

Western Pallet



Magazine for WPA Members
July 2018

Magazine



Autonomous Logging Truck

**Pallet Company Faces Proposed Penalties After
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

PDS Short Course and Update Announcements

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PRE-OWNED MACHINERY FROM PRS

“PRS Group’s used machinery division has been a great resource for us, we’ve acquired several pre-owned machines at bargain prices, and cashed in idle surplus machines that we had no further use for.”

Terry Rodino
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North American Softwood Prices

Softwood prices listed as of July 10,
courtesy of NRCAN.

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WPA New Members

The WPA is proud to introduce its
latest new members.

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WPA Member Notes

Introducing Connor & Gallagher and
Utah Trucking Company; PRS Group
announces the Spartan bandsaw.

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PDS Short Course

Here are some reasons why it makes
sense to send one of your people to
the upcoming PDS Short Course

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FIVESTAR PALLET PLATES

"The Stringer-Mate Splicer & FIVESTAR Pallet Plates are great assets to our business. These valuable tools allow us to recycle small material that would otherwise be discarded, exponentially increasing our bottom line."

Bill Shirbroun
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Cover Story: Autonomous Logging Truck

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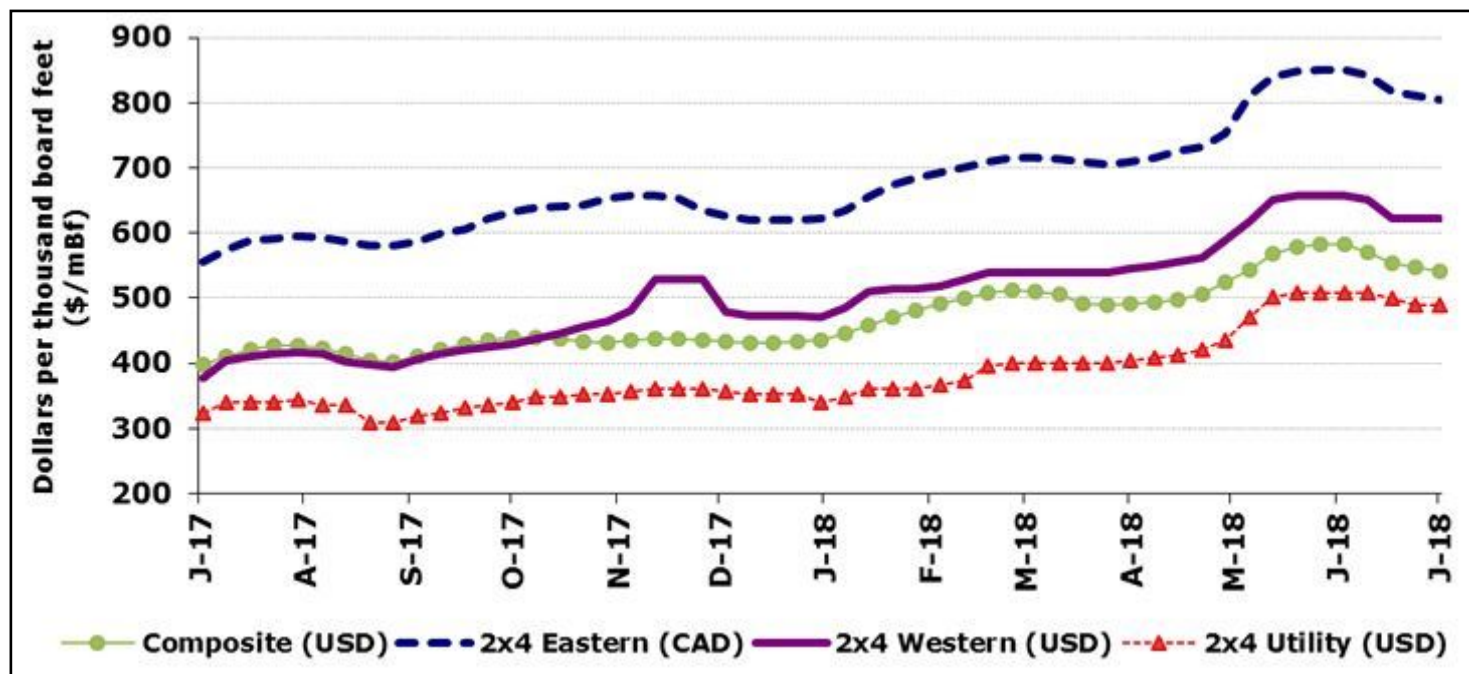
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North American Softwood Prices

Weekly softwood lumber prices to July 10, 2018 are shown below, sourced at <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/industry/13309>.



