

THE VOICE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

TIMBER BULLETIN

DULUTH, MINNESOTA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME 71



**Harvesting Timber
Battling Warm Weather
Feds Finalize Bat Rule**

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TIMBER BULLETIN

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ON THE COVER

Harvesting black spruce this winter was difficult due to warm temperatures. For more, please turn to page 8.

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As I traveled back and forth to the jobsite during January and February, I couldn't help but notice the amount of log trucks moving up and down the highways, which was a big change from the end of December. It never ceases to amaze me how loggers and truckers can rally back from challenging times and conditions.

We all settled into sales we could operate at normal or near normal production levels, and set

President's Column



others aside for more favorable conditions. There was much to do in a short amount of time but if you think about it that's really nothing new for our industry. Considering the volume that gets moved each winter

season it's really quite impressive and a testament to the work ethic of the loggers and truckers who rise to the challenge despite the conditions.

Log safe!

Scott Pittack

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The elephant in the room, or in the woods, is the weather this winter. Spring road restrictions are on in the southern half of the state and we're holding our breath that enough cold will continue to get the rest of the wood out in the northern half. It's nothing we haven't dealt with in the past but it doesn't make things any easier for our members.

No timber sale extension policy is perfect but the DNR has offered extensions which is reported elsewhere

Executive Vice President's Column



in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin* and I'm sure the counties will follow suit. None of the agencies want timber sales returned, they

want their lands managed and the wood harvested to get a new forest growing and to get the money from their stumpage.



A warm welcome to Ben Bagdon who has begun work as Minnesota Forest Industries' new Director, Forest Policy. Ben replaces long-time MFI staffer Tim O'Hara who is now Woodlands Manager at PCA's Boise mill in International Falls. Ben completed his Ph.D. in Forest Science at Northern Arizona University last year. He received his Bachelors in Applied Economics and his Masters in Forest Science from the University of Minnesota. Both Ben and his wife Andrea's parents live in the Twin Cities.



Congratulations to Kathy Willeck who retired in December after 42 years with Stewart-Taylor Printing in Duluth. Who is Kathy you say? There may only be one TPA member who knows. Kathy is one of those people whose name you've never heard of who helps make TPA what it is. She has helped put together every issue of the *Timber Bulletin* for the past 42 years. That's right. Without Kathy you wouldn't have been able to read this magazine all these years.

She's seen a lot of changes in printing during this time. From the "good old days" of producing type on paper film to be pasted on a graphics table, shot by a camera to produce a negative to be stripped together with other articles and pictures and then burned to a metal plate for printing to today's process of laying the *Timber Bulletin* out on a computer, burning it directly to the metal plate and printing the finished product.

So how are we going to be able to continue on without Kathy? We'll be in good hands as her daughter, Laura Paquette, who has worked side-by-side with her for the past dozen years, is taking over our magazine for Stewart-Taylor.

A big Thank You to Kathy for her years of service and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Oh, and who is the one TPA member who knows what Kathy has done? Long-time TPA member Dave Johnson of Albion who is Kathy's brother.



Is working safely easier when you're doing your normal routine or is it easier when you're dealing with something different and have to be more aware of the unusual? It's a "chicken or egg" kind of a question but appropriate for this winter's conditions. Whether you're dealing with the usual or the unusual, make sure you and your crews think about and work safely.



We've completed another round in the multi-round fight over the Northern Long-Eared Bat with

the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's completion of the 4d rule. The substance of this positive decision is reported in detail elsewhere in this issue of the *Timber Bulletin*. The continuing rounds of this fight will include litigation which has been commenced by our opponents, the likely development of a Habitat Conservation Plan to go along with other twists and turns that will come. As we move through the next rounds you can be sure that TPA will be in every round of the fight for our members. It's just who we are as an organization.



It's always about relationships. We were very pleased to once again have officers from the Minnesota State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement operations at the TPA Board of Directors meeting in December. Legal trucks are safe trucks and that is the goal that we share with the Patrol. We appreciate the relationship that TPA has with the Patrol and I know that they appreciate the relationship that they have with us. Regular communication has helped build this relationship, improve safety and keep the most visible portion of our industry working safely and efficiently for all.

