was a legend in his own time, especially among the members of his family and close circle of friends. He was bigger than life, a presence in any room he happened to occupy, and always had something interesting to say while not needing much prodding to express it. He loved to give a speech. He left behind a legacy of memories and life stories his family will be incapable of forgetting. It's safe to say that Mike never made an enemy, and he found it easy to make friends. His engaging personality, his precise manner of speech, and his vast life experiences all combined to make him a congenial human being, although he was an intense man.

Mike Lazara was one of two sons of a Sicilian immigrant father and orphaned Irish mother. Born on April 8, 1920, in Washington D.C., he grew up in the Seattle area. In 1943 he married Carol Pierce in Riverton, Wash., after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry at the University of Washington, but immediately went on active duty in the U.S. Army until 1947.

He served as executive officer of a coast artillery ship protecting the mouth of the Columbia River and later was sent to Panama, but regretted not having participated in combat operations. After the war he returned to the UW to earn his Masters of Forestry.

He worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service from 1952-1957 before being appointed director of the Keep Washington Green Association, which sought to prevent forest fires.

Aside from his devotion to his wife Carol and three daughters, Mike's strongest passion was reserved for the private sector. Drawing on a natural ability to invest profitably in undeveloped land, he co-founded Greenacres, Inc, a Seattle-based consulting forestry and resource management company he ran from 1957 to 1980. Greenacres provided professional services to major timber owners and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. During his tenure Mike acquired more than 130,000 acres for clients of Greenacres, which publicly traded, grew to more than 300 shareholders. He formed or acquired 11 different companies.

Mike was frequently honored for his professional contributions: Honored Alumnus Award, U.W. Foresters' Alumni Association, 1977; Fellow, Society of American Foresters, 1992; Golden Membership Award, SAF, 1998. Mike loved to fish, especially with his brother Lowell, and relished his largest salmon trophy, a 63-pound King caught at Rivers Inlet, British Columbia.

He and Carol traveled widely, including a trip to Sicily to search out his ancestry in a small fishing village.

His family plans an Arboreal Memorial and will scatter his ashes in his favorite places: Balaklava Island, B.C., the Columbia River near Vantage, Wash., and Lake Washington near Seward Park, Seattle. Memorial gifts are suggested to Group Health Cooperative, American Red Cross, and the UW School of Forestry—or plant a conifer in his honor.

Peter John Simpson
1948-2011

Peter John Simpson, 62, of Fairbanks, a big man with a giant legend, died on July 24, 2011, from complications from a fall suffered earlier in the month.

Pete was born Dec. 27, 1948, in Arcata, Calif. He grew up around Clear Creek and Westwood, Calif. He graduated from Humboldt State College in 1970 with a degree in forestry management.

After graduation, Uncle Sam needed his services. He spent two years in Germany teaching soldiers to ski at the Armed Forces Recreation Center (ARFC) facility in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Upon returning from Germany in 1976, Pete worked briefly for ABC Television at the Montreal Summer Olympics. Afterward, he traveled "Simpson" style from Montreal to Minnesota via his bike and the bus. Once there, he joined with good friends from Garmisch-Partenkirchen then continued West ending up in the Jackson Hole, Wyo. and Driggs, Idaho areas.

He first made his way to Alaska around 1975 and worked seasonally as a forest warden in 1976 following in his father's forestry footsteps. After moving to Alaska, in 1979 he helped the State Division of Forestry establish a wildland fire program. He was responsible for hiring, training, and supervising firefighters throughout the state. Pete's efforts laid the foundation for the fire program for years to come. He then became the stewardship forester assisting landowners with recommendations for forest improvement and land enhancement.

Taking early retirement from state forestry in 1999, Pete spent this last decade enjoying all the best Alaska and the warmer climates had to offer with the love of his life, DeeDee. He built his house on top of Moose Mountain, taught skiers, carved hunting and skiing trails, and was a successful archer for moose.

He spent every summer fighting fires protecting the wild places of Alaska and Lower 48. In June, he worked as safety officer on the fires close to Fairbanks.

He belonged to the Society of American Foresters, Yukon River Chapter. He helped establish the borough's Heritage Park, promoted Arbor Day, and was active in the Community Forest Council promoting Outdoor Days and the Homer Demonstration Forest. Just for fun, Pete participated in annual forestry contests and consistently won the two-man cross cut competition with long-time friend Pete Buist.

Formerly married, he was the loving father of two children in Fairbanks. He was able to see his son graduate with a civil engineering degree this spring and his daughter is finishing a degree in anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. ◆

Salwasser Leaving as OSU Dean

Hal Salwasser, professor and dean of the College of Forestry at Oregon State University and director of one of the nation's leading programs of forestry education and research, announced September 23 that he will step down from the dean's position at the end of the 2011-12 academic year.

At OSU, Salwasser is also executive dean of the Division of Earth Systems Science and director of the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory. He will remain on the OSU faculty after leaving these positions.

