

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30 and 60 years ago

Companies fear shortages of log supplies

By Monica Alleven
Sentinel Staff of 1988

Some forest products companies, particularly those that rely on public timberlands, are finding themselves short of logs.

"The independent companies in some spots are having a rough go of it," said Greg Miller, forest issues manager for the North West Timber Association.

A log shortage led the Bald Knob-Mazama Division in Creswell to lay off 39 workers Tuesday, said Mark Fleming, division manager. Several factors may have contributed to its shortage.

"I think it's here until the timber supply issue is resolved, whenever that is," he said last week.

But another looming concern for many companies is mass appeals on timber sales filed by the Oregon Natural Resource Council (ONRC) based in Eugene.

The ONRC has filed more than 200 appeals to timber sales, which are resales from the 1984 Timber Relief Act. The act allowed timber companies out of contracts purchased at inflated 1970 prices, and the contracts were resold at public auction.

Amidst charges from the timber industry and others in the last several weeks saying they have been irresponsible, the conversations group contends it has been under pressure to file the appeals within 30

days.

In addition, ONRC Director James Monteith says 80 to 90 percent of the appeals have been dismissed. "A majority of them already have been dismissed by the Forest Service," he said. "We filed some appeals on timber sales that had already been cut."

But procedural regulations may be revised this week, making any dismissals allowable again, said Jerry Mason, public affairs officer for the Forest Service.

The ONRC intends to file more appeals, Monteith said, and timber companies fear the appeals could lead to mill closures and layoffs.

"We rely right now 100 percent from the Willamette and the Umpqua national forests," Fleming said. Four of its timber sales are under appeal, and if an injunction were issued, "we could lose them and we would be down - period." Starfire Lumber Co. in Cottage Grove has four timber sales in the Willamette and Umpqua National forests - all of which are turn back, or buyback volume, said Robbie Robinson, vice president.

"It's a very concerning factor because the majority of government timber that has been sold in the past couple of years has been this turn back volume," he said.

Up to 100 percent of Starfire's current volume could be immediately affected by the appeals if any injunctions were issued.

"There's a lot of unknowns," he said. "We are very concerned about timber supply, and there are several factors that we are not sure what's going to happen with." For now, Starfire is trying to build up its log inventory.

Ironically, the group responsible for the mass appeals says it, too, is concerned about a log shortage.

"we think the potential log shortage is a real and present danger, and we think it's because the timber industry has been overcutting the forests," said Wendell Wood, ONRC education programs coordinator. "We feel that's important is that we practice sustained use forestry" on both private and public lands, he added.

The ONRC says Congress is forcing the Forest Service to cut more than they want. The Forest Service has been cutting the forests at 3.9 billion board feet in Oregon and Washington, but Congress has been authorizing cuts of 4.2 billion board feet, they said.

As to charges from the timber industry that ONRC is counting harvests more than once, "we are talking about the volume of trees that were actually cut," he said.

Although Heath Logging hasn't been directly affected by the appeals yet, owner Wil Heath says other issues may threaten its log supplies.



News from the state and around the nation

From around the state

The battle between the state and Josephine County over legalized marijuana has reached new heights after the latter filed suit against the former in the U.S. District Court last week. The Josephine County Board of Commissioners has attempted to block commercial marijuana farming on plots that are five acres or less. However, the state's Land Use Board of Appeals ruled on the side of the farms last month, allowing the grows—something Josephine County contends isn't possible given that marijuana remains illegal at the federal level.

Oregon has joined a lawsuit challenging the addition of a citizenship question placed on the 2020 Census by the Trump administration. Opponents claim that by adding the question, participation in the census would decrease resulting in a lower population count for states. State population determines federal funds, representation in Congress and electoral college votes.

Initiative Petition 44 was filed last week with the state that, if it garners more than 88,000 signatures, will be placed on the November ballot and ask voters to decide on whether gun owners should be liable for injuries caused with their guns. It would also dictate how guns must be stored.

From around the nation

Sinclair-owned news organizations, including KATU in Oregon, have found themselves the subject of a news story after it was revealed the company had mandated that its anchors recite a script which questioned the validity of news organizations and suggested journalists reported on stories that were not true. After the report went viral, the general manager of KATU issued a memo that barred staff from answering press questions and noted doing so could "have huge implications." Journalists employed with the company noted that resigning from their positions came with a hefty contractually-obligated fine that, for some, reached into the thousands.

On Wednesday, social media giant Facebook, revealed that data from up to 87 million users may have been shared with Cambridge Analytica—the data mining firm accused of using information from the site to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Nasim Aghdam is being accused of being behind a shooting at the YouTube headquarters on Tuesday, April 3. Aghdam, who died at the scene from a reported self-inflicted gunshot wound, injured three people when she entered the building with a 9mm pistol. Aghdam's family reported that she "hated" YouTube, a site she used to post animal welfare videos.

On Wednesday of last week, Homeland Security announced that President Trump would sign a proclamation sending the National Guard to the U.S./Mexico border. Trump was quoted by reporters the day before as saying he would use the military to guard the border until a wall could be built.

Hours after the Trump administration announced new tariffs on more than 1,000 Chinese goods, China outlined tariffs on U.S. products—mostly from fly-over country—like soybeans and cars to the tune of \$50 million.

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

March 30

South Lane Wheels reported that individuals cut their fence and stole a battery out of one of their vans.

A woman reported seeing a vehicle driving around Walmart with a child standing up and outside of the sunroof.

March 31

A man on Hwy. 99 reported that a truck in the parking lot appeared to have its roof smashed in with a baseball bat.

April 1

Shoplifting was reported at Walmart when an individual saw someone take two 40 ounce bottles of beer.

April 2

At 12:48 a.m. an individual reported that they believed a vehicle had just struck a sign in front of the library and that they then saw someone carrying a damaged "Do Not Enter" sign on Gibbs St.

A man reported a suspicious condition after he was woken up at 1:36 a.m. to someone knocking on his door. The man then found his outdoor water faucet turned on and that his car had a flat tire.

A man with a bike and two dogs was seen holding up traffic on Main St.

A grocery store on Main St. reported that an individual shoplifted

a six-pack of beer from their store.

April 3

A man on Lord Ave. reported that he came home to find that his neighbor had dumped garbed in his backyard once again.

April 4

A man reported that while he was playing video poker, he stepped away to smoke a cigarette and when he returned his winning receipt valued at \$84 had been stolen.

After parking his vehicle down the street and walking to his home, a man reported that three to four "tweakers" had followed him home. The man believed that they were still on his property.

Police officers were requested on 2nd St. after ongoing problems with vehicles speeding through the neighborhood. A man reported that his wife attempted to confront a driver who then became verbally abusive towards her.

While a group was hiking on Mt. David, they reported that another group of people began shooting at them with pellet guns and making cat calls.

April 5

A missing person was located after it was found that the individual had taken the bus to Eugene and back.

April 6

A suspicious condition was reported on Anthony St. after an individual's doorbell rang twice at 1:36 a.m.

6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY April 12 48° 39° Showers	FRIDAY April 13 56° 40° Showers
SATURDAY April 14 62° 41° Showers	SUNDAY April 15 51° 36° Showers
MONDAY April 17 52° 36° Showers	TUESDAY April 18 55° 39° Showers

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