



## **WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES RULE HALTED!**

MFPA partnered with other agriculture related organizations in Missouri and throughout the country to support Attorney General Andrew Bailey's lawsuit against President Biden's new definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS). If WOTUS would have not been halted it would have severely impacted our ability to harvest and process timber in Missouri.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - In a major win for Missouri farmers, Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey announced today that the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota has granted his motion for preliminary injunction halting President Biden's unconstitutional Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. This order comes mere days after President Biden vetoed legislation passed by a bipartisan coalition in Congress that would have overturned his overreaching interpretation of WOTUS. The Court's granted preliminary injunction overcomes the president's veto by blocking the rule.

"I filed suit against the Biden Administration because agriculture is one of Missouri's leading industries and our office is never going to let the federal government run roughshod over farmers throughout the state," said Attorney General Bailey. "His interpretation of WOTUS is nothing more than a land grab usurping the right of Missouri farmers to control their property, and I'm proud to have partnered with Missouri agriculture leaders on this issue."

"The Biden Administration's WOTUS rule is a disastrous policy that only serves to harm our farm families and small businesses, and we thank Attorney General Bailey for bringing this lawsuit and seeking this injunction," Governor Mike Parson said. "Bipartisan members of Congress agree this rule is unnecessary government intrusion, yet the Biden Administration refuses to listen. Alongside Attorney General Bailey, we will continue to fight against Washington D.C.'s radical climate agenda and toward clearer, more commonsense guidance on what regulated waters are and should be."

Attorney General Bailey filed suit with 23 other attorneys general against Biden's WOTUS rule that attempts to unconstitutionally expand federal authority over water throughout the country. The lawsuit asserted that President Biden's interpretation of WOTUS "goes beyond the power Congress delegated in the Clean Water Act, raises serious constitutional concerns, and runs roughshod over the Administrative Procedure Act."

The Trump administration replaced the Obama administration's controversial 2015 WOTUS rule with the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR), which created a clear distinction between federal waters and waters subject to the sole control of the states, their governmental subdivisions, and tribes.

President Biden signed an executive order on his first day in office that began the process of rolling back the Trump administration reforms, which was finalized in December when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its new rule re-pealing the NWPR and repackaged the 2015 Obama rule. The new rule redefines "navigable waters" to include ponds, certain streams, ditches, and other bodies of water under the Clean Waters Act, as determined by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Joining Missouri in this lawsuit are the attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

The Court's order can be read here: [https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/wotus-preliminary-injunction-granted-c1.pdf?sfvrsn=9e2f1450\\_2](https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/wotus-preliminary-injunction-granted-c1.pdf?sfvrsn=9e2f1450_2)

The original lawsuit can be read here: [https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/as-filed-wotus-rule-c1.pdf?sfvrsn=89fd5df4\\_2](https://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/as-filed-wotus-rule-c1.pdf?sfvrsn=89fd5df4_2)

## In this issue.....

page 1

- WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES RULE HALTED!

page 2

- Welcome New Members

page 3

- Certification & Education

page 4

- 2023 Summer Meeting

page 5

- Farm Bill Forestry Workforce Initiative

page 6

- Midwest Timber Exports Logger Program

## WELCOME NEW MFPA MEMBERS

**Company:** Cody Martin Logging LLC

**Contact:** Cody Martin

**Email:** jcmlogging84@gmail.com

## Our Mission

*Missouri Forest Products Association is dedicated to serving and promoting the forest products industry of Missouri. Founded in 1970, MFPA has over 300 members representing primary and secondary wood industry, supplier and service industries, loggers and landowners. MFPA advocates sustainable management and sound stewardship of Missouri's forests to benefit current and future generations.*

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# CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION



Mark McCarthy



I don't want to be one of those people that talk about how winter has finally breathed its last breath of the year. I am not going to do it. For all I know, considering Missouri weather, we might need jackets on Labor Day. What I WILL talk about are some of the "notes" laying around my desk. First, something good. After a lull of a couple of years, the number of participants is going back up for the Professional Timber Harvester classes. That's great news. PTH is a wonderful learning opportunity. It's good to know the woods are a little safer with more PTH classes. Another good thing is the upcoming Missouri Logging Council Area Meeting/Log A Load Sporting Clays Shoot. If you want to shoot, the Shoot is scheduled for 9:30 April 28 at Ozark Shooters. The free lunch and meeting start immediately after the shoot. If you want to RSVP, call our office; (573) 634-3252, or [mark@moforest.org](mailto:mark@moforest.org). Speaking of meetings....the Summer meeting is coming kind of quickly. July 28 and 29 are just around the corner. With the Summer Meeting is the Log A Load for Kids Golf Tournament. We had a great time last year, and its shaping to be another good time. Speaking of good times.....it's always a good time to work on your continuing education credit so you can maintain your PTH certification. Remember 1 credit every year is all it takes. My last note is about picking up rotisserie chicken...oops, I think that's for dinner, not the newsletter. Enjoy your Spring!

