Western Region

Issues & Trends

Trucking

- Currently, there is a softening in the log and chip markets which will lessen the short-term need for drivers in a few markets. This may have a more dramatic effect later when the need arises incrementally.
- The initiatives to gain truck drivers in the region will continue.

Labor

- Companies in “Cannabis Friendly” states have an even more difficult time getting and keeping clean employees.
- Federal Motor Carrier regulations have increased testing requirements from 25% to 50% of the truck driver labor force.

Trucking Insurance Rates

- Insurance costs for trucking companies are on the rise; some estimates suggest companies will see an increase of 20 to 30 percent.

Forest Collaboratives

- There have been many success stories with the Good Neighbor Authority and Stewardship Contracts in the region resulting in increased management on federal lands.

BC Lumber Production

- One reason for a decrease in lumber production in British Columbia continues to be the lasting impacts of the pine beetle epidemic.

Cross-Laminated Timber

- CLT use and production in the PNW is on the rise. Many all-wood buildings have been constructed, with several more in production.

Weather-Related Slow Downs

- Wet/warm weather in late 2019 impacted intermountain harvests, leaving some mills short in log inventory and considering or enacting curtailments to begin the new year.

Cap and Trade Initiatives

- Continued pressure from state legislators in Oregon and Washington to enact Carbon Tax and/or Cap & Trade Initiatives could have adverse effects on forest industry companies, along with trucking organizations, across the region.