

74TH INTERMOUNTAIN LOGGING CONFERENCE

Profit – it's not a four letter word

If you are a logger, forester, forest supplier, or simply interested in the business; mark your calendars for the Intermountain Logging Conference on April 12-14 2012. The 2012 conference will once again be held at the Mirabeau Park Hotel & Convention Center in the Spokane Valley, Washington. On display will be the latest in machinery and equipment as well as panel presentations and speakers on the hot topic issues in our industry. Vendors will be manning both indoor and outdoor booths as well as a large outdoor tent. You can attend the technical training classes, and choose from the list of breakout sessions for specific topics best suited to your company's needs. The 3rd Annual Log Loader Competition is also on the docket for 2012. Come and watch the best operators in the Inland compete – or maybe try your hand as well. If you are interested in pro-logger points, all the panels and training are accredited with OR, WA, ID and MT logging associations. Regardless of where you in this area you operate, the ILC is your chance to get the bulk of annual certification credits in a single event. It's a "one stop shop" for your certification needs!

Our VP/Program Chair for this year is Mark Mahon of Tom Mahon Logging in Council, Idaho. Mark's theme for the 74th ILC is "PROFIT – It's Not a Four Letter Word". Over much of the past 20 years we have spent a great deal of time and talent in things other than improving the bottom line. Dealing with social and political issues, anti logging groups, and an urban population that doesn't understand us has taken much of our resources. In the end though, we are still families in the business of logging. We do what we do because we love it, but also because that's how we pay the bills. If we don't do it efficiently and at a profit, we can't continue. The world wants and needs what we make. We need to do it the best we can – ecologically and economically. The thrust of the ILC this year is to help you do exactly that.

Our keynote speaker this year is Mike Kralicek. He has quite an inspirational story to share. Born and raised on the Oregon Coast, Mike was a 4th generation logger until enlisting in the Air Force during Desert Storm. After his discharge he attended college and eventually chose a career in law enforcement. In 2004 he began serving with the police department in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Tragically he was wounded in the line of duty on December 28 of that year and became a quadriplegic. Many would have given up, but not this individual. He chose to go on with a good mental attitude and not let circumstances dictate his life. With the help of his wife, Carrie, he has tirelessly continued to work towards his recovery. He calls himself "a recovering quadriplegic" and is an outstanding example of courage & determination. His motto and a lesson for us all is – "Never give up!"