

THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMBERMEN

SPRING 2022

# TIMBER TALK

Dedicated to Representing the Needs of Small Businesses in the Forest Product Industry



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**The Michigan Association of Timbersmen celebrated 50 years together at the Annual Convention on April 21-22 at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.**

The celebration included great food, social gatherings, SFE credit industry seminars, indoor and outdoor exhibitors.

MAT members, family and friends enjoyed the banquet dinner, awards and entertainment.

We thank everyone who attended the celebration and appreciate each and everyone as Stewards of Michigan's Forest Resources.



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# 2021 EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING

## Central Michigan Hardwoods


The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to announce Central Michigan Hardwoods, Inc. as our 2021 Excellence in Manufacturing award recipient.

Central Michigan Hardwoods is a kiln drying lumber facility in Coopersville, Michigan. Beginning with their founding in 1999, they have been committed to serving their customers and providing them with kiln dried lumber to their exact specifications.

They sell rough or two-face surfaced kiln dried lumber and straight line ripping either one or two edges. They offer either standard lumber grading or customer-specific lumber grading. CMH grade and sort based on appearance, color, width, and length.

Their dedicated sales team has a lifetime of experience in the lumber industry. They have devoted their careers to serving their customers beyond their expectations.

They have the perfect team — they have developed the perfect team to ensure their customers have an excellent experience. We have spent the last 15+ years carefully assembling the best possible team. All of our employees, from handlers to salesmen, are highly experienced in the industry and are determined to give the customer exactly what they want and more.

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Cameron Forest Products recognizes the importance of long-term relationships with mills and taking care of them first. This ensures that they always have a place to move their logs even when markets get tight.

The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to congratulate Kirk Cameron Forest Products as the recipient of the 2021 Excellence in Trucking award. Kirk purchased his first truck in 1994 from Larry Baynham, which he drove for at the time. He added another truck one year later and his third truck in 2001. The company has grown over the years and now has a fleet of 5 self-loader log trucks and one tractor that hauls equipment and pulls log trailers. All of Kirk's trucks are currently Kenworth's. Maintenance is done in-house with the addition of a truck shop that has grown over the years with additions to

the original shop as well as new office space.

Kirk's wife Judy takes care of all the company's books and coordinates firewood loads that are delivered all over the state. Kirk and Judy's son Zak joined the company in 2017 after getting his Forestry degree from Michigan Technological University. Zak takes care of the harvesting side of the company which was added in 2012 when they purchased their first harvester.

Currently, the company employs 17 people with truck drivers, equipment operators, and mechanics.

The trucking side of the company is handled by Kirk where they custom hauls for AJD and haul logs from their crews.

They have many markets for their products but recognize the importance of long-term relationships with mills and take care of them first. This ensures that they always have a place to move their logs even when markets get tight.

Through hard work and long hours, Kirk Cameron Forest Products has come a long way from one log truck to what it is today. That work ethic has been passed down to his son Zak and will ensure that the company continues to move forward in the future. 🌲

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# 2021 LOGGER OF THE YEAR

The Michigan Association of Timbermen and the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee are pleased to announce Brien Thoney and Sons Forest Products LLC of Daggett Michigan as the recipient of our 2021 Logger of the year.


Brien Thoney and Sons Forest Products LLC of Daggett, Michigan are this year's MAT Logger of the Year. They are the 5th generation of this family business. The headquarters of the business is still at its original location. They continue to follow the career track of many families in this region, which historically was work in the woods in the winter and farm in the summer. They log year-around whenever not tending to crops and cattle. They are leaders in the county in adopt-

ing new technology. They own and intensively manage about 3,000 acres of forestland. The Thoney's usually produce between 7,500 and 10,000 cords annually including occasional stumps purchases. In addition, they own about 1,000 acres of cropland raising the crops to feed their 400 head of Black Angus beef cattle. All of the work in this business is done by Brien and sons, Josh and Beau. When logging, Brien runs the forwarder, Beau operates the harvester and Josh does the trucking. Josh says that when he gets ahead on the hauling, he also cleans the barns. Brien's wife, Halie, is also an important part of the business. She is the leader of one of the county's 4H Beef Clubs.

