

# MLEP TREELINE

Volume 5, Issue 2

www.mlep.org

Fall 2007



## Did You Know That....

The Domestic Production Activities Deduction is often overlooked, but it may provide you with a significant tax benefit.

To learn more about this deduction and how much it might save you – contact us and request a copy of the DPAD summary.



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*The Newsletter of the Minnesota Logger Education Program*

## 18 New Minnesota Certified Master Loggers

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, the Certifying Board of the Minnesota Master Logger Certification (MMLC) program certified another 18 logging businesses as “Minnesota Certified Master Loggers”. This brings the total number of third-party certified loggers in Minnesota to 43. In addition, we have another 8 applicants working their way through the certification process.

Congratulations to the following newly certified logging businesses:

Andy Michalek Logging, Inc. – Blackduck, MN  
Bialik Logging – Ely, MN  
Bruce Kainz Logging – Ely, MN  
Central Pine Lumber Co. – Brook Park, MN  
Craig Turnboom – Meadowlands, MN  
DeLack Logging, Inc. – Littlefork, MN  
Donner Logging, Inc. – Embarrass, MN  
Dukek Logging – Bagley, MN  
Fjeran Forest Products – Two Harbors, MN  
Glenn Erickson Logging – Orr, MN  
Great Northern Logging, Inc. – Pierz, MN  
Knaeble Timber Inc. – Northome, MN  
Neumeyer Logging – Barnum, MN  
Rice River Logging – McGregor, MN  
S&H Forest Products – Pine City, MN  
Sawyer Timber Co. – Backus, MN  
Stecker Logging – Gilbert, MN  
Weijo Logging – Ely, MN



For a complete list of all 43 “Minnesota Certified Master Loggers”, or for more information about the Minnesota Master Logger Certification program, visit [www.mlep.org/mmlc.htm](http://www.mlep.org/mmlc.htm) or contact our office at (218) 722-5442.

## Before You Begin a Harvest...Remember:

1. Conduct on on-site meeting
2. Check for endangered and threatened species
3. Check for cultural resources
4. Verify property ownership
5. Verify property taxes have been paid

See pages 3 & 4 for a list of phone numbers you can use to inquire about property ownership and tax information, known endangered & threatened species and any cultural resources that may exist on the site you will be harvesting.



## Executive Director's Column – David Chura

I hope you have been able to spend some time this summer enjoying the outdoors with friends and family. I have been out camping and fishing with my family, but most of my time “fishing” has been spent untangling lines and trying to keep my kids out of the tackle box and focused on their cartoon bobbers.

Beginning in September, we have a full schedule of workshops taking place. If you still need to attend a workshop this year, I encourage you to sign up for one today. Class sizes are limited and they are filling up quickly.

The Minnesota Master Logger Certification program is now 43 logging businesses strong. Using recent data, these logging businesses are able to provide certification to 9.8% of the fiber harvested from family forestlands. This fall we plan to conduct focus groups with certified loggers and other stakeholders to identify some innovative ways to add additional value to participants.

Currently, we have been involved with a pilot project the SFI<sup>®</sup> program has underway to develop a framework for recognizing logger certification. The goal is to be able to provide SFI certification to the timber harvested by certified loggers *from family forestland*. Minnesota's program is being closely reviewed by SFI staff as they develop a proposal for the SFB's consideration.

The dry weather we have been experiencing puts our forestlands at significant risk of fire. Use your best judgment and experience while operating.



## New MLEP Website Coming Soon

This summer, we reviewed the current MLEP website and determined a makeover was necessary to better serve our members and the general public. The design is being completed in-house by Chris DeRosier.

The current website has been a useful resource for members and the public in the past, but we know there is room for improvement. The new website will continue to provide information on workshops, online registration and the membership directory. New features will include training documents, news & updates and an expanded resources section. The new look and design will be easier to use and navigate.

