

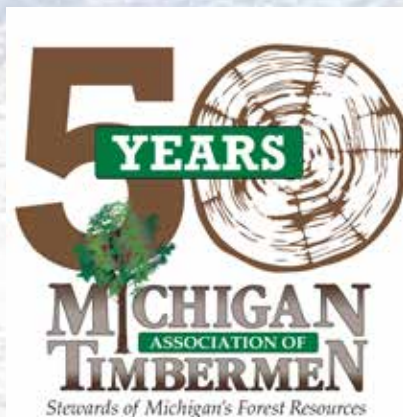
THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMBERMEN

WINTER 2021

TIMBER TALK

Dedicated to Representing the Needs of Small Businesses in the Forest Product Industry

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



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1972—2022

Michigan Association of Timbermen
50th Anniversary Celebration

Save *the* Date!
April 21 & 22, 2022

47th MAT/MATSIF/FLM Annual Convention

Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Dining, Entertainment, Kids Activities, and More —Bring the whole family!

Registration will include four hot meals, one beverage break, and three social gatherings.

Indoor and outdoor SFE credit seminars for a more interactive learning experience.

Indoor and outdoor exhibitors, including heavy machinery and wood carving.

Informational and engaging industry related seminars.

Friday night banquet dinner, awards, and entertainment!

Plus lots of great vendors.

Registration is now OPEN!!



**MAT's 50th Anniversary Celebration
47th MAT/MATSIF/FLM Annual Convention
Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
April 21 & 22, 2022**



*******PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE*******

Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Company Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Member _____ Non Member _____ E-Mail _____

| | <u>Early Registration</u> | <u>After March 30th</u> |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Member Adult 18 + (membership includes all employees) | _____ @ \$190 = \$_____ | _____ @ \$225 = \$_____ |
| Member Spouse (Includes all meals) | _____ @ \$110 = \$_____ | _____ @ \$150 = \$_____ |
| All Friday Meals Child Under 18 | _____ @ \$25 = \$_____ | _____ @ \$25 = \$_____ |
| Friday Banquet Only Adult 18+ | _____ @ \$100 = \$_____ | _____ @ \$125 = \$_____ |
| Non Member—Full Registration | _____ @ \$260 = \$_____ | _____ @ \$350 = \$_____ |
| Non Member—Banquet Only | _____ @ \$125 = \$_____ | _____ @ \$175 = \$_____ |
| | | TOTAL AMOUNT DUE - \$_____ |
| <div style="border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Please let us know if you have special diet requirements—timbermen1972@gmail.com </div> | | No charge for children under 4 |

| Please check which events you will be attending | # attending |
|--|--------------------|
| THURSDAY MATSIF SFE Class | |
| THURSDAY Welcome Reception | |
| THURSDAY Night MATSIF Award Banquet | |
| FRIDAY Breakfast Buffet | |
| FRIDAY Lunch | |
| FRIDAY SFE Classes | |
| FRIDAY Spouses Event | |
| FRIDAY Night MAT Awards Banquet | |

[Reserve your rooms as soon as possible!](#)

To book your reservation, call the Kewadin Casino at 800-539-2346 and ask for the MI Assn of Timbermen group or use booking id 20874

No refunds 10 days prior to convention / Those paying with credit card will pay 5% Convenience Fee

Make checks payable to MAT and return registration form with full payment to :

Michigan Association of Timbermen / 7350 M123 / Newberry, MI 49868

Phone: 906-293-3236 / Fax : 906-293-5444

Email: timbermen1972@gmail.com



1972-2022

**MAT's 50th Anniversary Celebration
47th MAT/MATSIF/FLM Annual Convention
Kewadin Casino, Sault St. Marie, MI
April 21 & 22, 2022**



Exhibitor Form

Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Attendee Name (Please Print) _____

