



MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

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Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Cherry	\$80	\$80	\$80	-	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	\$120	\$40	\$80	\$150	\$185	67 Int. - MBF	8
Mixed Hardwoods	\$110	\$35	\$45	\$105	\$135	75 Int. - MBF	4
Oak (mixed species)	\$195	\$25	\$135	\$135	\$65	546 Int. - MBF	6
Post Oak	\$120	\$70	\$85	\$55	\$185	39 Int. - MBF	6
Red oak (group)	\$205	\$30	\$125	\$85	\$185	1,024 Int. - MBF	10
Shortleaf Pine	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$185	7 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	\$425	\$85	\$330	\$755	-	28 Int. - MBF	5
White oak (group)	\$400	\$40	\$140	\$160	\$185	843 Int. - MBF	10

Statewide Salvage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Hickory	\$110	\$40	\$55	-	-	20 Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	\$102	\$102	\$102	-	-	197 Int. - MBF	1

North Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Hickory	\$110	\$40	\$55	-	-	20 Int. - MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	\$110	\$35	\$45	\$40	\$85	61 Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	\$75	\$25	\$70	\$40	\$65	73 Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	\$110	\$30	\$75	\$60	\$165	344 Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$665	-	20 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	\$110	\$40	\$85	-	-	545 Int. - MBF	2

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Mixed Hardwoods	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$55	-	12 Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	\$200	\$120	\$125	\$95	-	292 Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	\$400	\$110	\$275	\$165	-	170 Int. - MBF	2

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Cherry	\$80	\$80	\$80	-	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	\$120	\$60	\$90	\$150	\$185	47 Int. - MBF	6
Mixed Hardwoods	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$190	\$280	2 Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	\$195	\$80	\$145	\$135	-	473 Int. - MBF	4
Post Oak	\$120	\$70	\$85	\$120	\$185	39 Int. - MBF	6
Red oak (group)	\$205	\$120	\$170	\$130	\$185	388 Int. - MBF	6
Shortleaf Pine	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$120	\$185	7 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	\$100	\$85	\$90	\$665	-	8 Int. - MBF	4
White oak (group)	\$220	\$120	\$195	\$180	\$185	128 Int. - MBF	6

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed “# of Rpts.” to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. (“# of Rpts.” refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 15 timber sales containing 106,891 MBF located throughout the state.

Editor's Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: www.missouriforesters.com or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website <http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/> and clicking on the "Conservation Assistance Contractors" link.

Tom Treiman and Jason Jensen, Editors

Note: A "sale" often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the "# of Rpts." (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International 1/4" MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Fire Danger Levels

Each year, about 3,000 wildfires burn 30,000 acres or more of forest and grassland. Missouri's wildfire season is in the spring and fall, unlike the Western states that have a summer fire season. Dead vegetation, combined with the low humidities and high winds typical of these seasons, makes wildfire risk greater at these times.

Fire danger is based upon the burning index (BI). The burning index takes into account the fuel moisture, relative humidity, wind speed, temperature and recent precipitation. The burning index is the basis for fire suppression crew staffing levels.

The Department of Conservation relies upon the news media to help warn citizens of high fire danger. A set of standardized fire danger adjectives have been developed for fire warnings. These adjectives include a brief description of burning conditions, open burning suggestions for homeowners and fire crew staffing levels. Residents should always check with their local fire department or local Department of Conservation office for local burning conditions.

Low Fire Danger

Burning index < 20

Open burning is usually safe with proper containers and precautions under low fire danger conditions. However, residents should always check on local ordinances that prohibit open burning under any conditions. Escaped fires are easy to extinguish. No fire crew staffing is

planned for low fire danger conditions.

Moderate Fire Danger

Burning index = 21 - 30

Open burning is usually safe with the proper precautions under moderate fire danger conditions. Burning should be done in the early morning and late evening to avoid windier conditions at midday. Escaped fires can be contained with proper fire-fighting equipment. Partial fire crew staffing is planned for moderate fire danger.

