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Quarterly Newsletter from *Source Verified GoodWood®* | April - June 2024

The Quarter Round

New Member Spotlight

We are excited to welcome *Spotted Owl Timber of Santa Fe, NM* as new member!

[Meet the Producers](#)

Spotted Owl Timber

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Santa Fe, NM 87507

orders@spottedowltimber.com

505-474-5326

Spotted Owl Timber, a locally owned sawmill in Santa Fe, New Mexico, has been serving the community for over 30 years.

They specialize in crafting high-quality wood products sourced from GoodWood-verified forest restoration projects in northern New Mexico. These projects include initiatives like the Southwest Jemez Mountains Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and nearby tribal nations' efforts, as well as wildfire mitigation projects on the Santa Fe National Forest.

Spotted Owl Timber offers a diverse range of products, including custom-made items for builders, remodelers, and the public. [For more information, visit their website.](#)



Vigas and beams crafted by Spotted Owl Timber.

Source Verified Good Wood® - An opportunity to put your name on what you believe.

Source Verified Good Wood offers an opportunity for individuals and businesses to align their name with their beliefs. Through source forest verification and tracking chain-of-custody, the *GoodWood®* program empowers its members to endorse something they truly stand for. We are a collaborative community of open-minded leaders committed to forest stewardship, community well-being, and local economies.

GoodWood membership is open to anyone who shares this commitment! Unlike other certification programs that are complicated, lengthy, and expensive, our source-verified branding initiative is accessible and affordable. In addition, we are also the only program that verifies wood from National Forest System lands.

As a **member**, you gain visibility for supporting forests and communities. As a **consumer**, you support healthier forests and mindful businesses with each purchase. Together, we create a committed community helping to find harmony between forests and commerce. To become a member or find out more about *Source Verified Good Wood* and *GoodWood* products, please visit our website: www.goodwoodverified.com.

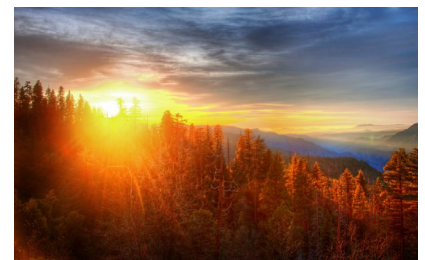
A note from Rachel



Summer is heating up quickly across the southwest. While meteorologists are seeing a weakening of the El Niño event that brought us snow over the winter, they are anticipating a quick [transition to La Niña](#) by summer's end. If this shift occurs, New Mexico may experience a warmer and drier winter. We are already seeing conditions that are warmer and drier than normal and I understand these conditions are [expected to persist](#) through June. Of course, warmer and drier are indicative of our changing climate. In this issue of *The Quarter Round*, we look at how scientists can see changes in climate, how our changing climate is affecting our forests, and the role of SVGW in helping our forests adapt to the extremes presented by changing climate.

We also have summarized the LEED (*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*) a green building certification program used world-wide. The program is undergoing an update and we have submitted comments recommending the inclusion of GoodWood as a credited construction material. This could provide an incredible opportunity for our members!

We will also highlight our members, report on our accomplishments and let you know what we will be working on in the future. Thanks for reading!



GoodWood Products – Good for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

We say that GoodWood is good for our forests, good for people, and good for our communities. But did you know GoodWood is also good for our efforts to help forests adapt to changing climate and to mitigate carbon emissions that are derived from forest management and wildfire?

Adaptation

Forest thinning and prescribed burning enhance forest resilience as our climate warms. By reducing forest density, we decrease competition for water, sunlight, and nutrients. This reduction in competition allows trees to survive even when these critical resources are scarce due to excessive heat and drought. Additionally, these actions improve fire suppression efforts, making fires more beneficial and less destructive.

Because *GoodWood* products are derived from forest thinning and restoration projects, *GoodWood* inherently helps our forests to adapt and be more resilient in the face of changing climate!