Company Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email : _____

Industry _____

| | <u>Pre Registration</u> | <u>After March 30th</u> |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Indoor Exhibit Table 1- 8' table w/skirt and 2 chairs | _____ @ \$200 = \$ _____ | _____ @ \$400 = \$ _____ |
| Outdoor Exhibit Space | _____ @ \$250 = \$ _____ | _____ @ \$500 = \$ _____ |
| Exhibitor Meals | _____ @ \$ 100 = \$ _____ | _____ @ \$120 = \$ _____ |
| TOTAL AMOUNT DUE - \$ _____ | | |

| Please include the number of who will be participating in: | # Attendees |
|---|--------------------|
| THURSDAY Welcome Reception | |
| THURSDAY Night MATSIF Awards Banquet | |
| FRIDAY Breakfast Buffet | |
| FRIDAY Lunch | |
| FRIDAY Night MAT Awards Banquet | |

Please let us know if you have any special diet requirements—timbermen1972@gmail.com

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Email: timbermen1972@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislation Introduced to Prohibit Selling of Carbon Credits

Rep. John Damoose (R-Harbor Springs) recently introduced House Bill 5422 to prohibit the state from selling carbon credits or “carbon credit offsets.” This legislation was introduced in response to the announcement by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to have DTE spend \$10 million to purchase carbon credits to offset carbon emissions that they produce by investing in state forests. That project will take place over 100,000 acres in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

Despite assurances that timber harvest won’t be affected by the agreement, MAT has been very cautious about the plan moving forward.

The DNR website says the following regarding timber harvesting from this project:

“Management of state forest resources and the sale of carbon credits are intended to be complementary. Carbon credits will be generated from the management of forest resources within the Pigeon River Country state forest, as governed by the 2007 Pigeon River Country Concept of Management and the 2013 Northern Lower Peninsula Regional State Forest Management Plan. It is not anticipated that the carbon project will adversely affect management and timber harvest levels from the forest. Carbon credits are generated based on the DNR’s commitment to maintaining forest growth levels and progressively increasing forest stocking, rather than increasing harvest levels as would be

allowable under the management plan and state law.”

House Bill 5422 has been referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and MAT lobbyists are told there is a lot of interest to move forward on the legislation. The bill has 16 Republican co-sponsors.

MAT Backing Legislation for Fuel Reciprocity for Raw Forest Products

Rep. Greg Markkanen (R-Hancock) introduced a three-bill package that would allow the Department of Treasury to enter into qualified fuel tax reciprocity agreements with the proper authorities of other jurisdictions (either individually or with a group of jurisdictions) if the Department of Treasury considers the agreements proper or expedient and in the interests of the people of Michigan.

House bills 4976, 4977 and 4978 would provide the Department of Treasury with the sole authority to enter into qualified fuel tax reciprocity agreements. Qualified fuel tax reciprocity agreement would mean a fuel tax reciprocity agreement that provides reciprocal treatment only for motor carriers carrying “raw forest products” within 30 air miles of the border of this state.

Raw Forest Products is defined as “logs, pilings, posts, poles, cordwood products, wood chips, sawdust, pulpwood, intermediary lumber, fuel wood, and Christmas trees that are not altered by a manufacturing process off the land, sawmill, or factory from which they are taken and are not finished products suitable for sale at retail.”

These bills passed the House Transportation Committee where they were supported by MAT and other logging interest groups and passed the full





BY: JASON WADAGA,
MAT LOBBYIST

House of Representatives nearly unanimously. The testimony in committee centered around the bureaucratic red-tape of the current system that requires hours of accounting work to be done quarterly that amounted to small, and in some cases, less than \$1 transactions.

The bill now sits in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the Michigan Senate.

MAT Pushing for Master Logger Program Funding

With billions and billions of dollars needed to be spent by the state by the end of next year, MAT has met with legislative leaders to discuss funding to assist with the Master Logger Program.

The American Recovery Act (ARA) at the federal level has provided roughly \$10 billion for the State of Michigan to spend and we're hopeful that some of these dollars can be used to fund the Master Logger Program.