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Chad Morrison operates one of six cut-to-length harvesters on this site.

Battling Warm Weather

This winter's higher-than-normal temperatures hindered Minnesota loggers

by Ray Higgins

It's a sight rare in Minnesota logging: Six cut-to-length harvesters, all working on the same 4000-cord site. But that's what Mike Rieger decided to do in January on a spruce job northwest of Nett Lake.

"It's because of the warm weather," Rieger says. "This winter has been a lot warmer than normal, so we're trying to get it done and we're trying to get out."

Rieger isn't the only one. This winter's warmer-than-normal

temperatures are forcing loggers to take unique steps in order to maintain their normal wintertime production. That's particularly true in black spruce swamps, where the lion's share of production is on frozen ground.

"We've cut some spruce," says logger Cliff Shermer of Gheen. "We moved into a sale but we only cut part of it. We even put dual tires on our skidder, which usually helps, but it was still too soft. The further

we got into it, the wetter it got. So we shut down that sale and moved to another one."

Other loggers are deciding not to work in spruce swamps at all.

"We have one spruce sale this winter and we didn't even go into it," Effie logger Corey Lovdahl says. "The ground isn't anywhere near frozen enough. Half the high ground around here isn't frozen, either."

It's affecting the ability to economically haul the wood to the



Rieger's crew built several skid trails like this one, using tamarack to fortify the road, then built trails off either side to access the black spruce.

mill, too. MnDOT allows truckers to carry more weight during the winter months because frozen ground adds support to our state's roads. But MnDOT delayed "winter weights" this year due to the unseasonably warmer temps. For example, "winter weights" are usually implemented in early December. A year ago, it was cold enough for increased weights before Thanksgiving. However this winter wasn't cold enough until January.

Nowhere do warmer temps present a bigger problem for loggers than in spruce swamps. Black spruce grows in more saturated soil, and these swamps and bogs require a deep freeze in order to support logging equipment, not to mention proper road building. Once this winter's colder conditions finally did arrive in January, time was of the essence to get roads built, and get the wood harvested and hauled out.

For Rieger, he had more than one spruce sale to choose from, but he knew conditions wouldn't allow his crews to get to all of them.

"This is the kind of year where you pick and choose," he says. "This one wasn't easy to get into, by any means, but it was a better chance than the others. We got the cats in, and this one is the one we picked to try to get some spruce cut."

The permit holder for this site

is actually UPM Blandin, which secured Rieger to handle the harvest. It sits roughly five miles from the blacktop, and it required a lot of work to get the roads ready to support hauling 4000 cords in warmer conditions. It helped that roads had already been built at this site from previous harvests. That allowed them to get in early with snowmobiles, ATVs, and dozers to try to drive frost into the ground and firm things up.

"Economically, five miles of road to freeze down is a lot of work," Rieger says. "For Blandin, they had another spruce sale they'd planned to cut, but it's been too warm for that, so this replaces that volume. Even this is an alternate route. We ran into beaver problems on the shortest route, but luckily we found another route into it with less water."

At this point in the process, harvesting operations have begun.

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Harvested black spruce on the landing before it's hauled to the mill

Six cut-to-length harvesters on one site is more than Rieger has ever put on one job, and few logging companies have the wherewithal to put that much equipment in one place at one time.

"We had a dozer in here making six different passes to drive the frost into the ground," says Blandin forester Adam Sutherland. "We've had snowmobiles and ATVs running up and down the roads, too. But until we started hauling, the roads had never been tested. That's the

first thing we had to try. If the first truck had punched through, we'd have been in trouble."

Sutherland was confident the roads would hold. When he looked around the site he saw birch growing amongst the spruce.

"That's an indicator of a little bit drier site," he says, "that it's not super deep peat. Maybe an indicator that there won't be major issues, and less chance of breaking through. In a normal winter, trucks would never break through."

If the road hadn't held, they could have utilized pipeline mats, timber mats, or portable bridges. All of that makes the job more complicated, more time-consuming, and more costly.

"We'll do those things if we have to, but we'd like to avoid that," Sutherland says. "It's 125 miles to the mill and the stumpage was expensive. We don't need more expense. We could have waited for the road to freeze, but in a year like this, I we didn't think it would."