WPA New Members

The WPA strives to grow membership in order to better serve its members. This month, we are pleased to welcome two members.

Dave Cordle
Teton West Colorado LLC
PO Box 1933
Fort Collins, CO 80522
Ph: (970)416-0784
Fax: (970)493-9387
Web: www.tetonwest.com
Email: dcordle@tetonwest.com
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Charity Isakson
Utah Trucking Company
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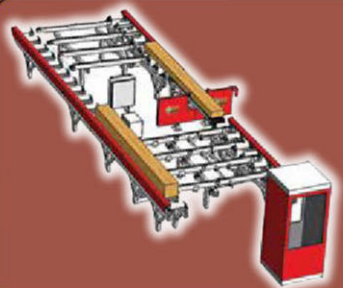


CHOPSAWS

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- 26" BLADES AVAILABLE
- 6 X 10 CAPACITY
- 7-1/2 HP MOTOR — STANDARD
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- MANUAL AND AUTOMATED MODELS

RESAWS

- PRODUCE PALLET LUMBER, SLAB RECOVERY, FENCE BOARD, LAPP SIDING & SHINGLES
- NEW - POWERED BELT RETURN
- QUICK AIR TENSION SYSTEM
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Connor & Gallagher Specializes in Risk Management Solutions for Pallet/Wood Product Sector

New WPA member Connor & Gallagher OneSource (CGO) is a commercial insurance agency that specializes in risk management solutions for pallet and wood product companies. Our wood products and pallet insurance program has been very successful in helping these types of businesses keep deductibles and premiums down while providing more comprehensive coverages with our highly rated carriers.

In addition to providing risk management services and business insurance, CGO offers employee benefits, hr & payroll services, and employer sponsored retirement plan (401k and 403b) services. This one stop shop solution is ideal for employers looking for increased efficiencies, cost savings, and simplicity by working with just one broker for all your risk management and human capital needs.

WPA Notes

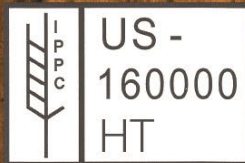
Utah Trucking Company Joins WPA

Utah Trucking Company is a Utah based company that provides transportation services throughout the continental US, Canada and Mexico," states Charity Isakson of Utah Trucking. "Our mission is to build mutually beneficial and long lasting relationships with our customers. With a combined 21 years of experience in the trucking industry we are confident that we can add you to our list of satisfied customers."

PRS Group Introduces the Spartan Bandsaw

PRS introduces the Spartan Bandsaw. This saw has a 10 hp drive motor and a heavy-duty gear reducer. The Spartan features adjustable table height and a blade speed of 2,200 sfpm. The Spartan Bandsaw is the industry's latest economical heavy-duty solution. For more information, please visit www.prsgroupinc.com.

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A collage of images showing various wood products, including lumber, decking, and pallets, along with the company logo and contact information.

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Some Reasons to Think About Sending People to the Upcoming PDS Short Course August 21-23

The upcoming PDS short course takes place August 21-23 in Blacksburg, VA. It will be taught by Dr. Brad Gething, NWPCA Director of Science & Technology Integration and Dr. Laszlo Horvath, Virginia Tech Assistant Professor.

Course Focus

- Effect of pallet design and selection on materials handling costs.
- Fundamentals of new and remanufactured stringer class pallet design.
- Designing stringer and block class pallets using PDS.

Who Should Attend?

