

# Utah Forest News

## Utah Forest Landowner Education Program Newsletter

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### Utah Sawmill Update

Landowners seeking to restore forest structure on their property through timber harvest require operational sawmills within a reasonable distance from their land. Without these markets most landowners cannot afford to practice good forestry.

A serious concern echoed by several private forest landowners in Utah recently is our lack of markets for their logs. In the past few years' landowners have been known to ship logs to Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana to get paid for the wood removed from their property. An often asked question is: Why don't we have enough sawmills in Utah to purchase the logs produced here?



*Family employees sort lumber at the Blazzard Sawmill in Kamas.*

Steve Daniels, USU Extension Rural Development Specialist, says that "In some ways, the answer

is simple: the loss of federal timber doomed the mills. There is insufficient harvesting on private land to support an industry base. Haul distances have become prohibitive. Imports are a factor, but not the major one."

Meanwhile, of the nearly 20 mills contacted for this article, the most often cited concern was a lack of available wood in Utah, and a

few were shipping wood into Utah from Colorado, Wyoming, and Arizona to ensure a consistent supply. The apparent disconnect is likely to be caused by a combination of price, timing, and communication.

Rob Lilieholm, USU College of Natural Resources economics professor says "Cutting trees takes time and money; cutting trees in remote locations takes even more time and money. Paying for this is simple when there is a mill nearby that wants the material

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Sawmills in Utah and Surrounding Areas
- Bill Zanotti and Ann Price Receive Recognition
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan Handbook
- How Much Is Your Timber Worth?

*continued on following page*

*continued from previous page*

you are cutting. When no mills are available to pay for the material, management becomes very difficult or impossible. That is the situation we are facing today.”

“Mill consolidation and the loss of capacity in the Interior West have been going on for decades” noted Lilieholm. “These markets are non-specialized (i.e., a 2x4 is a 2x4 is a 2x4), and this severely limits the opportunities for isolated, small-scale producers like we have in Utah.”

Henry Spelter of the USDA Forest Products Lab in Wisconsin recently authored a report that backs Lilieholm’s assertion. Starting with approximately 1,300 Canadian and American sawmills in 1996, 149 were permanently closed between 1996 and 2003, not including small portable or part-time operations. These mills represented nearly 12% of the 1995 industry total.

On the other hand, Spelter reported that 25 new mills have offset much of the lost production potential and that upgrades to existing sawmills have increased production capacity, which leaves us with an actual gain in production capacity for our region.

Spelter said that he sympathizes with Utah landowners. “Ultimately, a lack of markets for timber just leads to the land’s conversion to subdivisions” he says.

Many of the sawmills operating in Utah today are

importing logs from out of state to ensure a steady supply, stating that a continuous supply of logs is their biggest challenge to doing business.



*The older saws at the Fabrizio Sawmill in Hanna are being combined with new equipment and moved to a new site north of Duchesne.*

A wide variety of wood products are produced from Utah forests, including specialty products such as tongue and groove aspen paneling and excelsior mats used for erosion control. Utah forest products are also exported considerable distances. Mill operators reported their finished products going as far away as Tennessee, California, and even Mexico.

Utah’s environmental and economic sustainability can be promoted by supporting these local businesses on both the supply and demand sides. If you have logs to sell, consider these businesses. If you are going to build a barn or shed, or improve your cabin with aspen paneling, call your local forest products producer.

*By Darren McAvoy*

**“Forest management choices, although complex, can be narrowed down to three simple options, we can cut trees, burn trees, or leave them alone. Good forest management is using all three of these choices at the right time and place.”**  
**Mike Kuhns, Utah State University Forestry Extension Specialist**

## Sawmills in Utah and Surrounding Areas

The following is a list of sawmills in and near Utah currently interested in buying logs from Utah landowners. Also included are some notes on their status.

Skyline Forest Resources, Escalante, 435-826-4522. Buying pine, spruce, aspen, white fir and Douglas-fir. Skyline recently added a second shift to their production schedule, bringing them to 74 employees. Produced an estimated 10 million board feet of lumber last year. They ship finished products all over the country, and are especially excited about the new six-inch interior paneling that they are making with aspen; it is reported to be beautiful. (For more info see UFN Spring 2003, UFN winter 2002.)

Thompson Logging, Kamas, 435-640-3694. Buying pine and aspen. Thompson milled eight million board feet last year with 14 employees. They ship their finished products to California, Texas, Arizona, and other states. They make dunnage (used to protect goods from damage in shipping) with the aspen they buy. As is the case with many Utah sawmills, they do a lot with the waste products, such as producing bark chips for landscaping.

