

Agenda Item No.:	3
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Ceremonial Events and Recognitions
Presentation Title:	2018 Forest Practices Operator of the Year Awards
Date of Presentation:	March 6, 2019
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SUMMARY

The Board of Forestry recognizes Operators of the Year. This year’s award recipients are B&M Timber LLC, J.M. Browning Logging Inc., and Dave Wilkerson Logging LLC.

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 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 screens 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 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 2018 Operators of the Year are:

For the Eastern Oregon Region –

B&M Timber LLC of Burns earned the award for minimizing soil disturbance during a wintertime timber harvest in a narrow valley. They also protected a fish-bearing stream that runs through the valley while working closely with the landowner to meet his multi-use objectives of the land and improve the overall health of the forested stand. B&M Timber has also been recognized for helping multiple landowners by careful salvage logging after a devastating wildfire in eastern Oregon. B&M Timber produced quality results under the most difficult and challenging conditions.

Northwest Oregon Region –

J.M. Browning Logging Inc. of Astoria earned the award for protecting streams and improving future fish habitat through structural logging. The Browning team moved 64 pieces of large diameter logs over the stream buffer before placing them into a fish-bearing stream at multiple locations. Machine and hand felling techniques were utilized to cut hardwoods in designated areas in order to re-establish a conifer stream buffer, while protecting retained trees. The award also recognizes Browning for decades of consistently applying best management practices to safeguard forest resources, even under challenging circumstances.

Southwest Oregon Region–

Dave Wilkerson Logging LLC of Eagle Point earned the award for safely harvesting a highly visible tract at the entrance to the town of Butte Falls. The tract, amid powerlines and busy pedestrian and road traffic, contained a fish-bearing stream. It took Wilkerson extra effort to harvest in a manner that protected the stream buffer. He also was able to selectively log the tract while protecting younger trees, helping keep the site's aesthetic appeal for area residents and protecting the natural resources of the area.

PUBLICITY

The department recognizes the operators through news releases, social media postings, 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 improving fire safety and safeguarding water quality and soil.

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

- Tanzey Forest Improvement, Inc. – Wallowa
- Dave Harmon Logging, Inc. – Keno
- Gwin & Sons Logging Co. – Vernonia

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

- B&M Timber LLC.: <https://youtu.be/HaipgD5d3tA>
- J.M. Browning Logging Inc.: <https://youtu.be/MSjDT-uesgQ>
- Dave Wilkerson Logging LLC: <https://youtu.be/c8BjSIHUzYI>

RECOMMENDATION

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