Rieger and Sutherland watched the weather forecasts closely. When harvesting operations started late January, highs were in the 20s, and lows at night were down in the single digits above zero. The forecast for the following week looked cooler, around zero at night, but from there, the extended forecast was predicting daytime highs in the 30s. So they figured they'd better get started. While conditions weren't optimal, they feared they'd be as good as they'd get, especially for working in spruce.

"Time is of the essence," Rieger said when harvesting began. "We spent a lot of time and energy on the road, and we don't know how long these conditions are going to last. So we're going to go in there with a lot of machines and try to get it done in two or three weeks."

The wood on this site is worth it. Winter is the best time—really the only time—to harvest spruce. And it's hard to find spruce this dense and of high quality. The site runs 30 to 40 cords per acre, which is rare around here. Twenty cords per acre is considered average.

"Each processor should be averaging 50 cords per day," Sutherland says. "That's 300 cords altogether per day, and more than thirty truckloads a day. So we think we can get 4000 cords out in three weeks on this site, versus four or five weeks."

Once harvesting operations were underway, Sutherland and Rieger's crew had a chance to test the conditions. Just building the skid trail was a major project. Sutherland reached down into the ground and pulled up nice warm, black soil.

"It's warmer than in your glove," Sutherland says of the soil conditions under the corduroy on

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Adam Johnson cuts black spruce with a Ponsse harvester.

the skid trail. “That’s just what we’re dealing with this winter.”

That’s why Rieger’s crew built more skid trails, so each one is only used a half dozen times or so.

“The shorter the skid,” says Lee Adams, one of Rieger’s forwarder operators, “the less you have to come off one of those big long trails, the better it is for the forest. And the better it is for everybody, because it shortens up your skid without destroying anything in the woods. In a normal winter it isn’t quite as bad. Normally by this time of year we’ve had five or six days of 30-below weather, and this swamp probably would have frozen pretty solidly.”

Actual harvesting was a challenge. Chad Morrison was one of Rieger’s harvester operators working the site. He cut the spruce basically in rows. One day, the first three rows cut went smoothly. On the fourth—right alongside the others—he broke through the slash with the back tires of the harvester about midway down the row.

“We were probably sitting one or two feet of peat at most,” Morrison says. “The rest is all wet mud underneath. That’s a funny feeling when you’re sitting in a 25-ton machine.”

“There’s a lot of water movement underneath these bogs,” Sutherland says. “From the top you don’t notice it, but if you could look underneath there, you’ve got channels and areas where it’s flowing and not flowing.”

Eventually, three more forwarders joined Adams to get the wood to the landings. With careful work by Rieger’s crew, they were able to press forward and get the spruce harvested in less than optimal conditions.



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Kenny Johnson utilizes a Ponsse Scorpion to harvest black spruce.

And once hauling began, all of the work done on driving frost into the ground paid off, and the roads held strong. Not all loggers were able to harvest and haul much spruce this winter, if any. For Rieger and his crew, the careful planning was worthwhile.

“All in all, things went great,” Sutherland said after the harvest was complete. “Mike and his crew stuck to the plan. From the time the

first processor showed up on site to the last load of spruce leaving, it was 25 days. This spruce fiber is the backbone of our mill as well as the loggers we depend on to supply it. It’s a two-way street that we take seriously, I couldn’t be happier with the result.”

“Overall I thought it went pretty well,” Rieger said. “Normally I would have brought my conventional crew to help get it

done a little bit faster, but that wasn’t possible. The volume was there and we got it all hauled. We got just enough timely cold to really help us out. Overall, I think we were fortunate we got it done this winter. If you’d have asked me in December I’d have said we’d have never gotten there. But we did get it. It took a little extra work, but overall I thought it went pretty well.”



Ponsse forwarder operator Lee Adams has worked for Rieger for 15 years.

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Feds Finalize Bat Rule

Court fight on Northern Long-eared Bat expected to begin later this year

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) finalized its rule on the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) in January, making slight modifications to the preliminary rule announced last year.