High Fire Danger

Burning index = 31 - 45

Any open burning is discouraged during high fire danger. Windy conditions, low humidity and dry fuels contribute to high fire danger. Fires escape control easily and containment is difficult, endangering human safety and property. Partial or full fire staffing is planned, depending on local burning conditions.

Extreme Fire Danger

Burning index > 45

Open burning should not be attempted during extreme fire danger. Local authorities may impose burning bans. High winds and extended dry periods lead to extreme burning conditions. Open fires can quickly escape and are very difficult to control. Spot fires occur ahead of the main fire, and erratic burning conditions make fires difficult to control even for experienced fire fighters. Full fire

crew staffing is planned for extreme burning conditions.

The perfect storm

A combination of dry weather and wind is making this summer into of wildfire season in Missouri. Across the Show-Me State, thousands of acres of forest and grassland will burn. Most of these fires will be caused by human negligence or malicious arson.

In southwest Missouri, the threat of wildfire is even greater. Tons of fallen limbs scattered in the woods are a grim reminder of the disastrous 2007 ice storm. As the fallen timber dries, it becomes fuel for future fires. Couple this with an increasing population and extensive home construction throughout the Ozarks, and you have the recipe for the next perfect storm: widespread, severe wildfires that could cause millions of dollars of property damage, injuries and even loss of life.

In days gone by, people often set fires to convert woodlands to pasture for cattle. Today, improper or unsafe debris burning is the leading cause of wildfire in Missouri. Most residents who burn debris never intend for their fire to get out of control, but in 2006, more than 1,500 escaped debris fires burned more than 17,000 acres of the Show-Me State.

What can you do?

You can help reduce the threat of wildfire by using simple alternatives to burning. Or, if you must burn, do it safely.

Consider alternatives to burning:

- ◁ Compost twigs and small limbs to produce great organic matter for your vegetable and flower gardens.
- ◁ Chip larger branches into mulch for gardens, trees and landscaped areas.
- ◁ Use wood chippers to eliminate tree branches and other debris. Haul debris to designated dump sites in your area.
- ◁ Cut fallen limbs for use or sale as firewood.
- ◁ Build—don't burn—brush piles. They make great wildlife habitat and will naturally decay in two to five years.

If you must burn, do it safely!

- ◁ Check with your local fire department to see if open burning is permitted or if you need a burn permit.
- ◁ Prior to the burn, contact your local forestry office or rural fire department and tell them your plans—what time you plan to start burning, how long you plan to burn and what (brush piles, leaves, etc.) you will burn.
- ◁ Check the weather. Avoid burning on dry, windy days. Pick an overcast day when winds are calm and humidity is high. Try to burn before 10 a.m. or after 3 p.m. This is when winds are usually calmest and humidity is highest.
- ◁ Keep brush piles small (about 5 feet by 5 feet), and burn them in open fields when snow is on the ground or in the late spring after the grass has greened up.

- ◁ Avoid burning piles under overhanging tree limbs, utility lines or close to buildings.
- ◁ Cover your debris pile with a waterproof tarp. After a rain, when the surrounding vegetation is wet, remove the plastic and you'll be ready to burn. This helps reduce the chance of your fire spreading to surrounding vegetation.
- ◁ Before you burn, gather rakes, wet burlap sacks and other firefighting tools. Have a source of water close by. This will help you take quick action should your fire start to get out of control. Call the fire department immediately should a fire escape.
- ◁ Stay with your burn pile until it is completely extinguished. Drown ashes with water and stir them with a shovel or rake to make sure there are no hot embers left smoldering.
- ◁ Check your fire the next day . . . just to be sure.

Protect Your Home from Wildfire

Many homes—especially newer ones—are situated in what firefighters call the wildland/urban interface. This is the area where potentially dangerous natural fuels, such as forests, old fields and grasslands, are found next to man-made fuels such as homes and other buildings. Because of their location, these structures are extremely vulnerable to wildfire.