## Professional Timber Harvester 2023 Class Schedule

Location	Cutting 1&2	Cutting 3&4	Forest Management
Springfield	August 14-15	August 28-29	August 24
Ava	October 16-17	October 18	November 2-3
Poplar Bluff	November 6-7	December 4-5	November 28

### Area Meeting- Ozark Shooters Complex

The Missouri Logging Council invites you to join us with our friends around southwest-Missouri for an Area Meeting. As part of the meeting, there will be a Sporting Clays shooting match. The cost is \$500 per team of 4, or \$125 for an individual. All proceeds will go to Log A Load For Kids. If you don't want to shoot, you can still participate. A free lunch will be provided following the shoot. MLC events, industry updates will be covered during the lunch meeting. Earn your Continuing Education Credit for PTH certification.

When: Friday, April 28, 2023 9:30am  
 Where: Ozark Shooters Complex  
 759 US-65, Walnut Shade, MO

RSVP to [mark@moforest.org](mailto:mark@moforest.org) or call 573-634-3252

### Justin Foster PTH Logger Training Scholarship

The Missouri Logging Council (MLC) is pleased to announce that the Justin Foster Scholarship for Young Loggers is available again this year. The Justin Foster PTH Logger Training Scholarship was established by the Foster family in memory of their son, Justin Eli Foster, who was a graduate, and supporter, of the Professional Timber Harvester training. The annual scholarship provides assistance to a logger 29 or younger by covering PTH training fees and expenses to attend the training. Please contact Mark for an application, [mark@moforest.org](mailto:mark@moforest.org) or 573-634-3252.

# Farm Bill Forestry Workforce Initiative

MFPA has signed a letter that requests the 2023 Farm Bill include language and funding that directs the Secretary of Agriculture to create a grant program to establish immersive pathway training programs focused on the workforce development needs of the forestry industry and rural forest-based economies. The signatories urge the Agriculture Committee to include language and funding in the 2023 Farm Bill that directs the Secretary of Agriculture to create a grant program to establish immersive pathway training programs focused on the workforce development needs of the forestry industry.

Key components of a forestry workforce pathway program include education opportunities to expand high school forestry curriculum, workforce diversification that provides increased awareness of career pathways in the forest products industry, and training programs that offer residential short duration (240 hours) in forest operations and wood product industries.

The letter explains that industry-wide labor shortages are limiting modernization and growth investments in existing and new forest product manufacturing facilities. For example, the existing labor pool in the logging sector is aging rapidly. Less than 25 percent of logging business owners are under 40 years old. Fifty-five is the average age of owners/operators, and approximately 30 percent of owners/operators are planning to leave the business within five years.

Regional forest industry training hubs would allow participants to stay in or near their communities, which reduces the cost to participate and affords program developers increased flexibility in adapting training curricula to meet regional needs through ties to local forest product employers. The forest products industry struggles to find a trained and skilled workforce at all levels, with an estimated 40-60 percent of young adults leaving rural forest-based economies for employment opportunities elsewhere.

Click below for original letter:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sijtun2juib20fc/FRA%20State%20Association%20Workforce%20Letter.docx?dl=0>



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# 2023 Summer Meeting

Chateau on the Lake

Resort Spa & Convention Center

Branson, MO

July 28-29

Save the date for the 2023 MFPA Annual Summer Meeting in Branson MO where there's great opportunities for involvement in the industry's growth, networking, entertainment, and socializing. One of the opportunities is support for Log A Load for Kids by participating in the golf tournament Saturday afternoon. Log A Load for Kids is a local organization made up of members of the forestry community that come together to raise money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. 100 percent of the funds stay local to provide vital medical equipment for the neonatal and pediatric units at our local children's hospitals. We hope that you plan on attending the 2023 Summer Meeting.



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# 2023 SUMMER MEETING

## Sponsor Opportunities

Support your association by sponsoring a meeting or event at the Summer Meeting

(Get your sponsorships in early to be recognized in the Summer Meeting Agenda)

### FRIDAY

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Committee Meeting Refreshments	
Forest Health	___ \$200
Education & Technical Services	___ \$200
Governmental Affairs	___ \$200
MFP PAC	___ \$200
Board of Directors Meeting Refreshments	___ \$200
Co-Sponsors \$200 each	
Welcome Reception Exclusive Sponsor	___ \$2000
Co-Sponsors \$500 each	___ \$500

### SATURDAY

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Missouri Logging Council Board and General Membership Meeting	
Co-Sponsors \$200 each	___ \$200
General Education Session Exclusive Sponsor	___ \$1500
Co-Sponsors \$300 each	___ \$300
General Education Session Breaks	
Co-Sponsors \$250 each	___ \$250
Lunch Bar	___ \$1800
Co-Sponsors \$300 each	___ \$300
Member Dinner Exclusive Sponsor	___ \$2500
Co-Sponsors \$500 each	___ \$500

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