In the finalized 4(d) rule, the USFWS prohibits timber harvest within 150 feet of “known, occupied maternity roost trees” from June 1 to July 31, which is the NLEB’s pup season. Language in the preliminary rule said to “avoid clearcutting” within a quarter-mile of “known, occupied roost trees.” So while prohibiting harvests is more restrictive than originally suggested, most public agencies were interpreting “avoid clearcutting” as a prohibition. The 150-foot radius in the finalized rule is clearly less restrictive than the quarter-mile provision in the preliminary version. And adding the word “maternity” to “known, occupied roost trees” also clarifies inconsistent language in the preliminary rule and is less restrictive on logging.

The final rule also prohibits timber harvests within a quarter-mile of known hibernacula year-round, which is the same language contained in the interim rule.

Last year, the USFWS listed the NLEB as “threatened” which allowed the agency some flexibility in protecting the bat under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act. That came after initially suggesting in 2014 that the bat might be listed as “endangered,” which would have severely limited logging during several months of the year. After intense lobbying from a wide variety of national organizations, including TPA, the USFWS acknowledged that the bat’s population wasn’t declining due to habitat, and by extension, logging.

Populations of the NLEB have been declining due to a fungus known as white-nose syndrome that is killing bats in portions of the species’ 38-state range. Bats generally contract the fungus in caves where they hibernate.

According to the USFWS, white-nose syndrome has killed millions of cave-hibernating bats in the Eastern, Midwestern, and Southeastern U.S.

“The overwhelming threat to the northern long-eared bat is white-nose syndrome,” said USFWS Director Dan Ashe. “Until there is a solution to the white-nose syndrome crisis, the outlook for this bat will not improve. This rule tailors regulatory protections in a way that makes sense and focuses protections where they will make a difference for the bat.”

Under the final 4(d) rule, removal of northern long-eared bats from human structures, and when necessary to protect human health and safety, are also allowed.

Federal researchers continue to look for a cure for white nose syndrome.

“We are beginning to see glimmers of hope in the battle against white-nose syndrome,” Ashe said. “In just eight years, this disease, previously unknown to science, has been identified and its cause understood. A solution could soon be within our grasp. Now is the time to get all hands on deck to pull together to fight this primary threat. Our final rule is designed to ensure we focus our energies where they will do the most good for this imperiled species while avoiding unnecessary regulation.”

As white-nose syndrome continues to affect this species, the bat’s status may decline to the point that it becomes endangered. In that event, the 4(d) rule would no longer apply, and all regulatory prohibitions under the ESA would take effect. This means that most intentional and incidental take throughout the range of the northern long-eared bat would be prohibited unless permitted.

Location information for northern long-eared bat hibernacula and



maternity roost trees is generally kept in state Natural Heritage Inventory databases. Information for Minnesota can be found at http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/ereview/minnesota_nleb_township_list_and_map_20150604.pdf.

Groups Move Toward Lawsuit over NLEB

In February, four groups, including the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sierra Club, gave “notice of intent to sue” the USFWS over its final 4(d) rule. In its filing, the CBD and Sierra Club claim the 4(d) rule is unlawful under the Endangered Species Act, and that the NLEB should have been listed as endangered, rather than threatened. The groups also say the final rule doesn’t protect the bat’s habitat and that its measures fail to conserve the bat.

The notice of intent to sue says if the USFWS doesn’t remedy these claims by mid-April, the groups will pursue their claims in federal court.

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State Patrol Meets with TPA Board



Representatives of the Minnesota State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division attending TPA's December board of directors meeting in Grand Rapids to discuss trucking enforcement issues in the state's logging industry. Board members were able to ask questions both during the meeting and also informally after its completion. (L-R) Lt. Darren Juntunen, Lt. Mike Theis, TPA board members Mike Rieger and Jerry Demenge, and commercial vehicle inspector Gene Kaml discuss a variety of issues.

Also meeting with the TPA board at the December meeting was deputy director of the DNR Division of Forestry Craig Schmid.

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Room to Grow

Red Pine Thinning Techniques Maximize Yields

The following is reprinted from the Natural Resources Research Institute's Newsletter.

Minnesota's state tree is the mighty red pine, *Pinus resinosa*, or Norway pine. It's a plentiful tree whose trunk produces fine lumber and pulp for papermaking. Minnesota has about 630,000 acres of red pine which helps support the region's wood products industry. But a bit more than half of that wood is on public land and the rest is on privately owned land.