To protect your home from wildfire, reduce the fuels around your home and in your yard. To do this, create a well irrigated, open space at least 30 feet out from all sides of your house. Keep this space obstacle-free to allow fire suppression equipment room to

maneuver should an emergency occur. In the areas closest to your house, keep mulch moist and ornamental shrubs pruned below 18 inches. Use non-combustible building materials (stone, concrete or brick) for patios and decks. And, stack firewood at least 30 feet away.

In your yard, plant fire-resistant species—such as oak, hickory, maple, dogwood and redbud—and remove flammable plants, such as junipers, pines and cedars. Space trees and shrubs at least twice as wide as their height and prune trees so their lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground. Keep your grass green and mowed, and move dead vegetation (branches, leaves, needles, etc.) at least 30 feet away from your home or any other building.

For more information, please visit:

<http://mdc.mo.gov/landwater-care/fire-management/wildfires/wildfire-prevention>

Thinking About a T i m b e r S a l e ? B e f o r e Y o u

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.

Caring for your woodland is a long-term proposition where one decision can have impacts for decades. A new outreach effort, Call Before You Cut, is one way the Missouri Department of Conservation is striving to help Missouri landowners who are interested in harvesting trees and ensure a healthy forest legacy.

The “Call Before You Cut” campaign features a toll-free phone number (1-877-564-7483)

landowners can call to receive free information. A live operator is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, except holidays. Callers will receive a packet of information to assist them in setting up a timber sale and other management information for their woodlands.

“Woodland owners know a lot about their woods, but often don’t have the critical information they need before selecting someone to harvest their trees,” said Conservation Department Forestry Field Programs Supervisor Brian Schweiss. “Call Before You Cut gives landowners the tools needed to make informed decisions about their woods.”

State Forester Lisa Allen says the Call Before You Cut campaign isn’t about not cutting trees – it’s about how and when you cut them. The program puts landowners in touch with professional foresters who can tell them how much their trees are worth, trees that should be harvested soon and those that can grow for greater profits later. Call Before You Cut gives landowners options they may not have considered.

“Over the years, I’ve learned a lot about how to keep my woods healthy and beautiful, but I’m smart enough to know that I don’t know everything,” says Dave Murphy, a landowner from Clark County. “I didn’t want to make any mistakes with my own land. By working with a professional forester, I was able to make money, maintain healthy woods, and improve food and cover for turkeys, one of my favorite wildlife to view and hunt.”

Private landowners own 83 percent of Missouri’s 14 million acres of forest, which covers roughly one-third of the state. They are key providers of trees to produce some of Missouri’s most sought-after wood products such as flooring, white oak for wine barrels, and eastern black walnut products. Call Before You Cut can help ensure healthy, productive woodlands for landowner and a

healthy forest industry for years to come.

Additional information is available on the campaign’s website, www.callb4ucut.com. Call the toll free hotline to get your packet 1-877-564-7483.

Should I Certify My Timberland?

By: Suz-Anne Kinney, Forest2Fuel Newsletter

According to the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF), in their November 2011 report, “Forest Certification Programs: Status and Recommendations in the South,” the most common type of certification varies by region.

In the Northeast (a region that includes the Northeast, the Lake States and Appalachia), for instance, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification is most prevalent; 70 percent of all certified forests there are certified to this standard. Sixty percent of all certified timberland there is certified under Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and 20 percent are certified under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). Interestingly, 20 million acres in the Northeast are dual certified.

Unlike the Northeast, no timberland in the South is dual certified. Another difference is the type of certification that is most common. In the South, just 6 percent of all certified forests are FSC certified. More prevalent in the South are SFI at 55 percent and ATFS at 39 percent of all certified forests.

In the West, 34 percent of all certified forests are FSC certified,

60 percent are SFI certified and 27 percent are ATFS certified. In addition, only 200,000 acres are dual certified.

Timberland owners in the Northeast are also more likely to certify their timberlands; nearly 24 percent of all forests there are certified. In the South, this number is nearly 18 percent. In the West, the number drops to just under 5.5 percent.