Wood pallet suppliers and sales professionals, professionals responsible for pallet purchases, packaging engineers and pallet specifiers.

Why Send Your Employees?

Training and development provides companies and individual employees with benefits that make the cost and time a worthwhile investment. Here are a few statistics from a report on employee development:

- *As one of the top three non-financial motivators, 76% of employees want opportunities for career growth.*
- *In 2016, 87% of millennials say professional development or career growth opportunities are very important.*
- *40% of employees who receive poor job training leave their positions within the first year.*
- *In 2016, 68% of workers say training and development is the most important workplace policy.*

Employees want to be good at what they do - they want to succeed in their position. Learning, development and training are all great ways to help employees reach their full potential.

Training and development efforts are seen by employees as an investment in them. Employees cite lack of skills training and development as the main reasons they chose to voluntarily leave their positions. Rewards and recognition are powerful motivators, but employee development is in high demand as a motivator, too.

Offering learning, development and training is a competitive advantage in business. Organizations end up with



Laboratory testing at Center for Unit Load Design at Virginia Tech
Source: CPULD, Virginia Tech

knowledgeable, capable employees who are more invested in a company that invests in them. Ambitious, employees who take initiative are exactly the employees who want training and mentoring; these are your employees referred to as "quality talent" or "engaged employees". They desire the skills and want to be more valuable and versatile.

Click [here](#) to register online. For additional information or to register over the phone, please contact Angela Riegel at (540) 231-7107

Article Source: NWPCA

Register Today

Wood-Mizer Introduces Vortex® Dust-Removal DoubleHard Sawmill and Resaw Blades

The Wood-Mizer exclusive Vortex® dust-removal blade profile is now available in DoubleHard high-alloy steel resulting in a more durable blade that delivers up to twice the toughness and sharp life compared to carbon steel blades. Introduced in 2016, Vortex® dust-removal technology was previously an exclusive feature of SilverTip carbon steel material used primarily in high-production resawing operations.



Patent pending and trademarked for its revolutionary design, the Vortex® blade profile creates an extremely unique turbulence that removes sawdust from the cut. With a typical blade, sawdust can remain on the board by spilling out of the smaller gullet while sawing. By reducing the amount of sawdust left on the board, the Vortex® blade minimizes the need for additional sawdust removal after processing. In addition, Vortex® blades can be sharpened by Wood-Mizer's blade maintenance equipment or ReSharp® blade sharpening service to extend the flex life of the blade and maintain cut quality.

"The Vortex blades leave 80% less sawdust than any other blades I have tried throughout the past 25 years," said Mark

Borneman with Timber Creek Resources in Antigo, Wisconsin. "We have eliminated the need for a deduster on a majority of our jobs."

The Vortex® blade is now available to order in both SilverTip and DoubleHard material in a variety of widths, thicknesses, and lengths to fit various sawmill and resaw brands and models. Wood-Mizer offers an extensive range of blades with more than 100 combinations based on profile, width, thickness, tooth spacing, and alloy for any type of sawing or resawing application from green softwoods to abrasive hardwoods. For more information, call 800.522.5760 or visit www.woodmizer.com/blades.

GT Pallet 4 Questions

1.- *What is your Business Model?*

Pallet Rental

2.- *What is the problem solved by the GT Pallet?*

Reduces the damage of product placed on the Pallets.

3.- *What sets the GT Pallet apart from the competition?*

The outstanding performance obtained through its design.

4.- *Why should customers prefer the GT Pallet?*

Using the GT Pallet , they will substantially reduce the damage of their product moved on pallets, as well as reducing their cost of packaging, thus improving the profitability of your company.

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Membership Dues Now Due

Membership dues for the 2018-2019 year are now due. Help ensure a better future for your business and the wood pallet and container industry by supporting the Western Pallet Association.