The Michigan Master Logger Program has been sponsored by MAT since its inception. The program has been in place since 2004 when its program was approved by the American Loggers Council as meeting their standards. MAT engaged Don Peterson to administer the program since its beginning and 2021 it was turned back to MAT to administer it. MAT's 501 C3 affiliate, MITREE, operated the program in 2021 A third-party independent Certification Board whose members represent a cross-section of forest stakeholders act upon the reports of the field auditors and decide whether or not to grant certification.

The program is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of much of this training. Application to the program is voluntary. No mill requires Master

Logger Certification of its producers. Four loggers were certified the first year and now the program has just shy of 80 of which just over half are in the lower peninsula and most of the rest are in the central and western upper peninsula. Currently the Master Loggers (ML) reside from Lake to Lake and from Mt. Pleasant northward through the rest of the state. Ideally the MLs would be recertified annually but due to a shortage of field auditors and money to pay for the cost of field audits, re-certifications occur about once per three years depending on available funds. In addition to a one-time application fee of \$250 paid by the logging company the program has been funded by grants from MI SFI-IC and some of the larger forest product companies. This year much of the funding was from USDA-FS's State and Private Forest fund which is administered by MI DNR's Forest Stewardship Program.

MAT is optimistic that it can get some state assistance to keep this program vibrant in the future. 🌲

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MAT Member Spotlight

Pomeroy Forest Products, Inc.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen is proud to name Pomeroy Forest Products, Inc. as the 2021 winter member spotlight.

Pomeroy Forest Products, Inc. was started in the early 1940s by Mark Pomeroy's grandfather Floyd Pomeroy, with a bucksaw and a horse. Floyd started the business as soon as he got out of the war to support his wife and seven children.

In the late 1970s Mark's father partnered with his grandfather, at that point there were a dozen or so saw guys and 3 iron mule skidders.

In the early 1980s, Mark started work for the company and that is when they bought their first processor to harvest timber.



In 2006 Mark bought out his father and he retired. Mark's wife Vicky takes care of the office detail.


In 2013 their son Zachary started working for their company, making him the 4th generation in their business.

"Pomeroy Forest Products—a 4th Generation Business Operation."

Currently, they operate 3 cut to length crews and produce saw logs and pulpwood for various mills in their region. Their trucking is handled by Lalonde Trucking.

Business seems to be very challenging at this time; they try to make the best of it. Keeping their overhead as low as possible, while remaining productive as possible, has been a key element in keeping them moving forward.

Mark and Vicky are very generous in their community and they are known for donating a bump truck load of firewood for the Nahma Music Festival and the Labor Day celebration. They are also major supporters of the Nahma golf outing that MAT puts on every summer. Last year Mark and Vicky were hole sponsors, registered a team, and bought the turtle carving in the live auction to support the entire small forest product industry of Michigan.

Mark, Vicky, and Zachary plan to continue operating Pomeroy Forest Products, Inc. for years to come. 

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NEEDED: MORE OUTSTANDING LOGGERS

The MAT MI Master Logger Program is looking for more volunteers to apply for Master Logger Certification.

If you feel that your company is competent in the areas of: Soil and Water protection; Silviculture and Utilization; Aesthetics; Wildlife/Biodiversity; Personnel and Equipment Safety and Maintenance; and Government Regulations, please consider applying for MI Master Logger Certification.

Certification is based upon a combination of an interview that focuses on business practices and a field audit of over 100 practices that evaluate how well a logging company actually applies the knowledge they acquired in Logger Education training. A third-party independent certification board reviews the audit reports and confers certification.

We are especially looking for companies that operate mainly South of Clare. Applicants from throughout Michigan are welcome to apply.

The program is also searching for Certified Master Loggers, Foresters and Resource Professionals who would be interested in joining our team of field auditors.

For more information, please contact Michelle Sears
at the MAT Office in Newberry at
906-293-3236 or msears@timbermen.org

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

REP. MICHELE HOITENGA



State Rep. Michele Hoitenga was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in November 2016. She represents the 102nd District, which includes Wexford and Mecosta counties and part of Osceola County. Rep. Hoitenga serves as chair of the House Communications and Technology Committee. In addition, she is vice chair of the Regulatory Reform committee and a member of the committees on Energy and Oversight.

