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TIMBERLINE

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Fall Round Up



Being a dot com business has started to change the focus at Bear Creek. We are doing more custom milling, finding more interesting items (especially in recycled and manufactured products) while serving our traditional clientele with the exquisite cedars and redwoods. Yellow cedar has been especially popular because the word is getting out about what a phenomenal product it is. Its durability is world famous.

Another great buy at Bear Creek Lumber these days are fir beams. We have a new mill close buy and the beams can be custom milled or manufactured into trusses. Very exciting stuff!

No matter what product you are finishing your home or project with, we probably have a product that will fit the bill. Check out this month's specials on the back and give us a call!

To Burn or Not To Burn



After this summer's wild fire season, pundits were waxing eloquent on the value of burns to the ecosystem as opposed to the value of the timber lost.

What is lost in this debate is the wildlife habitat that is also lost when fires burn. In areas with endangered species, is it really better to burn 'em out than to thin, manage and log?

Much is made of how the best logs are taken and the forests don't get what they need to regenerate but in truth, forests need thinning to grow better trees. Some fires accomplish this but many burn so hot that they retard the natural regrowth of the forest. As a timberland owner, I know I would rather grow old trees by selective thinning than take a chance on catastrophic fire that might kill everything, starting my forestland back at ground zero. I have great wildlife habitat, trees that are growing

timber and great recreational trails that do not harm the critters or the trees. Wise use of the forest would dictate the most value out of the most acreage. There is a lot more value to management than torching the West.



Photo by Sage Bannick

A Bird of A Different Feather

When this Cooper's hawk was discovered at the Bannick house last August, it was unable to fly. The naturalist who came and rescued the bird (and took it to a recovery center for predatory birds) thought it might have flown into a power line and broken its wing. However, a few weeks later, while changing sprinklers, I saw yet a another pair of these hawks circling a pair of red tailed hawks in a defensive posture. Seems the neighborhood is attracting a large number of predators as smaller birds are gleaning the neighbors fields of rye and oats following the hay harvest. The redtails and coopers were having a sort of "high noon" confrontation over whose territory it was- complete with verbal threats from a hundred feet above. Its the food chain of the sky!

Bob's Home Photos:

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Like many of our readers, Bob Caughell spent this summer working on his home with material bought from Bear Creek Lumber. The results were so nice, he had to share. Pictured below from left to right: The kitchen below has exposed Douglas fir beam 6 x 10 in the ceiling, with redwood tongue and groove beneath. The cabinets are made of cherry. In the upper picture at right, the vaulted ceiling is #2 common pine T&G paneling with 4 x 8 western red cedar beams and collar ties. In the picture on the lower right Bob has his stairway built out of Douglas fir posts and beams with the landing built with fir tongue and groove. The rails, balusters and posts are western red cedar. The wall paneling along the stairway and in the loft area is redwood 1 x 6 tongue and groove.



Top Five Products Sold This Past Summer

- 1) 1 x 6 #2 Common Knotty Pine T&G Paneling
- 2) 1/2x 6 Vertical Grain Clear Red Cedar Bevel Siding
- 3) 11/16 x 8 Select Tight Knot Red Cedar Bevel Siding
- 4) 1 x 8 Red Cedar Select Tight Knot Channel Rustic Siding
- 5) 2 x 6 Select Tight Knot S4S Alaskan Yellow Cedar Decking

Top Ten States Sales/Deliveries YTD

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Washington | 6. Illinois |
| 2. California | 7. Colorado |
| 3. Alaska | 8. Ohio |
| 4. Hawaii | 9. Nevada |
| 5. Virginia | 10. Pennsylvania |

Greeting from Colorado!

We just received your most recent newsletter. After reading the article about the black bear population (, I thought you might get a kick out of the enclosed article printed below). Have a good day and remember to smile!

Sincerely,
Kenda L/ Peter Genesis Laboratories Inc.
Wellington CO

Bear Warning

The Forest Service has issued a warning in the national forests for this summer. Everyone is urged to protect themselves by wearing bells and carrying pepper spray. Campers should be alert for fresh signs of bear activity and should be educated in the difference between black bear dung and grizzly bear dung. Black bear dung is small and round and may contain seeds and/or squirrel fur. Grizzly dung contains bells and has the distinct odor of pepper spray.