[Associate members can renew at this link.](#)

[Regular members can renew at this link.](#)

JULY 2018

New on Video

*Go Fast Manufacturing -
2NX Whole Pallet Notcher*



*Alliance Automation - Robotic
Pallet Dismantling*



*GreenBlock - Introducing
Pallets LLC's Innovative New
Technology*



Panel Deck Structural Analysis in New Release of PDS

Now available, the new release of The Pallet Design System™ (PDS) Version 5.5 provides a new and more advanced analysis for panel-deck stringer-class pallets. Panel-deck block-class pallets can also be analyzed.

Limitations on connection withdrawal resistance have been modified in the analysis of stringer-class and block-class

pallets. The stacked support analysis for overlap-base block-class pallets has also been improved.

CONTACT

Brad Gething, PhD
NWPCA Director of Science & Technology
Integration
Phone: 703.519.6104 ext. 215

Upcoming Events

8/21/2018 - 8/23/2018 Wood Pallet Design and Performance
Short Course, Blacksburg, VA
www.palletcentral.com

9/18/2018 - 9/20/2018 INTERPAL, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
www.palletcentral.com

9/19/2018 - 9/21/2018 Western Hardwood Association Annual
Convention, Portland, Oregon
www.westernhardwood.org

9/25/2018 - 9/27/2018 Wood Pallet Design and Performance
Short Course, Blacksburg, VA
www.palletcentral.com

1/18/2019 - 1/22/2019 WPA Annual Meeting, Rancho Mirage,
California
www.westernpallet.org

Illinois Pallet Manufacturer Cited After Employees Are Sickened from Unsafe Carbon Monoxide Levels

U.S. OSHA has cited a Genoa, Illinois-based pallet manufacturer, after 10 employees required emergency medical treatment for carbon monoxide exposure. The company faces proposed penalties totaling \$216,253. The CO poisoning was attributed to badly out-of-tune forklifts, ventilation issues and failing to react to a CO monitor.

OSHA investigators inspected the facility in January 2018, and found that employees were exposed to carbon monoxide levels nearly 10 times the permissible exposure limit. OSHA has cited the company for failing to address high carbon monoxide level warnings; allowing employees to operate defective forklifts; failing to ensure adequate machine guarding; and failing to train workers on hazardous communications and forklift safety. A subsequent inspection conducted one month later found further machine safety violations at the facility.

"Employers are required to regularly conduct workplace hazard assessments to determine appropriate measures to protect workers' safety and health," said OSHA Aurora Area Office Director Jake Scott. "This employer risked the health of