As the SGSF points out in the report, forest certification rates are market driven. When consumers demand forest and wood products that are sustainably produced, the makers of those products will source their raw materials from certified timberland. A few examples of consumer demand for sustainably sourced products are taking shape right now:

1. Paper manufacturers supplying European markets have been told by buyers that they are under pressure from consumers to source FSC-certified product only. The potential for boycotts of non-certified products pose a risk for these companies.
2. The U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy, Efficiency and Design (LEED) building standard provides additional credit for wood products certified under the FSC standard. While many in the industry continue to push the USGBC to accept additional certification standards, some lumber and building products manufacturers will source FSC-certified wood in order to participate in this new market.

3. With the expansion of biomass power in Europe, consumption of wood pellets manufactured in the South is expected to explode in the next couple of years. Energy companies purchasing wood pellets must demonstrate compliance with the sustainable sourcing requirements of both individual countries and the European Union. In addition, US bio-electricity projects are either online or scheduled to come online in the near future, and over time these may require some form of certification for their feedstock as well.

In order to retain these current markets for timber products and open new markets in energy production, it may be time for timberland owners to reconsider certification. Timber from land certified under both SFI and FSC standards have garnered a price premium on occasion, and there is potential for this to become more common.

Some recent changes in the FSC standards may make certification more practical and affordable for groups of private timberland owners, especially in the South where resistance to FSC has been strong. First of all, FSC reduced the number of indicators that apply to small timberland holdings (less than 2,470 acres) from 192 to 110. In addition, standards that apply to fertilizers and herbicides have been loosened. One of the major concerns about FSC is that the herbicides that family forest owners typically use to kill hardwoods in pine stands (hexazinone) and control broadleaf weeds and grasses (triazine) were on the FSC's

highly hazardous list. The FSC put them on the list because, they argue, these products “do not breakdown quickly and so can infiltrate groundwater.” According to the Frequently Asked Question section of their website, however, this is not an absolute: “In situations where forest management organizations have been unable to find effective alternatives to products like hexazinone, they have successfully petitioned FSC . . . and received authorization to use the products under controlled conditions.”

The other concern with FSC certification is the cost. In order to improve the adoption rate of FSC certification among owners of small timberland tracts, the FSC now offers group certification. For more information on this program, visit http://www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/family_forests_program.php.

In addition, group certification can be done through the ATFS Independently Managed Groups (IMG) standard. While this certification is recognized by SFI, timber from ATFS and SFI certified land may not currently qualify for full LEED credits or for European bioenergy markets.

For more information on this program, visit <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/documents> and scroll down to the IMG section.

Reduce Emergency Impact by Preparing in Advance

Prepare for an emergency before it happens. Having an emergency preparation plan in place before it is needed can help reduce a company's downtime after any incident.

By: DeAnna Stephens Baker, Pallet Enterprise

Several catastrophic explosions at sawmills in the past few months underscore the need for pallet and forest products companies to have plans in place to both reduce risks and respond to incidents when they occur. A number of these incidents took place in Canada where wood dust is considered the prime culprit. These explosions sadly resulted in multiple fatalities. But they also caused extensive damage to the facilities and machinery, shutting down operations and causing losses in production time for the companies.

Fires, explosions, accidents, and other emergencies can be fatal to a business from the combined cost of damages and lost profit alone. All companies should be prepared to respond to an emergency – even those that have never had a major incident. Planning for possible emergencies before they happen allows a company to respond to any incident in an organized and efficient manner. Even the most careful of companies can have something happen. And it is better to have a plan in place and never need it than to need a plan and not have one in place.

Emergency plans can include many components. Some of the basic ones include what to do when a worker is injured, when there is a natural disaster, or in the case of a fire. And there are, of course, some rudimentary requirements of emergency plans that are mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). However, each company should take time to consider what additional components should be included in their plan, based on their location, facility set-up and any other unique situations.

Some time spent brainstorming and attempting to think outside the box could have some great benefits for companies. A good starting point for companies that have dealt with emergencies in the past is to think about those experiences, what some of the biggest issues were, and lessons learned from them to come up with other components that should be included and emphasized in your plan.

