Since 2005, the state of Minnesota has held dual certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). This certification verifies that sustainable forestry is being practiced on all state-administered land. Third party and annual surveillance audits maintain or improve the DNR's forest management practices and efficiency. It also protects Minnesota's water resources, expands markets for forest products, documents the DNR's professional forest management, and enhances wildlife, fish, and native plant communities.

Another reason to certify forests is the increase in demand for these types of products by major forest products companies and consumers. Minnesota must certify its forests to help maintain the competitiveness of the state's forest industry in the face of global competition and markets that are increasingly demanding assurance that wood products come from sustainably managed forests. Certification helps ensure strong markets for state-owned timber, thereby maintaining our ability to effectively manage our forests and also maintaining the economic vitality of many of our forest dependent rural communities.

A key component or proof of certification is the paper trail created by the chain-of-custody (COC) documentation, which verifies sustainable forest management.

Chain-of-Custody Certification

The FSC, one of the leading third-party certification systems in the world, defines COC as, “The channel[s] through which products are distributed from their origin in the forest to their end-use.” SFI, a leading third party certification system in the United States, defines COC as “The process of tracking and recording the possession and transfer of wood and fiber from the forests of origin through the different stages of production – primary manufacturing, secondary manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing – to the end user.” Essentially, COC is a means of tracking forest products from their source, in this case a certified forest, through the manufacturing process. It enables a consumer to have confidence that a product they purchase meets verifiable standards of sustainability because it has been rigorously tracked through the supply chain.

COC Benefits and Process

Acquiring and maintaining a current COC certificate allows a manufacturer to market forest products using the certified logo. By doing so, the manufacturer is able to access a wider array of markets and customers. This is becoming increasingly important in today’s market, where many consumers want assurance that their products
Markets Outlook

By Don Deckard, Forest Economist

The second quarter of 2008 is history so a recap and look ahead is in order. To date, the United States economy has been stronger than was projected at the start of the year. Many economists now forecast economic growth will return to its 3 percent long-run trend level by mid-2009. However, energy and fuel prices have increased to levels well beyond those previously projected, housing markets remain stalled, and the financial sector’s problems have yet to be resolved.

Housing & Mortgage Markets

We seem to be nearing the bottom. In terms of new single-family starts, the consensus expectation is to bottom out this year at about 1 million starts with a slow rebound anticipated. Existing homes-for-sale inventory reached a new peak 4.5 million in April, an 11.2 months supply, which surpassed the 4.4 million peak in October 2007, a 10.2 months supply.

The Associated Press reported that the sharply eroding confidence in the nation’s two largest mortgage finance companies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, spurred the Bush administration to recently ask Congress to approve a sweeping rescue package that would inject $300 billion federal dollars into the beleaguered companies through investments and loans. The companies, known as government-sponsored enterprises, or GSE’s, hold or guarantee more than $5 trillion in mortgages — almost half of the nation’s total. The debt securities they issue to finance their operations are widely held by domestic pension funds, mutual funds, and foreign governments.

Lumber and Engineered Wood Panels

Despite housing starts at record lows during the peak construction season, domestic softwood lumber and engineered wood panel prices have increased significantly over the past two quarters. For July, the reported price of random length kiln dried western spruce-pine-fir (SPF) standard and better 2x4s was $312 per thousand board feet (MBF), delivered to Chicago, as compared to $261 per MBF in January, a 21 percent increase. Benchmark North Central 7/16" oriented strandboard (OSB) sheathing was reported at $195 per thousand square feet (MSF), freight on board at the mill, as compared to $138 per MSF in January, a 41 percent increase. Although nowhere near the 5-year averages, $350 per MBF for SPF and $230 per MSF for OSB, any increase is an improvement. These price increases were attributable to: a seasonal increase in remodeling, supply-side production self-discipline, and vastly improved export markets for U.S. produced OSB. According to the Department of Commerce, Foreign Trade Statistics, domestic OSB exports increased 136 percent from this time last year. While the price increases were substantial, the expectation for the third and fourth quarter is seasonal slowdowns in construction and remodeling with the associated price reductions bringing prices nearly back to last winter’s lows. Sustainable product price increases are expected to begin to develop by mid-2009 as macro-economic...
conditions, housing markets, and financial markets start to improve.