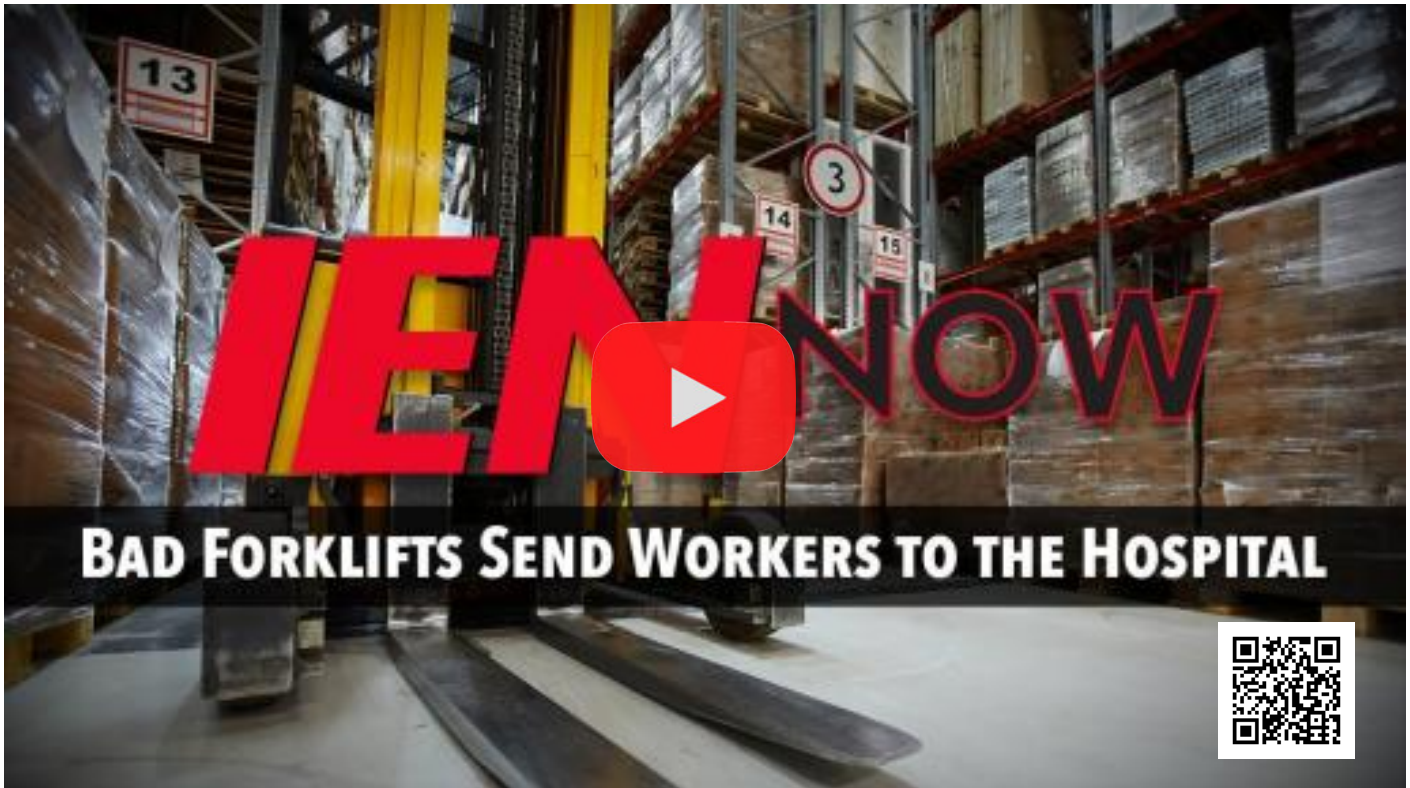
several workers, and disregarded basic safety standards."

The company had 15 business days from receipt of the citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

According to a news report from January, six employees were taken by ambulance to a hospital and three more employees were treated at the location by paramedics. "The main symptoms include headache and nausea, along with being tired or drowsy," one of the responders said.

This detail was added by Industrial Equipment News (IEN):

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employees should not be exposed to an airborne concentration of carbon monoxide above 50 ppm for an 8-hour shift. One employee who was sorting boards in the saw room was exposed to 513.4 ppm, about 10.27 times the permissible limit. Another employee who was disassembling pallets in the shop was exposed to 344.4 ppm, 6.89 times the



limit. Other employees were exposed to anywhere from 235.8 ppm to 70.9 ppm.

According to the OSHA investigation, on three separate occasions the pallet company failed to consider the workplace atmosphere to be immediately dangerous to life or health despite alarms from CO detectors.

The culprits appear to be three propane-powered forklifts that were in need of

repair, including new mufflers, spark plugs, and fuel-mixing diaphragms. This put the operators and other employees at risk for respiratory hazards.

The company was also hit with a host of other violations, including improper machine guarding on saws, a lack of lockout/tagout procedures on band saws, a compressor, and a baler, and improper training.



Millwood's Product Protector Prevents Forklift Caused Damage



Solutions providers need to have their finger on the pulse of their customers' pain points. For many warehouse managers, that means a way to prevent their pallets and product from being destroyed when colliding with a fork truck.

Millwood, Inc. is offering relief in the form of our newest product, the Product Protector.

The Product Protector is a solid steel frame with a rubber bumper that attaches to a forklift. Instead of destroying a pallet when a fork truck moves too hard or fast, the Product Protector impacts the stringer before the deck boards are damaged by the fork tine heel.

"Steel against wood – steel always wins," said Ralph Rupert, manager – unit load technologies. "The Product Protector's rubber bumpers even the field so wood

wins, which means less deckboard damage, wood splinters and housekeeping – everyone wins."