Once the website is complete and goes “live”, it will be located at the same address you are accustomed to – [www.mlep.org](http://www.mlep.org). So check back often!



About MLEP
Membership Information
Training
Membership Directory
Links
Contact MLEP
Considering A Timber Harvest?
MN Master Logger Certification

### About MLEP

The Minnesota Logger Education Program is a logger-initiated program that was established in 1995 to provide assistance to Minnesota's logging community through educational programming. This objective is accomplished by partnering with numerous groups to identify needs and facilitating the development, design, delivery and evaluation of programs which focus on sustainable forest management, transportation, safety and business management. MLEP, which is based in Duluth, MN, is a 501(c)(3) organization

### Our History - Loggers Leading Their Professional Destiny

During 1995, the Minnesota Timber Producers Association (MTPA) assembled a task force comprised of logging business owners who, over a period of several months, developed a vision as to how they would like to see their logger education program structured. The task force met numerous times to reach consensus regarding MLEP program requirements, core curricula focus areas, funding mechanisms, and organizational strategies. A program outline was developed and it was decided that a private non-profit educational corporation (501c-3) would be developed to facilitate implementation and administration of program activities. The MTPA task force was also charged with the responsibility of establishing legal recognition of the organization, as well as establishing its primary objectives, participant requirements, development of a Board of Directors, and selection of an Executive Director to coordinate movement of the program's directives.



## Truck Weight Trivia



1. The normal legal gross weight of a five-axle semi on a 9-ton route is 80,000 pounds.  
True / False
2. The normal legal weight of a single axle on a 10 ton route is 20,000 pounds.  
True / False
3. The legal tire weight of a truck tire is always the tire rating embossed on the tire.  
True / False
4. A truck can be overweight on a wheel without being overweight on an axle.  
True / False
5. Tandem axle-weight distribution (each axle) is the same on all non-restricted routes.  
True / False

*Check your answers on page four....*

## Endangered and Threatened Species Inquiries

When making your inquiry, you will need the legal description for the property.

### Northeast MN

Bruce Carlson, [Bruce.Carlson@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:Bruce.Carlson@dnr.state.mn.us), 218-723-4763

### Northwest MN

Position is currently vacant, for now you can contact Bruce with requests.

### Central and Southern MN

Hannah Texler, [Hannah.Texler@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:Hannah.Texler@dnr.state.mn.us), 651-772-7570

Sharron Nelson, [Sharron.Nelson@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:Sharron.Nelson@dnr.state.mn.us), 651-259-5123



Site specific information can be obtained by contacting the individuals listed above. The "Sustainable Forestry – A Landowner's Manual" publication includes general information on endangered and threatened species and a map showing the counties where they are known to be present.

## Cultural Resources Inquiries

Mike Magner, [Mike.Magner@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:Mike.Magner@dnr.state.mn.us), 218-327-4449 x243. Mike prefers that inquiries be sent via email, but he will take phone calls. He needs the legal description and requests that the county and landowner name be provided if possible.



## Property Tax / Ownership Inquiries

A list of websites where you can obtain this information is available on our website ([www.mlep.org](http://www.mlep.org)) or by contacting MLEP at (218) 722-5442.

County	Phone Number	County	Phone Number
Aitkin	218-927-7354	Koochiching	218 283-1103
Becker	218-846-7301	Lake	218-834-8315
Beltrami	218-333-4138	Lake of the Woods	218-634-2361
Carlton	218-384-9127	Mille Lacs	888-840-8304
Cass	218-547-7260	Morrison	320-632-0133
Clearwater	218-694-6520	Mower	507-437-9535
Cook	218-387-3640	Olmstead	507-285-8124
Crow Wing	218-824-1045	Pine	320-629-5628
Dakota	651-438-4576	Rice	507-332-6104
Fillmore	507-765-3811 or 507-765-4701	St. Louis	218-726-2380
Goodhue	651-385-3032	Steele	507-444-7410
Houston	507-725-5803	Todd	320-732-4473
Hubbard	218-732-3196	Wabasha	651-565-2648
Isanti	763- 689-1644	Wadena	218-631-7621
Itasca	218-327-2860	Waseca	507-835-0610
Kanabec	320-679-6430	Winona	507-457-6320