In mid-June, Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd. announced restructuring to decrease its reported $823.5 million debt. As a part of the deal, the Ainsworth family handed control of the company over to its debt holders. The transfer of ownership was expected to be complete by the end of July. It is unknown what impacts there might be on the company’s Minnesota OSB plants located in Bemidji, Grand Rapids and Cook.

**Pulp & Paper**

Pulp and paper markets continue to be the bright spot. In spite of the U.S. International Trade Commission ruling against New Page Corporation’s petition requesting anti-dumping and counter-veiling import duties be placed on coated freesheet paper imports from China, Indonesia, and Korea, these imports have not significantly affected North American producers. In China, the input costs of woodfiber, energy, labor, chemicals, and transportation have increased substantially over the past two quarters. On the demand side, the sluggish United States economy continues to impact global economic growth and import demand by China’s primary export destinations, Europe and the U.S., is forecast to be relatively weak for the next 6 to 8 quarters, according to RISI Pulp and Paper News.

**Woodfiber Availability & Prices**

The RISI International Woodfiber Report stated the Lake States average delivered hardwood pulpwood prices increased 15 percent from fourth quarter 2007 to second quarter 2008, while average delivered softwood pulpwood prices remained flat. By comparison, the Northeast had a 38 percent increase in delivered hardwood pulpwood prices. In Maine, supply chain problems reached crisis level as pulpwood prices shot up as a result of bad spring weather conditions limiting harvest activity and emerging competition from new wood fuel pellet mills and woody biomass energy facilities cutting into traditional pulpwood supplies.

From a fiber supply standpoint, Minnesota is in much better shape right than the Northeast. Statewide pulpwood production was boosted by an ideal extended winter logging season, resulting in supply chain problems reaching crisis level as pulpwood prices shot up as a result of bad spring weather conditions limiting harvest activity and emerging competition from new wood fuel pellet mills and woody biomass energy facilities cutting into traditional pulpwood supplies.

**Softwood lumber and OSB price trends**

Statewide pulpwood production was boosted by an ideal extended winter logging season, resulting in supply chain problems reaching crisis level as pulpwood prices shot up as a result of bad spring weather conditions limiting harvest activity and emerging competition from new wood fuel pellet mills and woody biomass energy facilities cutting into traditional pulpwood supplies. From a fiber supply standpoint, Minnesota is in much better shape right than the Northeast.

Stumpage prices have remained stable. With the exception of sawlog grade red oak, sugar maple, and black walnut, Minnesota DNR stumpage prices were flat for the first half of 2008, about $20 per cord for all species on 504,000 cords sold. Stumpage prices could increase slightly over the second half of the year due to factors such as lean spring and summer deliveries reducing woodyard inventories, tight timber availability from private lands, and the continuing strength of pulp and paper markets.

**Note:** This article contains forward-looking statements with respect to forest products and stumpage markets. These statements reflect the author’s views and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual outcomes to differ substantially from those expressed or implied.
were harvested and manufactured in a way that is consistent with sustainability and responsible management. A COC certificate signifies that the certificate holder has responsibly addressed both the social and environmental aspects during each step of the manufacturing process. Therefore, acquiring a COC certificate reflects positively on the producer.

In order for an end product to carry the FSC or SFI COC logo, documentation which tracks the product through the entire manufacturing process, from one certified producer to another, must be provided. If at any point in the supply chain a product is legally transferred (there is change in ownership) to a non-certified manufacturer, that product is no longer considered to be certified and can not be labeled as such. Retailers, who do not change the product’s form or packaging, are granted an exemption and are not required to be COC certified in order to sell the finished product as certified.