Salwasser, who had a long career in both academia and the U.S. Forest Service, was dean of the college for 12 years. It was a time of significant change in the forest products industry, social and scientific challenges in natural resource management, and growth in educational and research programs.

A search for his replacement will begin soon, university officials said. They also announced that Salwasser will hold a newly created endowed chair during his remaining tenure as dean, the Cheryl Ramberg and Allyn C. Ford Deanship of Forestry.

Under Salwasser's tenure, the college has revamped degree programs to better meet employer needs, raised more than $39 million during the Campaign for OSU, created five faculty endowments, developed new distance education degree programs, and grew enrollment by more than 50 percent. Demand for its graduates is continuing to increase.

The traditional forest products industry has been under enormous pressure in recent years, with mills closing, ownership of forestlands changing, and new products emerging. At OSU, programs in forest engineering and management have been joined by new research initiatives in climate, forest ecosystem protection and renewable material science.

"Going forward, there will be continuing changes in the forest industry, as companies strive to maintain markets and competitiveness," Salwasser said. "The college will have to continually adapt its education, degree and research programs to meet these changing needs. And as state and federal funding for research continues under pressure, we'll have to forge stronger partnerships with industry."

Before joining OSU, Salwasser held many positions in the U.S. Forest Service, culminating as regional forester in the northern Rockies and research station director in California in the 1990s. He is on the board of directors of the World Forestry Center and is a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters. ◆

SAF Provides Input to USGBC on 2012 LEED Ratings Systems

SAF submitted comments to the US Green Building Council on the second public comment versions of the US Green Building Council, Leadership in Energy and Environment (LEED) 2012 Green Building Rating System for Building Design and Construction and LEED for Homes.

The primary focus of the SAF comments was to encourage the US Green Building Council to recognize all forest management certification programs and to urge the US Green Building Council to consider giving more attention to the merits of wood products in LEED Ratings Systems. The comments provided to the US Green Building Council by SAF are available on the SAF website at www.safnet.org/documents/saf_leed_comments.pdf. ◆

Policy Scoreboard

Editor's Note: To keep SAF members informed of state society policy activities, Policy Scoreboard is a regular feature in the Western Forester. *The intent is to provide a brief explanation of the policy activity—you are encouraged to follow up with the listed contact person for detailed information.*

Commercial Harvest Position Targeted for Update. OSAF is updating its position statement on "Commercial Timber Harvest on Public Lands in Oregon," which is scheduled to expire February 1, 2012. This issue remains very timely given extensive forest management needs and costs on federal lands, as well as the fundamental and long-held economic obligations to communities with large areas of nearby state or federal forests. Lawsuits and appeals of commercial harvests also continue to impact both forest management and economic benefits, with some of these cases originating with groups whose goals include complete elimination of commercial harvest from public lands. OSAF Executive Committee approval of an updated position will be sought before the February expiration date. All OSAF members are invited to review the existing statements (www.forestry.org) and pass along any comments to your local chapter officers or the Policy Committee. Contact Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

BLM Projects Evolving; Oregon SAF Weighs In. The "Secretarial Pilot Projects" continue to evolve with the intent of following the Secretary of the Interior's direction to apply "ecological restoration principles" on the Roseburg and Medford BLM Districts, with expectations of helping inform future management of BLM forests in western Oregon. An OSAF Task Force as well as the Coos SAF Chapter submitted comments on two of the local Pilot Projects. The proposed projects give direct attention to legally mandated timber production and the use of regeneration harvests. However, concerns include an unclear landscape context, questionable reforestation methods, and continued avoidance of other key issues, e.g., highly restricted harvest of old/large or riparian trees. As existing trees and stands grow, the cumulative effect of these restrictions would increasingly constrain the agency's ability to meet its mandates under the O&C Act. Contact: Paul Adams, OSAF Policy chair, 541-737-2946; paul.adams@oregonstate.edu.

Support Silviculture Bills. There is currently an effort to reestablish the Clean Water Act point source exemption for silviculture through legislation. The national office has requested the membership to contact their respective congressional delegates in support of the Silviculture Consistency bills S1369 and HR 2541. Talking points can be seen on our WSSAF members only website and comments can be submitted to congressional members at www.opencongress.org/signup.

SRS Debate Shines Light on State Trust Land Management. In September the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (aka "Craig-Wyden") expired. Payments to counties with federal timberlands will be made for the last time in early 2012, unless the SRS is renewed. All the northwest states will be hard pressed to make up the lost revenues that support county roads and public schools. Some members of Congress are intent on renewing SRS, and have support from the U.S. Forest Service, SAF, Western Governors' Association, and other organizations. Other members of Congress prefer to see federal lands producing revenues from the sale of timber and other assets, with a portion of the receipts shared with the counties. Some members of Congress have called for pilot projects to test the idea of managing federal timberlands as trusts, with the counties as trust beneficiaries receiving the proceeds of land and resource management. Your correspondent prepared an issue brief on SRS for Idaho Congressman Raúl Labrador (www.cnrhome.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=120538). Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776, jayo@uidaho.edu.