Letters, Comments and Kudos

BL: Thanks for putting up with all the changes, questions etc. Cloud was great and a gentleman to boot. The crew and customers were impressed by the quality, especially in comparison to local lumber yard cedar.

Dave Talbert
New World Homes
Millboro VA

Dear Bear Creek Lumber

I was delayed by traffic in my drive over (to Bear Creek Lumber). I stopped to call and see if someone would wait until after 5 PM (to help me with my order). Mark the person who I first spoke to had informed Joe about my inquiry and the receptionist knew about my coming. I was impressed by your staff. They are first class, communicate well about what is going on, care about the customers and know their merchandise. My highest praise for your people and your service. Keep up the good work.
Wayne Schuh
Mount Vernon WA

The clamor for bigger homes in areas with valuable lots has led to a new practice called scrapers, scapeoffs or teardowns. The owner of the property buys a house and then demolishes the existing house in favor of building a larger one. A National Association of Realtors economist estimated that 5% of homes sold last year were scrapers. Demolition usually costs around \$10,000-20,000. Many times a \$350,000 house will be torn down to build a million dollar one.

Drought in the South helped contribute to the glut of framing materials in the first half of the year. The drought, which has been going for three years, has left usually boggy areas high and dry. Loggers are accessing areas rarely harvested before. The glut has led to rock bottom prices for Southern timber pulp and wood products. Pine beetle activity as well as the fungi that grow during drought conditions has also been extremely damaging, forcing landowners to cut out more trees than they wanted. Some landowners also are cutting because they joined a government program to create wildlife habitat. Dense tree stands are being cut to promote old growth conditions. In all, the effect has created the lowest pulpwood prices the region has seen in years and it may be years before the prices recover.

Despite household savings at lowest rates in the past forty years and consumer debt at the highest rate in recorded history, the construction spending boom is still going strong. Although the high points have been reached and declines in construction spending have been visible, overall, the main effect seems to be the end of interest rate hikes. The Federal Reserve seems satisfied that overall markets have cooled sufficiently to leave the rates where they are.

North American glu-lam beam production is up 12% from last year. Much of the increase is based on foreign demand. Japan is the world's leading importer of glu-lams.

Historic Agreement

Canadian Timber Firms and Environmental Groups Reach Tentative Consensus

Four major British Columbia coastal forest companies have joined with four major North American environmental groups to promote the establishment of conservation-based ecosystem management for the central and northern coastal areas of British Columbia, Canada. The environmental groups include Greenpeace, the Sierra Club of BC, the Rainforest Action Network and the Coastal Rainforest Coalition.

Environmental groups call this area the "Great Bear Rainforest". It is bounded by Butte Inlet in the south and the Alaskan border on the north, encompassing an area of 70,000 square kilometers of forest, fjord, inlets, islands and glacial mountains. The land is owned by the government although Aboriginal claims have been made against it.

Much of this area is remote. Approximately 10% is usable for commercial logging and another 10% is designated parkland. It includes one of the largest tracts of remaining temperate rainforest and is biologically rich. It includes the home of the Kermode or white-coated spirit bear as well as grizzlies and timber wolves.

In order to reach an agreement between all interested parties, logging concerns have agreed to defer harvest in the area for a period of time (harvest has been deferred at various sales since 1998). The negotiating group is working with a facilitator who is establishing a consensus between the groups to resolve issues of both environmental and economic consequence. Both sides agree that neither job or habitat loss is acceptable and are working together to insure a process that will allow sustainable harvest levels as well as keep the First Nations aboriginal groups involved in the agreement's outcome and initiatives.



Vote For Housing:

A Report Card Available To NAHB Members

Voting time is approaching. Many builders are concerned that the direction the government may take in the future could severely limit the construction industry's ability to meet demand. If you would like to know more about the candidates record on housing issues, log on to HousingReportcard.com. The site is available only to National Association of Home Builders members. If you are a member, you can type in your zip code and get a complete record of votes on building industry issues, legislation and contact information about key congressional races.

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