Obtaining and maintaining a COC certificate requires the adherence to and compliance with certification policies and standards. Companies must ensure that all staff are aware of the basic certification requirements. One employee must be designated to oversee compliance with the certification standards. All procedures must be documented and accurate records pertaining to certified products, including purchases and sales, must be kept for five years. If certified products are processed along with non-certified products, the certified products must be separated and clearly identified during storage and processing. Copies of sales, purchases, and shipments receipts must be retained.

FSC and SFI Specifications

Under FSC, there are three types of COC certification that can be applied, depending on the particular needs and characteristics of the client. They are:
1) Transfer system. This is ideal for clients who use 100 percent FSC certified fiber or those using only certified raw materials.
2) Percentage system. This is ideal for clients that can achieve an average input of 70 percent FSC certified fiber. If this percentage threshold is met, all products can be labeled as “FSC Mixed Sources.” If desired, the manufacturer can also specify the percent recycled component with this system.
3) Credit system. This was designed for clients who are unable to meet the 70 percent FSC certified input threshold. The producer may have a limited supply available or the majority of clientele may not require or desire FSC certified products. With this system, the volume of products that are labeled “FSC Certified” can’t exceed the volume of FSC certified inputs. The remaining product volume carries no logo.

SFI system was developed in 2005. Similar to the FSC system, SFI provides two types of labels. They are:
1) “100 percent SFI Certified Content” and
2) “X” percent SFI Certified Content.”

COC Certification

After filling out an application form, an accredited certifier will complete an initial assessment. The results of this assessment are then sent to the applicant for review. Provided the appropriate documentation and tracking systems are in place and the applicant agrees to the conditions specified in the initial assessment report, a COC certificate will be granted. Following this initial assessment, annual audits are required to maintain a current COC certificate.
Listed below are Web sites to access more information on certification and chain of custody issues.

**Certification Resources/References:**

FSC Chain of Custody Web site: www.fsc.org/134.html. **Link to FSC Chain of Custody Standards**

FSC Accredited Certifiers: www.fscus.org/certifiers/

SFI Accredited Certifiers: www.sfiprogram.org/certifiers.cfm


---

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Mimi Barzen, U&M, Grand Rapids, 218-327-4119, E-mail: mimi.barzen@dnr.state.mn.us
# Statewide Average Stumpage Prices*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORD PRODUCTS ($/cord)</th>
<th>Bolts</th>
<th>Pulpwood and Bolts</th>
<th>Pulpwood</th>
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<td>Aspen</td>
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<td>Birch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spruce/fir</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>SAWTIMBER ($/thousand board feet)**</th>
<th>Grades 1 and 2</th>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Ungraded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basswood</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birch</td>
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<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugar Maple</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Oak</td>
<td>334</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Oak</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine***</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spruce/fir</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>121</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Sources: MN DNR, Cass County, St. Louis County, and Timber Mart North.
**Scribner rule: minimum top diameter hardwood 10”, softwood 8”.
***Pine: minimum 16” diameter at breast height, add $50 per thousand board feet.
Recent DNR timber auction results available at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/timbersales/index.html

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Forest Products

FOR SALE: (1) Red Pine stumpage 6”-10” on stump, 175-225 cord, $65.00/cord and can mill cut for cabin logs, 2 sides $1.00 running foot (2) Rough cherry lumber, air dried 2 years – 3”-8” wide, 1’-8’ long, $4.00-$6.00 board foot (3) 10,000 board foot of 1” rough lumber $1.00-$2.00 board foot, pine, birch, ash and oak. Contact: Lumber Jack, 9810 S. Thompson Rd, Foxboro, WI; Phone: 715-399-2783

FOR SALE: (1) White Pine cants, 8”x8”, 6”x8”, 4”x6”, 4”x8”, air-dried (2) surplus log home materials: 2”x6”x8” and 2”x8”x8” shiplap siding (3) faux corners (4) 6”x8” random length tongue and groove logs. Contact Bob Montgomery. Phone: 610-621-2893; E-mail: montcowp@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: Tongue and groove paneling, straight-lined and sanded. Aspen, $1.55/sq. ft., black ash, $2.55/sq. ft. Contact: Jeff Avelsgard, Portage Custom Lumber, 20793 Scandia Rd., Deerwood, MN 56444; Phone: (218) 534-3233.

