

Woodpecker News

by Gene Wengert

HIGHER SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRICES

In spite of record high prices for softwood construction lumber, and it follows record high profits, independent loggers and all logging truck drivers are not seeing any of this increase funneling, or even trickling, down to them, according to reports from the recent Council of Forest Industry in BC, Canada. Woodpecker News has also reported that some mills are running out of logs because of the shortage of truck drivers in Canada. With about 1/3 of the construction lumber used in the U.S. coming from Canada, this potential shortage of logs means a shortage of lumber, which means even higher prices for softwood lumber. And, even if trucker wages were to increase, it does require time to train new drivers. Logging trucks are harder to drive safely than an 18-wheeler on the Interstate. All the new southern pine mills in the South will, indeed, provide more lumber, but any builder knows that the softer, lighter weight, straighter, easier to nail 2x4s and 2x6s from Canadian species, especially SPF, are easier to use when framing a stick-built house or remodeling. Bottomline: Small mills should consider the profit opportunities of producing construction lumber and hire a grader from time to time to meet the market requirements. (<https://pgdailynews.ca/index.php/2018/04/09/record-lumber-prices-not-helping-truck-loggers/>)

CONSTRUCTION

A total of 1.13 million houses are anticipated to be built in 2019 in the United States, 255,000 more than this year, according to the Western Wood Products Association. The number of apartment complexes being constructed annually is expected to drop from about 425,000 this year to 402,000 in 2019, according to the association. More than 53 billion board feet of lumber will be needed to meet the demand in 2019, and United States production is forecast at 36 billion board feet in 2019, according to the association.



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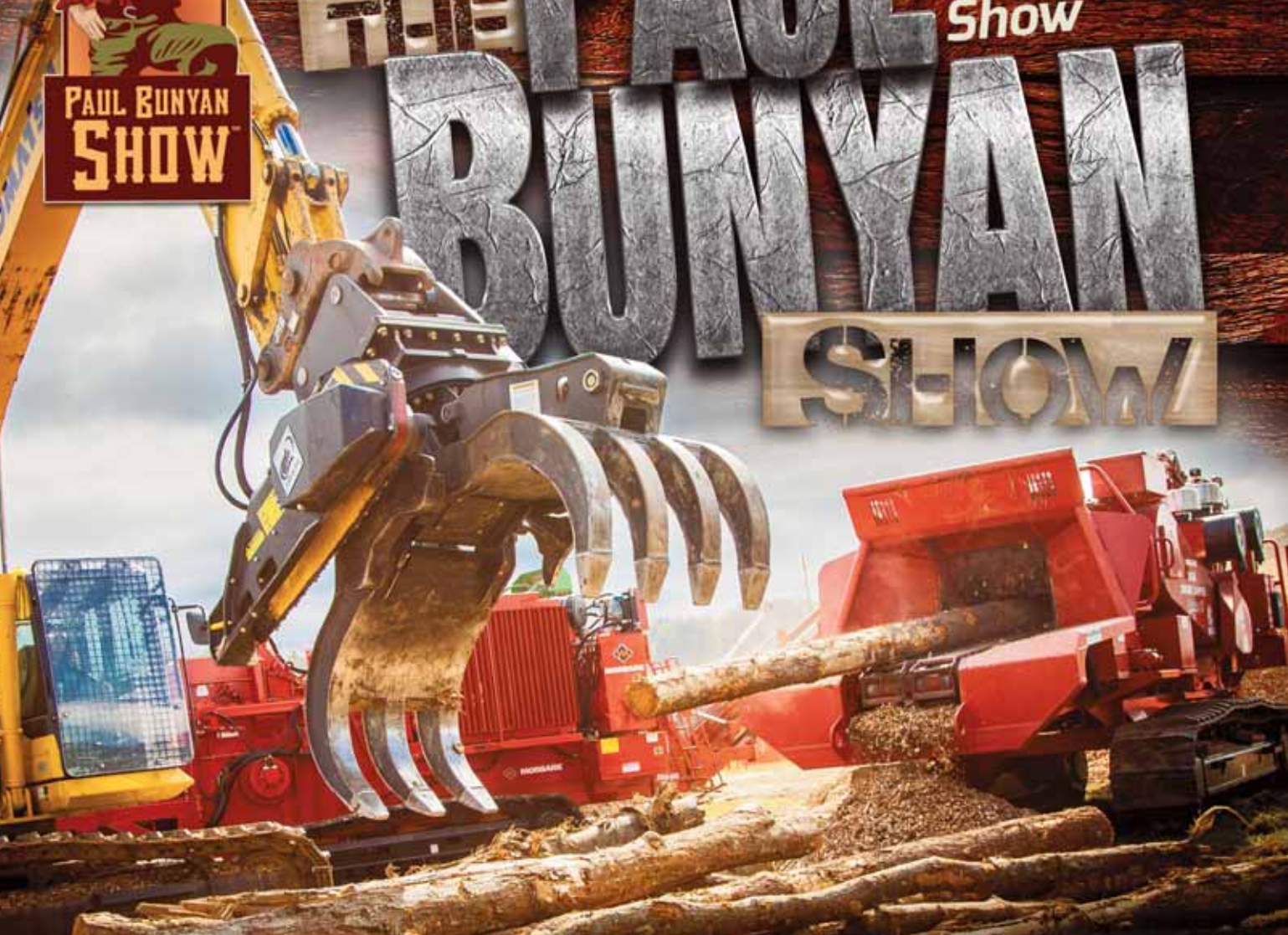
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