



## 2009 Intermountain Logging Conference Highlights

Despite all the gloom and doom, loggers, foresters, mill owners, and equipment dealers made the 2009 Intermountain Logging Conference a huge success. "The success of the conference was also due to the committed effort of the entire ILC Board of Directors and Secretary/Conference Coordinator Julie Schwanz," says Mike Hanna, President of the 2009 ILC.

### Thursday Kick Off

On Thursday, there was standing room only for the Technical Skills Session, which focused on efficiency, cost, and environmental impact. The following companies and their representatives presented the most updated information about their products: LogMax, Joel Doupe; Montana Peterbilt, Darrin Rasmussen; Komatsu Forest, Dave Wellman; Caterpillar, Todd Gordon; and Pierce Pacific, Kim Eckerman.

"Keynote speaker Ms. Catherine Karen, Vice President for Government Affairs of the National Alliance of Forest Owners, got our conference off to a great start," says Hanna.

Following Karen, a panel addressed manufacturing's approach to navigating through these tough times. Scott Atkison from Idaho Forest Group led off with Terry Cundy from Potlatch Corporation and Eric Hanson from Atlas Pellets following. "All speakers did a great job and received many thanks from the crowd along with the traditional "boot" from the ILC Board of Directors," says Hanna.

### Friday Events

Friday's panels began with an economic round table (Ben Kinney from Caterpillar, Tom Beil from Wells Fargo Bank, and Betsy McGreer with McGreer & Company). Breakout sessions in the afternoon featured Dr. John Garland (sustainable work force), Sam Baker (Eagle Carriage & Machine), and representatives from Idaho, Washington, and Montana who updated attendees on FPA rules and regulations.

"Our lunch speaker, Charlie McKetta, kept everyone on the edge of their seats as he explained how log prices will go up soon," says Hanna.

Friday ended with a banquet highlighted by the presentation of the Donald G. McKenzie Award to very deserving Bill Burgess and the Honorary Lifetime Member award to R. E. "Bob" Ruault.

### Saturday Sessions

Saturday's sessions were focused on "Trucking thru the 'E's." Dallas Herron (City Service/Valcon), John Lindermann (Kenworth), Craig Thomas (CET Technologies), and Jerry Whitehead (Western Trailers) presented different trucking configurations and their feasibility.

The conference closed with 2010 President Dave Cheff thanking the attendees for making this conference a huge success.