

F. H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company

Columbia Falls, MT – Member Since Prior to 1952

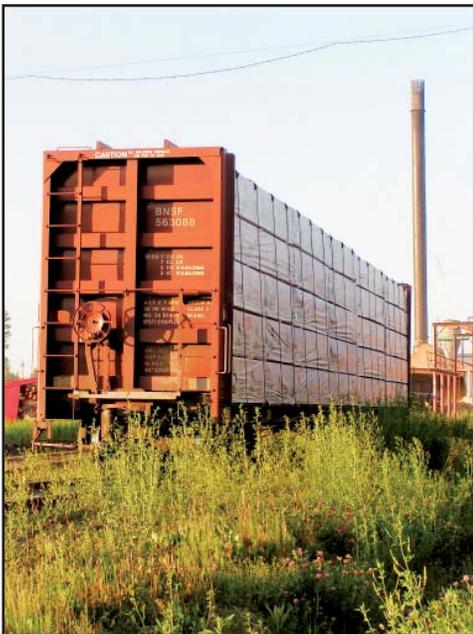


Entrepreneur, F. H. Stoltze began his career in the late 1890s by building general stores along the Great Northern Railroad through North Dakota and Montana. These stores provided much needed supplies to both the railroad and the settlers in the area. About 10 years later, Mr. Stoltze formed Enterprise Lumber Company with his colleagues Edward Konantz and William Kiley in northwest Montana. This was a large mill that produced ties, timbers and dimensional lumber for the railroad.

F. H. Stoltze also formed State Lumber Company and Empire Lumber Company. The State Lumber Company obtained a railroad infrastructure and established access to 10,000 acres of timberland owned in the Haskill and Trumbull Creek drainages in 1923.



Stoltze Lumber is proud to be a part of the Montana Safety Sharp Program. From left to right: Chris Hall, Lead Millwright; Brenda Kjensrud, Lumber Grader; Scott Daumiller, Planer Superintendent; Kris Page, Shipping Clerk; Tony Petero, Saw Filer; and Tom Schwegel, Lead Mechanic.



Railcar with F. H. Stoltze Lumber ready to go! That is the Boiler Stack in the background.

John R. Stoltze (the son of F. H. Stoltze) took over the lumber business in the 1920s. John and his wife Grace had one son and three daughters. The three remaining daughters and grandchildren are the current owners of the company.

Chuck Roady is the Vice-President and General Manager at the mill today. The mill employs 120 people at its 157-acre plant site located adjacent to the main line of the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad. Stoltze owns and maintains the “Half Moon” rail-siding into their mill site. There has been a mill on the present Half Moon site since 1912. The plant consists of administrative offices, log yard, random length sawmill, dry kilns, planning mill and a 160,000 pound truck scale. The company owns over 38,000 acres of timberlands, all certified under the American Tree Farm System since 1966. (The American Tree Farm System® works to sustain forests, watershed and healthy wildlife

habitats through the power of private stewardship by offering affordable forest certification for family forest landowners in the United States.)

The sawmill was renovated during the summer of 2000. Two of the enhancements made included the installation of a new optimized board edger and a curve-sawing gang saw. Combining the equipment with the optimized trimmer system allows maximum recovery and quality from the logs that are harvested. On site are four computerized dry kilns that provide a continuous supply of dry lumber to the planer.



Chet Lamb, Planer Lumber Feeder, monitors the lumber as it moves along the line.



Bruce Berglund, WWPA Certified Lumber Grader, inspects the boards before leaving the plant.

The planer building has two acres of inside storage and runs two planers, a continuous lumber tester (CLT) for MSR production, computerized grade reader, trimmer, tray stacker and inventory system. Annual Production is approximately 65-75 million board feet of S-dry random length lumber. Stoltze's lumber is graded by WWPA certified lumber graders. The majority of the Stoltze graders have received WWPA's Hi-Q award for excellence in lumber grading accuracy. Stoltze is the only Machine Stress Rated (MSR) lumber producer in Montana.

During the end of 2004 and beginning of 2005 Stoltze added a Comact OLI-CS3 Small Log Optimization mill to their facility. This has allowed the company to handle smaller logs and has been a compliment to the existing large log mill. Stoltze works vigilantly to keep-up with advancing technology and plans someday to construct a wood bio-mass co-generator to utilize wood waste and logging slash. However, the current recession in the economy has put most projects on hold for now.

The F. H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company produces kiln dried dimensional lumber, 4/4" boards, MSR lumber, eased edge lumber and rough green timbers. About 50 percent of the logs used at the mill are from private lands (both industrial and non-industrial), 30 percent from State and Federal lands and 20 percent from the Stoltze timberlands.

The high cost of fuels has impacted both the sourcing of logs and shipping the final product. Stoltze lumber can be found all over the United States and may be exported by some of their customers. About one third of the final product is shipped by rail, while the remaining two thirds is generally moved by contractors on trucks.

Chuck Roady, Vice-President and General Manager said, "We have great employees at Stoltze and they are very cognizant of the economic situation our country is experiencing." To keep an efficient workforce

while counterbalancing the high cost of fuel and shipping, the company has tried different work schedules, limited overtime and limited expenditures to only the necessities.

TPM has been honored to serve F. H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company with assistance and guidance with personnel and workplace safety issues since 1952. Today, the Stoltze Company continues to utilize TPM's services to help with workplace safety and human resource issues.



Scott Daumiller, Planer Superintendent out in the cold! Finished product wrapped and stacked in the yard.



"Nothing runs like a Deere" A John Deere 2154D Processor, with a Waratah HTH 622B Harvester Head.

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