

Hardwood Federation Update: NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT



By Dana Cole, Executive Director, Hardwood Federation

would have occurred if the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) had come out with an endangered listing as originally proposed.

This final rule does exempt forest management activities to a much greater extent than the originally proposed rule, particularly in comparison to other industries that work in and around forested areas.

In particular, we were very pleased to see that harvest limitations around “known maternity roost trees” in June and July were reduced from a radius of 0.25 miles to a radius of 150 feet, a huge victory for the industry in realistic terms.

As we move forward with the implementation and enforcement of the new rules, Hardwood Federation (HF) will be focused on looking for the flexibility, fairness and consistency that USFWS has guaranteed our industry throughout negotiations.

We are still concerned that the 0.25-mile radius around known hibernacula goes too far in limiting landowners, including the federal government, to properly manage forests for both forest health and economic benefit.

USFWS has publically stated that they are willing to work with the industry where they can and can hopefully create workarounds on a project-to-project basis.

In Wisconsin, for example, the Department of Natural Resources has made an effort to work with landowners to provide the flexibility they need to move forward with harvesting projects in areas near bat habitats. We will continue to work with USFWS, the U.S. Forest Service, and local jurisdictions to ensure consistent and equitable enforcement.

In addition, HF continues to believe that forest management and timber harvesting

On Jan. 13, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the final rule regarding protective measures for the Northern Long Eared Bat.

For the most part, the final rule was what we were expecting and the few changes appear to be positive.

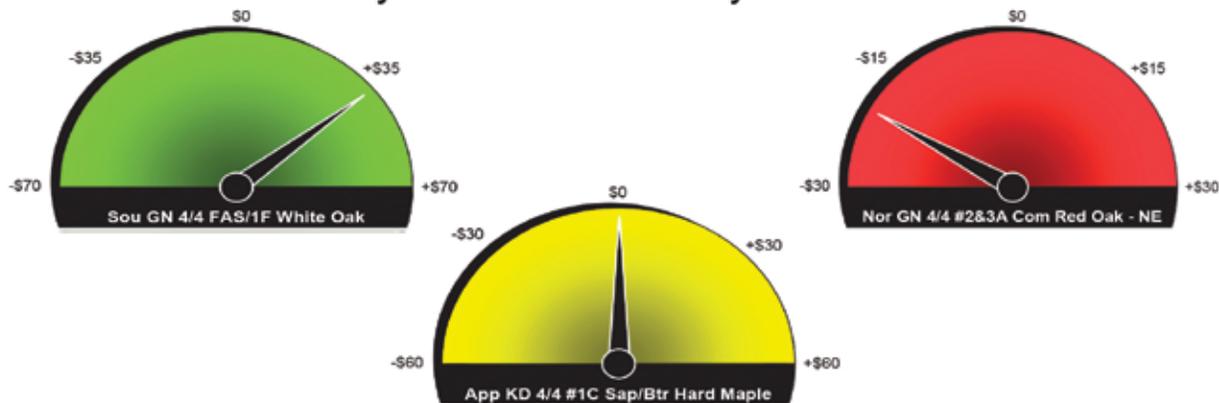
While not perfect, the maintenance of a threatened designation with a 4(d) rule is still far better for our industry than what



Hardwood Market Report's Hardwood Review Dashboard



30-Day Price Movements of Key Lumber Items



Species Spotlight: Poplar

Poplar supply will be steady, as will demand from domestic furniture, millwork and moulding manufacturers. Both will work to keep FAS/1F prices firm in the months ahead.

KD common-grade Poplar prices have leveled in Appalachia and risen in the South, and could gain some strength from renewed export growth to China, Vietnam and the UK, as well as traditionally stronger exports in spring/summer.

However, currency weakness in large export markets like China, Mexico and the European Union makes it unlikely that Poplar exports will bounce back easily from 2015's losses.

practices are not responsible for the decline of the NLEB or any other bat species. This decline is directly linked to White Nose Syndrome, and our forest industry activities do not aid in its cause or spread.

We will be advocating for increased funding and coordinated research to cure this terrible disease. ■

Corrugated Pallet Bill Defeated In Oregon

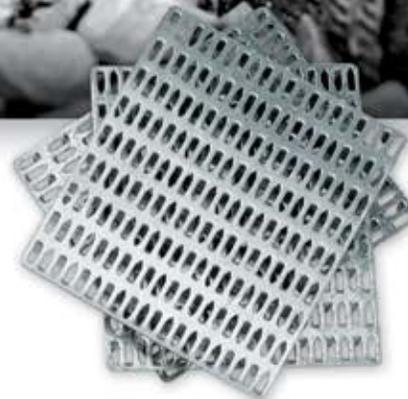


In February, the Oregon wood community joined together and successfully used the powerful message of wood's strong environmental credentials to defeat an initiative proposed by an out-of-state corrugated pallet manufacturer. The bill would have mandated that state agencies give a purchasing preference for corrugated pallets over wood pallets.

When it became obvious the bill would not pass, the bill's proponent sought to bypass the legislature with an executive order from the Governor's office. The last-minute maneuver has one state agency, the Oregon Department of Corrections, committing to explore the potential of a pilot project that would seek to have, by 2021, up to 10% of in-bound freight received on cardboard pallets.

Patrick Atagi, NWPCA VP of advocacy & external affairs, traveled to Oregon and worked with two firms NWPCA hired to help lead the coalition and support the grassroots campaign. NWPCA continues to talk with the Governor's office regarding the life safety risks, material handling challenges, and environmental impacts of any potential pilot project. ■

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