

Agenda Item No.:	4
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Ceremonial Events and Recognitions
Presentation Title:	2016 Forest Practices Operator of the Year awards
Date of Presentation:	March 8, 2016
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## **SUMMARY**

The Board of Forestry annually recognizes Forest Practices Operators of the Year. This year's award recipients are B & C Logging, Inc., Wayne Stone Logging, Inc., and Plikat Logging Inc.

## **BACKGROUND**

The "Forestry Program for Oregon" includes the Operator Recognition program, which aims to protect, maintain, and enhance Oregon's forest soil and water resources through voluntary resource enhancement efforts. The program recognizes operators who voluntarily protect forest resources and exemplify forestry values. To recognize operators meeting or exceeding the forest practice minimums, each year the program typically names: three Operators of the Year (one per Area); Merit Award recipients; and Letters of Commendation.

The program has two goals:

1. Recognize operators who consistently 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**

To earn an Operator of the Year award, operators must be nominated. Anyone may nominate an operator. Department staff screen the nominations to ensure nominees meet the minimum requirements and then refer the nominations to the respective Regional Forest Practices Committees. As directed by the Board, the committees base their decision on the operators' innovative techniques, cooperative spirit, consistent performance, and preventative measures by participating in field tours and reviewing the written nominations and tour videos.

The 2016 Forest Practices Regional Operator of the Year Award recipients are:

**B & C Logging, Inc. (Eastern Oregon Area – Baker City)** B & C Logging earned the Operator of the Year award for helping landowners after the Stices Gulch wildfire and protecting fish-bearing streams. B & C's work improved public safety by removing trees damaged by the wildfire from urban areas. The fire salvage operation and commercial thinning ranged from two to 80 acres with several landowners, requiring multiple written plans. B & C carefully worked around fish-bearing streams, infrastructure and steep ground. Though there was little salvageable volume, Cameron Newell provided landowners with reasonable expectations and helped them gain some compensation for their damaged trees. The commercial thinning area had not been thinned for over 60 years, so road construction

and stream crossing placement had to be given special attention. Directional falling, hard rocked low water installation and swinging logs over stream channels were used to ensure timber and water resources were protected.

**Wayne Stone Logging (Northwest Oregon Area – Sandy)** – Wayne Stone Logging earned the Operator of the Year award for protecting water quality and taking extra efforts to prevent fires while safely completing a difficult downhill harvest. The complex 190-acre operation used cable and shovel logging methods, with three quarters of a mile of road construction and approximately two miles of road maintenance. Road maintenance, drainage structures and clean rock were used to divert water onto the forest floor so that it was filtered before entering any streams and to keep sediment out of Boulder Creek. Wayne Stone thinks outside the box of conventional harvest techniques and adapts to the environment. For instance, there wasn't a road to the top of the ridge for a water source – during fire season Wayne placed a water tank on the ridge so that water was accessible.

**Plikat Logging (Southwest Oregon Area – Camas Valley)** Plikat Logging earned the Operator of the Year award for protecting a fish-bearing stream and its buffer while using a suspended cable system to move logs and minimize ground impact. Previous stream enhancement work had been completed around the area; Wally Plikat and his crew put in extra effort, using additional cable and equipment, to protect the riparian area. The 63-acre tower yarder operation involved cable logging downhill near Brush Creek. With a large amount of the volume coming from a steep hillside and long yarding distances, setting up the operation took extensive time and planning. Yarding distances were at times over 2000 feet, with turns coming from 500 feet above the yarder. Plikat's careful planning and work protected the fish-bearing stream, its buffer, and left the land ready for replanting.

These operators have been and continue to be recognized at annual statewide industry events throughout the year including the Associated Oregon Loggers Convention, the Oregon Logging Conference, and the Oregon Small Woodland Association Conference.

All nominees exceeded Forest Practices requirements and improved Oregon's forests, fish and wildlife habitat, fire safety needs and water quality. Merit Award recipients selected by the Regional Forest Practices Committees will be recognized by the committees and at local functions, along with those receiving Letters of Commendation from their districts. The Merit Award recipients are:

- B & M Timber, LLC – Burns
- Mike Pihl Logging, Inc. - Vernonia
- Rick Krohn, Western Helicopter (Newberg) and Mark Gourley, Starker Forests, Inc. (Corvallis)

A brief presentation describing the Operator of the Year projects has been prepared including videos available on the department's YouTube channel:

- B & C Logging, Inc.: <https://youtu.be/LSB7z--dUc>
- Wayne Stone Logging, Inc.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81WgwqJ8fSA>
- Plikat Logging, Inc.: <https://youtu.be/cwwpQzpcPrc>

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends the Board of Forestry formally recognize the recipients for their excellence in forest operations.