



# Montana Wood Products Association

Newsletter  
May | 2016

*In this issue . . . .*

Softwood Lumber Board Update

Legislative Branch Interim Newsletter

Log a Load for Kids raises money for Children's Miracle  
Network



Find even more news & updates on our  
[Facebook page](#).

*Save the Date*

Montana Wood  
Products Association  
44th Annual Convention

Hilton Garden Inn | Missoula  
Sept. 8-9, 2016

details to follow





# In the News...

## FINAL SENATE & HOUSE FY17 FIA PROGRAM FUNDING APPROPRIATIONS LETTER

[Senate version](#) | [House version](#)

## SOFTWOOD LUMBER BOARD

[Timber Innovation Act Legislation](#) | [SLB Press Release](#) | [Sen. Daines Press Release](#)

## MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

[Interim Newsletter](#)

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

[International Paper to buy 7 pulp mills from Weyerhaeuser](#)

## THE WESTERN NEWS

[Timber project moves one step closer](#)

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Letter from Western Governors to Trade Representative](#)

## US LUMBER COALITION

[U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement Negotiations -- Update and Call for Action](#)



Log A Load For Kids is an annual campaign, which encourages loggers and others in the forest products community to donate the value of one load of logs, or any amount, to local Children's Miracle Network hospitals. Log A Load For Kids is a national leader in CMN fundraising. For more information, or to donate funds to a CMN-affiliated hospital in your area, please visit [www.logaload.org](http://www.logaload.org).

[Arkansas' Nancy Loomis and Patsy Thornton: Log A Load's 2016 Volunteer Champions](#)

[Log A Load For Kids Volunteers Raise \\$2,285,032 in 2015 for 61 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals](#)



# In the News...

## FEDERAL FOREST RESOURCE COALITION NEWSLETTER

**As House Prepares to Take Up Interior Spending Bill, Dems Defend Unilateral Monument Designations:** The House Interior Subcommittee will mark up their own funding bill before the Memorial Day Recess. Meanwhile, the Senate this week overcame a contentious amendment to move on the Energy & Water spending bill, the first spending bill to clear the Senate this year. In the House, over 40 percent of House Democrats signed onto a letter this week urging appropriators to protect the president's authority to designate national monuments, saying that the "overwhelming majority of Americans who support" it's use and urges the appropriators to "refrain from including any language that undermines the Antiquities Act," the 1906 law that allows presidents to set aside historic sites without the approval of Congress. The [letter](#) comes as the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee begins work on its fiscal 2017 spending bill. It was led by Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva of Arizona and Federal Lands Subcommittee ranking member Niki Tsongas of Massachusetts, and signed by 78 other House Democrats. "Nearly half of our national parks were originally protected as national monuments via the Antiquities Act," the lawmakers said. They note that "over 20 separate bills and amendments have already been introduced in the Congress to gut the Antiquities Act," including an [amendment](#) from Rep. Crescent Hardy (R-NV) to the FY 2016 appropriations bill (considered last year) that would have prohibited funding for monument declarations in counties where there is significant local opposition. A March, 2016 letter circulated by Rep. Paul Gosar of Arizona and signed by 28 other House Republicans provided legislative language that would block monuments considered for parts of Maine, Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah. That rider would also set new consultation requirements for other monuments and set a three-year expiration date on such declarations if they are not explicitly approved by Congress and state governments. With only two weeks to go before the Memorial Day recess, no action is currently scheduled on the Interior Bill. The Full Committee will act on the Defense spending measure next week, before Subcommittee action on the Commerce and Transportation bills.

**Not Just Climate Change: Study Finds Human Activity Is a Major Factor Driving Wildfires:** A new study examining wildfires in California found that human activity explains as much about their frequency and location as climate influences. The researchers systematically looked at human behaviors and climate change together, which is unique and rarely attempted on an area of land this large. The findings suggest many models of wildfire predictions do not accurately account for human factors and may therefore be misleading when identifying the main causes or drivers of wildfires. The newest model proportionately accounts for climate change and human behavioral threats and allows experts to more accurately predict how much land is at risk of burning in California through 2050, which is estimated at more than 7 million acres in the next 25 years. The paper, "[Incorporating Anthropogenic Influences into Fire Probability Models: Effects of Human Activity and Climate Change on Fire Activity in California](#)," appeared in the online journal PLOS ONE on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Climate change affects the severity of the fire season and the amount and type of vegetation on the land, which are major variables in predicting wildfires. However, humans contribute another set of factors that influence wildfires, including where structures are built, and the frequency and location of ignitions from a variety of sources—everything from cigarettes on the highway to electrical poles that get blown down in Santa Ana winds. As a result of the near-saturation of the landscape, humans are currently responsible for igniting more than 90 percent of the wildfires in California.



# Forest Fun Facts



## The new trend of 'Forest Bathing' is a day in life of most Montanans...

In an effort to combat our indoor epidemic and reap..health benefits, a growing number of Americans have become followers of a Japanese practice called Shinrin-yoku. Coined by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 1982, the word literally translates to "taking in the forest atmosphere" or "forest bathing" and refers to the process of soaking up the sights, smells and sounds of a natural setting to promote physiological and psychological health. [Read the full article here.](#)

## Acorn Woodpeckers Hoard Thousands of Acorns in a Single Tree

Once a team of acorn woodpeckers has had their way with a tree, the tree is left nearly unrecognizable, and covered in small, individually bored holes. It becomes what is called a "granary tree." Acorn woodpeckers, which live along the west coast and in the southwest of North America, turn trees—as well as telephone poles and wooden siding—into storage units. They are the ultimate hoarders of the bird world, storing thousands of acorns in a single granary. There are even records of granaries with tens of thousands of estimated holes, which are utilized year and year again by the woodpeckers. [Read more about this amazing bird here.](#)



## If you find yourself sleeping under the stars this summer, a new study finds that the trees may be sleeping too...

The concept of bedtime for plants is not new; Charles Darwin himself addressed the subject in his 1880 book [The Power of Movement in Plants](#). Many researchers have studied the phenomenon since, watching for hours as leaves and spines made their infinitesimal transitions in the dark. Yet all of those studies involved potted plants, and none of them included trees. Well, a new study suggests that even trees get their snooze on at night. [If you're not feeling too sleepy, you can read the article and find the study here.](#)

Have a safe and happy [Memorial Day](#) weekend, remembering those who served.





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now is a great time!  
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