What opportunities do you see on the horizon for lumber?

In the world of softwood lumber, mass timber and CLT (cross-laminated timber) is growing. It’s a slower growth than many had hoped, but as more buildings and urban environments continue to convert from steel framing to timber, the impact on the demand for softwood lumber could be significant.

Something we’ve been working on recently is finding new and better ways to use wood residuals from lumber mills and logging operations. Two possibilities on the horizon: wood fiber insulation, which is already in early production in Maine and which is huge from a sustainability perspective (insulating homes with cellulose based, local products rather than petroleum-based foams). If we can create a higher-value use for residuals, this benefits the lumber industry from one side to the other.

The second opportunity involves 3D printing. Here at the Advanced Structures & Composites Center, we are heavily involved in large-format 3D printing, to the extent that we’re building a 90,000-sq. ft. addition to our current building just for this purpose. It will house research programs for bio-based 3D printing, which incorporates low-grade wood products and residuals (turned into wood flour) into the process. Ultimately, we’d like to transition the plastics used in printing from petroleum to bio-based as well. If we can eventually print homes, boats, and more, this creates a relief valve for the industry, plus an added value stream. Very exciting possibilities ahead!

For more on the Advanced Structures & Composites Center at the University of Maine, please visit www.composites.umaine.edu.

JEFF EASTERLING

Jeff Easterling is president of the Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Cumberland Center, Me. Reach him at info@nelma.org.

Two Coat Exterior Prime

Our two-coat process starts with an alkyd sealer to block tannin migration, followed by a high-performance acrylic primer. The result: RESERVE quality, inside and out.

Superior Wood

Made of quality, clear, finger-jointed Western Red Cedar or Redwood, these products are naturally designed for exterior use—both species are ideal for enduring extreme weather.

Surfacing + Sizes + Lengths

RESERVE products come in a wide range of sizes, lengths and finishes. Whether the project calls for S152E or S4S, we offer lengths ranging from 16’ to 20’. Pattern stock is also available.

- 1x4 – 1x12
- 2x4 – 2x12
- 3x4 – 3x12

The Finest Stock, The Best Coating

Our Siskiyou Forest Products RESERVE line is specially manufactured and treated to create the highest quality product available. Using state-of-the-art application and curing equipment, our premium Western Red Cedar and Redwood stock is made to last for many generations. We are proud to offer a beautiful, durable product that is ready for installation and final painting the moment it reaches the craftsmen.

SISKIYOU FOREST PRODUCTS

www.siskiyouforestproducts.com
800.427.8253 • 6275 Hwy 273 • Anderson, CA 96007