



Also Serving – Interior Logging Association (ph 250-503-2199) & North West Loggers Association (ph 250-635-6801)

Issue # 553 Week of March 15, 2010

Merritt gets busy

Aspen Planers in Merritt is upgrading its planer mill, which will be capable of producing 500 million board feet per year, about 10,000 Super B's worth of lumber. The previous planer could do 250 million b.f.. Trace Resources, also in Merritt, has invested in a new electric chipper, which can process up to 1,800 m³ of wood every shift, and has also signed pulp-log supply agreements with Harmac in Nanaimo and Celgar in Castlegar. Trace also supplies hog fuel to Domtar in Kamloops and Windset Farms in Delta. Meanwhile, another pellet plant announcement- Highland Pellet, an Ontario company, will be building a pellet plant in Merritt, with more than \$2 million in federal funding from the Community Adjustment fund. The plant will employ 36 workers on site and create another 12 jobs in the bush.

Pre-Expo Workshops

We're lining up some interesting workshops and training opportunities for the two days prior to Resources Expo. June 1 we'll have Corrie Pitzer, from SAFEmap International, facilitating a workshop on Risk Management. Corrie is an amazing speaker, and his presentation is very impactful. June 1 we'll also be hosting a Conflict Resolution/Negotiating workshop, focusing particularly on contract management. On June 2 the BC Council on Substance Abuse will be providing a training session for supervisors and company owners on Dealing with Substance Abuse in the Workplace. That same day we'll also be running a Wilderness & Remote First Aid course, especially for resource workers who end up being the first responders to incidents in remote locations. Funding and travel support for attending these workshops is available. Call the CILA office for more information. 1-877-562-5668



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Harvesting peaks by 2013

A new report by International Wood Markets Group forecasts that peak sawlog availability and output in BC will happen by 2013, due to the Mountain Pine beetle. According to the report, "one of the mid-term outcomes of this catastrophe should be much higher lumber prices for those mills that survive, as production from other parts of Canada and the US will not be enough to meet market demand". Russ Taylor also says, "After some expected gains in lumber markets between 2010 and 2013, the BC Interior lumber industry will need to begin reducing production and/or closing mills". The report also states that as solid wood and panel production declines, so there will be a reduction in the availability of residue fibre, chips, sawdust, shavings and hogfuel, which may lead to further plant closures in pulp & paper, panel board, pellet and electrical energy production. For the full report go to: www.woodmarkets.com

Green Sector BC's new economic hope

The Globe Foundation is predicting BC's green economy will grow to \$27 billion per year by 2020, providing thousands of jobs, and real sustainable growth. It already accounts for 166,000 direct and indirect full-time equivalent jobs in 28 sectors and subsectors. Worldwide the green sector has an estimated value of \$5.2 trillion US. In BC it accounted for 10.2% of the GDP in 2008.

Conifex buying Mackenzie Mills?

According to Opinion250.com, Conifex of Ft. St. James is buying the Abitibi sawmill and planer mill in Mackenzie. Neither Abitibi or Conifex has confirmed the sale, which apparently still has to be approved by the Quebec Court overseeing the disposal of Abitibi's assets.



The Central Interior Logging Association's Weekly Log-Harvesting Industry Update

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Somebody should call Obama....

Several reports have come out this week about the Mountain Pine Beetle spread in the western US, cautioning against logging pine beetle-killed trees. The US Forest Service is concentrating on taking down beetle-killed trees only where it will prevent the most harm to humans, but they don't see a relationship between the MPB outbreak and forest fire activity. The US Forest Service is focusing on removing trees in recreation areas and along roads and power lines. Even though they reference BC as "ground zero for the mountain pine beetle infestation in North America", the authors of the Colorado State University report say "dead trees do not increase the risk of wildfires". They go on to say that if "national forests are logged because forest managers fear beetle-killed trees could become tinderboxes for catastrophic wildfire, it'll do more harm than good". Maybe Minister Bell needs to give Obama a call?

TO ALL CILA MEMBERS

A reminder that our AGM is set for Friday, May 7, and we need nominations for the 2010-11 Board of Directors. We're looking for regional and sectoral representation from our harvesting contractors, trucking contractors and suppliers. For a nomination form, please email ellys@cila.ca.