"That means we have to help the private land owners know how to manage their plantations so they can get a return on their investment," said Pete Aube, lumber manager for Potlatch Corporation in Bemidji. "And every sawmill, every pulp mill, needs access to wood to produce the forest products Minnesotans use every day."

Thinning of red pine is a standard plantation management practice



Mechanical thinning of red pine is shown to increase forest harvest productivity.

that improves the productivity of the stand, but private landowners don't necessarily understand the economics of the practice. An unmanaged plantation runs the risk

of growing trees that are too tall with small diameter. Spindly trees can be stressed by lack of room to grow and then they can't produce the board-feet that sawmills need.

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And right now, Aube is seeing a lot of tall, spindly red pines. He and other forest industry professionals pulled together a team to address the issue. Work done in the region by the U.S. Forest Service helped define the range of thinning treatments that might be used and The Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) in Duluth is providing guidance on the issue with a study of the practical realities of red pine thinning. Newer logging technologies and a variety of thinning methods are being studied to determine impacts on tree growth.

But stand management can range from intensive to less intensive, depending on the stand age and the objective of the land managers, according to NRRI Forestry Program Director Bill Berguson. Some landowners may choose to thin stands intensively at younger ages and reduce management intensity over time.

"The emphasis of our research is to provide the best information to landowners to allow them to make informed decisions on management options particularly when stands are very young," Berguson said.

With the choices available, not all landowners will choose intensive management, according to Brian Palik, research ecologist at the USDA Forest Service.

"It is very important that forest landowners understand the response to different types of thinning and when ecologically-focused management is a better choice," he said.

Howard Hedstrom, president of Hedstrom Lumber in Grand Marais, is pleased with the results of the thinning method. "As soon as you loosen them up, they just pop and start growing again," he said. "If you don't thin, you lose both current and future volume. We lose the ability to grow big trees."

NRRI Research Plot Coordinator Dan Buchman helped loggers implement new thinning techniques and is using computers in the harvesting equipment to collect precise data on when a tree was felled, how long it took to process, cut and the size of the log. He learned that it doesn't take any less time for the machinery to harvest a small tree versus a larger diameter tree, but the value at the sawmill is in the larger trees. And maximizing

value is important because loggers have a lot of money tied up in expensive machinery.

"We rolled together all the current data on the market value of trees of different sizes, stand growth and harvesting costs," said Berguson. "We found that if loggers spend their day trying to thin a stand with all small trees, they will lose money."

NRRI collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the St. Louis County Land Department, Molpus Timberlands, Potlatch Woodlands and Minnesota Power to develop the research for landowners and loggers in implementing various thinning methods using cut-to-length logging equipment.

"Thinning the larger portion of trees in a stand doesn't have to happen repeatedly," Berguson explained, "When the stand is really small diameter, that's when it's critical to make the economics work."

Aube sees this red pine thinning opportunity as a game-changing, win-win-win scenario.

"We've proved there's a better way to manage these plantations. Now the challenge is getting the word out to landowners," he said. "This red pine resource is growing and there's value for landowners, loggers, foresters and mills to change our approach to managing younger plantations."

The reason there's so much red pine in Northern Minnesota goes back to the 1960s when about a million acres of land were set aside for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, unavailable for logging. To ease the loss to the logging industry, the federal government offered incentive funding to county, state and private landholders to plant the popular softwood. Red pine is especially well-suited for sawmills and the tops and branches go to pulp and paper mills.

"These are very productive trees," said Aube. "An investment was made back then and a return is expected. NRRI's applied research and collaborations to move this forward are just what we need."