Blizzard Lumber Company, Kamas, 435-783-4550. Buying spruce and Douglas-fir. They employ about thirty people, mostly family, and take the unique approach of using the same labor to log during the summer and saw during the winter. (For more info see UFN Summer 2002.) Recently they have been sawing Douglas-fir into dimensional lumber for sheds and barns. Their products go many places, but mostly to the East.

Leavitt Lumber Company, Kamas, 435-783-4678. Buying spruce, aspen, white fir and Douglas-fir. This mill employs 10 people.

Fabrizio Sawmill, Duchesne, 435-848-5686. Buying mostly Douglas-fir, but will saw most species. Formerly in Hanna, the sawmill is currently being

moved to a larger site north of Duchesne. They have purchased a new mill from Meadows Mills in North Carolina that will soon be operational on the new site. (For more info see UFN Summer 2001.)

Satterwhite Log Homes, Gunnison, 435-528-5001. Buying spruce logs, standing dead, some green. Last fall they were offering \$300/mbf delivered. They recently sent a portion of the mill to Pecos, New Mexico, where they purchased some burned timber. Currently, they are using logs from private property. They report that on average, a standing dead spruce in Utah will last 10 years, depending on many factors, and will still hold its value at the mill.

Carbon County Lumber, Wellington, 435-613-0500. Buying Douglas-fir, spruce, subalpine fir. Having recently reopened the log yard, they plan to begin sawing in early June. (For more info see UFN Fall 2002.)

K&D Forest Products, Panguitch, 435-676-8194. Buying aspen, pine, spruce. Employs up to 30 people, making lumber and log homes.

Jensen Lumber, Ovid, Idaho, 208-847-0889. Buying fir, spruce, aspen, pine. Located just north of Bear Lake, employs 38 people, produced 11 million board feet last year. In business since 1972, they ship 80 percent of their products out of the area.

South and Jones Timber, Evanston, Wyoming, 307-789-2398. Buying fir, spruce, lodgepole pine. Employs 50 people, mostly private timber, makes mine blocks, side lumber, pallets.

Rocky Mountain Timber Products, Del Norte, Colorado, 719-657-2846. Buying fir, spruce, aspen, pine. The sawmill was recently purchased and moved from the Timber Products mill location in La Sal, almost five hours east to Del Norte. "Bringing you the best in traditional and custom wood products."

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Western Excelsior Corp., Mancos, Colorado, 970-533-7412. Buying aspen. With 125, employees this facility produces erosion control products and swamp-cooler pads. Looking into the possibility of having a remote purchase site in Utah where logs can be debarked and dried before shipping.

Heber Valley Logworks, Heber City, 435-654-2712. Buying Douglas-fir, spruce, lodgepole, prefer dead. Make log homes, railings, furniture for a Utah market.

Stevens Forest Products, Smithfield, 435-752-5029. Buying local logs; Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, employs four people.

Welch Sawmill Inc., Hyrum, 435-245-4429. Buying all species, owner operated.

Beaver Wood Products, Beaver, Utah 435-438-5584. Dealing mostly in firewood products.

Lucas Lumber, Ogden, 801-392-6940. Buying lumber (not logs) for remanufacture.

This list does not include every mill in the state. Some declined the offer of inclusion in this article, others did not return inquiries, and still others exist without the author's knowledge. In an effort to promote communication among buyers and purchasers of forest products, the Forest Landowner Education Program has created the Utah Forest Marketplace ([http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/business/BU\\_BuySell.htm](http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/business/BU_BuySell.htm)), a Web-based bulletin board that can also be used by those without Web access. For more information on the Utah Forest Marketplace see UFN Winter 2004 or call Darren McAvoy at 435-797-0560.

## 2004 Hobble Creek Forest Harvest Tour

The third annual Harvested Area Tour is being planned for Saturday, July 10. We will meet in Springville, south of Provo, at a location to be announced, and drive up Hobble Creek to visit an excellent timber harvest that was completed a few years ago on the Uinta National Forest. Lunch and transportation from Springville will be provided. Look for an announcement in the mail, or monitor the Upcoming Events tab on our Web site at <http://extension.usu.edu/forestry>. Please mark your calendars for this upcoming event.

