

Montana Forest Products Marketing News

MSU Extension Forestry

February 2006

Intermountain Roundwood Association Annual Meeting



The Intermountain Roundwood Association will be holding its 18th annual meeting on March 17th at the Montana Club in Missoula, Montana.

The [IRA](#) represents firms engaged in the harvesting, production, and marketing of roundwood. The graphic to the right displays the meeting agenda. For registration info contact [Karen Kovatch](#) at 406-677-2300.

8:00 AM	Registration	
9:00	Welcome	<i>Norm Tyser, IRA President</i>
9:20	Membership Level Proposal	<i>Randy Gross, IRA Vice President</i>
9:35	USFS Timber Supply	<i>Bruce Fox, Director of Forest and Rangeland Management for the USFS-Northern Region</i>
10:00	Break	
10:15	Fuel for Schools	<i>Angela Farr, Biomass Utilization Coordinator</i>
11:00	Non-Industrial Private Forests	<i>John Ottman, Consulting Forester</i>
11:30	Break	
11:45	Forest Concepts Projects Poles	<i>Rich Lane, IRA Director</i>
12:30PM	Lunch	
1:30	Clarify Doweled/Peeled Issue	<i>Norm Tyser, IRA President</i>
1:45	Fence Post Moisture Barriers	<i>Mike Freeman, Independent Wood Scientist</i>
2:15	Break	
2:30	Roadless Issue	<i>Hal Harper, Chief Policy Advisor to Montana Governor Schweitzer (tentative)</i>
3:00	Director Reelection	<i>Norm Tyser, IRA President</i>
3:15	Adjourn	

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Check it Out:

[Forest Certification Does Work](#)

[Logging study sets off own firestorm](#)

[China International Wood Products Summit 2006](#)

then click on conferences

Natural Forest, LLC—a new forest consulting business

Based in Clinton, Montana, Natural Forest, LLC is a recently established forest consulting business.

Owners Tarn and Jennifer Rackley say that their business is committed to improving the properties they manage by using sound and innovative silvicultural practices. They are also quick to point out that they meet that commitment by prescribing management actions that reflect the landowner's stewardship objectives.

According to Tarn, "we listen to the landowner and design prescriptions that will allow them to meet their recreation, timber production, wildlife, or aesthetics goals."

Some of the services they offer include: timber sale administration including coordination with contractors, on-site supervision of the harvesting operation, and post-harvest clean-up. Aside from commercial timber sales they also have ex-

perience assisting landowners with fuel mitigation projects.

The Rackleys say, they're honest, educated, experienced, fully licensed, insured, and looking for new clients.



1st Annual Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference

March 27-30, 2006
Portland, OR

Fuels management programs are designed to reduce risks to communities and to improve and maintain ecosystem health. This conference will address the development, implementation, and evaluation of these programs, with a focus on how to measure success. As such, the scope includes not only the how to, but also the what and why of fuels management. Click [here](#) to see the conference agenda.

Carbon Credits—A Developing Forest Products Market

Analysis of ice core samples shows that from the dawn of the human species until about 250 years ago, our atmosphere contained between 180 and 300 parts per million of carbon dioxide (CO₂) - a greenhouse gas thought to contribute to global warming. Today, the atmosphere contains about 375 parts per million and levels are still rising. Some predict that if atmospheric CO₂ levels get to 440 ppm, rapid global warming will occur with catastrophic consequences.

Why are atmospheric CO₂ levels rising? Some research indicates that burning fossil fuels is a factor. Consider that in 2000, the United States emitted 5,806 million metric tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere. Almost all of those emissions (98%) are the result of fossil fuel combustion.

Since our industrialized economy depends on fossil fuel consumption, it might seem that aside from developing other energy sources, there isn't much we can do to control the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Not true, says [Ted Dodge](#) of the National Carbon Offset Coalition ([NCOC](#)), a Montana-based non-profit organization whose mission is to offset the environmental impacts of greenhouse gases by developing a market-based conservation program.

NCOC's activities are based on the idea that CO₂ emissions can be offset by certain management practices, like planting trees. This is because actively growing trees absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and through the process of photosynthesis, convert the carbon in CO₂ to various sugars. The end result is



The National Carbon Offset Coalition is a Montana-based non-profit that seeks to develop markets for carbon that is sequestered in forests.

that carbon is removed (or sequestered) from the atmosphere. For example, one entity is willing to recognize that a "typical" ponderosa pine plantation will sequester 1.4 metric tons of carbon per acre per year.

Given the ability of trees to sequester carbon, global markets are slowly developing for carbon credits—1 carbon credit equals 1 ton of carbon sequestered for 1 year. For example, if CO₂ emissions become regulated, then some organizations might be willing to purchase carbon credits to offset their CO₂ emissions. In other words, a large power plant that burns fossil fuels may have CO₂ emissions in excess of accepted standards. Thus, to offset their emissions, the power plant would buy carbon credits that are linked to carbon-sequestering tree plantations.

