

Whiteman Lumber Company

Catlado, Idaho – Member Since 1963



Set in the beautiful mountains of northern Idaho, near the Coeur d'Alene River, is the oldest-continuously running sawmill in Idaho, Whiteman Lumber Company. The mill was established in 1928 by Harry H. Whiteman and was owned by the Whiteman family until 1988 when it was purchased by Brad and Mary Corkill.

Brad Corkill began his career earning a degree in Forestry Engineering at Oregon State University. Brad has worked in the timber industry since 1972 as a logger, tree planter, surveyor, road builder, timber cruiser, logging foreman for Potlatch, log buyer for Potlatch and sawmill manager at Regulus Stud Mill in St. Maries, Idaho. He worked for Harry Whiteman at the Whiteman mill prior to purchasing it and had become familiar with Timber Products Manufacturers Association (TPM) during that time. Since he was already covered by the TPM health plan and was very familiar with the staff's expertise in HR and Safety, it was only natural to call on TPM when he purchased the mill. Brad said, "TPM has helped me many times with personnel issues and regulatory problems. It's nice to know I have someone to call when I have a problem that I do not have a solution for!"



Whiteman Lumber employee, John Hagaman, is stacking timbers for Hochstetler Milling in Ohio.

Whiteman Lumber Company began its operation by providing all of the timbers for the Sunshine Mining Company that operated from 1906 until closing in 2001. Whiteman has expanded their operation selling to other silver mines, individuals, framers, contractors, wholesalers and the industrial market. The mill specializes in custom manufacturing of high grade rough and surfaced timbers. Timbers are milled to the specification of each individual order and the unique capability of the sawmill can produce rough timbers as large as 24 X 24 inches and lengths up to 34 feet. The timbers are both structurally functional and aesthetically appealing. The company takes pride in meeting the needs of each individual project and each individual customer.



A bound stack of some of the components for a "four compartment shaft set" for one of the mines.

The sawmill uses a traditional circular saw system that imparts a distinct look to the rough timbers. This feature is often requested by customers. The mill also has a special saw that can split logs lengthwise to accommodate cutting vertical grain. The log is cut lengthwise into quarters and then each quarter is cut separately, essentially cutting the log from the inside out. This allows the growth rings to be seen on the wide face of the board. Lumber cut in this manner will not warp or cup and these boards are used in doors, windows, furniture, etc. This is another way Whiteman Lumber gets the most value both monetarily and aesthetically from a log.

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Whiteman mills large finished timbers up to 14 X 20 inches and a 34 foot length. Last year, before the season began, they had an order for timbers for an east coast building project. The customer was anxious to get the timbers. With the cooperation of a few governmental agencies and a willing logger, they were able to get on the roads early and bring the logs to the mill. Whiteman was able to cut two 10 X 24 inch timbers, 32 feet long, from one log. The Idaho White Pine was harvested on State of Idaho property not far from the mill.

Whiteman provides custom on-site Select Dry kiln drying. Their products include beams, rafters, mantels, stair treads, bridge decking, mine timbers, wedges, shaft guides, ladders and more. The unique mill is versatile



These stickered timbers are pine headed for Sand Creek Post & Beam in Nebraska.



Douglas-fir and cedar drying in the kiln and bound for Eugene Stoltzfus Architects in Virginia.

blowers and a computerized edger.” Today customers from all over the United States and Canada benefit from the rebuilt mill and equipment when their customized timbers are delivered.

Brad noted that he is beginning to see an improvement in market conditions, but cautioned that the increase in fuel prices could slow things down again. He is always aware of costs and looking for a way to contain them, but he and his crew believe it is more important to find ways to make a product that has a higher value and concentrate their efforts in that direction. Everyone on the crew is involved in quality control.



Whiteman Lumber Company was rebuilt after a devastating fire in January 2009 that completely destroyed the sawmill building and much of the equipment.

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