An example of a creative component is the inclusion of a section in your emergency plan on how to handle workplace violence. J.F. Rohrbaugh, a wooden pallet manufacturer in Hanover, Penn. has covered this area noting that domestic disputes can spill into the workplace and become an issue that employers are unfortunately forced to handle.

“You see different emergencies take place from hospitals to nursing homes, and it’s a crazed world sometimes. So we address that in our emergency plan too,” said Steve Kerr, director of employee development and corporate safety at J.F. Rohrbaugh.

An important yet often overlooked component to emergency preparation is planning how to continue operations after the initial emergency has been dealt with. Do you know how your company would handle fulfilling orders if an incident shuts down a machine or an entire facility? For companies with more than one location, this might be a matter of shifting production volumes at secondary locations. But it is important to think through all of the “what-ifs” of such a shift and the adjustments that they could require. These could include sending employees to different locations, adding extra shifts and adjusting supply and delivery routes.

Potential scenarios should be carefully thought through and planned for so that if they are ever needed, the process can be quickly and smoothly implemented. Companies with only one location do not have those options, however. J.F. Rohrbaugh has found a creative way to deal with this issue. It has agreements in place with some “friendly competitors” to assist each other with production needs in the event that any one of them have some or all of their production capabilities crippled by an emergency.

Last year, J.F. Rohrbaugh’s mulch machine was rendered unusable after it caught on fire. As they waited for the insurance paperwork to be processed and a new machine arrived, Kerr said that they worked with other companies to supply their customers’ orders.

“Having those relationships set up, described in the plan enabled us to focus, not only on the fire, but how we were going to do what

we do and still make money at the end of the day,” said Kerr. “Surprisingly, it’s not that strange. When you start talking with other companies and start working with them, they’re in the same boat you could be in.”

Kerr added that many companies understand that they too could need assistance in an emergency situation. “When you look at emergency planning from that standpoint, more people are willing to work with you because it’s a reasonable request,” he said.

Another frequently forgotten aspect of emergencies preparation is how to handle office emergencies. Incidents that damage machinery or shut down production facilities are not the only type of major emergency that can happen to sawmill and pallet companies. If computer data, such as customer lists and order information, is corrupted or lost, it can cause just as many problems. For this reason, J.F. Rohrbaugh has consistent backup protocols for their office computers in place. If a lightning strike was to destroy their computers or if the office was destroyed by a fire or other natural disaster, a copy of all of their electronic data is safe on removable disks that they store in a secure location.

“When necessary, we can take those disks, plug them into another computer someplace and, boom, we’re up and running,” said Kerr. “I think that’s a very valuable tool for any business to have that might experience a flood, building collapse or whatever the case may be. Even if all your machinery is in good shape, you are kind of at a standstill if you don’t have those redundancies built-in.”

Though this article does not address most of the basic

requirements of emergency planning, it is impossible to not mention the place that training holds in emergency preparation. Training workers is a vital part of any emergency preparation plan and something that companies can get creative with. Having the best and most complete plan written does absolutely no good if no one knows what it says or how to implement it.

Vaagen Bros. Lumber, which has locations in Colville and Usk, Wash., has a consistent schedule of emergency and safety training meetings that employees are required to attend. This includes training all new employees, yearly evacuation training and drills, and monthly safety meetings on a scheduled list of safety-related topics. But they have taken it a step further than that even, by forming a safety committee.

Suzie Gotham, the company's human resources coordinator said that the committee includes one person from each department and shift. This is a simple way to ensure that there is someone in all areas of the facility who has the responsibility to lead other workers on what they should do in emergency situations. According to Gotham, each member of the safety committee has first aid training, is involved in conducting safety audits throughout the plant on a regular basis and makes sure that their crew knows what is going on.

It is important for all companies and every employee to realize that they are not immune to emergencies large or small and that the most important step in preparing for any type of emergency is just that, preparing. Having plans in place that employees are familiar with can

go a long way toward lowering the state of confusion that often accompanies emergency situations. And by including plans for continuing operations in the prepared plan, companies are able to think through them while they have the luxury of time to do so, instead of trying to make them on the fly, and losing even more time trying to figure out what to do.