### *Truck Driver Trivia Answers (from page 3)*

1. **False** - The normal (and maximum) legal weight is 73,280 pounds on a semi with FIVE properly spaced axles on a 9-ton route.
2. **True** - A single axle is allowed 20,000 pounds providing the tires on the axle are the correct size and rating.
3. **False** - You must know both the weight allowed by size and the manufacturer's tire rating. The legal weight is the lesser of the two. It wouldn't always be the rating.
4. **True** - Heavy cargo put on one side of the container (trailer) can put a wheel overweight without an axle-weight violation.
5. **False** - Maximum distribution is 18,000 on 9 ton and 20,000 on 10-ton. A tandem axle is allowed 34,000 pounds on both a 9- and 10- ton route. However the maximum weight of the individual axles making up the tandem configuration is different.

*\*Source: Minnesota Truck-Weight Compliance Program*

## Training Notes from the Woods and Classroom

MLEP's "Training Notes from the Woods and Classroom" include follow-up summaries from our workshops and other important information. The summaries provide a written record of the various workshops conducted by MLEP, help participants review what they've learned, provide the feedback received from participants regarding each workshop and address timely and important issues. Copies of these documents are available on our website ([www.mlep.org](http://www.mlep.org)) or by the office at (218) 722-5442.





## Training notes from the woods & the classroom

June 2007

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# Wetland Conservation Act Requirements and the Silvicultural Exemption Guidance for Loggers

The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) requires a Contractor Responsibility and Landowner Statement Form be completed any time an activity would result in filling or draining of a wetland regardless of ownership, *even if the activity qualifies for an exemption under WCA*. Failure to complete and file the form is a misdemeanor.

Forest roads constructed for certain silvicultural activities (Minnesota Rule 8420.0122, Subpart 7) are exempt from the requirement to obtain an approved replacement plan for wetland impacts. Those activities include:

- A. Temporarily crossing or entering a wetland to perform silvicultural activities, including timber harvest as part of a forest management activity, so long as the activity limits the impact on the hydrologic and biologic characteristics of the wetland; the activity does not result in the construction of dikes, drainage ditches, tile lines, or buildings; and the timber harvesting and other silvicultural practices do not result in the drainage of the wetland or public waters; or
- B. Permanent access for forest roads across wetlands so long as the activity limits the impact on the hydrologic and biologic characteristics of the wetland; the construction activities do not result in the access becoming a dike, drainage ditch, or tile line; filling is avoided wherever possible; and there is no drainage of the wetland or public waters.

*This exemption is for roads constructed for the primary purpose of providing access for the conduct of silvicultural activities. At both the federal and state levels, “primary purpose” is defined as the primary use over time. Federal rules indicate that the primary use must be for silviculture, with only incidental other uses permitted. If a road or skid trail will be used for other activities after the timber sale or other forest management activity is complete, the road or trail is unlikely to qualify for the silvicultural exemption. The initial reason or purpose for building or creating the road or trail is not sufficient by itself to qualify for the exemption.*

**The following are examples of clear misuse of the forestry exemption when a road is constructed resulting in:**

- Conversion of forested land to residential development



- Conversion of forested land to agricultural use
- Conversion of forested land to commercial development
- Conversion of forested land to industrial development
- Clearing and grubbing of forested land
- Construction of forest roads that have NOT limited impacts to the hydrologic and biologic characteristics of the wetland

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Q. I purchased a state timber sale that requires me to build an access road across part of a wetland. Since the road is being built on state land, do I need to complete and file a Contractor Responsibility and Landowner Statement Form?**

**A.** Yes, a logger is required to complete and file the form any time an activity would result in filling or draining of a wetland regardless of ownership.

