



## Dave's Dialogue

**As the previous page informs...** the MLA 2010 “spring” meeting will be held at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March.

Traditionally, this meeting is an opportunity for representatives of Montana’s forest products manufacturing sector to provide an overview of the logging season just ending and to project their expected needs for the logging season that will commence following the spring breakup... and we are pleased to report that most of the mills have responded that they will have a representative present.

Also confirmed to provide updates during the Saturday morning educational program are Bruce Fox from the regional office of the Forest Service in Missoula... and state forester Bob Harrington.

Our industry remains mired in the economic recession, so these presentations should be timely and informative... especially as we all try to figure out what we will do with the non-sawlog component of our harvesting operations in view of the Smurfit pulpmill closure.

Relevant to that topic... a representative of the Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation will be our luncheon speaker... and he will discuss that entities efforts to find new business opportunities that might be able to make use of the Frenchtown facilities.

Another of the many good reasons to attend the luncheon is because it is hosted... and I would like to thank John Graham, president of the Associated Loggers Exchange, for offering to buy our lunch.

I know the vast majority of you are not working at this time... so plan to attend the MLA’s *spring* meeting at Fairmont on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March.

**With the breakup upon us...** it is also time to confirm your attendance at one of the many MLA spring workshops. The Safety Rangers recently mailed the safety/wildfire workshop information ... and Jason Todhunter also recently mailed the Accredited Logging Professional workshop information.

If you did not receive your workshop registration materials, please call Mindy at the MLA office and she will make sure you receive it. If you did receive you workshop registration materials, please complete them and mail them back to the MLA office.

**At this time...** I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the 72<sup>nd</sup> Intermountain Logging Conference and Equipment Show will be held April 8-10 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center in Spokane. Visit their website at: <http://www.intermountainlogging.org/>

The 2010 ILC will be focusing on how to best navigate through the challenging events that face the logging industry during this and coming year. The conference’s trade show is designed and presented in continuing joint cooperation with the Pacific Northwest region's many equipment and supplier businesses. So come be a part of the 2010 ILC extravaganza, see what the ILC has to offer and find out what is new and exciting in the logging industry.

The ILC will bring to you many industry experts and knowledgeable speakers, including our distinguished keynote speaker, Mike Wiedeman President of the American Loggers Council & Owner BTO Logging, Enterprise, Oregon.

In today's political and environmental climate, the discussion of partnerships is essential in ensuring that our industry remains both profitable and accountable. Join in with the best and most knowledgeable logging and forest management professionals as we explore issues of public land management and ask the important question: how can members of our industry be good stewards of forest land management to grow and produce timber, while meeting society's demand for sustainable and environmentally sound forest management, both today and in the future?

Hope to see ya at Fairmont in March and in Spokane in April. Stay positive... and stay logging... **Dave**