Serving on the NRRI Red Pine Management Economics Task Force:

- Bill Berguson, NRRI Forestry program director
- Pete Aube, Potlatch Lumber mill manager
- Alan Ek, University of

Minnesota, College of Natural Resources

- Jim Gubbels, U.S. Forest Service
- Eli Sagor, Cloquet Forestry Center
- Rick Klevorn, Department of Natural Resources, state silviculturist
- Dan Prazak, DNR Hibbing area forest supervisor
- Aaron VandeLinde, state director, School Trust Lands
- Mark Weber, St. Louis County land commissioner



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Years Ago in the Bulletin

A sampling of stories and topics from the archives of the Timber Bulletin

20 Years Ago

- **Jack H. LaVoy, a former member of the Minnesota State Legislature**, and a public affairs executive in the state's timber and paper industry for the past decade, has been named new executive vice president of TPA. A graduate of UMD, LaVoy was first elected to the Minnesota House in 1970 at the age of 24. Following two terms of service in the Legislature, LaVoy worked for the Seaway Port Authority, the City of Duluth, and was vice president of external affairs for the Lake Superior Paper Industries mill in Duluth.
- **Potlatch Corporation's board of directors** approved a \$118 million expenditure as part of the company's ongoing \$500 million-plus pulp mill modernization and expansion project in Cloquet. The \$118 million investment will provide for engineering and construction of a new recovery boiler, turbine-generator, and other associated equipment in the next stage of the project. Nearly 250 construction workers are on site, with start-up of the new equipment scheduled for 1998.
- **Stumpage prices for state-owned timber have been revised** to better reflect actual market conditions, according to the DNR. In the future, the actual prices received from the state timber auction sales during the previous 12 months will be used to determine listed prices. "These new listed prices are the department's response to criticism that those prices previously used were not keeping pace with prices being paid at public auction," said the DNR's Bruce ZumBahlen. "The new prices system will be location-sensitive and will result in stumpage prices that may vary considerably from area to area, based on the history of prices being paid at auction sales."

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On the Markets

The *Timber Bulletin* publishes information regarding results of a sampling of recent timber sales and other market indicators, as well as other market-related news items.

DNR Offers Extensions Due to Warm Winter

The Minnesota DNR is offering one-year, interest-free extensions due to adverse surface conditions for the remainder of 2016. The move is in response to warm winter temperatures that prevented many permits to be harvested around the state.

In a letter at all state permit holders, the Timber Sales Program Supervisor Doug Tillma wrote the DNR "recognizes that widespread above average temperatures have caused a delay in completing timber harvests during the 2016 winter season."

Permit holders will have to request the extensions, which will be granted on a case-by-case basis for permits meeting the following conditions:

- Eligible permits must have an expiration date between February 10, 2016, and December 31, 2016.
- This extension is available to all informal, regular and intermediate permit types.
- Signed extension requests must be received by DNR Forestry no later than May 31, 2016, or the permit expiration date, whichever is earlier.

In addition, these extensions may be applied to permits already under another regular or emergency extension, but cannot be applied to expired permits under a scaling extension.

The extensions will be for a period of one year past the current permit expiration date, and will be interest-free during the one-year extension period. If a permit already has an existing interest-bearing extension, that interest rate will only apply during that extension period. It will

not carry over into this Adverse Surface Conditions Extension period.

Permit holders will receive a notification letter from DNR that confirms the emergency extension was granted for each eligible permit extension that was requested. All other terms and conditions of the original permit will remain in effect.

Permit holders should contact a DNR area forest supervisor or timber program forester with any questions.

Recent Timber Sales

Average prices, as reported by each agency

Agency **Regular** **Intermediate**

DNR—Sandstone Area

December 9—Sealed Bid

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$58.83	\$48.21
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$57.13	\$66.90
Northern		
Hdwd (WC)	\$20.45	\$13.09

10 of the 15 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

DNR—Cloquet Area

December 9—Sealed Bid

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$50.38	\$42.99
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$33.72	\$45.13
Mixed Spruce		
(WMP)	\$33.97	\$25.13
Balsam Fir		
(WC)	\$17.42	\$10.26

All 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

DNR—Hibbing Area

December 10—Oral Auction

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$52.23	\$32.05
Pine Species		
(WMP)	\$49.88	\$52.95
White Spruce		
(WMP)	\$53.48	\$15.50
Balsam		
Fir (WC)	\$31.12	\$13.69

19 of the 21 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

Lake County

December 15—Sealed Bid

Aspen P&B	\$16.96	NA
Maple P&B	\$18.53	NA
Balsam P&B	\$ 5.75	NA
Birch P&B	\$15.66	NA

11 of the 23 tracts offered during the sale were purchased. Another tract was purchased after the auction.



