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Idaho Logger Continues to Grow, Expand

By Tim Cox



Danielson Logging in Idaho has come to rely on Quadco attachments for felling timber. Above, a Quadco B-Series high speed saw with 360-degree rotation handles small diameter timber. The saw head is attached to a TimberPro TL745C machine.

ST. MARIES, Idaho — Bob Danielson has been steadily growing his logging business. In the process, Danielson Logging has come to rely on Quadco attachments for felling timber. Bob has expanded his business into other areas, too.

Danielson Logging is based in St. Maries in northern Idaho. It is located 50-plus miles south of Coeur d'Alene and about 60-plus miles southeast of Spokane, Washington.

Bob came from a logging family — both his father and paternal grandfather were loggers.

When he was 20 he owned and operated a cedar sawmill that produced cedar

shakes for roofing. He ran the mill for about 10 years and had as many as 12-15 employees. “It was good business experience doing that,” he recalled. “That helped me when I started logging.”

He began doing some salvage logging, working by himself, in 1988 while he still owned the sawmill. He felled trees by hand with a chainsaw and used a Case dozer to skid the logs out of the woods. After a year he began hiring employees and adding equipment, and within a couple of years he made the change to mechanical logging. He added two cut-to-length machines, a harvester and a forwarder, to perform thins for a customer and maintained a cut-to-length

crew for 20 years along with tree-length logging operations.

Now 63, Bob's company currently has about 30-35 employees. It fields three crews in the woods, each normally working on different jobs, harvesting timber. Danielson Logging shoots for producing 50-60 loads of wood per day.

Although he harvests some timber off his own land, he mainly contracts to harvest timber for Inland Paper, Stimson Lumber, and PotlatchDeltic. Stimson operates stud mills while PotlatchDeltic produces plywood and dimension lumber. Inland Paper, which alone owns about 100,000 acres, sells the saw logs to lumber mills and buys chips



Right, Bob Danielson, owner of Danielson Logging. Also shown is Quadco representative Joel Doupé. Canadian-based Quadco manufactures hot saws, drum mowers, processors, and cutting tools. The Quadco Group includes Quadco, Southstar and Log Max.

for a pulp and newsprint mill in Spokane. All the mills Bob supplies are within 50-100 miles. His company has three logging trucks, so most hauling is done by trucking contractors.

Besides the logging crews, the company operates two crews that stay busy building logging roads. The company has three gravel pits where it crushes rock, which is used in the road-building operations and also is sold to other businesses that use crushed stone for building roads.

The company may find itself working in elevations ranging from 2,500 to 4-5,000 feet; the typical elevation is 3-4,000 feet.

“We have snow on jobs right now,” Bob said when he was interviewed in late October. “We’re supposed to get a foot this weekend. It could be three to four feet easily in the weeks ahead.” If conditions deteriorate because of heavy snow, crews can move to jobs at lower elevation. “Sometimes snow blows and drifts over the roads,” noted Bob.

However, crews will work through the winter. Spring break-up comes by the end of February and early March, and the company will shut down for 6-8 weeks.

Danielson Logging has an assortment of forestry machines, mainly John Deere and TimberPro, as well as numerous ma-

chines for its rock crushing and road building operations, mostly John Deere and Caterpillar. The company has three Quadco hot saws, a Southstar FL750 felling head, three Log Max 10000 or 10000XT harvester heads and a Log Max 7000XT.

One logging crew is equipped with a TimberPro 745 and Quadco hot saw attachment, a John Deere 3756 shovel, and a John Deere 3736 shovel with a Log Max 10000 XT for processing the trees. The crew occasionally also uses another shovel and a John Deere 948L skidder.

The second crew is similarly equipped with a TimberPro 745 and Quadco hot saw, a shovel and a skidder, and two processors.

The third crew is equipped for operations on steep slopes. A winch summit system is tethered to a TimberPro 765 with a SouthStar 750 felling head. A John Deere 3756 is used as a yoder with a winch assist system from Summit Attachments & Machinery. The crew also is equipped with a shovel and grapple skidder as needed.