Carrying on from Brien's dad, Nick, the company is members of MAT, GLTPA, MI Master Logger and Tree Farm. A few years ago, they were the Michigan and North Central Tree Farmer of the Year. The ethic of quality management of these organizations continues to be carried on by the current generations of Thoneys.

The logging equipment consists of a Ponsse Harvester and Forwarder, JD Bulldozer and Excavator, three trucks, cribbed, straight and dump, and a portable Wood Mizer Sawmill. In addition, they also own a full line of modern farm equipment. They produce both hardwoods and softwoods. All wood is marketed to the highest value product ranging from firewood to high quality logs.

In addition to being very hard workers who put in a long day, perhaps one of the things that has contributed to this family's success has been Grandpa Nick's belief that one should hire professional advisors who are smarter than yourself. They have consulted with foresters, wildlife biologists, CPAs, bankers and others.

Among the many things they have done are: planted over a million trees, pine plantations and hardwood stands are very well managed, a variety of wildlife practices, built a large, high wire deer enclosure to demonstrate the effect of browsing on forest regeneration, host school kid tours. Brien was the 1st MAT member to receive SFE credits for successfully completing the Team Safe Trucking training program. 



Brien Thoney and Sons Forest Products



# 2021 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD




Anne Harmon

The Michigan Association of Timbermen would like to congratulate Anne Harmon as the recipient of the 2021 Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Anne married into the Harmon logging family in 1994. In 2012 Greg took over the company from his dad and Anne started doing the books for the company. Anne is very passionate about the Forest Products industry and tries to educate anyone willing to listen about the importance of logging and forest management. She has organized field trips with local schools to get the kids into the woods, where they learned about harvesting, forest management, careers, and the equipment used in Logging.

Anne was elected to the Michigan Association of Timbermen

board of directors in 2019. Anne has extensive experience in accounting and has been a huge asset to the board. She has now taken on the role of Secretary-Treasurer, where she has done a great job organizing and getting our accounting software up to date. In her spare time, Anne likes to work on crafts and loves to entertain. At Christmas time you can find her making her homemade candies to give out to family and friends.

We appreciate all of Anne's hard work and dedication to our industry and the Michigan Association of Timbermen Board of Directors. She is always willing to help out in any way and will always be an ambassador for the Forest products industry. 

ANNE IS VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TRIES TO EDUCATE ANYONE WILLING TO LISTEN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF LOGGING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT.



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# WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



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MAT was established in 1972 for the purpose of reducing costs and increasing profits of small forest industry businesses while ensuring a continued supply of timber. As a member you should enjoy all the benefits we have to offer.

## Your membership within MAT provides the following opportunities:

- Free membership to American Loggers Council (ALC) and the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM).
- MAT provides multiple opportunities to earn free SFI credits throughout various sponsored events.
- MAT represents member's issues with local, state and federal departments such as MDOT, MDNR, CRA and

Townships as well as Federal Motor Carrier issues.

- As a MAT member, you qualify for rebates thru Western Star, Peterbilt, International Truck, and Clark Tracks as well as other discounts from various other firms/programs.

- TIMSER Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of MAT owns Forest Insurance Center, Loggers Insurance Agency II LLC and Mauck

Insurance Agency. Supporting these agencies helps provide funding for association programs.

- MAT endorses Superior Insurance Agency of Sault Ste. Marie as the Health Insurance Provider for association members.

- MAT retains KDA Consulting, a full service Lobbying firm, to assist with legislative issues.

To join, simply fill out the membership form at [www.michigantimbermen.com/join](http://www.michigantimbermen.com/join) and return to the MAT office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at: **(906) 293-3236**

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Jason Wadaga, MAT Lobbyist

## **MAT VOICES CONCERNS ON GOVERNORS COUNCIL ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS TASK FORCE**

In February, members of the MAT Board of Directors met with the DNR regarding Governor Whitmer's "Council on Climate Solutions" task force. The goal of the task force that was formed in 2020 is to reach carbon neutrality in Michigan by 2050.

MAT had, and still has, a lot of concerns with this proposal and what it'll mean to our industry.

Scott Whitcomb from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) joined us on the call. He was a Co-Chair for the Forestry Subcommittee on the Council on Climate Solutions. He assured our board members that the state is aware of the critical nature of our profession and that state forestlands will not be become off limits to timber harvesting. He believes the state should enhance some of the existing timber programs and not attempt to "reinvent the wheel."