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DNR—Backus Area*December 16—Sealed Bid*

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$23.29	\$21.87
Northern Hdwds		
(WMP)	\$40.09	\$26.29
Pine Species		
(WMP)	\$58.13	NA
Aspen		
Species (WC)	NA	\$41.54

12 of the 16 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

Cass County*December 12—Sealed Bid*

Aspen	\$36.03	\$32.19
Red Oak	\$28.91	\$49.98
Ash	\$26.80	NA
Birch	\$25.79	\$17.23

All 6 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Bemidji Area*December 17—Sealed Bid*

Aspen Species		
(WC)	\$50.61	\$46.50
Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	\$33.73	\$44.53
White Spruce		
(WMP)	\$40.31	\$31.45
Mixed Conifers		
(WMP)	\$26.31	\$52.18

21 of the 27 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

Hubbard County*January 11—Oral Auction*

Aspen Mixed	NA	\$56.62
Aspen Pulp	NA	\$54.50
Norway		
Pine bolts	NA	\$56.56
Birch Mixed	NA	20.54

All 14 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

DNR—Two Harbors Area*January 13—Sealed Bid*

Aspen		
Species (WC)	\$ 6.99	NA
Paper		
Birch (WC)	\$ 4.59	NA
Northern Hdwds		
(WC)	\$ 5.62	NA
Balsam		
Fir (WC)	\$ 9.96	NA

4 of the 5 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

DNR—Two Harbors Area*January 14—Oral Auction*

Trembling		
Aspen (WC)	NA	\$27.79
Aspen		
Species (WC)	NA	\$20.60
Norway		
Pine (WMP)	NA	\$16.68

Paper

Birch (WC) NA \$ 6.74
 8 of the 10 tracts offered during the sale were purchased

Clearwater County*January 26—Oral Auction*

Aspen	NA	\$37.33
Birch	NA	\$13.46
Basswood	NA	\$11.01

7 of the 8 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Koochiching County*January 27—Oral Auction*

Aspen P/B	\$47.76	\$42.48
Spruce P/B	\$39.53	\$18.32
Balsam P/B	\$12.40	\$12.36
Ash P/B	\$ 6.90	\$ 7.68

26 of the 27 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

Cass County*January 28—Oral Auction*

Aspen	\$55.10	\$45.85
Red Oak	\$72.16	\$49.77
Maple	\$35.77	\$35.55
Basswood	\$41.64	\$32.98

6 of the 7 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

St. Louis County*February 18—Sealed Bid*

Aspen pulpwood	\$46.97	NA
Birch pulpwood	\$34.26	NA
Black Spruce		
pulpwood	\$35.73	NA
Norway Pine		
pulpwood	\$49.08	NA
Tamarack		
pulpwood	\$12.21	NA

23 of the 27 tracts offered during the sale were purchased.

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Early Loggers in Minnesota

by J. C. Ryan

VOL. I



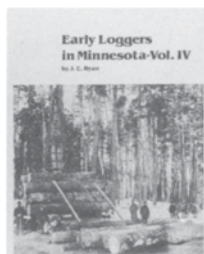
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LOGGERS OF THE PAST . . .

"The Logging Camp Auditor"

by J. C. Ryan

This story is reprinted from an earlier *Timber Bulletin*—one of the first of "Buzz" Ryan's ever-popular contributions to these pages. The *Bulletin* will continue to reprint selected stories from the memories he recorded for us.—*Editor*



During the early days of Minnesota logging camps, along the St. Croix and in the southern part of the pine region, the camp foreman was timekeeper and ordered all the supplies. Most orders for

supplies were made only once or twice during the logging season, and the tote teamster brought the supplies to camp at regular intervals.

When a man quit or left camp, the fore-

man would write out a slip showing how many days he had worked and the rate of pay less his wanigan account. He would take this slip to the company office and get his pay either in cash or check.

Very few men left before the end of the season so very few slips were made out by the foreman until the camp broke in the spring and the walking boss on his trips from camp to camp went over the supply list with the foreman and helped with the supply orders.