FOR SALE: Northern white cedar products: (1) Log furniture material (2) Round and sawn log home timbers (3) Lumber (4) Fence posts (5) Landscaping mulch. Contact: Richard Hufnagle, Page & Hill Forest Products, Inc., 7556 County Road 31, Big Falls, MN 56627; Phone: (218) 276-2251; Fax: (218) 276-2352; E-mail: pagehill@citlink.net

Equipment

FOR SALE: (1) Edger, 28” wide, 3 blade with movable shaft PTO drive, rubber belting with four to five feet input and output travel. Used very little, comes with extra blades. Contact: Thomas Ross, 3558 13th SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304; Phone: 320-251-7001.

FOR SALE: (1) Used parts for skidders, small crawlers and excavators - shipped daily; (2) parts for Cat, JD, IHC, AC, MH, Athey, Bantam/Kohering, Bobcat, Case, Clark, Timber jack, Drott, Franklin, Hein-Warner, Insley, Leiberr, Michigan, Mitsubishi, New Holland, New Process, Pettibone, Taylor, Tree Farmer, and Trojan; (3) Engines, transmissions, and tires. Contact: Deanna Harris, Schaffer Enterprises of Wolf Lake, Inc., P.O. Box 136, Wolf Lake, IL 62998; Phone: 800-626-6046; Fax: 818-833-7765; E-mail: parts@sewlparts.com

FOR SALE: (1) Four new 67x34.00 26” floatation 23 degree DT Firestone logger 14 ply skidder tires on Timber jack rims, 12 bolt; Contact: Todd Wass, 58804 State Hwy 6, Big Fork, MN 56638; Phone: 218-743-3630

FOR SALE: 4 head block sawmill heavy duty with 1-48” insert tooth blade and 1-52” insert blade; Contact: Dan Carlson, 37345 Oriole Avenue, Lindstrom, MN, 55045; Phone: 651-583-2556

FOR SALE: (1) Chippers & Grinders: 58” Morbark; 75” Morbark; 58” Soderhalm 6K; 54” Fulgrim 4K; Precision chip-pac; West Salem horizontal and drop style grinders; Montgomery hogs; William hammer mills; 48” Morbark chip-pac (2) Debarkers: Mellot and HMC Rosser; 636 Morbark with in-feed and out-feed; C-8 debarker (3) Chop saws: Baker single; Pendu 2400; Brewer chopsaw; 12” pop- up saws; Morgan Chop (4) Trimmers: 3 saw trimmer 4”; Newman K20-S; Newman KM 18; Heartland board trim; Heartland trimtrack; Pendu trim (5) Nailors; Pallet Chief 3; Rayco Buck; Viking Explorer; (6) Edgers: Cook 4” edger; Wood-Mizer edger; Crosby 4”; Morgan slab edger; fast line slab; (7) Notchers: MMT single; Corinth single; Hazeldine J-90 (8) Dismantlers: 3 Disc dismantler; Pass One (9) Gang Saws: Cornell CLB-B gang; Corley 10” gang; Frick 8” gang; Cornell 500 B (10) Conveyors and Decks: new and used belt conveyors; roll case with jump chains; hour glass roll cases; vibrating conveyors; log and lumber decks; Brewer dealer deck (11) Bandsaws: 45 degree slant resaw; McDonough 54 resaw; Smith single; Baker PAQ; “06” Baker A; Morgan single; Baker 4 head; Brewer 4 head; (12) Mills: Cartharage; Sharp Chain Scragg; Scragg with splitter saw; Cooper 16’ enddoger (13) Pallet equipment: Brewcoc cant sizers; Pallet Chief stacker; FMC stacker; Hazeldine lumber stacker; 8’ Baker runaround; (14) Planers: Yates A 20; Abrasa top and bottom 400AB sander. Contact: LeeRay Horton, L & L Sales, 8948 Market Street, Sturgeon, MN 55783; Phone: 218-372-4232; Fax: 218-372-8477.