Mitigation

Healthy forests play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. They absorb carbon, shade our waters and watersheds, and help cool temperatures. However, actions that improve forest health also emit carbon dioxide in the short term. The following strategies help mitigate these impacts:

- ✓ Using wood from small-diameter trees to create durable wood products. This stores carbon for the long term and reduces the need for carbon-emitting slash burning.
- ✓ Wood products that are produced locally reduce emissions from transportation.

Adaptation and mitigation strategies are not mutually exclusive. Well-managed forests capture carbon and resist severe burning and are better able to persist in a changing climate. Well managed forests mitigate the emission of carbon and other pollutants from wildfires.

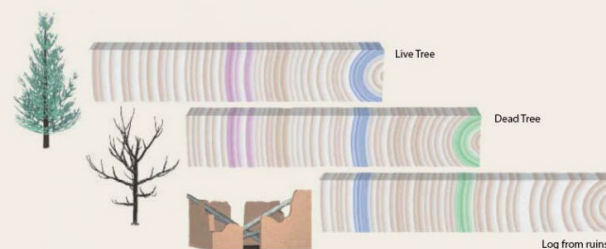
For more information about helping our forests adapt to changing check out the US Forest Service [Climate Adaptation Plan](#).

Do you ever wonder how scientists know what our climate was like in the past?

Tree rings provide valuable insights into past climates through a field known as *dendroclimatology*. Here's how it works:

1. **Annual Rings:** Trees form a new ring each year, which can be seen in their trunks. The width, density, and wood chemistry of these rings record weather conditions during that year. Events such as fire, drought, or an attack by disease or insects are also recorded.
2. **Proxy Climate Records:** Tree rings serve as natural archives, allowing us to reconstruct climate conditions beyond the few hundred years covered by instrumental weather records. By analyzing tree rings, scientists can study historical climate variations across the world.
3. **Looking Back to Look Forward:** Just as Winston Churchill said, "The longer you can look back, the farther you can look forward." Tree rings help us understand past climate changes, which informs our understanding of future consequences—such as the impact of rising greenhouse gas emissions.

Tree ring patterns are unique. Scientists overlap the patterns of living trees with dead trees and create a chronology going back thousands of years as shown in this image from Oregon State University¹.



Other Proxy Climate Records

Like tree-rings, corals and cave deposits such as stalactites and stalagmites provide reconstructions at annual to decadal resolution back many thousands of years. Ice cores have typically decadal to centennial resolution going back almost a million years for Antarctica and about 100,000 years for Greenland. Ocean sediment cores cover millions of years in the past but usually at low temporal resolution of centennial to millennial timescales¹.

For more information on understanding our past climate (paleoclimatology) visit NOAA's [Climate.gov](#).

¹ [Introduction to Climate Science](#) Copyright © 2019 by Andreas Schmittner is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 4.0 International License](#), except where otherwise noted.

U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is Being Updated



In their publication, *An Introduction to LEED and Green Building* The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) describes the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program as a "...third-party green building certification program and an international symbol of excellence in the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings and neighborhoods."

LEED is the most widely used green building rating system in the world and LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability and leadership.

Since its inception with LEED version 1.0 in 1998 the certification system has expanded to encompass nine rating system products tailored to specific market sectors. These include Homes, Neighborhood Development, Commercial Interiors, Core and Shell, New Construction (including Major Renovations), Existing Building (Operations and Maintenance), Schools, Retail, and Healthcare.

There are six main credit categories that are rated for certification: Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, Innovations in Operations and Regional Priority, and Sustainable Sites.



A draft rating system for the newest version of LEED, v5.0, was recently released for a public comment period that ended on May 24, 2024. The final rating system is set to be open for registration in 2025.

LEED v5.0 is structured around three system goals: climate action, quality of life, and ecological conservation and

restoration. These goals serve as the guiding principles for the rating system and will influence future versions as well.

Members of GoodWood submitted comments requesting that Source Verified Good Wood be considered for inclusion under the category of *Materials and Resources*. This request is based on the best practices and forest stewardship requirements applied in harvesting and manufacturing GoodWood products. Currently only wood products certified under FSC or SFI are accepted for credit under LEED.