To supplement our concerns addressed to Scott, MAT submitted written comments to the Council in March (attached). While we were not optimistic that our suggestions will be adopted in the final report we know it was critical that MAT go on record with their concerns.

## **FUEL RECIPROcity LEGISLATION SIGNED BY GOVERNOR WHITMER**

House bills 4976, 4977 and 4978 will allow the Department of Treasury to enter into qualified fuel tax reciprocity agreements with the proper authorities of other jurisdictions (either individually or with a group of jurisdictions) if the Department of Treasury considers the agreements proper or expedient and in the interests of the people of Michigan.

The bills will provide the Department of Treasury with the sole authority to enter into qualified fuel tax reciprocity agreements. Qualified fuel tax reciprocity agreement would mean a fuel tax reciprocity agreement that provides reciprocal treatment only for motor carriers carrying "raw forest products" within 30 air miles of the border of this state.

Raw Forest Products is defined as "logs, pilings, posts, poles, cordwood products, wood chips, sawdust, pulpwood, intermediary lumber, fuel wood, and Christmas trees that are not altered by a manufacturing process off the land, sawmill, or factory from which they are taken and are not finished products suitable for sale at retail."

MAT supported these bills throughout the legislative process. They were signed into law by Governor Whitmer in March.

## **MAT STALLS LEGISLATION TO PREVENT MACHINERY ON SNOWMOBILE TRAILS**

House Bills 4535 and 4536 were

introduced last year and would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to prohibit a motor vehicle other than a snowmobile from operating on certain trails from December 1 through March 31.

MAT has opposed this legislation as it could greatly affect our ability to harvest in the winter. The legislation has passed the House of Representatives but remains stalled in the Michigan Senate. MAT has led the charge in asking for an exemption for our industry and other timber groups have followed our lead.

There remains a lot of opposition from the timber industry and other outside groups to these bills. We believe they will not move through the process without our requested changes and may not move at all due to the opposition.

## **CDL REQUIREMENTS WILL BE UPDATED SOON IN MICHIGAN**

House Bills 5662 and 5663 would bring the CDL requirements in line with the federal Carrier and Safety Act. This was put in the federal register in 2016 and states must now comply to avoid risking federal dollars. It covers both inter and intra state CDL drivers, but the big concern is for our CDL drivers crossing state lines without the updated requirements. The new rules took effect Feb 7th. All of our surrounding states have adopted the new requirements.

The new requirements focus more on training as opposed to testing and the CDL schools in our state are already teaching to the federal requirements. Based on the testimony in committee drivers have been dealing with these changes for a while but will soon be codified into state law.

These bills passed the full House of Representatives and the Senate Transportation Infrastructure Committee. It awaits a vote before the full Michigan Senate.

### LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT SELLING OF CARBON CREDITS STALLED

House Bill 5422 would prohibit the state from selling carbon credits or “carbon credit offsets.” This legislation was introduced in response to the announcement by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to have DTE spend \$10 million to purchase carbon credits to offset carbon emissions that they produce by investing in state forests. That project will take place over 100,000 acres in the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

Despite assurances that timber harvest won't be affected by the agreement, MAT has been very cautious about the plan moving forward.

### THE DNR WEBSITE SAYS THE FOLLOWING REGARDING TIMBER HARVESTING FROM THIS PROJECT:

*“Management of state forest resources and the sale of carbon credits are intended to be complementary. Carbon credits will be generated from the management of forest resources within the Pigeon River Country state forest, as governed by the 2007 Pigeon River Country Concept of Management and the 2013 Northern Lower Peninsula Regional State Forest Management Plan. It is not anticipated that the carbon project will adversely affect management and timber harvest levels from the forest. Carbon credits are generated based on the DNR’s commitment to maintaining forest growth levels and progressively increasing forest stocking, rather than increasing harvest levels as would be allowable under the management plan and state law.”*

House Bill 5422 has been referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and has yet to have a hearing.

### LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR SPARRING OVER COVID RELIEF SPENDING/TAX CUTS

Much of the legislature’s time 2021 and 2022 has been used spending the roughly \$10 billion dollar surplus the State of Michigan has from the two huge COVID relief packages from the federal government (One Trump, one Biden). On top of the money coming from the feds, sales tax revenue had been coming in at record levels last year and this year. This was a direct result of the stimulus checks and childcare checks that Michiganders received.

