



NEWS

FOREST RESOURCES ASSOCIATION INC.
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VAAGEN BROTHERS HONORED FOR ACTIVISM

Washington, DC – The **Forest Resources Association** awarded its 2015 National Outstanding Forestry Activist Award to Vaagen Brothers Lumber, based in Colville, Washington.

FRA Chairman Tom Reed conferred the award at FRA's April 28 Annual Awards Dinner in Nashville, Tennessee, pointing to the leadership Vaagen had shown in breaking Western federal forest management gridlock.

Vaagen Brothers President

Duane Vaagen thanked Reed for the honor, pointing out, "Belonging to all these coalitions and sometimes even starting



them takes a lot of time and also a lot of travel. What I want to let you know is, this collaboration in the Northwest is very necessary. We have no other way." Speaking of the green groups he worked with, he added, "They want solutions, too. We went to DC with them. We came up with a project."

Over 10 years ago, Vaagen Brothers personnel began discussions with environmental organizations, timber industry, the Forest Service, and community members on a collaborative approach to addressing the gridlock on the 1.1 million-acre Colville National Forest in eastern Washington. The result is the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition, called “a model for timber communities nationwide” by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Vaagen’s unwavering support for the Coalition—in funds, personnel, travel, and participation in meetings with local, state and federal public officials—and collaboration with all Coalition members has resulted in the annual harvest on the Colville’s rising from 18 million board feet to 60 million. Vaagen Brothers has demonstrated the potential of “restoration forestry” on federal lands to stakeholders outside of the Coalition to showcase sound forestry practices and management, reduced wildfire risk, and increased wildlife habitat for Rocky Mountain elk, among other species. The result is, no stewardship projects were litigated or appealed to the point of stopping much-needed forestry work since the Coalition’s inception.

The **Forest Resources Association Inc.** is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

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Caption for photo: “FRA Chairman Tom Reed (left) and FRA President Deb Hawkinson (right) congratulate Duane Vaagen, President of Vaagen Brothers Lumber, FRA’s 2015 National Outstanding Forestry Activist.”