Michele and her husband Philip live in Manton. They have two sons, Greg and Tyler, and a grandson Rhett.

She served as the mayor of Manton from 2013 to 2016. She has also served as treasurer and president of the Manton Chamber of Commerce and as vice chair of the Wexford County Republican Party. In addition, Rep. Hoitenga is a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association and director of the Wexford County Women on Target.

Question 1 - What's your number one legislative priority?

Preserving the rights of Michiganders and observing my oath of office to uphold the constitution is always my foremost obligation and responsibility. Nonetheless, as the Chairwoman of the House Communications and Technology committee, it has been a significant focus of mine to ensure rural Michigan has access to the internet. Coronavirus has changed the way we work, attend school, and conduct business from home so having reliable and affordable internet in rural Michigan remains a focus.

Question 2 - What's the best part of your job?

One of the best parts of my job is meeting people I would never have met otherwise. Although politics can be brutally ugly, there are facets to the job that not everyone sees. One example that stands

out for me was when I was contacted by a constituent who was worried about the well-being of a family member who was deeply depressed from so much isolation in a nursing home during the Coronavirus shutdowns. Two family members and I sat outside the window of the assisted living facility and visited with the family member who was not allowed in-person visitors due to state mandates. Despite never having met these people before, I wanted to let this family know I was listening to their concerns and would be an advocate for them in Lansing. It is these meaningful interactions that motivate me on a daily basis.

Question 3 - What's the biggest hidden gem in your district?

My district is full of hidden gems too numerous to mention. Downstate Michiganders travel north year-round for a reason, Northern Michigan is spectacular. From our scenic





trail systems, campgrounds, golf courses, rivers and lakes to the unique mom and pop businesses dotted around our tiny villages, we have something to offer everyone in our district. Ask the folks at any local diner about their local gems; they will direct you there. For example, in Buckley, where I was raised, a hiking trail called the High Rollaway lies hidden away with a breathtaking view of the Manistee river. In the fall when the leaves change colors, it is especially beautiful, and it costs nothing to explore.

Question 4 - Who's your modern day hero?

Veterans who served our country are my number one heroes and will always remain

so. But also, my definition of hero has evolved since the onset of Coronavirus. We could survive without all the luxuries we are accustomed to, but we could not survive without the many unsung modern-day heroes. Like the farmers who grow our food, the truckers who deliver our goods, the builders who build our houses, the linemen and roughnecks who provide us with energy. Gas station attendants, wait staff at local restaurants, plumbers, automobile technicians, and first responders. Obviously, I am missing so many other professions, but you get the idea. I am referring to the hardworking blue-collar men and women who show up for work every day and are rarely acknowledged. They are the modern-day heroes. 🌲



THE ALC ~~MR. SMITH~~ GOES TO WASHINGTON

BY: SCOTT DANE -
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL

The National Voice for Loggers, the American Loggers Council has opened an office in Washington DC, one block from the White House.

The iconic movie, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, depicts a “common-sense”, “small town”, albeit naïve and politically unsavvy, Washington outsider going to D.C. In a sense perhaps the American Loggers Council can be likened to that Jimmy Stewart character, “Mr. Smith”, who quickly discovers many of the shortcomings of the political process but remains steadfast in his values as he stands alone in an inspired fight against corruption and greed, ultimately succeeding in his political quests. It is likewise our intent to prevail.

Some may view the American Loggers Council, and the people that we represent, as “naïve” to the inner workings of the DC machine, but like Mr. Smith, in my 17 years of state and federal legislative work, I have found one simple formula for political success – forthright honesty. If elected and non-elected officials know that they can trust you and your message, then they are willing to work with you. Furthermore, for the most part loggers are respected within the halls of Congress, both right and left. Loggers represent hard working, “boots on the ground”, “salt of the earth”, “last of a breed” men and women



who are admired within the denizens of the Capitol.

