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ANDREW “ANDY” BYLER RECOGNIZED WITH VFA LOGGER MERIT AWARD

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) recognized Andrew “Andy” Byler with its Logger Merit Award during the 2022 Virginia Forestry Summit in Blacksburg, Virginia. VFA’s Logger Merit Award recognizes and honors the performance of one or more outstanding logger(s) in the Commonwealth. Winners are chosen based on a written evaluation of the total logging operation. Recipients of the Logger Merit Award represent the “best-of-the-best,” and exemplify the highest professional standards, as they serve as effective positive public role models for the entire logging industry.

Mr. Byler founded Blue Mountain Forest Products LLC, based in Shippensburg, PA, in 2011. While his operation has harvested timber in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia, Blue Mountain has worked exclusively in the six counties that make up the NW corner of Virginia for the past two years.

Mr. Byler is highly regarded for producing high quality timber harvests, leaving quality seed trees throughout the sites that he harvests to improve the potential to reforest with quality timber species. Mr. Byler’s is a model for Best Management Practices, protecting the environment by using bridges and mats in areas with potential water quality complications, installing culverts where needed, keeping his haul roads open for maximum daylight, and spending the extra money for stone to keep his jobs from becoming sloppy and muddy. When finishing each section of his jobs, he takes the extra steps necessary to avoid soil erosion.

Mr. Byler is adamant to abide by forest regulations and has a reputation for terrific silvicultural work, going above and beyond at every jobsite. He continually strives to improve each site for both future economic development and wildfire prevention by ensuring all skid roads remain open and accessible. He increases overall ecological functions along with increasing species diversity and diversity of trees sizes and ages.

In nominating Mr. Byler for VFA’s Logger Merit Award, Leo Eby of Eby’s Sawmill in Clearville, PA shared, “Andy has demonstrated an extraordinary work ethic combined with exceptional knowledge and practical skill in timber harvest selection in order to obtain healthy results.”

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About Virginia Forestry Association:

Founded in 1943, the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) is a not-for-profit organization that represents Virginia’s diverse forestry community and promotes the sustainable use and conservation of forest resources to ensure their long-term benefits for all Virginians. VFA’s membership of more than 1,000 companies and individuals includes landowners, foresters, forest products businesses, loggers, forestry consultants, and stakeholders who value the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources as a driver of ecological, economic, and social prosperity in Virginia. Learn more at www.veforestry.org.

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