



Press Release

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Fast-growing Hardwoods Bringing Jobs to Morrow County

Boardman, Ore. (June 17, 2008) East of Boardman, a 30,000-acre hardwood plantation is bringing jobs to Morrow County. Greenwood Tree Farms owns and manages the more than 45 square mile Pacific Albus plantation, which currently employs 150 people. The Collins Companies, in conjunction with Greenwood Tree Farms, is building a sawmill to process these trees. Thanks to a \$250,000 grant of Lottery dollars that enabled them, in part, to purchase equipment, the new Upper Columbia Mill at the farm will be operational in fall 2008, adding 85 jobs to the operation. The Collins Companies will be responsible for operating the sawmill and selling the Pacific Albus lumber products.

The tree farm is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and operates using sustainable, eco-friendly methods: planted, harvested and re-planted in a perpetual cycle. Located along Interstate 84, the trees also help clean the air, absorbing CO2 along the highway corridor.

“Not only are the trees FSC certified, but they will be processed in a sawmill that employs The Natural Step Principles, reducing our environmental footprint, while at the same time making the mill more efficient,” said Lee Jimerson, Manager of Manufacturing Accounts for The Collins Companies. “All Upper Columbia Mill employees will be trained in the Natural Step to help them make the right economic and environmental decisions at work and away from the job. Environmental sustainability starts with social sustainability - we will be long term neighbors in the Boardman community.”

The mill is located in the middle of the plantation helping reduce transportation and conserve energy. Once harvested, the trees will travel less than three miles on average to the mill, helping conserve fuel, reduce pollution and ease congestion on main roads.

Since the Oregon Lottery began selling tickets on April 25, 1985, it has earned over \$5.6 billion for economic development, public education, state parks and watershed enhancements. For more information on the Oregon Lottery visit www.oregonlottery.org

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