Additionally, relationships are the basis for both business and politics. The American Loggers Council represents the politics of business, particularly at the federal level. To establish and build these relationships you must be “where” this business of politics is conducted – Washington DC, not Gilbert, Minnesota.

Washington DC is where the money is, (at least you’d think so the way it is thrown around sometimes), but that is not actually why the American Loggers Council is establishing an office in DC. More importantly, Washington DC is where the laws, policies and decisions are made that affect your business and your “money”.

It has been said: “If you are not at the table, you are probably on the menu.”

The American Loggers Council wants to make sure that the timber industry has a seat at the table and is not on the menu, that is why we have


“The famous bank robber Willie Sutton was asked, “Why do you rob banks?” He replied, “Because that’s where the money is.”

opened an office in DC. This American Loggers Council office will be available to use for the members during their visits to DC as an additional benefit of membership (Please contact the Council in advance to schedule use of the office and its amenities during your visit in Washington DC).

Some may believe that the timber industry is Mr. Smith, but like him, naïve as it may seem, the American Loggers Council believes that those in Washington DC still work for us, those who elected them. Therefore, the Council is prepared to be in DC: working to address the challenges and threats to the timber industry, establish relationships and solve problems. After all, the timber industry is a vital economic and environmental partner:


- Post-Pandemic Recovery
- Rural Job Development
- Healthy Forest Management
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Carbon Sequestration
- Renewable Energy & Fuel
- Forest Products Production

Absent a stable and sustainable timber industry, none of these economic and environmental benefits are achievable.

Healthy forests should not be a partisan issue. The American Loggers Council looks forward to working with our elected officials and government agencies in Washington DC to address the shared objectives and take advantage of the opportunities that the timber industry represents in achieving these benefits. 

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TRUCKING ACTION PLAN

The Biden-Harris administration, in a factsheet released on 12-16-21, outlined actions to strengthen the trucking workforce. The plan identifies four actions that will take place over the next 90-days. These are:

- **Take steps to reduce barriers to drivers getting CDLs:** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will provide over \$30 million in funding to help states expedite commercial driver licenses (CDLs).
- **Accelerate the expansion of Registered Apprenticeships:** Implement a national effort to recruit employers interested in developing new Registered Apprenticeship programs and expand existing programs to help put more well-trained drivers on the road in good trucking jobs.
- **Conduct veterans-focused outreach & recruitment:** The DOL Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will work with Veterans Service Organizations, Military Service Organizations, unions, industry trucking associations, training providers, and private partners to enable transitioning service members and veterans to attain good jobs in the trucking industry.
- **Launch joint DOT-DOL Driving Good Jobs initiative:** DOT and DOL are launching the joint Driving Good Jobs initiative that will engage drivers, unions, industry, and advocates on how to best implement the research and engagement efforts in the Infrastructure Law. 

Source: Forest Resources Association



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Brittany C. Jauquet

MAT was established in 1972 for the purpose of reducing costs and increasing profits of small forest industry businesses while ensuring a continued supply of timber. As a member you should enjoy all the benefits we have to offer.

Your membership within MAT provides the following opportunities:

- Free membership to American Loggers Council (ALC) and the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM).
- MAT provides multiple opportunities to earn free SFI credits throughout various sponsored events.
- MAT represents member's issues with local, state and federal departments such as MDOT, MDNR, CRA and Townships as well as Federal Motor Carrier issues.
- As a MAT member, you qualify for rebates thru Western Star, Peterbilt, International Truck, and Clark Trucks as well as other discounts from various other firms/programs.
- TIMSER Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of MAT owns Forest Insurance Center, Loggers Insurance Agency II LLC and Mauck Insurance Agency. Supporting these agencies helps provide funding for association programs.
- MAT endorses Superior Insurance Agency of Sault Ste. Marie as the Health Insurance Provider for association members.
- MAT retains KDA Consulting, a full service Lobbying firm, to assist with legislative issues.