"The best way to avoid any type of disaster is preparedness," said Kerr. "Prepare for the worst case scenario then pray it never happens."

USDA Works to Reopen Markets For Virginia and South Carolina Logs

By: Rebecca Blue, Deputy Under Secretary for Marking and Regulatory Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture

When pest detections led China to suspend exports of logs from Virginia and South Carolina last spring, USDA began work to minimize the impact of this trade disruption on one of those states' most important industries.

We began by negotiating with China to establish science-based standards to allow log exports to resume. Our work culminated in a visit by Chinese officials to South Carolina and Virginia. The delegation's visit took them to facilities where state and Federal officials carry out agricultural inspections and treatments, tours of port facilities, and demonstrations of land management practices at forests, nurseries, and logging operations

across Virginia and South Carolina.

In late April, I had the privilege of meeting with the delegation and getting a firsthand look at operations at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal in Portsmouth, VA. We met with representatives from the Virginia Port Authority, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Virginia forestry and logging industries. Together, we saw countless examples of how our sampling, treating and safeguarding procedures work—ensuring high-quality, pest-free log exports.

After the visit, Chinese officials commended USDA, the Departments of Agriculture in Virginia and South Carolina, wood trade industries, port authorities, and fumigation companies for the work they have done to improve safeguarding measures against pinewood nematodes and other pests.

In recognition of these improvements, China has approved a six-month pilot program, beginning June 1, 2012, through December 1, 2012, for logs exported from Virginia and South Carolina. Logs exported to China during the pilot program must meet all existing export requirements, as well as certain additional requirements regarding fumigations, quarantine enhanced for pinewood nematode testing, phytosanitary certification, and ports of entry. At the end of the pilot program, if all logs exported to China have met quarantine requirements, China has agreed to formally reopen the market for exports of logs from Virginia and South Carolina.

We are optimistic that we will be able to work with our state and industry stakeholders to determine ways to meet these additional requirements.

The United States exported more than \$7.7 billion in forestry products last year, supporting more than 65,000 jobs. Nearly 25 percent of those exports landed in China, the second largest market for U.S. timber. Our seaports in Virginia and South Carolina handled more than half-a-billion-dollars in U.S. forestry exports last year. We are proud of the accomplishments of our Virginia and South Carolina forestry exporters. We believe that this pilot program signals renewed Chinese confidence in our system.

Here at USDA, we know the importance of regaining the Chinese market for our Virginia and South Carolina forestry industries. We are committed to assisting our industry partners to meet the conditions of the pilot program and continuing to fight for unrestricted exports of logs from these two states.

Forest owners and EPA agree –No permits for forest roads

The National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) agreed with the objective of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal to manage forest roads under the Clean Water Act (CWA) using state administered Best Management Practices (BMPs) rather than industrial permits. Despite agreement with the objective, NAFO expressed the need for legal certainty to

ensure a BMP approach is not undone by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

“Forest owners, the EPA and Congress all agree that using best management practices rather than permits is the right policy for forest roads, said Dave Tenny, NAFO President and CEO. “This has been a Clean Water Act success story for more than 35 years. EPA’s effort to preserve its existing policy is a step in the right direction.”

EPA’s Notice of Intent for a rulemaking published in today’s Federal Register seeks to maintain EPA’s long-standing approach of using BMPs, rather than permits to regulate forest road systems under the CWA. The EPA action responds to a novel ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in NECD v. Brown holding, for the first time in CWA history, that forest roads are “point sources” of water pollution requiring industrial discharge permits typically used for factories and sewage plants. While the EPA action addresses whether forest roads require permits, it does not address the Ninth Circuit’s determination that forest roads are point sources. The Supreme Court will decide whether to review the Ninth Circuit ruling by mid-June, after receiving input from the Solicitor General which is expected by Friday, May 25.

