

DAVY'S COLUMN

MLA President, Davy Sheets

Boy, it seems like just a month ago the rain and mud seemed to be endless, now we have several forests that have elevated fire danger to "high" and the headlines are full of new fires in the state. As a good reminder for us all, Jason Todhunter's article on page 19, lists what we need to have on hand to be prepared as we head into this year's fire season.



As most everyone knows, John Hansen officially ended his career with the MLA on June 1 so that he could focus on his health. After nearly two months in search of a new regional representative, I'm pleased to announce that *effective July 30th* ... the MLA is welcoming **Tim McEntire** on board as the "Northwest Regional Representative." The Northwest Region consists of all MLA members and activities in the northwest section of the state primarily the Flathead, Kootenai and some of the Clark Fork Chapter.

Some folks will know Tim from Stillwater Logging of Whitefish. Tim's folks Dan & Diane McEntire have been MLA members since 1996 where Tim has run equipment for the past 20+ years. Tim and his wife Liz and their 2-year-old daughter live in Whitefish. Welcome Aboard Tim!

You may remember that MLA staff reported at the general membership meeting in May that we've seen a nice increase in membership over the past year. On page 9, American Loggers Council Executive Vice President, Danny Dructor, reminds us the value of supporting our state associations with both our time and money. I would suggest that if you know of folks in our industry that are not members, encourage them to join the association or at least invite them to a meeting so they can understand the value of being a member of the MLA.

Some good news from the U.S Forest Service, they have finalized 2 post-fire salvage projects on the Kootenai National Forest. The Cub Creek project will include salvaging approximately 1,477 acres of dead and dying trees for recovery of economic value and providing for reforestation. It will generate 12 million board feet of timber and much-needed income for local communities.

The West Fork Fire Salvage and Restoration Project will remove hazardous trees that pose safety risks along travel routes—including trails—and recover the economic value of the dead and dying timber. The salvage operations will occur on over 3,000 acres and will generate an estimated 27 million board feet of timber and nearly \$3 million in revenues. It will also include reforesting 4,100 acres with native trees.

While we appreciate the post-fire salvage work, we hope the agencies can keep their focus on managing the forests we have before they burn.

I hope you all have a safe and productive summer... *til next time. Davy*