With the extra dollars, the legislature has passed several supplemental bills while also passing some tax cuts (which were vetoed or not adopted).

### SOAR Funding

In late December, the Michigan Legislature came to an agreement (House Bill 4082) to spend over \$2 Billion of general fund money and covid relief funds on many projects across the state.

The biggest ticket item was \$1 billion of general fund money for the newly created Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR). The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will use the money as bait to snag large-scale industrial deals. Once they have a bite, the Legislature will review the proposal and steer money from SOAR into one of two funds to be used for the project.

The idea for this program came after Michigan



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JASON WADAGA,  
MAT LOBBYIST

lost out on a Ford electric vehicle plant to Tennessee and Kentucky because of more attractive offers from those states.

**Other spending projects from federal COVID relief dollars included:**

- \$409 million in federal funding to assist businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$75 million in General Fund dollars to help reimburse local units of government that are taking a hit with the passage of the higher personal property tax exemptions.
- \$150 million to get schools COVID testing kits quicker than originally expected.
- \$140 million for rental assistance.
- \$10 million for teacher recruitment and retention.
- \$36.3 million to help areas with elevated lead water issues.
- \$19.7 million for mental health grants.
- \$22 million in one-time special “pork” projects.

**“Water & Infrastructure” Appropriation**

Last month, the legislature finalized a \$4.5 Billion “water and infrastructure” spending bill (SB 565).

**Some of the highlights of the spending are:**

- \$515 million for storm water and wastewater improvement projects, and \$750 million for drinking water infrastructure advancement projects. This appropriation can be utilized on public health mitigation grants, sewer infrastructure, lead service line replacements, regional water authority, water treatment plant modifications and PFAS remediation.
- \$200 million in local parks and trail infrastructure grants, consisting of \$60 million

for recreational greenways in Detroit and \$55 million in Grand Rapids. Northern Michigan communities will also receive \$20 million for sports-related tourism and other visitor and recreational operations, and \$65 million via a local recreation and grant program.

- \$121.4 million for a homeowner assistance fund to help families experiencing financial hardship after Jan. 21, 2020, distributing funds to fend off the likes of homeowner mortgage delinquencies, foreclosures, displacements or loss of internet service or utilities. The Housing and Community Development Fund will also acquire \$50 million for expanding affordable housing programs to those most disenfranchised during the pandemic.
- \$250.6 million to offer competitive broadband infrastructure grants to boost connectivity in “unserved areas,” with 5% of the appropriation going toward the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office. The office will be authorized to accept eight new employees, and leftover federal broadband grant funding will be available with no extra state resources needed.

**Agriculture Appropriation**

Senate Bill 885 has been introduced and is in the infancy of negotiations. This legislation is set to spend \$1.5 billion on agriculture infrastructure and programs.

**Income Tax Cut Vetoed by Governor**

Last month, Governor Whitmer vetoed legislation that would’ve cut taxes in Michigan by \$2.5 billion annually.

**The plan would have:**

- Lowered the individual income tax rate from 4.25 percent to 3.9 percent. That means a worker making \$70,000 would save \$228 in state income tax payments annually.
- Allowed seniors 62 years and older to deduct up to \$40,000 from their income taxes annually, or \$80,000 for joint filers. Currently, seniors 67 years and older can deduct up to \$20,000 individually or \$40,000 for joint filers per year.
- Given a \$500 in tax credits per child under the age of 19. A family of four with a taxable income of \$42,000 a year would save \$1,147 a year under the plan, with \$1,000 in tax credits and \$147 in income tax savings.

The Governor had proposed a \$757 million dollar tax cut that would’ve expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit and eliminated the pension tax.

**Legislation Pausing Michigan Gas Tax Falls Short Due to Procedural Issue**



Legislation pausing the state's 27.2-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax for six months fell short in its mission to alleviate record-high fuel prices when a Senate stir-up pushed its implementation date into next year.

The bill, House Bill 5570 was given a lifespan from April 1 to Sept. 30 of this year. However, because members of the Senate Democratic caucus opposed giving the bill immediate effect, the legislation will be untouchable until 90 days after the current session period ends – revoked of its effectiveness and handicapped from meeting its time window.