LEED 5.0 also includes a schedule for future revisions (every five years) which would offer an opportunity to align more formally with LEED acceptance criteria in the future.

Benefits of LEED Certification

There six major benefits for achieving LEED certification:

- Tax incentives and rebates for certified buildings
- Save money on operational costs by reducing energy use and carbon emissions
- Improve indoor air quality and health of occupants and workers
- Attract tenants and customers who value sustainability
- Improve public relations and reputation as a green leader
- Achieve environmental, social, and governance (ESG) objectives faster

If GoodWood can help achieve LEED certification it could be an incredible boon for New Mexico's producers as well as our forests and watersheds!



Santa Fe National Forest

Accomplishments and Looking Ahead

Accomplishments

This quarter we worked to increase membership and support of Source Verified Good Wood. In April **Rachel Wood** participated in a panel discussion at a gathering of social economy businesses and start-ups from around New Mexico.



A social enterprise or social business is defined as a business with specific social objectives that serve its primary purpose. Social enterprises seek to manage a profitable business while maximizing benefits to society and the environment.

This opportunity stems from Rachel's ongoing engagement with **Vicki Pozzebon** of **Prospera Partners**. Last quarter Rachel met in-person with **Anitra Pickett** of the **U.S. Green Building Council** (USGBC) staff and joined the USGBC to facilitate the inclusion of **GoodWood** into **LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) the most widely used green building certification system, leading to our current effort to participate in the LEED 5.0 update process.

Rachel has continued to work with **Grace Sorenson** of the U.S. Forest Service's **Wood Innovations Program** to discuss future funding opportunities and we hope to have positive news regarding funding to report next quarter! Rachel's efforts to reach out to the **New Mexico Foundation**, work with **Prospera Partners**, and the **New Mexico Partnership for Responsible Business** have paid off. We now have willing sponsors to support the philanthropic projects and efforts of the **Source Verified Good Wood** program.

Looking Ahead

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL) and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) invested billions into Forest Service wildfire and climate resilience efforts. That funding is being made available to communities through new and existing grant programs. These programs can support the efforts of GoodWood members to grow their capacity to manufacture products from forest restoration projects. They can also assist communities who are trying to be better prepared and more resilient in the event of a wildfire.

Federal grants can provide substantial assistance, however, applying for these grants and then managing the funds, the work, as well as the reporting can be overwhelming!

The **Fire Adapted New Mexico Learning Network** (FACNM) is working with the **Forest Stewards Guild** and the **Watershed Center**, along with several other national and regional nonprofit organizations, to partner with the US Forest Service on a **Community Navigator Initiative**.

The goal of this effort is to connect communities to Forest Service funding and partnership opportunities supported by the BIL and IRA.

Key aspects of FACNM's community navigator work include:

- Developing relationships with communities who may benefit from new funding opportunities and connecting them with sources of technical assistance and support within our networks.
- Creating tools, trainings, and other resources to support organizational capacity-building.
- Providing individual technical assistance to help communities identify and apply for funding opportunities and comply with post-award financial management and reporting requirements.

Another important aspect of the work involves elevating community perspectives and feedback about the barriers that communities face in accessing US Forest Service support and partnership, with a vision for a more equitable system for all

For a snapshot of the programs and activities that received funding through these laws, see the overview of BIL & IRA-supported **Climate and Wildfire Resilience Funding Opportunities**.

Ruidoso, New Mexico

In 2000, Ruidoso, NM was ranked as the most at-risk to wildfire community in the state by New Mexico State Forestry and second in the nation by the US Forest Service. Since then, the community has emerged as a model for collaborative, multi-jurisdictional wildfire mitigation and preparation efforts. Their proactive approach has garnered national recognition.

This summer, the community faces an unprecedented convergence of fires. We fervently hope that their ongoing efforts will be rewarded as they emerge from this disaster. You can support the immediate and long-term recovery needs for the people, animals, and places affected by the devastating wildfires in Southern New Mexico by donating through the **Southern New Mexico Wildfire Relief - Albuquerque Community Foundation (abqcf.org)**