Idaho Legislature Considers State Trust Land Management. In August the Natural Resources Interim Committee heard two days of testimony on the management of the "endowment trust" assets; i.e., the 2.5 million acres of land valued at approximately $2 billion and the $1+ billion of financial assets from more than a century of managing the lands. The issue is competition between the state and private operators in the commercial real estate business. A bill in the 2012 legislature can be expected. No one questioned the management of state timberlands that produce 85 percent of the returns from trust assets, mostly to benefit public schools. Your correspondent was privileged to begin the hearings by presenting findings from a new report on "Idaho's Endowment Lands: A Matter of Sacred Trust" (2nd edition) [www.cnrhome.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=120529]. Contact: Jay O'Laughlin, IESAF Policy chair, 208-885-5776, jayo@uidaho.edu. ◆

Continuing Forestry Education: An Update for Certified Foresters

BY MICK SEARS

The continuing duty of a Certified Forester (CF) to earn annual continuing forestry education credits for recertification is well known. From time to time, however, I receive inquiries concerning how and who offers continuing forestry education credits (CFEs) and what procedures should be used to inform the National Office of a CF's on-going educational efforts. This article is an effort to update you about these matters and current SAF National Office policies related to the reporting and accounting of educational units.

First, not all educational events provide CFEs. The CFE Handbook (found on the Northwest SAF website, Oregon SAF, Outreach & Education, Certified Forester) describes those activities eligible for credits and the provider's responsibility in getting the event evaluated for credits. The event provider (host/sponsor) must process the event through the state CFE coordinator for the state in which the event will occur, before the event occurs (see sidebar for state CFE contacts). The listing of qualified events appears on the SAF Events Calendar at www.eforester.org/calendar/index.cfm. Events that one might attend, which are not so listed, will not earn education credits. Thus, it is up to all CFs to check the Events Calendar and query the event sponsor if qualified credits are not offered. This checking accomplishes two purposes: 1) The CF will have certain knowledge that the event qualifies for credit; and 2) It helps spread the word to potential event sponsors that SAF recognition and CFEs are a desirable action for them to take.

Second, it is important that the CF signs the sign-in sheet(s) for each event and receives a participation certificate. This certificate is for the CF's files and provides evidence of event attendance if so questioned. Omissions and lost paperwork can and does occur, so these certificates become critical to reconstruct the CF's past educational activities. These sign-in sheets play a critical role in creating the CF's educational record.

The process of "earning" CFE credits is accomplished by attendance at an event, signing the sign-in sheet, and having the event provider send those sheets to the National Office. The National Office will update the member's account. The member's account shows a running total of earned credits and thus will automatically roll over to the next three-year certification period. It takes about five weeks for the SAF National Office to process the credits and post them on the member's records.

The SAF National Office recently switched to a new database and CFs may now view their records online at www.safnet.org/education/continuingeducation.cfm under "Tracking SAF CFE's"—Review your CFE Record. The username is your membership number and the password is the first three letters of the CF or member's name (first letter capitalized) followed by the membership number. Once in the members only section, scroll down to and click on e-classroom, which will take you to the CFE record.

For further information on the process, contact Louise Murgia at murgial@safnet.org. ◆

Mick Sears is the Oregon CFE coordinator. He can be reached at micksrs@yahoo.com.

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THE LASER TECHNOLOGY SURVIVAL GUIDE TO FIELD WORK

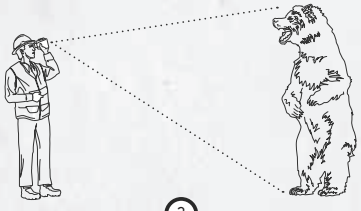
SURVIVING A GRIZZLY BEAR ENCOUNTER

1

Use your TruPulse laser, in distance mode, to see how far away the bear is.

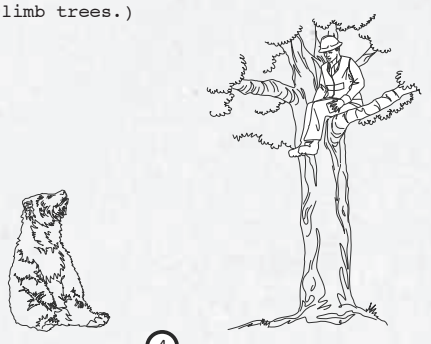
2

From that data, decide if you should run, or if you need to climb a tree. (NOTE: Make sure it's a grizzly. Other bears climb trees.)



3

If you chose to climb, measure the bear's height using your TruPulse's height routine.



4

Climb a tall enough tree and hang out until the bear gets bored and leaves. (NOTE: To pass the time, measure the height of other surrounding trees.)

SOME DAYS IN THE FIELD ARE MORE EXCITING THAN OTHERS. Whether you're out cruising timber or flagging sale boundaries, you're bound to encounter the unexpected. Not to worry though. The power and versatility of LTI lasers let you adapt to ever-changing conditions and situations while still having confidence in the data you log. To explore our complete line of forestry products, visit www.lasertech.com/stories/atterbury . While you're there, share your craziest day in the field, and be registered to win LTI equipment.