The device is small, weighing only 37 pounds and measuring 16.25 inches wide. Don't let the size fool you though; it can easily sustain a 30,000 pound impact without failure. The zinc coating on the solid steel prevents corrosion, ensuring that the device is both economically and fiscally sustainable.

"The Product Protector makes pallet lead board damage a thing of the past. Reduced pallet damage means reduced product damage. There is nothing on the market better today," said David Haubert, regional sales manager – Midwest region. The Product Protector can be purchased through your regional sales manager or online at www.libertydirect.com.



Yukon Supports Grey Mountain Partners' Investment in 48forty

Yukon Partners, a provider of mezzanine capital for middle market private equity transactions, is pleased to announce that it has partnered with Grey Mountain Partners in its investment in 48forty Solutions, formerly a division of Brambles and formerly known as CHEP Recycling.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, 48forty is the largest whitewood pallet recycler in North America, recycling over 90 million pallets annually across its network of 73 company locations and more than 225 network facilities. 48forty has approximately 2,400 employees and serves over 2,700 customers, including manufacturers, distributors and retailers in the distribution & logistics, food & beverage, packaging, durables, and non-durables industries. The Company sources used pallet "cores" from the end of supply chains, repairs the pallets, and then re-sells them to manufacturers/distributors at the top of the supply chain.

Yukon provided mezzanine capital to facilitate the transaction and acquired a minority equity interest. Dorsey & Whitney LLP served as legal counsel to Yukon.

Bill Ross, Vice President of Grey Mountain commented, "We are excited to partner with Yukon and appreciate their flexible approach as the Company enters its next phase of growth as a standalone business outside of Brambles. We believe 48forty's reputation as the industry leader and commitment to customer excellence will position the Company nicely for continued, profitable growth."

Aaron Arnett, Principal of Yukon, added, "We are looking forward to partnering with Grey Mountain, as well as with the management team at 48forty, to support the Company in further penetrating the North American recycled whitewood pallet market. The Company's diverse customer and supplier base, and network of over 225 facilities across the United States and Canada, are key differentiators relative to competitors, allowing the Company to provide a comprehensive one-stop-shop solution for both national and regional customers."



'T-log' First-Ever All-Electric, Driverless Logging Truck



Einride, a Swedish tech company, recently revealed its latest product: The T-log, an autonomous, all-electric logging truck. More powerful than the T-pod – the all-electric, autonomous truck the company revealed last year – the T-log incorporates some off-road capabilities and is designed to navigate forest roads. The T-log has no driver's cab and can be remote-controlled by a human operator, from hundreds of miles away

"The driver's cab is what makes trucks expensive to produce, and having a driver in the cabin is what makes them expensive

to operate," said Robert Falck, CEO of Einride. "Remove the cabin and replace the driver with an operator who can monitor and remote-control several vehicles at once and costs can be reduced significantly. In addition, operating a vehicle from a distance allows for a much better working environment, as has already been demonstrated in industries like mining."

The vehicle was unveiled at the Goodwood Festival of Speed in the UK on July 12, 2018.

News from EPAL: Liebrandt Leaves, Annual Meeting in Ljubljana

Martin Liebrandt leaves EPAL

The Board and General Assembly of the European Pallet Association have decided to end cooperation with the EPAL CEO, Martin Liebrandt. He left EPAL after more than 6 years at the end of June.

The EPAL Board will decide on a successor in due course. Until then the President, Robert Holliger, and the Vice-President, Dirk Hoferer, will jointly manage the association with the deputy CEO, Mrs Claudia Töller.

At the same time as his departure from EPAL, Liebrandt's position as Managing Director of the German National Committee is also terminated. As usual, Mrs Sabine Dresbach and Mrs Suzane Giurlando are available to members.

EPAL Board meeting and General Assembly in Ljubljana, Slovenia

The Board and the representatives of the National Committees of the European Pallet Association met on 28th and 29th June 2018 in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana. The Ordinary Board Meeting took place on 28th June, and the General Assembly was held a day later. The meeting of EPAL members takes place annually in one of the member countries of the world's largest quality assurance association for EPAL pallets.