## Video Clips Now Available on Our Web Site

Because of the versatile nature of the Internet and the potential for presenting information in a wide variety of formats, the Private Forest Landowner Education Program has recently made available a selection of video clips related to forestry. The clips are currently arranged under three headings, Farmington Mudslide of April 2004, Fire Related Video, and Forest Product

Equipment Demonstration, with more soon to follow. Darren McAvoy of Utah State University Forestry Extension has filmed and produced these educational videos using subject matter both applicable and interesting to forest landowners in Utah. For more information and to view these video clips, go to <http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/Reading/Videos.htm>.

## Bill Zanotti and Ann Price Receive Recognition From Utah Department of Natural Resources



*Bill Zanotti (center) receives the Community Outreach Award from DNR Executive Director, Bob Morgan (left) and State Forester Joel Frandsen (right).*

Bill Zanotti, Stewardship Forester for the Southeast Area Office in Moab, was selected to receive the Department of Natural Resources' 2003 Community Outreach Award. Zanotti was selected because of the excellent working relationship he has developed with forest landowners throughout his area. He often goes above and beyond the requirements of his job when interacting with landowners, providing quality assistance while fostering and maintaining partnerships. His practices and collaboration on forest stewardship plans protect and improve the health of thousands of acres of forestlands, which in turn benefits natural resource values such as water quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat. Zanotti also demonstrated great community spirit and helped foster Olympic spirit in his community when he joined the celebration of the 2002 Olympics, carrying the torch through Utah's famous red-rock country. He generously invited friends and co-workers to attending various sporting events with him. His positive attitude, dedication, and successful interactions with forest landowners, forest industry professionals, and community leaders have generated tremendous benefits for landowners, their communities, and the state.

Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands Forest Legacy Coordinator Ann Price has been chosen as the Department of Natural Resources Employee of the Year for 2003. She works with private forest landowners and various partners to develop conservation easements on environmentally important tracts of land. She has been recognized by other states and by federal counterparts for her knowledge and understanding of all facets of the Forest Legacy Program. She has extended herself to help train other states when they were creating their programs. Price's efforts have resulted in Utah's program becoming third in the nation for number of completed projects, and the two states with more completed projects have been in the program twice as long. Utah has a higher value of land under conservation easement than any other state, now more than \$35 million. This has been accomplished with only \$12 million in federal funding which was leveraged with \$22 million in landowner donations and donations from other stakeholders. Price's dedication, hard work, and successful relationship building with landowners, peers and partners is reaping great benefits for the citizens of Utah in terms of healthy forestlands, and their accompanying natural resource benefits.

Thanks to Jim Springer, Utah DNR, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands.



*Ann Price, Department of Natural Resources Employee of the Year.*

## Handbook Helps At-Risk Communities Better Prepare for Wildfires

**Completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan will earn communities priority for funding of hazardous fuels reduction projects under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.**

A coalition of organizations concerned with protecting communities from catastrophic wildfires has released a step-by-step handbook that guides local communities in wildfire-prone areas to better prepare and reduce the future risks of catastrophic wildfires. The handbook was developed jointly by the Society of American Foresters (SAF), the National Association of State Foresters, the National Association of Counties, the Western Governors' Association, and the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress, and endorsed by the Southern Governors' Association. It offers a detailed description of how to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan as directed by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA).

*Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan: A Handbook for Wildland–*

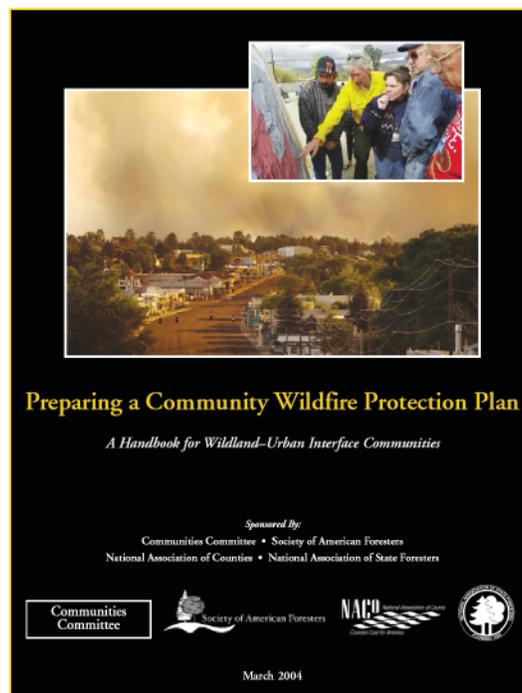
*Urban Interface Communities* explains who should be involved in developing a plan, how to convene interested parties, what elements to consider in assessing community risks and priorities, and how to develop a mitigation or protection plan to address those risks. According to the formula outlined in the HFRA and detailed in the handbook, the planning process will be led by local governments working with area fire departments and the state agency

responsible for forest management. They will collaborate with the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) if appropriate, as well as other interested partners. The handbook is designed to complement the recently released interim field guidelines for the HFRA, published by the USDA Forest Service and the BLM.