FOR SALE: (1) H & S swing saw, model 55 with 5 H.P., 3 phase motor, 16” diameter saw blade. Good for timbers and heavy duty double arbor table saw. Contact: Dave Gannill, 1592 Olsonville Road, Carlton, MN 55718; Phone: 218-384-3325; Fax: 218-384-3187; E-mail:awp@qweatoffice.net

FOR SALE: (1) C-4 Tree Farmer 4 cyl. Ford engine gas, $4000.00 (2) Soderham Forwarder 353 Detroit Diesel, $7000.00 (3) ’79 Peterbilt Conv 3406 cat, 13 speed, 42’ trailer, 7000 hood loader (5) ”79 IH 466 Diesel Engine Barko 80 Loader yard truck. Contact: Bernard Dahlvang, 25642 CO Rd 7, Staples, MN 56479; Phone: 218-894-1972.
**FOREST PRODUCTS**

**WANTED:** Barrel Stave Logs - white and burr oak butt cuts, 12” diameter and up, random lengths. Contact: Robert Staggemeier, Staggemeyer Stave Co., 18318 State 76, Caledonia, MN 55921; Phone: 507-724-3395

**EQUIPMENT**

**WANTED:** (1) Sawmill edgers (2) Newman KM-16 trimmers (3) Small horizontal waste grinders (4) Pallet notchers (5) Stake pointing equipment (6) 8” finger joint line. Contact: Bob Montgomery; Phone: 610-621-2893; E-mail: ramco@comcast.net

**SERVICES:** Custom milling of house logs including D-Double D, Swedish Cope, full round and other patterns, 4”x6”, 4”x8”, 6”x6”, 6”x8”, 8”x6”, 8”x8”. Contact: Pierce Log Homes, 25854 Pierce Lane, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572; Phone: 218-863-3006; Fax: 218-863-3008

**SERVICES:** On site repair of planer, moulder, flooring machinery, rip saws. All makes and models. Contact: Larry G. Holtz, Midwest Planer Service, N462 Robin Drive, Stetsonville, WI; Phone: 715-678-2080

**SERVICES:** Structural engineering, timber frame and round log homes; difficult foundations; registered Minnesota professional engineer. Contact: John E Wilkinson P.E., Consultant, 604 2nd Ave. No., Sartell, MN 56377; Phone: 320-253-1019

**SERVICES:** Portable custom band sawing. Contact: Jeff Avelsgard, Portage Custom Lumber, 20793 Scandia Rd., Deerwood, MN 56444; Phone: (218) 534-3233.

**SERVICES:** Custom band sawing; Contact: David Trutwin, D & M Saws, 1662 140 Ave, Bowlus, MN 56314; Phone: 320-584-5803; E-mail: david@davidtrutwin.com

**SERVICES:** Custom sawing. Contact: Roger Westerberg, Sand Hill Sawmill, 22224 Co. Rd. 26, Verndale, MN 56481; Phone: 218-472-3436.

**AVAILABLE:** (1) many decks and unscramblers; (2) Chamfer Machines; (3) pop-up saws; (4) air compressors; (5) truss cutters; (6) log turners; (7) straight line rips; (8) pineapple feeds; (9) knife grinders; (10) hydraulic units; (11) electrical components; (12) 7x7, 6x6 chip screens. Contact: LeeRay Horton, L & L Sales, 8948 Market Street, Sturgeon, MN 55783; Phone: 218-372-4232; Fax: 218-372-8477
### Services and Miscellaneous continued

**AVAILABLE:** (1) ANCHORSEAL end sealer for green logs and lumber, in clear and colors (2) LogSavers and FlitchSavers-plastic "s-irons" for logs, can be sawn or sliced through without damaging equipment (3) Shade-Dri, shade cloth for logs and lumber (4) RUDD Tree & Log marking paints. Contact: U-C Coatings Corp., P.O. Box 1066M, Buffalo, NY 14215; Phone: 716-833-9366; Fax 716-833-0120; E-mail: mnmkt@uccoatings.com; Web site: [www.uccoatings.com](http://www.uccoatings.com).

