

heated air through the spaces in the stacks. The stacks spend 30-90 hours in the kilns, depending on the moisture content of the green lumber. The final steps involve feeding the lumber through the planer to "finish" it and trimming the boards to required lengths. The lumber is then shipped by truck or rail to the customers.

LOG YARDS AND OFFICE/SUPPORT STAFF

The two log yards, one at each site, employ a total of 20 hourly employees who support the daily activities of the log yards. Their responsibilities include receiving, unloading and stacking logs, monitoring and maintaining the quality of the logs and sorting and rotating logs as necessary to keep the logs in optimum condition prior to milling. It is important that the moisture content of the logs remain within a certain range to create the best product. Eight salaried positions focus on log procurement. Timber is purchased from private land owners and State and Federal timber sales from as far east as Montana, as far south as St. Maries, Idaho and as far west as Leavenworth, Washington. An additional nine positions are staffed by office/support personnel.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Boise Cascade is privately owned and headquartered in Boise, Idaho; Kettle Falls is part of what is called the Inland Region of the company. This Region includes Boise Cascade operations in NE Washington and NE Oregon, and was formed in 2005 when the company reorganized. While Boise Cascade no longer owns timberland, they are well situated, location-wise, to obtain the raw materials they need to manufacture their products in this area.

Boise Cascade owns mills that produce engineered wood products (mostly I-beams for construction), lumber, particle board, plywood and veneer in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Louisiana, and distribution centers for building materials at numerous locations throughout the country.

The Paper, Packaging and Newsprint division of the company was sold in 2008 and is now operating as Boise Inc.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

One of Boise Cascade's core values is to manage the business in such a way that environmental resources, air quality, water, energy and trees, are sustained for future generations. This stewardship responsibility and commitment to society is conveyed through their adherence to the standards contained within the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), an internationally recognized certification program that requires independent, third party auditing of their environmental practices and procedures. Implementing best management practices and procuring wood from sustainably managed forests for use in their manufacturing facilities, complying with all environmental laws and regulations, and continuously measuring and tracking their progress towards these goals are a primary focus. They are committed to protecting the air and water quality near their manufacturing sites, and to reducing, reusing and recycling waste materials.

CURRENT LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Kettle Falls Lumber and the large log mill are located at 610 W. Third Ave, Kettle Falls, WA 99141; their phone number is 509-738-3200. The plywood plant and general offices are located at 1274 Boise Road, Kettle Falls, WA 99141-9792; their phone number is 738-3200. Further information about Boise Cascade can be found at www.bc.com.



Governor Dan Evans gives the dedicatory address at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new plywood plant on Lake Roosevelt, September 1967 photos courtesy of Boise Cascade archives.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new plywood plant on Lake Roosevelt, September 1967 photos courtesy of Boise Cascade archives.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

I thought it would be interesting to create a historical timeline for Boise Cascade since they have such a long and involved history. It all started in 1957.

1955

1957: Boise Payette Lumber Company of Boise, Idaho and Cascade Lumber Company of Yakima, Washington merge to form Boise Cascade Corporation. Both companies owned timberlands, sawmills and retail lumber yards.

1959: The Valselt Lumber Company is purchased and includes Western Pine Manufacturing in Spokane, a cutstock plant (a cutstock plant removes imperfections from boards for making high-end moulding products); the Lincoln Sawmill on Lake Roosevelt, which had a logging operation on the Colville Indian Reservation, and 6,000 acres of timberlands. All of Lincoln's timber was delivered in log booms on Lake Roosevelt by Boise Cascade's tugboat, the "River Chief".

1960

1960: The lands of the Columbia Lumber Company of Kettle Falls are purchased, which include about 7,000 acres of timberland and a sawmill site on Lake Roosevelt. According to a June 22, 1962 article in the Statesman-Examiner, the operation employed 60 men in the mill and 40 additional men in logging. The article also reported that extreme weather conditions and the lowering of Lake Roosevelt often caused closure during the winter months. The current plywood plant now stands on the old Columbia Lumber sawmill site.

1961: A strike by the International Woodworkers of America causes the sawmill on Lake Roosevelt to shut down.

1962: The sawmill at Lake Roosevelt is closed permanently and the plant liquidated. The equipment is declared obsolete and not able to be operated competitively.

1965

1965: 40,000 acres of timberland is purchased from Erickson Lumber of Colville. The previous Columbia Lumber sawmill site on Lake Roosevelt is cleared for a plywood plant and lumber mill. This is the location of the current plywood plant.

1966-67: The plywood plant is built and begins operations on Lake Roosevelt. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is held in September 1967 with then Governor Dan Evans giving the dedicatory address. Western Pine Manufacturing is closed.

1970

1969: The lands of the Kettle Falls Lumber Company, which includes over 4,000 acres of timberland and a mill in Kettle Falls, is purchased.

1970: A green veneer plant on the Spokane Indian Reservation at Ford and a plywood plant in Spokane are purchased. Together they become Spokane Plywood.

1972: The company reorganizes after financial losses from diversification and investments. The decision is made to concentrate on building materials and paper to restore financial strength and build a solid earnings record.

1975

1978-79: Facilities at Kettle Falls Lumber and the small log mill on Lake Roosevelt are modernized, eliminating the need to transfer green lumber to Yakima for finishing. After modernization the operations came under the name the NE Washington Region.

1975: The small log mill is built next to the plywood plant on Lake Roosevelt.

1976: The former Avey Bros. sawmill complex in Kettle Falls is purchased from the Pack River Company and becomes known as Kettle Falls Lumber.

1979: The Spokane Plywood complex at Ford and Spokane is closed to coincide with increased production at Kettle Falls.

1980

2004: Boise Cascade Corporation is purchased by Madison Dearborn Partners and becomes Boise Cascade, LLC (Limited Liability Company) and goes from a publicly held company to a privately owned company. The purchase includes the paper, wood products, and corrugated fiber packaging and distribution centers of the company. Boise Cascade Corporation keeps control of the office supplies division and begins doing business as Office Max.

2004

2005: 260,000 acres of timberland in this area, plus all other timber holdings, are sold to Forest Capital Partners.

2008: Aldabra 2 Acquisition Corporation purchases the paper manufacturing and packaging business from Boise Cascade, LLC and Aldabra is renamed Boise Inc. and becomes a publicly traded company.