To join, simply fill out the membership form at www.michigantimbermen.com/join and return to the MAT office. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at: (906) 293-3236



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SPACE MANAGEMENT

THE VALUE OF SPACE MANAGEMENT

Managing the space around your rig is key to keeping you, and those around you as safe as possible. Maintaining a cushion of space gives you extra time to react when something goes wrong around you.

HOW TO MAINTAIN A CUSHION OF SPACE

There are six sides to your rig. Your left and right, front, and back, and above and below.

The Front

Easiest to monitor – maintain at least 60-100 feet of space

Accidents – most collisions for tractor trailers occur because they cannot stop in time – caused from lack of space in front of the rig.

Inclement weather – you need at least one second for each 10 feet of vehicle length when you are traveling below 40 mph. When traveling faster add an additional second for safety – create more space between you and the vehicle in front when the roads are slippery.

A quick tip – watch the vehicle in front of you, choose a landmark, wait for the vehicle to pass it, then count until you reach that marker

The Back

Challenging to monitor – there are still things you can do. You will not be able to stop tailgaters. Be a professional driver – decrease the speed and stay to the right lane, when you are going uphill – heavier vehicles are more likely to be tailgated. Tips for tailgaters – increase the following distance between the car in front of you, stay to the right and avoid quick changes, if you are going to turn signal early, never speed up or tap on the brakes. This will create hazards for you and the other drivers. Stay centered in your lane and avoid driving next to others and maintain the cushion to your sides.

The space below – in and out of the woods – mud, snow, stumps, rocks, logging debris, railroad crossings – you can become hung up – loaded trucks can decrease the space below and so take extreme caution.

The space above – bridges, overpasses, wires and trees, frost heaves, snow, condition and grade of the road, uneven roads, road repairs can all impact the space above, the stability of your load, and can change the clearances above, and can create hazards for you, what you are hauling and your safety while driving your rig.

PROPER CLEARANCE

Bridges – know the height of you rig and check your routes before heading out.

Overpasses – know your height and check routes before heading out.

Wires and Trees- have a spotter if you think you are cutting it too close or have the wires blanketed or de-energized

Never – make assumptions – not always are posted signs correct – changes in the road beneath the bridge or overpass can shift or increase because of paving. Or that it is safe because you have done it before. Packed snow can change your rig to unsafe heights.

Backing- check the entire path you will be backing into for height clearance. Get out and look for branches, wires, canopies, and anything that may hit the top of your truck or load.

Coast to coast – height limits vary -On the west coast, height clearances are 14 feet on average. In the middle of the United States there are a few states that have height clearances of 14ft. 5in. ON the east coast height clearances are 13ft. 6in.

PROCEDURES TO SAFELY MANAGE SPACE DURING TURNS

Right turns

Travel – out straight and turn late

Keep close to the curb – This will keep drivers from trying to sneak up on your right.

Do not swing left before going right – This may give other drivers the perception that you are turning left and cause them to sup up on the right side of your rig and possibly cause a crash.

Left turns

Intersection – Make sure you have reached the center of the intersection before beginning to turn.

Always – Always choose the outside turn lane to prohibit cars from coming up on your right and possibly causing an accident.

Remember – Remember “out straight, turn late”.

U-turns and Tight Turns

U-turns and tight turns create the greatest risk of jackknifing. Do not turn too sharply. Do not hold the turn too long.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Team Safe Trucking’s mission is to reduce accidents through enhanced driver training and effective fleet management and to recruit new, safety-focused drivers to deliver a sustainable and profitable supply chain.

