

# News and Public Relations

For Immediate Release

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Collins Pine Company Harvests its Two Billionth Board Foot  
Chester, California—“Certified forestry works, and harvesting our 2 billionth board-foot of lumber in the Collins Almanor Forest, an FSC-certified forest, proves it.” That’s the conclusion reached by Wade Mosby, senior vice president for The Collins Companies. On September 25, Collins Pine Company, in the northern Sierras of California, harvested a 126-year-old, 130-foot-tall ponderosa pine, their 2 billionth board foot of timber. And it was logged in the same mixed conifer stand near Humbug Valley where logging began in 1941. “This is the finest industrial forest in North America. Where else could you have 60 years of sustainable logging and still have as much timber as you started with and in all age classes,” commented Mosby.



The photograph of the Collins Almanor Forest on the left was taken in 1941, before sustainable logging began. The same healthy forest remains today, as evidenced by the photo of the same view, taken in 2000. The recent photo shows the forest after having been logged sustainably four times since 1941; a healthy mixed conifer stand remains, with trees in all age classes.

The original timberlands that became the 94,000-acre Collins Almanor Forest (CAF) were acquired in 1902, but were not cut until 1941, when the company began managing the land on an uneven-age, sustained yield basis, a forest management philosophy that continues to the present. Wally Reed, the company’s first Forest Manager, now retired, said, “We developed a forest inventory system that tracks the growth of the forest through 576 one-acre plots. This enables us to remove the high-risk trees and leave the healthy ones.” The results? When logging started in 1941, Collins had approximately 1.5 billion board feet of standing inventory. Today, after removing enough timber to build over 200,000 average-sized homes, the CAF still holds 1.5 billion board feet of timber. And the forest? It

remains as it always has been— a biodiverse, multi-layered, canopied, self-sustaining forest supporting great blue heron rookeries, black bears, rubber boas, bald eagles, and naturally healthy meadows, streams, rivers, and a lake. As Seth Zuckerman, in the Sierra Club magazine writes, “This is a forest that has never known a clear cut...where foresters tell the mill how much timber it may have, and where the forest itself tells the foresters.”

A family-owned business since 1855, the third generation, Truman W. Collins, articulated a vision of sustainable forestry in 1940, almost a half century ahead of its time. The goal was to create a truly sustainable forest that would in turn support a permanent community. As Maribeth Collins, currently Chair of the Board of The Collins Companies and wife of the late Truman W. Collins, comments, “It has been a rare privilege to follow Truman’s dream and to have such dedicated forest managers and family who believed in sustainable forestry and were willing to work to see that dream come to fruition.” Forest managers have been few, and as Jay Francis, current Head Forester, remarks, “Lots of people talk about sustainability, but we’ve proven it by what we have on the ground today. And it’s not just the fact that we have as much fiber, but it’s also because we truly have forests that support the timber resources, the wildlife, clean water, productive soils, and the aesthetic values that people want.”



The late Truman W. Collins, the third generation to run the company, is standing in front of the first tree cut in the Collins Almanor Forest in 1941. It was Truman who began sustainable forest management practices nearly half a century ahead of its time.



Maribeth Collins, Chair of the Board of The Collins Companies, is the wife of the late Truman W. Collins who began sustainable forestry in the Collins Almanor Forest in 1941. She stands 59 years later in front of a 126-year-old ponderosa pine, a testament to the

That shared vision led Collins to become the first privately-held forest products company in the United States to be comprehensively evaluated and independently certified by Scientific Certification Systems in accordance with the strict rules of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The Council is an independent, international, member-based organization that provides consumers with an assurance that the wood they use comes from forests managed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. The FSC is the only forest certifying organization in the world endorsed by the World Wildlife Fund, the Wilderness Society, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Rainforest Alliance, and the World Resources Institute. All of Collins’ forests, including the Collins Pennsylvania Forest and the Collins Lakeview Forest, are FSC-certified.

But Collins’ commitment to the environment does not stop there. The company is now instituting the principles of The Natural Step into their manufacturing facilities as well as in their operation centers in Oregon.

integrity and long-term health of FSC-certified forests.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) operations centers in Oregon, Pennsylvania, and California. The Natural Step is an international environmental organization dedicated to shifting people and businesses away from linear,

resource-wasting, toxic-spreading methods of materials handling and manufacturing toward cyclical resource-preserving methods.

Collins was the first North American forest products company to grow, manufacture, and market FSC-certified lumber, particleboard, and specialty plywoods while implementing sustainable practices throughout their operations. That commitment has earned Collins a number of honors, some of which include the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development from President Bill Clinton and the Green Cross Millennium Award from Mikhail S. Gorbachev, President of Green Cross International. The Collins Almanor Forest itself has been lauded extensively in the national press, from articles in the *Washington Post* and *Christian Science Monitor*, to features with Charles Kuralt on television.

Collins Pine Company, in Chester, California, manages the CAF and facilities. The forest is comprised of mixed age and species including ponderosa pine, white fir, sugar pine, incense cedar, and Douglas fir. Trees from the forest produce 30 mmbf annually creating products that include: FSC-certified CollinsWood® and non-certified wood in appearance grades, dimension, industrial, export, and specialty lumber products, 1"x4" through 1"x12" and 2"x4" through 2"x12". "We have a responsibility to use the high quality fiber from the forest to produce high quality products for our customers. We accept that challenge and take pride in the products that flow from the forest through our mill at Chester," said Dennis Gomez, former plant manager.

The facilities feature electric power cogeneration using manufacturing byproducts and forest biomass as fuel stock. With these renewable resources, Collins is able to provide all of the electricity used in their operations and provide additional power generation to PG&E, which distributes up to six megawatts per hour during peak periods to homes and businesses in northern California. Also on site is a sawmill producing 77 mmbf annually, dry kilns, and a remanufacturing plant. Collins Pine Company has 235 employees with an annual payroll of \$8 million plus payroll taxes and benefits. Additionally, the mill purchases about \$6 million annually from suppliers in the area. "Our goal is to support not only a community from generation to generation, but also to support and enhance a healthy forest ecosystem that is open to recreation, yet protects wildlife habitat with the same dedication as we protect our trees," summarized Jay Francis, Forest Manager.



Dave Davidson, timber faller, cuts the 126-year-old, 130 ft. tall ponderosa pine that became the two billionth board foot harvested from the FSC-certified Collins Almanor Forest since logging began in 1941.