

Agenda Item No.:	5
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Ceremonial Events and Recognitions
Presentation Title:	2017 Forest Practices Operator of the Year awards
Date of Presentation:	March 7, 2018
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SUMMARY

The Board of Forestry recognizes Operators of the Year. This year's award recipients are: Lane Parry Forestry Consulting, Morisse Logging, and Denali Logging.

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. The program recognizes operators who voluntarily protect forest resources and exemplify forestry values. To recognize operators meeting or exceeding the forest practice minimums, typically the Board names one Operator of the Year per Area and Merit Award recipients; and districts issue Letters of Commendation. The program goals are:

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

Anyone may nominate candidates for the Operator of the Year award. Agency staff screen the nominees for the minimum requirements. The Regional Forest Practices Committees review the nominations for their area. Each committee chooses a recipient based on innovative techniques, cooperative spirit, consistent performance, and preventative measures. To make the selection, members tour the sites, review nominations, and watch videos that capture the operator's work. The 2017 Operators of the Year are:

Lane Parry Forestry Consulting Inc. (Eastern Oregon Area – Baker City) Lane Parry Forestry Consulting earned the Eastern Oregon Operator of the Year award for helping landowners after the 2015 wildfires. His team successfully coordinated work by many operators for 14 landowners across 2,000 acres. He did this by: working with landowners; helping them set goals; learning their land; finding sensible salvage logging options; advising them on FPA laws; helping market logs; applying for grant funding.

The work involved logging around fish-bearing streams and public roads where the burnt trees posed a safety hazard. While not required, Lane Parry had operators replace large woody debris in streams to recreate pools for fish habitat where the logs and woody debris had burnt out of them. Lane and his team secured seedlings and coordinated replanting work. Lane's team consistently does quality work and his leadership ensured successful harvests and replanting.

Morisse Logging Inc. (Northwest Oregon Area – Astoria) Morisse Logging earned the Northwest Oregon Operator of the Year award for protecting streams and improving fish habitat and improving safety along Highway 26. Morisse also brought civic groups to the site to share information about forestry and stream improvements. The harvest unit contained four fish streams. The large fish stream lacked large wood characteristics. Morisse worked with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to create large wood debris structures.

To improve safety along Highway 26, Morisse coordinated harvesting in a scenic buffer during the peak travel season. This involved harvesting the first 150 feet next to the road to reduce blow down impacts to traffic and thinning the next 150 feet. To help with public safety, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) also had Morisse do the same for its land next to the main harvest. Morisse took extra precaution with traffic flagging for safety of the public, logging crews, and log trucks.

Denali Logging Inc. (Southwest Oregon Area – Coos Bay) Denali earned the Southwest Operator of the Year award for its diligent planning and harvesting. While doing forestry work, Denali protected streams, stream buffers, and fish habitat. Denali Logging's nomination focused on two complex harvests. The first operation was a clear-cut with a grave site at the bottom, a small fish stream, a large fish stream and difficult topography. Denali's skillful downhill yarding protected the grave site, the streams, and their buffers. Timing restrictions were also a challenge. Denali worked within the confines of both in-water work timing restrictions, and a longer than normal fire prevention shut down period.

The second operation included: protecting a small fish buffer by suspending logs by cable over the stream and buffer trees; protecting coastal pastureland during a wet spring; using side block yarding to reach part of the unit; and protecting powerlines with directional falling. Denali reduced impacts to the public through careful planning and working with neighbors. Denali kept a mobile generator running to maintain power for a neighbor while having the power company drop a powerline to improve safety when logging next to the line. Denali kept the electricity on and the roads open to meet the neighbors' needs.

PUBLICITY

The department recognizes the operators through media outlets, social media, 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 exceeded Forest Practices laws and improved Oregon's forests, fish and wildlife habitat, fire safety needs and water quality. Merit Award and Letter of Commendation recipients will be recognized at local functions. The Merit Award recipient is:

- Zuber and Sons Logging, LLC. - Wedderburn

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

- Lane Parry Forestry Consulting, Inc.: https://youtu.be/p_akKepy_Kw
- Morisse Logging, Inc.: <https://youtu.be/WDgLuMBh2Bk>
- Denali Logging, Inc.: <https://youtu.be/U723vLHHOSw>

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board of Forestry present the recipients with plaques uniquely recognizing each operator for their excellent forestry work.