**Q. If I am building a road using the silvicultural exemption, do I need to complete and file a Contractor Responsibility and Landowner Statement Form?**

**A.** Yes, a logger is required to complete and file the form any time an activity would result in filling or draining of a wetland even if the activity qualifies for an exemption under WCA.

**Q. Where can I get a copy of the form?**

**A.** MLEP can provide you with a copy of the form. You can also download the form at: [http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/wcamanual/BWSR\\_Form\\_WCA\\_Enforcement\\_5\(Cont\\_Respon\).doc](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/wcamanual/BWSR_Form_WCA_Enforcement_5(Cont_Respon).doc)

**Q. How do I file the form?**

**A.** The form should be mailed to the Local Government Unit with jurisdiction over the wetland. You can call the Board of Water and Soil Resources at (651) 296-3767 for LGU or SWCD location information.

**Q. Is there a fee to file the form?**

**A.** There is no fee to file the form. However, failure to do so is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$700 fine and 90 days in jail.

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MLEP's "Training Notes from the Woods and Classroom" include follow-up summaries from our workshops and other important information. Additional copies and a list of other training note summaries are available online ([www.mlep.org](http://www.mlep.org)) or by contacting our office at (218) 722-5442.



## New Garmin GPSMAP 76csx Receivers



New Garmin GPSMAP 76csx receivers have been purchased to replace the GPSMAP 76 receivers that we have been using in our GPS workshops since 2004. The existing “Introduction to GPS” and “Intermediate GPS” workshops are being modified to reflect this change.

The new receivers have additional features and take advantage of the latest in technology. The 76 and 76csx receivers are similar in size and shape, but the 76csx has a color display, accepts memory cards, offers auto-routing with turn-by-turn directions and includes an electronic compass and barometric altimeter. In addition, the new model utilizes SiRF technology which provides increased reception and accuracy in tree cover and reduces multi-path interference.

Future workshops are being developed that will help participants become familiar with this new technology. New exercises will take advantage of the 76csx’s capabilities and are likely to include how to project waypoints (useful for locating corners) and take advantage of “Sight ‘ N Go” navigation which allows you to set a course for a point in the distance.

## Accessing Aerial Photos, Topo Maps and Other Planning Tools

In June, MLEP offered a workshop on accessing aerial photos, topographic maps and other planning tools. The workshop is designed for individuals with little to no experience using digital geographic information and in fact, many of the workshop participants had never even used a computer before. Despite this, participants caught on quickly and the evaluations indicated that having the opportunity to use a computer for the first time was a benefit in itself.

Participants were each assigned to a computer and used the internet to access the DNR’s Landview program. From Landview, participants learned how to access aerial photos, topo maps and other geographic information about potential timber harvest sites. Another workshop is planned for December 13 at the Cloquet Forestry Center.



Participants use computers to access aerial photos and learn how to add layers of information over the photos including shaded topo relief and roads.





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*Setting the Standard in  
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**www.mlep.org**

## Upcoming Training Events

### August

21 & 22 – Aitkin Cty Hardwood Mgmt.  
23- Invasive Species of MN, Grand Rapids  
24- Invasive Species of MN, Bemidji  
28- Invasive Species of MN, Baxter  
29- Invasive Species of MN, Detroit Lakes  
30- Invasive Species of MN, Altura

### September

5- Intro to GPS, Brainerd  
18- Silviculture (Even-Age), Palisade  
19- Silviculture (Uneven-Age), Palisade

### October

2- Timber Cruising, Brainerd  
2- LogSafe, International Falls  
3- LogSafe, Bemidji  
4- Timber Cruising, SE MN  
4- LogSafe, Cloquet  
9- Truck Weight Compliance, Bemidji  
10- Skilled Driver, Grand Rapids

### December

12- LogSafe, Chisholm  
13- Aerial Photos/Topo Maps, Cloquet

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