However, by the 1880s, when the camps were larger, most camps of 50 men or more had a clerk who tended the wanigan, did whatever book work was done, ordered the supplies, kept the men's time and made out their checks when they left camp.

With the coming of the workman's compensation law and accident reports, the clerk's job became very important and he was kept quite busy on paperwork.

For many years the foreman had a free hand in determining the cost of the operation. The only figures the logging companies wanted were the total cost of the logging operation — and the cheaper the total the better the foreman.

Snow conditions, miles of roads, etc. all figured into the total cost per thousand of the entire winter's work. However, by the time of the First World War in 1914 some of the officials of the companies started to figure cost of different phases of the logging operation and most of the larger companies developed a distribution of labor record in which the camp clerk recorded daily what each man was working at so as to determine the costs of each phase of the logging operation.

These costs were on cutting, skidding, hauling, feeding and every type of work performed during the operation of the camp. This greatly added to the work of the camp clerk, as he sometimes had to visit the crews in the woods in order to check on where the men were working. However, as a rule the straw bosses in charge of the crews would report to the clerk each evening on their men.

To cope with the added work of the camp clerk and to explain the working of



Skidding with dray north of Two Harbors, unloading near Brimson, both 1910.



the labor distribution system, most of the companies hired auditors to visit the camps at regular intervals and audit the books of the camp clerks.

At first it meant explaining the system to the clerks and then auditing the labor distribution sheets as well as all the books of the camp clerks. Most of these auditors had been clerks for a number of years and knew all the duties involved. In fact, the auditors were more or less the supervisors of the clerks and had much to do with the hiring or placing of the clerks in the camps.

For many years the clerks had been under the supervision of the camp foremen, and some of the foremen resented the fact that they did not have supervision over the clerks. Some hard feelings developed because of this.

While the distribution of labor sheets did bring about a lot of figures for the experts in the main offices of the companies to play with. I doubt very much if it brought about any more efficiency in the logging operation. However, the regular visits of the auditors did bring about a more uniform check on the clerks with the result that a better type of camp clerk developed.

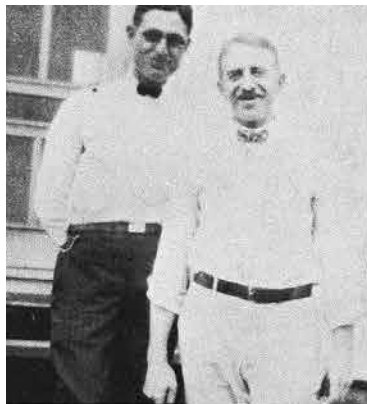
It was only the larger logging companies which operated a number of camps that had traveling clerk auditors. Some of the auditors I remember included Gus Broman of the International Lumber Co., who worked in the 1916 to 1920 period in the camps east of Northome, and Johnie Letourneau, who worked the Crookston Lumber Company camps in the Kelliher area.

The combined Weyerhaeuser Companies of Cloquet, who operated up to 25 camps some winters, employed two auditors. Tommy Lightfoot from Cloquet and Louis McDonald of Duluth were two of them. The Virginia and Rainy Lake Company, which operated many camps out of Cussin, had at least two auditors. The ones I remember best were two named Johnson and Campaigne. Johnson made regular trips to the camps, while Campaigne only made trips to the camps about once a year, as his job was more or less the supplying of the camps and informing the clerks on the methods of ordering.

James Hallinan of Duluth was one of the men who set up the distribution of labor forms for the Cloquet Companies and made regular trips to the camps to audit these forms.

The regular camp auditors made their rounds to the camps about once a month and they would spend a day or two going over all the forms and book work. During slack times when only a few camps would be running, these auditors would be back clerking in the camps.

The logging camp clerk auditor was not a part of the early logging operations, but of the later days of the logging camps.



From left: Two camp clerks for Cloquet Lumber Co., Rolлие Cibert and Otto Ottoson by boarding car at Stroud, 1924; Al Johnson, camp auditor for Virginia and Rainy Lake Company; Bob Gratton, clerk at Camp 115, Northern Lumber Co., 1922.



Above: A group of "jacks" near Northome, 1916. Below: A small jobber camp near Deer River, 1910. Note the log construction; building with doors open is blacksmith shop.



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