**AVAILABLE:** (1) many decks and unscramblers (2) Champher Machines (3) pop-up saws (4) air compressors (5) truss cutters (6) log turners (7) straight line rips (8) pineapple feeds (9) knife grinders (10) hydraulic units (11) electrical components (12) 7"x7", 6"x6" chip screens. Contact: LeeRay Horton, L & L Sales, 8948 Market Street, Sturgeon, MN 55783; Phone: 218-372-4232; Fax: 218-372-8477

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**Upcoming DNR Forestry Auctions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Auction type</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Little Falls - Sealed Bid</td>
<td>Camp Ripley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>Park Rapids</td>
<td>Park Rapids Enviro. Ed. Bldg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Little Falls</td>
<td>Onamia DNR Forestry Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Warroad - Sealed Bid</td>
<td>Warroad Area Forestry Office</td>
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<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Cambridge - Sealed Bid</td>
<td>Cambridge Area Forestry Office</td>
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<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Littlefork</td>
<td>Big Falls Community Center</td>
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<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Baudette</td>
<td>Baudette Area Forestry Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Rochester - Sealed Bid</td>
<td>Rushford Fire Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Brainerd - Sealed Bid</td>
<td>Pequot Lakes City Hall</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Cloquet</td>
<td>Carlton County Land Office</td>
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<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Orr/Tower</td>
<td>Orr American Legion</td>
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<td>Dec 8</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Aitkin - Sealed Bid</td>
<td>Long Lake Conservation Center</td>
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<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Deer River - Sealed Bid</td>
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<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
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<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Two Harbors</td>
<td>AmericInn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>Intermediate/regular</td>
<td>Blackduck</td>
<td>Blackduck Senior Center</td>
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</table>
If you wish to list an ad in the fall issue of the Market Place, please fill out and return this form by October 15. There is no cost for placing the ad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Products:</th>
<th>Wanted ___</th>
<th>For Sale ___</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment:</td>
<td>Wanted ___</td>
<td>For Sale ___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services/ Misc.:</td>
<td>Wanted ___</td>
<td>For Sale ___</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Examples of items to be listed include stumpage; lumber; logging; sawmill and woodworking equipment; sawing, drying, or marketing services; employment; or other forestry-related items)

Ad:

__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Name: ____________________________ Company:  ________________________________
Address: __________________________ City, State, Zip:  ____________________________
Phone: ___________________________  Fax: _____________________________________
E-mail Address: ______________________________________________________________

Please Note: Due to limited space not all ads will be printed in every issue. Please limit your ads to one page or less. Ads will not carry over from one issue to the next, so please resubmit them for each issue.

Mail ads to:
Keith Jacobson
DNR Forestry
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The Market Place Bulletin is published quarterly by the Minnesota DNR Utilization and Marketing staff. It serves the wood industry of Minnesota by providing relevant information on forest industry and forest resources, and by listing forest products and equipment wanted and for sale, services provided, and employment opportunities. The Market Place is also available on the internet at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/forestry/marketplace/index.html. Anyone can begin or cancel a subscription by making a request by phone: 218-327-4119 or by email: mimi.barzen@dnr.state.mn.us
What type of wood are utility poles usually made from and how long do they last before they need to be replaced?

By Rebecca Wallace, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin

More than 160 million utility poles are in service in North America, and most of them are made from softwood species. The southern pine lumber group (including loblolly, longleaf, shortleaf, and slash pines) are commonly used for three main reasons: they have thick sapwood that is easily treated with preservatives, they have the necessary strength and form (relatively straight and free of large knots), and they are available in popular pole sizes. Douglas-fir, western red cedar, ponderosa pine, and western larch are also used, based on end-use requirements and availability.

The lifespan of poles can vary widely, depending on the properties of the pole, preservative treatments, service conditions, and maintenance practices. Properly treated poles can last 35 years or longer; however, their service life is often limited by the lines they support becoming obsolete, rather than the physical life of the pole.