The General Assembly elected two new country representatives to join them: Tatyana Sargsyan from the EPAL Baltic States National Committee and Ruben Hut, representing the EPAL Dutch National Committee, NEDERPAL. The Board and the participants at the General Assembly would like to express their sincere thanks to the Slovenian National Committee, SIPAL, represented by the President, Igor Sep and the Managing Director, Ivan Kerec, for their excellent organisation and professional support.

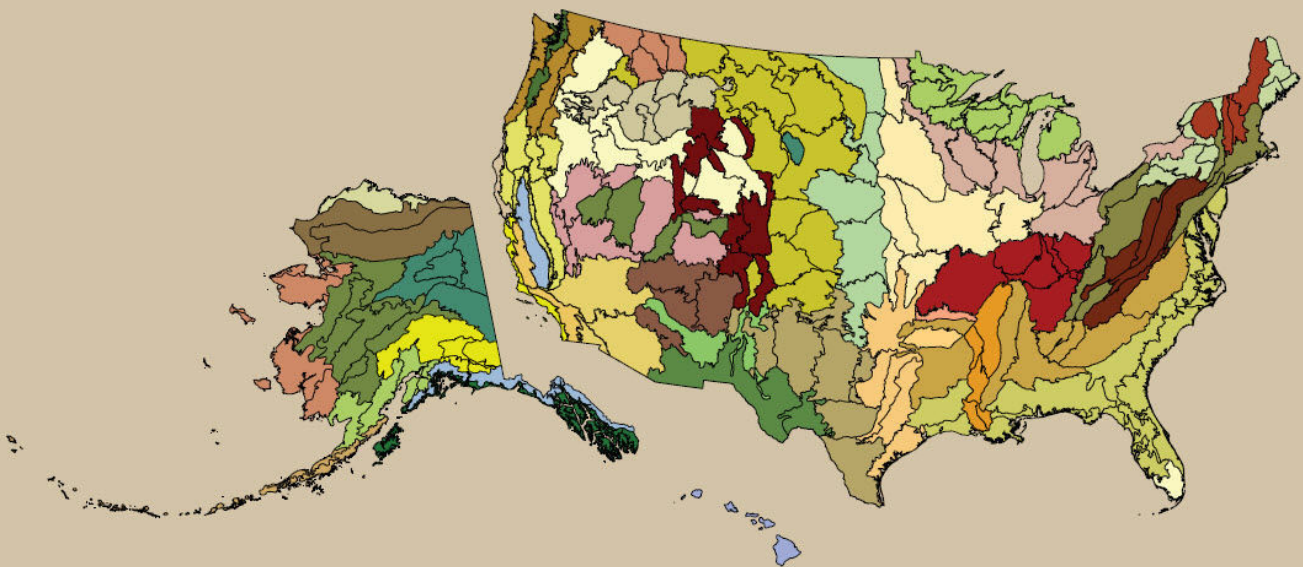
The State of the Nation's Forests



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Health Monitoring: National Status, Trends, and Analysis 2017

Editors Kevin M. Potter Barbara L. Conkling



Forest Service
Research & Development
Southern Research Station
General Technical Report SRS-233
June 2018

Forests are constantly changing with weather, disturbance, and conversion to other land uses, but how do we know if year-to-year changes are just a one-off or part of a larger shift? Annual summaries of forest health are key to our understanding, say the editors and authors that produced *Forest Health Monitoring: National Status, Trends, and Analysis 2017*.

The report is the 17th such summary in a series sponsored by the USDA Forest

Service Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) program and published by SRS.

"If you care about the health of U.S. forests, this report will interest you," says Kevin Potter, a North Carolina State University scientist who cooperates with the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center. "A lot of people spent a lot of time putting together information about a lot of different aspects of forest health for this report."

Potter co-edited the report with Barbara Conkling, also a Center cooperator and NCSU scientist.

Scientists from across the Forest Service as well as university researchers, state partners, and many other experts contributed to the 2017 FHM report, which is the only national summary of forest health undertaken on an annual basis. The report includes short- and long-term forest health assessments from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii. It also summarizes the status and

trends of a variety of forest health indicators.

