

TRI-PRO CEDAR PRODUCTS

Professional Production Products

Oldtown, Idaho – Member Since 1990



**Featured Member
January 2011**



*Steve Linton, President
Tri-Pro Cedar Products*

Tri-Pro Cedar Products is a cedar manufacturing mill located in the panhandle of Idaho, approximately 50 miles north of Coeur d'Alene in Oldtown. The Albeni Falls plant is situated on 35 acres of land with access to the Burlington Northern railroad, as well as truck and van loading capabilities. At the present time they operate ten 70,000 board foot capacity dry kilns, four planers, seven re-saws, and an automatic stickering machine with over 2 1/2 acres of covered storage. Tri-Pro manufactures green and kiln-dried cedar products from the state-of-the-art facility and is able to custom run and package products to customers needs. Tri-Pro Cedar Products provides a complete line of quality deckings, sidings, patterns and trim. Using second growth timber assures sound tight knot products. Tri-Pro has 100% cedar production year-round and produces up to 4,000,000 board feet per month.

In the summer of 1987 the Merritt family leased an old planer mill site in Dover, Idaho to be used for a cedar remanufacturing facility. The company began operations as T&H Investments with a planer, a re-saw, and a double track steam kiln. T&H was soon shipping approximately 1,000,000 board feet of cedar a month. In June of 1990 T&H purchased the Empire Forest Products facility at the Industrial Park in Spokane, WA and became T&H of Washington. T&H employed approximately 120 people and was capable of shipping 3,000,000-4,000,000 board feet a month.

The Spokane facility had two planers, a molder, two double track kilns, and two re-saws. They could produce a wide variety of western red cedar products from bevel siding and patterns to fascia and deckings. In March of 1993 T&H evolved to become Tri-Pro Cedar Products (Professional Production Products). In July of 1996 Tri-Pro Cedar Products purchased the Albeni Falls Plant in Oldtown, ID from Crown Pacific. The plant immediately began production and over the next 1 1/2 years phased all the operations out of Spokane and moved everything to Oldtown. Today the company is operating two facilities, Tri-Pro Cedar Products in Oldtown, ID and Tri-Pro Forest Products in Orofino, ID. The state of the art facilities would typically have 75 employees each. As a result of the economic down turn, the combined employment at the two facilities is 70 people shipping 1,000,000-2,000,000 board feet per month.



*Steve Linton, President of Tri-Pro Cedar Products
in front of their office in Oldtown, Idaho.*

Tri-Pro currently runs a sawmill, the kiln facility, and 3 separate re-saw and planer lines. Each planer line specializes in a different category of products. The equipment consists of seven re-saws, a three saw edger, four planers, three tray sorters, ten dehumidification kilns, and all the necessary support equipment to produce about anything out of Western Red Cedar anyone could want. This allows the facility to efficiently produce a wide array of products to fit their customers needs and to change products as the markets for them change.

Steve Linton, President, said that during the economic downturn his company has adopted a very lean manufacturing approach to production. They have been able to adapt production to meet the most unique and customized needs of their customers. When asked about the company's TPM membership, Linton was quick to point out that membership has been a very good investment. TPM was instrumental in bringing a quick and favorable resolution after OSHA had visited both of his facilities. Steve said, "TPM was a great resource for dealing with OSHA during and after the plant visit. They also provided us with valuable safety and HR training and helped guide us through a few complicated safety and HR issues."



Steve Linton "at home" in the Tri-Pro office!

Tri-Pro Cedar, still owned by the Merritt Family, sits on a beautiful 35 acre site overlooking the Pend Oreille River. Tri-Pro is an innovative company with a solid workforce that is poised to be a leading producer of Western Red Cedar products for many years to come. Key personnel include Steve Linton, President; Ron Cluster, Vice-President; Terry Baker, Sales Manager; Lance Hubener, Sales; Mike Boeck, Resource Manager; Karen Phillips, Office Administration; Mike Davis, Production Coordinator & Shipping.



Tri-Pro Cedar facility runs three separate re-saw and planer lines. Each line specializes in a different category of product and can produce just about anything made out of Western Red Cedar.

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