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New mill to be built in Lakeview

By Dave Girrard
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The Collins Companies have announced the construction of a small log mill on its Lakeview sawmill property. Work on the \$6.6 million dollar project will start immediately with operations scheduled to begin this fall.

The new mill will process small logs from the 80,000 acre Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified Collins Lakeview Forest, in addition to logs from other timber owners and the U.S. Forest Service. Utilizing "single pass machine," built by Coe Newnes McGehee (CNM) of Tigard, the mill will be able to handle logs less than 10 inches in diameter.

"Adding this new small log mill will compliment our commitment to carefully manage forest lands for productivity, as well as biodiversity," said Kerry Hart, manager of the Lakeview sawmill.

Responding to the recent National Forest Health Initiative (HFRA) legislation and Gov. Ted Kulongoski's commitment to forest health, the small log mill will be part of a program to improve the overall viability of our forests through carefully selected thinning.

The program has broad-based support from environmental organizations, who view this as one way to manage and sustain forest lands and habitat. This project will play an integral part in reducing fire danger by the removal of the hazardous fuel load on the nearby Fremont National Forest.

This new program of selective thinning is the result of a concerned coalition that includes Kulongoski, U.S. senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, U.S. Representatives Greg Walden, Lake County Resources Initiative (LCRI) and Lake County Commissioners (past and present) Bradley Winters, J.R. Stewart, J. Melvin Dick, Ken Kestner and Dan Shoun. They, along with other local, state, and national representatives, have worked to build a model that will help sustain healthy forests, healthy forest ecosystems, and healthy forest economies.

The Collins Companies have long been an active supporter of sustainable forestry practices. They were the first privately-owned wood products company in the United States to have all of their softwood and hardwood timberlands independently certified under the strict regulations of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FSC is the only certification system endorsed by the major environmental organizations, including the World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Rainforest Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, and the Wilderness Society.

In addition, Collins has adopted the principles of The Natural Step into all of their manufacturing and office facilities. The Natural Step is an international environmental organization dedicated to moving people and business toward cyclical resource-preserving methods.

Collins is a diversified wood products company, headquartered in Portland, with other operations in Klamath Falls, Chester, Calif., Kane, Pa. and Richwood, W.V.



Kerry Hart, manager of the Collins Company Lakeview small mill, announces construction of a new mill specializing in small logs.