### **HOUSE REPUBLICANS LINKING FUNDING WITH REQUIREMENTS TO WORK IN PERSON**

Last week, the House of Representatives started passing out budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Included in the two budgets that were passed out (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – MDARD and Michigan Department of Natural Resources – MDNR) was a requirement that every employee that wasn't working from home return to in person work by October 1, 2022 or face significant cuts to their budget.

The original budget bills, which are in the first step of many in the budget process, cut the MDARD budget would be paired back by roughly \$30 million and the DNR budget by about \$34 million compared to what was recommend by Governor Whitmer should the departments not force employees back to work.



**2022 JESS BIRTCHER  
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

Bryce Neff is our 2022 Jess Birtcher Scholarship winner. He's a 3rd year Forestry Major at Michigan Technological University, graduating in the spring of 2023. For the upcoming summer Bryce will be working for the Michigan DNR as a Forestry intern in Roscommon. He enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time.



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# LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR REP. JOHN N. DAMOOSE

Upon graduating from the University of Michigan with a degree in Political Science in 1994, John secured a job at the Christian Broadcasting Network in Virginia Beach, Virginia. While there, he learned his craft working on the 700 Club television program, and ultimately wrote and produced a 2 hour documentary on the story of America called "Victory in Spite of All Terror," which marked the beginning of a career that would involve interviewing thousands of leaders from all walks of life and telling the story of the American character to millions of people through television special and online video.

In 1997, John co-authored a book with Dr. Bill Bright, the Founder and President of Campus Crusade for Christ. The book explored the founding principles of the United States and was ultimately hand-delivered to every member of the United States Congress.

After working with his family to launch several non-profit organizations and rekindle the venerated Religious Heritage of America Foundation, John and his father started 45 North Productions in the year 2000, with the expressed purpose of telling the stories of character, sacrifice and dedication that made America a great nation. In the course of the next twenty years, this pursuit would lead John to co-author and produce nine national television specials on all-American themes like Ar-

lington National Cemetery, the Medal of Honor, Military Families, NASA, and many others. John and his father were contracted by the Department of Defense to produce the official documentary celebrating the opening of the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial, both of them having been in the very corridor of the Pentagon when the plane struck 7 years earlier.

Throughout the years, 45 North Productions has produced dozens of high-profile tribute videos for leaders from all walks of life, and interviewed hundreds of the nation's top political, military and corporate leaders. From each of them - including two Presidents, numerous Secretaries of Defense and Chair-

men of the Joint Chiefs, and dozens of U.S. Senators and Representatives, he learned lessons about leadership, government, and solid conservative principles that he now hopes to apply to the State Legislature in Michigan.

He wrote, directed and produced the three-part New American Road Series, commissioned by Ford Motor Company to tell the powerful story of what many believe is the quintessential American industry. For nearly 25 years, John has worked closely as an associate with the organization that runs the annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. And in recent years, John has served as the Executive Director of Building



America's Tomorrow - an organization that launched a series of initiatives dedicated to rebuilding America's manufacturing workforce and encouraging Career and Technical Education programs.

John and his wife Margo, the current Director of the Harbor Springs DDA and Member of the Harbor Springs School Board, reside in Harbor Springs, MI with their 4 children and are committed Christian believers whose top priorities in this life are to pour themselves into raising their children and help restore American society and the solid principles upon which we were founded.

## COMMITTEES:

- Communications & Technology (VC)
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Rep. John Damoose

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# NEEDED: MORE OUTSTANDING LOGGERS

The MAT MI Master Logger Program is looking for more volunteers to apply for Master Logger Certification.

If you feel that your company is competent in the areas of: Soil and Water protection; Silviculture and Utilization; Aesthetics; Wildlife/Biodiversity; Personnel and Equipment Safety and Maintenance; and Government Regulations, please consider applying for MI Master Logger Certification.

Certification is based upon a combination of an interview that focuses on business practices and a field audit of over 100 practices that evaluate how well a logging company actually applies the knowledge they acquired in Logger Education training. A third-party independent certification board reviews the audit reports and confers certification.

We are especially looking for companies that operate mainly South of Clare. Applicants from throughout Michigan are welcome to apply.

The program is also searching for Certified Master Loggers, Foresters and Resource Professionals who would be interested in joining our team of field auditors.