“While there is broad agreement on the policy objective, we need legal certainty to make it stick,” Tenny stated. “We know litigators lie in wait to bring anything EPA does back to the Ninth Circuit as quickly as possible, because the court has little regard for Supreme Court precedent or EPA’s longstanding policy. Last year Congress and the

Administration provided short-term relief through bipartisan legislation preventing the Ninth Circuit ruling from taking effect. If the Supreme Court reviews the case, Congress and the Administration must extend this legislation for another year. If the High Court does not review the case, they must make it permanent. That is the only way to provide certainty against Ninth Circuit overreaching.”

Twenty-six state attorneys general have filed a brief asking the Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit decision. Letters to the Administration from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives also urge defense of the EPA’s rules before the Court. In December Congress and the Administration protected EPA’s historical treatment of forest roads as nonpoint sources by taking action in the 2012 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The effort, achieved with bipartisan support in both the Senate and House, prevents the Ninth Circuit’s ruling from taking effect until October 1, 2012.

Economic impact studies reveal that Clean Water Act permits for forest roads would impose significant costs on forest owners, loggers, haulers and mills causing the loss of tens of thousands of jobs. Additionally, new permit requirements would expose forest management to substantial legal costs associated with challenges and lawsuits from private citizens.

“If allowed to stand the Ninth Circuit approach will cost hundreds of millions of dollars, kill thousands of jobs and invite protracted litigation over permit technicalities without any corresponding environmental

benefit. Federal, state, tribal and private resource professionals agree that complicated and costly federal permits will not make our rivers and streams any cleaner,” Tenny concluded.

Shortly after the CWA was enacted in 1972, the EPA recognized forest management activities as nonpoint sources most effectively regulated under state-administered BMPs. BMPs are locally designed to adapt to the variety of forest conditions across the country and provide flexibility to address concerns if and when they arise. The success of BMPs enables the EPA to rank forestry as a “minor contributor” to water pollution.

What is Emerald Ash Borer?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive wood boring pest that kills all types of ash trees. It only affects ash and is not a threat to any other type of tree. Unfortunately ash is found in large numbers in our communities and, to a lesser extent, in our forest. This insect has been found in ash as little as 1 inch in diameter.

EAB is native to Eastern Russia, northern China, Japan, and Korea. It was first discovered in

the U.S. in southeast Michigan in 2002. Since then it has moved throughout the Northeast and Midwest region until first being detected in Missouri in 2008. The first find in Missouri was at the Greenville Recreational Area on Wappapello Lake on US Army Corps of Engineers land in Wayne County, resulting in prohibiting movement of all hardwood firewood, ash nursery stock, and ash wood (including branches from the county). The pest has killed millions of ash trees at a significant cost to communities, businesses, and homeowners.

Recent Finds

On Friday, July 20, 2012, the USDA APHIS confirmed that the adult insects found in Platte County are EAB. In addition, adult insects were found in two locations in Reynolds County. In short, this destructive insect has spread.

The find in the Kansas City metropolitan area (Platte County just north of the Missouri River between Kansas City and the KC International Airport) was initially made by an observant Certified Arborist who was asked to remove a tree in a homeowner's yard. The infestation site is residential and under county government. This will make monitoring and response very different from the

approach used for the Wayne County infestation.

The finds in Reynolds County were from EAB trapping efforts. The first positive catch was on a trap in the north part of the county, not far from a boat access point on the Black River. The second positive catch was on a trap placed along a state highway on the very south side of the county.

Regulatory Authority

Responsibility to regulate this pest rests with the USDA, APHIS, and MDA. USDA will establish a quarantine addressing interstate movement of ash, firewood, and EAB. MDA will establish a quarantine addressing intrastate movement of the same. At present, only Wayne County is quarantined by USDA and MDA. It remains to be seen what changes to the existing state and federal quarantine will be made. Decisions will be made after new infestations are mapped.

For More Information...

<http://extension.missouri.edu/emeraldashborer/index.aspx>

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/emerald-ash-borer>

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

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