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e. Miranda.gowell@teamsafetrucking.com

p. 207-841-0250

The Trend of Forestry Insurance Premiums Have Been on the Rise with Fewer Carriers Offering Coverages the Last Five Years



JASON MCLEAN


The trend of forestry insurance premiums has been on the rise with fewer carriers offering coverages the last five years. Insurance premium increases are extremely frustrating, but you can help control your premiums by following these helpful tips:

1. Spend the time hiring qualified drivers and operators.
2. Spend the time training your employees to operate your vehicles and machines safely and properly.
3. Maintain your vehicles and machines to reduce the risk of accidents, tickets, out of service violations, and fires.
4. Take advantage of training services offered by your insurance agency (MATSIF) and (Forest Insurance Center)

Insurance carriers are basing commercial auto premiums more and more on claims, violations, and your cab and DOT report. The more violations, out of services, claims, and maintenance

violations your business has the higher your premiums will be. Take the time to check new drivers motor vehicle reports, follow federal driver file regulations - annually monitor MVR's and work with programs like team safe trucking to ensure your business receives the lowest possible commercial auto premiums.

There has been an increase in forestry equipment fires over the last couple years again. Again, the rise in claims with forestry equipment has caused more carriers to quit offering coverages and drive premiums up. Take the time hiring qualified operators; train them how to safely and properly operate your equipment. Yes, you the business owners are extremely busy, but spending the time training your employees properly will save you time and money over the long run. Making sure your equipment is being maintained will help prevent fires and expensive claims as well. Power washing your machines between jobs, cleaning off debris at the end of every day, and following manufacturing guidelines will decrease the risk of fires and claims that increase your insurance premiums.

Forest Insurance Center, Mauck Insurance Agency, Loggers Insurance Agency have producers willing to work with you if you are or are not a client to prevent increasing insurance premiums. Please give us a call today and schedule an appointment. We look forward to helping keep the forestry industry safe and premiums to a minimum. 

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loggers, the
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TIMBER HARVESTING & WATERSHED PROTECTION

There are many procedures that can be utilized during a timber harvest to help protect the watershed of our forests. The first item to consider is analysis of the forest soils present within the timber harvesting site. Various soils can range from sandy, loamy, organic and rocky variations. I will explain different techniques that can be employed to protect the forest watershed and reduce soil erosion.

Sandy soil types typically contain jack pine, red pine, white spruce, balsam fir, aspen and paper birch forest cover. Common timber harvest prescriptions include clearcutting

and shelterwood tree removal operations. These soil types can be harvested in all seasons. Maintenance of roadways and landings is important to reduce the potential of soil erosion. Sloping roadway ditches can contain water bars to reduce the velocity of ditch flowing water during rainy periods. Water bars are typically mounds of rock every few hundred feet, or closer if the slope is greater. Placement of the size of the rock is very important in controlling the speed of the water flow. Larger boulders will allow greater passage of water and a quicker flow rate. Smaller pebbles will slow down the flow rate, and possibly create road

washouts near the water bar. A combination of large and small rocks, and/or boulders, reduces water flow, dependent on the degree of the roadway slope. Ditching along the edge of the landings can help drain the operation region, and thus reducing landing and soil rutting and erosion.

Loamy soils are typically present within your northern hardwood forest cover types. These soils are typically more stable since hardwoods contain many surface roots, which helps stabilize your soil. Water bars within the roadways are typically less per distance than sandy type soils. However, ditching in the landing areas is recommended since loamy soils will retain more moisture than sandy soils. Dry summer periods after July 1st, or winter season, is recommended for timber harvests.

Organic soils contain mostly black spruce, tamarack and northern white cedar. Only



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winter timber harvests are recommended due to the high moisture content these soils contain. A good amount of snow cover will add a layer of protection to prevent soil rutting and erosion. Landings are typically kept snow free, to create a frozen and stable surface area.

Rocky soils can contain a variety of tree species. Timber harvests can be conducted any time during the year within these regions. However, disturbance and mounding of loose surface rock, can create water ponding and erosion potential.

Buffers along streams, rivers, ponds and lakes are recommended. Removal of old and dying trees within streams and rivers can help prevent ponding and blocking waterways. Blockages can change the direction of the water flow patterns, and increase sedimentation levels within the stream or river beds. If there is a potential for rutting to remove these trees, it is better to leave them, and not enter that region.

These are just a few recommendations to help protect our watershed during timber harvest operations. Improving water quality helps promote clean ground water and beneficial habitat of fish within our streams, rivers, ponds and lakes.





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