The 2017 FHM report ([click here to read](#)) reflects findings from the previous year. According to Potter, the state of U.S. forests as of 2016 is "troubling." "We have a great deal of forest in the United States, and much of it is in good shape," says Potter. "At the same time, fires, insects and diseases, and droughts are impacting forest health in many places, and some of those forests may be altered permanently."

How Much More Carbon Can Our Forests Sequester?

Sequestering gains of only 22% over the next six decades the represent best-case scenario, according to the conclusions of recent research.

Researchers have calculated the capacity of North American forests to sequester carbon in a detailed analysis that for the first time integrates the effects of two key factors: the natural process of forest growth and regeneration, and climate changes that are likely to alter the growth process over the next 60 years.

The result is a compelling picture that's of great value, because forests play a critical role in mitigating the effects of

climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow, storing the carbon in their wood.

"There's a lot of hope that our forests will soak up the carbon dioxide we're producing, but the capacity of our forests is limited," said lead researcher Kai Zhu, an assistant professor of environmental studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Zhu's team found that North American forests have reached 78 percent of their capacity to sequester carbon and will gain only 22% capacity—at most—over the next 60 years. That's a cautionary

finding that has implications for forest managers, climate scientists, and policy makers.

Forests in the Northeast have recovered in a pretty dramatic way: During the 18th and 19th centuries, more than half the forestland was cleared, but during the 20th century, forests returned. Today about 80% of the Northeast is forested," he said, also noting the high value of the big trees of the Pacific Northwest.

Today, however, North American forests are getting close to the saturation point as older trees plateau; future growth is primarily limited to the pine forests of the East and Southeast.

"The future potential is pretty

limited," said Zhu. "If mitigation depends on forests, this has implications for conservation that we have to think about."

Zhu's paper, "Limits to Growth of Forest Biomass Carbon Sink Under Climate Change," appears in the current issue of Nature Communications. The title, Zhu notes, alludes to The Limits to Growth, a breakthrough 1972 book about the interactions of human population, industrialization, food production, natural resources, and pollution.

In our view, this study underscores the importance of wood pallets and other timber products that utilize wood from mature trees, so that there are more actively growing forests to sequester more carbon.

Further Reading

(Click on story title to read)

CHEP Announces Leadership Changes in Key European Positions

CHEP, the supply chain solutions company, has two senior appointments, including Christophe Campe and Candice Herndon.



U.S. Lumber Producers See Huge Opportunity, Rush to Expand

High lumber prices have stimulated a flurry of investment in U.S. sawmills, according to a CNBC report.

Connect with Western Pallet Association!



Litco's Molded Wood Pallets and Core Plugs Achieve Cradle to Cradle Recertification

Litco International, Inc. is pleased to announce its Inca Engineered Molded Wood™ Pallets and Core Plugs have been recertified in the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program.



Automotive Packaging: Role Continues to Evolve in Global Supply Chains

As automotive assembly has become global in nature, the impact of transportation costs on return of empty reusable packaging has influenced automotive packaging selection.



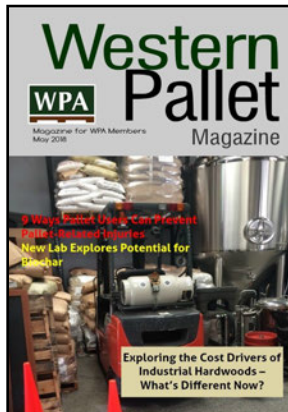
Photo credit: ORBIS Corporation

In case you missed them...

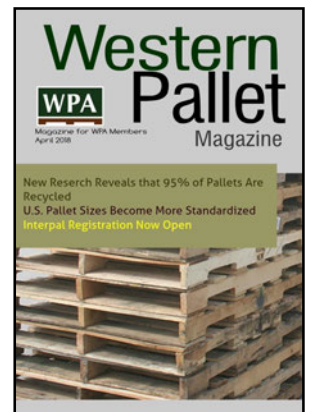
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