

Agenda Item No.:	3
Work Plan:	Forest Resources
Topic:	Ceremonial Events and Recognitions
Presentation Title:	2022 Forest Practices Operator of the Year Awards
Date of Presentation:	January 4, 2023
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SUMMARY

The Board of Forestry recognizes Operators of the Year. This year’s award recipients are Chuck Sarrett - Full Circle Consulting, F & B Logging LLC and R & R King Logging, Inc..

BACKGROUND

The *Forestry Program for Oregon* includes the operator recognition program. The program aims to protect, maintain, and enhance forest soil and water resources through voluntary efforts. Forest resources, such as water, wildlife habitat, and soil are important to all Oregonians. The program recognizes operators who voluntarily protect these resources in a conscientious and diligent way. To recognize operators who meet or exceed Forest Practice Act requirements, typically the Board names one Operator of the Year per Region and one or more Merit Award recipients; ODF districts may also issue Letters of Commendation. Program goals are to:

1. Recognize operators who consistently meet or exceed the Oregon Forest Practices Act and voluntarily raise industry standards; and,
2. Improve public understanding of the Forest Practices Act, its administration, and its effectiveness in protecting natural resources.

Process

Anyone may nominate candidates for the Operator of the Year. Agency staff screen the nominees for minimum requirements. The Regional Forest Practices Committees review the nominations for their region. Each committee chooses a recipient based on innovative techniques, cooperative spirit, consistent performance, and measures taken to protect forest resources. To make the selection, Regional Forest Practices Committee members tour the sites, review nominations, and watch videos that capture the operator’s work. The 2022 Operators of the Year are:

For the Eastern Oregon Region –

Chuck Sarrett – Full Circle Consulting of La Grande, Oregon earned the award for his efforts collaborating with American Forest Foundation (AFF), Wallowa Resources, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other partners in Northeast Oregon since 2016 for forestry treatments on private forestlands. He has trained and mentored a number of foresters to expand the region’s forester capacity. Chuck also developed a simplified and streamline Basic Forest Management Plan (FMP) template which is being used in eastern and southern Oregon as well as other neighboring states by consulting foresters, ODF foresters and National Resources Conservation Service staff. Chuck’s 30+ years experience as a

forester, quality of work and persistence ensure proper forest practices and timber management far exceed expectations. He has continued for decades now to be well loved by landowners and operators.

Northwest Oregon Region –

F & B Logging LLC of Warrenton, Oregon earned the award for their efforts as a consistently conscientious logging company. Owner Mike Falleur walks every unit prior to operating to review the site and plan how to protect resources involved. The company is leading the way with development and implementation of innovative ways to protect water quality. Falleur empowers his staff to make calls to shutdown hauling to prevent sediment delivery to waters of the state from wet weather conditions. Over the past 25 years this company has proven to be among the most conscientious loggers in the Astoria area as reported by a local Stewardship Forester.

Southwest Oregon Region–

R & R King Logging, Inc. of Florence, Oregon earned the award for its diligent planning and harvesting. The company took on a difficult operation with high landslide hazard locations in Douglas County that bordered an estuary, significant wetland and fish-bearing stream and had a nearby neighboring residence. Owner Bobby King maintained excellent communication and coordination with neighbors during logging that prevented issues. Thoughtful selection of access roads and utilization of a drone to layout yarding cables to protect the Riparian Management Areas (RMA) and wildlife leave trees on an adjoining tract, keeping them fully intact without damage. Felling parallel to the stream and choosing landing sites carefully also helped preserve the buffer zone protecting the stream and wetlands.

Publicity

The department recognizes the operators through news releases, social media posts, and at annual statewide industry events, including the Associated Oregon Loggers Convention, the Oregon Logging Conference, and the Oregon Small Woodland Association Conference.

All nominees met or exceeded Forest Practices laws and improved Oregon's forests in multiple ways, from enhancing fish and wildlife habitat to forest management planning for private landowners to improving fire safety and forest health, and safeguarding water quality and soil.

Merit Award and Letter of Commendation recipients will be recognized at local functions. The Merit Award recipients for 2022 are:

- Wolfco Timber Services LLC of Lebanon, OR – Eastern Oregon Region Merit Award
- Chiloquin Lawn Care of Chiloquin, OR - Eastern Oregon Region Merit Award
- David Strain Excavating and Trucking Inc. of Coos Bay, OR - SW Oregon Region Merit Award

Staff will give a brief presentation, including videos, and operator recognition.

- Chuck Sarrett – Full Circle Consulting:
[Eastern Oregon Operator of the Year for 2022, Winner - Full Circle Consulting, Winner - YouTube \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f58P61SmlU\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f58P61SmlU)

- F & B Logging LLC:
[Northwest Oregon Operator of the Year for 2022, Winner - F & B Logging LLC - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvGZBxB04U4)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvGZBxB04U4>)
- R & R King Logging, Inc.:
[Southwest Oregon Operator of the Year for 2022, Winner - King Logging - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bF4NJX9XdX0)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bF4NJX9XdX0>)

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board of Forestry recognize each operator for their excellent forestry work and selection as Operator of the Year for each region.