NCOC envisions a system where landowners can benefit from such markets. Thus, they

seek to link forest landowners with buyers of carbon credits. The way it would work is that a landowner and NCOC enter into a contract. The landowner agrees to establish and maintain a given area in timber for a given number of years (anywhere between 10 and 100). NCOC then markets the carbon credits associated with the contract. When the carbon credits are sold, the landowner would be reimbursed for some (or possibly all) of the cost of establishing the plantation. After the contract ends the landowner would be free to sell the timber at full market value.

Landowners interested in learning more about this program should contact Bob Andreozzi, a consulting forester from Anaconda, Montana who has contracted with NCOC to assist landowners. He can be reached at (406) 563-6078, or andreozziforestry@onewest.net. Or contact Ted Dodge, Executive Director, NCOC at (406) 491-4471 or Ted.Dodge@ncoc.us.

House Log Specifications

According to the UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, house logs (logs used to build log homes) in Montana are worth upwards of \$225 per ton when delivered to the log home manufacturer. Since log trucks in Montana can legally carry about 25 tons of wood, that means that a single truckload of house logs can be worth about \$5600. If you are a landowner, those figures probably sound pretty attractive. Remember though that your net income would be the amount left after subtracting the cost of hauling the logs to the buyer and the logging costs.

Another thing to remember is that not every log will meet the specifications of log home builders. In fact, the vast majority of logs don't meet the specifications. Thus, all but the largest landowners with the largest timber sales are lucky to get a truckload or two of house logs during a timber sale. Still, given the much higher value of house logs, sorting them out can be worth the effort.

The table to the right lists log specifications common to companies that make hand-crafted log homes. Keep in mind that these are *general* specifications—the specs of individual buyers may differ. Click [here](#) for a list of Montana log home manufacturers. Also note that these specs are for lodgepole pine, which is the most commonly used species for house logs. Other species such as Englemann Spruce, Alpine fir, and larch may have slightly different specs.

General House Log Specifications

1. The logs should be cut from standing dead, dry, and sound timber (25% or less moisture content).
2. 8" minimum small end diameter. After butt swell is removed a 10" mid-span diameter or larger is desired. Some companies require a minimum of a 12" mid-span diameter.
3. Maximum allowed taper is 5" in a 40 foot long log.
4. Minimum log length of 20 feet. (some buyers may take shorter logs provided they have a larger small-end diameter).
5. No red rot allowed or irremovable surface rot.
6. Logs must be straight—sweep in a 40' log not to exceed 3". Double sweep is not allowed.
7. The width of checks (cracks) not to exceed 3/8".
8. Spiral grain not to exceed 1" of twist per 10" of length.
9. Catface (a grown over knot, or wound) is acceptable as long as it is no more than 1/3 of log diameter and does not deform the log.
10. Tracks (marks from log processing equipment) are not acceptable.



Photo Courtesy of:
Sawtooth Wood
Products

House logs are scaled and inspected prior to use in building a log home.



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We're on the Web:

<http://www.forestry.umt.edu/hosting/forestproducts/index.htm>

Montana State University Extension Forestry is a branch of the MSU Extension Service and is housed cooperatively with College of Forestry and Conservation at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana.

The mission of Extension Forestry is to provide education and outreach to non-industrial private forest landowners, forestry industry, and other forestry-related organizations in Montana.

Extension Forestry carries out its mission by providing its stakeholders with educational workshops, publications, news-releases, brochures, and videos. Common topics include forest stewardship planning, forest insect and disease, windbreaks/living snow fences, alternative forest management practices, wildfire hazard reduction, forest products marketing, and tree pruning & care.

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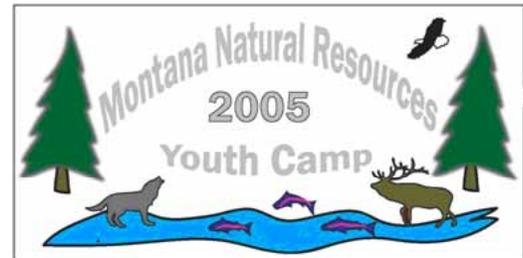
If so, send them to [Roy Anderson](#), newsletter editor

Forestry Educational Calendar

Montana Communities and
Wildfire Conference
2/27/06 thru 3/1/06
Helena, MT
[click here for info and registration](#)

Intermountain Roundwood Association 17th Annual Conference
March 17th
Missoula, MT
[click here for info and registration](#)

Forestry Mini
College
April 29th
Missoula, MT
[click here for info and registration](#)



The Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp would like to thank the following major donors for making our 2005 camp possible:

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