

# Oregon Overseas Timber Company, Inc.

Bandon, Oregon

TPM Member Since December 2013



Oregon Overseas Timber Co, Inc. specializes in the manufacturing of clear Douglas Fir lumber for the high-end markets of the Pacific Coastal Areas as well as Europe.

The Lau family has been in the timber industry for generations. Wilhem Lau and his eldest son Uwe operated a lumber business, Lau and Sons, in Hamburg, Germany. Nils Lau was working in the banking sector, before being offered a position with the family business.



*The original home of Oregon Overseas Timber Company located in Bandon, Oregon. (1983)*



*An immense salvage log and the crew in the early days of Oregon Overseas Timber Company.*

The company flourished because of the European demand for high quality metric, clear Douglas Fir. The company was able to buy second grade logs that had been rejected by other mills, cut them into small pieces, remove the knots and other defects and still come up with a marketable product for the overseas market.

Nils is now semi-retired and works with his eldest daughter, Christine Frick handling the German sales

Nils Lau came to the United States and was intent upon learning all of the different grading rules of the West Coast species. He worked in various sawmills around the Pacific Northwest. Because Nils was a West German timber broker, he tried to persuade the area sawmills to produce metric sized lumber. Fortunately, he did not persuade anyone to change to his way of thinking and after a few years he opened Oregon Overseas Timber (OOT) located in Bandon, Oregon in the early 1980s.



*Adjusting the load.*



*The mill added the 9.5 foot Headrig as the mill continues to grow.*

office. The day-to-day operations at OOT are now managed by his son Ulrich (Ulli) Lau. Ulli said, "My sister and I are eager to face the future challenges and help our company grow and continue the great dialogue with our distributors."

When the company was incorporated in 1983, the company bought an old aircraft hanger next to the Bandon Airport. Since that time the company has

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expanded on 24 acres and has added a variety of sawmill equipment. The company logo, a green tree has become a symbol of quality throughout the world.

The company purchases salvaged logs from Northern California log suppliers, with the majority of logs coming from the Coastal Cascade Mountain Range. They also use salvaged logs from forest fires. Ulli said, “We ideally like to source our logs locally. In my opinion: Oregon’s federal timberlands are not being managed properly and my German forestry background tells me, there is a lot of misinformation and insufficient education of the public.”



*The bark screener separates the bark into three different sizes.*



*Oregon Overseas Timber Company specializes in large logs recovered from the forest floor.*

A large variety of products are produced at OOT such as: Douglas fir clears, vertical and flat grain, premium structural timber, crossarms, finger joint blocks, rough dimension lumber and railroad ties/switch ties. The company uses four dehumidifying kilns (300,000 ftbm capacity) and three chop saws to produce fingerjoint blocks. The small re-saw facility

The root of OOT’s success is its determination to utilize renewable salvage logs from the forest floor and achieving high end clears that are heavily used in the Pacific Northwest and Southwest. All the wood manufactured by OOT is grown, harvested and replanted in a manner that is consistent with the applicable local, state, provincial, tribal and international laws.



*Large structural timbers being manufactured.*



*Oregon Overseas also handles custom milling for customers looking for a specific piece or order.*

has grown to be a specialized and custom remanufacturing sawmill and employs many caring and dedicated, long-term employees.

Today, OOT products are sold through wholesalers/exporters to be used across the United States, and into Europe and Asia. The high quality beams stand like artwork in many timber frame homes throughout the world.

**Oregon Overseas Timber Company, Inc.** can be reached at:  
 PO Box 1701, 87680 Kehl Lane, Bandon, OR 97411  
 Phone (541) 347-4419 [www.ootci.com](http://www.ootci.com)