For more information, please contact Michelle Sears  
at the MAT Office in Newberry at  
906-293-3236 or [msears@timbermen.org](mailto:msears@timbermen.org)





AS WE SEE IT: APRIL 2022

# Northern Long-Eared Bat Endangers Loggers

BY: SCOTT DANE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN LOGGERS COUNCIL

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to change the listing from Threatened to Endangered for the Northern Long-Eared Bat will do nothing to reduce the mortality of the bat, but will contribute to the declining numbers of loggers in the U.S. and threaten the forest products industry.

## Let's examine the facts:

- The Northern Long-Eared Bats are dying from being infected with a fungus that causes the White-Nose Syndrome (WNS), while hibernating in caves during the winter.
- The mortality rate for bats infected with the fungus is 97%-100%. There is no known cure.
- The range of the bats covers 37 states.

- WNS is predicted to be in 100% of its U.S. range by 2025.

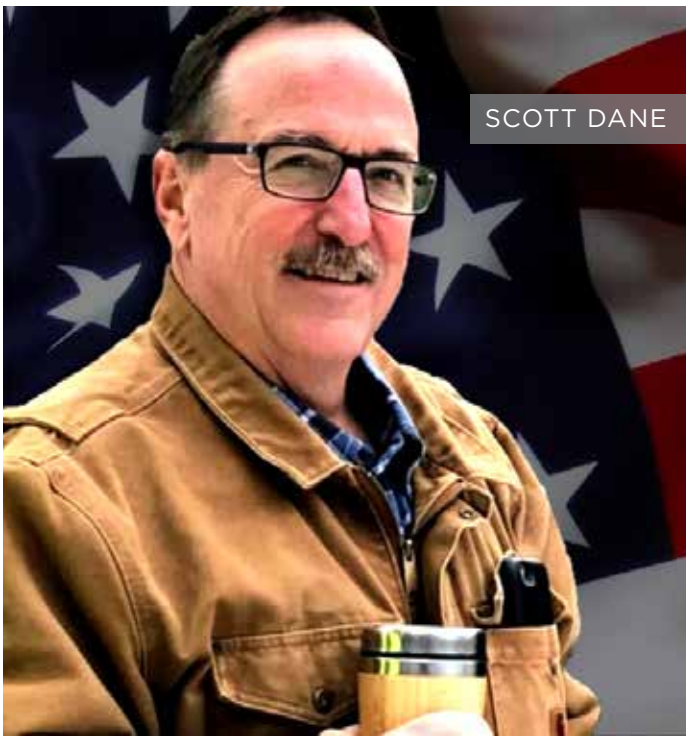
One of the talking points being promoted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in support of their efforts to change the listing from Threatened to Endangered is that the bats contribute \$3 billion annually to the U.S. agricultural economy through pest control and pollination.

If the Northern Long-Eared Bat is listed as Endangered it will result in enhanced habitat (forests) protection restrictions, particularly during the summer (June and July) roosting phase. Since it is impossible to accurately identify roosting trees, this will open up a pandora's box of overreach-



Northern Long-Eared Bat will be the new Spotted Owl.

“The U.S. Forest Products Industry is one of the largest manufacturing industries in America, representing nearly 4% of manufacturing GDP, \$300 billion in products annually and \$109 billion in payroll. Over 100 times the so-called economic contribution of the bat.”



removed due to recovery, and many (34) removed due to extinction. This constitutes only a 2% recovery rate.

**A species must satisfy at least one of five listing criteria in order to qualify for listing as a “threatened” or “endangered” species under the Endangered Species Act:**

- The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- Disease or predation;
- The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms;  
or
- Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

Based on these criteria the American Logger satisfies more than one and should therefore be considered for listing as “threatened” or “endangered” and afforded the same protections. 🌲

ing limits and restrictions that will impede forest management activities. Furthermore, after the bats, including newborn bats, return to the caves to hibernate, they will be infected with the fungus and die anyway. This prescription will be equivalent to treating a terminal illness (literally for the bats) with an ineffective focus on extenuating factors while ignoring the source of the illness. The medical field has a fundamental principle of “Do No Harm”. The listing of the Northern Long-Eared Bat as Endangered, and the subsequent actions and restrictions that will result, will do harm, particularly to the timber and forest management sectors. Far more harm than good.

The Endangered Species Act was passed by Congress in 1973. In nearly 50 years over 2,000 species have been listed, with only 54 ever being







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