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan has two objectives. First, it identifies and prioritizes the surrounding area, including both federal and nonfederal lands, for hazardous fuels reduction treatments, while recommending methods for achieving hazardous fuels reductions. Second, the plan outlines measures for reducing fire damage to structures throughout at-risk communities. Completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan will also earn communities priority

for funding of hazardous fuels reduction projects carried out under the auspices of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

For a copy of the handbook and other resources for developing community wildfire protection plans, visit the SAF website at <http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwpp.cfm>.



## How Much Is Your Timber Worth?

Landowners typically receive differing prices for the timber taken from their property. That price varies according to the size, quantity, and quality of the wood removed, the harvesting methods and equipment used, and the hauling distance to the mill. The following figures are a rough estimate of stumpage values in Utah. They are based on the average high-bids received in USDA Forest Service tractor-logged timber sales for mixed live conifer species in Utah. Stumpage is the net value of the sawlogs, or the total value at the mill minus logging and hauling costs. Remember that this number is based on averages, and your stumpage value may be higher or lower. A timber appraisal conducted by a professional forester is required to determine an accurate value for your timber. These prices were effective 3/18/2004. Current stumpage values will be available quarterly on our Web site at [http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/Management/Timber\\_TimberWorth.htm](http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/Management/Timber_TimberWorth.htm).

Type of Wood	Price per mbf (thousand board feet)*
Spruce (live)	\$204.06/mbf
Mixed live conifer (not spruce)	\$115.33/mbf
Subalpine fir	\$79.80/mbf
Aspen	\$9.26/mbf
Dead: spruce, mixed conifer (house logs)	\$86.28/mbf

\* To convert to approximate price per ton, divide by six

These timber values were provided by Robert Paroz, USDA Forest Service Region 4 Valuation/Appraisals.

## Managing Aspen in Western Landscapes Conference

We invite you to attend the “Managing Aspen in Western Landscapes Conference” to be held September 21-23, 2004 at the Hunter Conference Center at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah.

Registration is \$200, and student registration is \$75 if received on or before Sept. 1, 2004. A limited number of reduced rate registrations are available for non-agency forest landowners. Call Darren McAvoy for availability.

Those interested in presenting a paper, poster, or oral presentation should submit a brief abstract or description to the organizing committee, due June 15, 2004.

This conference is sponsored by Utah State University Extension Forestry, the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, and USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry. Other contributors and co-sponsors are Southern Utah University and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands.

For more information go to <https://extension.usu.edu/conference/events/aspen/>. Direct abstracts or questions to Darren McAvoy, Aspen Conference Committee, 5230 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84332-5230 or e-mail [darren.mcavoy@usu.edu](mailto:darren.mcavoy@usu.edu).

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### COMING EVENTS:

- **Managing Aspen in Western Landscapes-** Sept. 21-23, 2004, Cedar City, UT. This three-day conference on aspen management in the West is organized by USU Forestry Extension in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. For more information, contact Darren McAvoy at 435-797-0560 or [darren.mcavoy@usu.edu](mailto:darren.mcavoy@usu.edu).
- **Forest Harvest Tour-** July 10, 2004. Meet in Springville (location TBA), for a Saturday tour of a site up Hobble Creek, on the Uinta National Forest. See our Web site for more details as they are announced (<http://extension.usu.edu/forestry/events.htm>).
- **Backyards and Beyond: 2004 Wildland/Urban Interface Conference-** Nov. 4-6, 2004, DoubleTree Hotel, Denver, CO. Topics include wildland/urban interface assessment, planning, safety, fire suppression, mitigation, resources, and others. For more information go to [www.firewise.org/2004conference](http://www.firewise.org/2004conference).

### For More Information:

Regarding any of the information presented in this newsletter, please call Darren McAvoy at Utah State University, 435-797-0560, write to him at 5230 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-5230, or email [darren.mcavoy@usu.edu](mailto:darren.mcavoy@usu.edu).

State of Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (DFF&SL) service foresters for your area can be contacted by calling 801-538-5555.

Ideas and written contributions to this newsletter are encouraged. Send your contributions or comments to the return address above or call 435-797-0560, or email [darren.mcavoy@usu.edu](mailto:darren.mcavoy@usu.edu).