Slash usually is piled and burned. If the job is close to a cogeneration plant, sometimes the customer will hire a contractor to grind the material for boiler fuel. “But the market usually doesn’t dictate that,” said Bob. The material is either piled and burned or left to rot and return nutrients to the soil.

One of the jobs the company currently is working on is a stewardship contract for the U.S. Forest Service, a 10-year timber sale in the St. Joe National Forest. Two crews and eight employees are working on the job. One runs a TimberPro 745 with Quadco hot saw and shovels and skids the logs to a landing where a John Deere 3756 with a Log Max 10000 processes them. The second crew is using the summit-tethered harvester on steep terrain, using a combination of shovel, skidder and yarding system to get the logs to the landing.

Bob has been using Quadco felling attachments for more than 20 years. He previously used Timbco bar saws. A few years later the company transitioned to Quadco hot saws “and we never looked back,” he said.

“They’re just bullet-proof,” said Bob. “They get the job done quick.”

“We have a lot of small timber,” he said, “understory that has to be cut out of the way. We cut a lot of small pulp. The Quadco hot saw can cut it faster and more efficiently.”

Not only that, the Quadco hot saws are durable. “You can go through two bunchers and keep the same Quadco,” noted Bob. “The Quadco will outlast” other felling heads.

The Quadco attachments are also “real low maintenance,” said Bob.

Canadian-based Quadco manufactures hot saws, drum mowers, processors, and cutting tools. The Quadco Group includes Quadco, Southstar and Log Max, brands that offer a combined selection of over 50 forestry attachments. With a variety of products backed by strong support, Quadco is building a stronger presence within the logging industry.

Quadco offers its B series felling attachments for large diameter timber and the C series heads for accumulating smaller trees. The B series attachments feature an arms-down design, and the arms are separated or offset for better tree control and maximum holding power. Both the grab arms and accumulator arms are powered by two cylinders. The company offers a number of models in each series for various cutting capacities.

Quadco offers intermittent saw and bar saw felling attachments for large diameter timber as well as bunching saw and bunching shear heads. The company offers a cut-to-length attachment for harvesting and processing trees and also distributes Keto harvester attachments.



Danielson Logging has an assortment of Quadco forestry attachments, including the Quadco brand, Southstar, and Log Max. Above, a TimberPro TL765C machine is shown working with a Southstar FD750 felling head.

Quadco offers several brands of teeth for disc saw heads, including QuadTooth® and Beaver Tooth®.

With feedback from loggers, Quadco has developed products that have been proven in the toughest conditions and are known for superior reliability and durability.

Headquartered near Montreal, Quadco has manufacturing operations in Canada and has facilities for parts and service in Lexington, South Carolina, and Kalama, Washington.

(For more information about Quadco products, visit the company's website at www.quadco.com, email info@quadco.com, or call (800) 668-3340.)

Over the years Bob has made machinery purchases from Pape Machinery, which represents John Deere and has a dealership in Spokane, Washington. He also has purchased Cat equipment from Western States Cat, which has several locations in Idaho as well as other states.

Bob has been heavily involved in overseeing his company's logging operations and preparing bids for jobs, but earlier this year he hired a forester to take on most of that responsibility so he can devote more time to managing the company's rock crushing business. "I've needed a forester for a long time."

"The rock business has really taken off," said Bob. "More people are moving into Idaho, and there's a lot of development going on, and they need crushed rock for

that." The state's population grew 28 percent from 1990-2000 and 21 percent from 2000-2010.

Bob's wife, Sally, is the company's bookkeeper. He has an affiliated property business, and a daughter, Leslie, sells real estate for that company. The property business has developed some housing projects and currently has three projects under way.

In his free time Bob enjoys going four-wheeling with his family, and boating, and fishing. He also has been and continues to be active in trade associations. He has been a member of the Intermountain Logging Conference for over 20 years and served as president in 2014. He also is a member of Associated Logging Contractors, a trade association of Idaho loggers; he has served as co-chair of the organization's board of directors as well as chairing several committees, including the committee that oversees the Idaho Pro-Logger logger training program.

Treating employees well, in compensation and benefits, is important to Bob, and he believes it pays dividends for his business. His company offers a 401(k) retirement plan and matches employee contributions up to 4 percent. The business also pays the group health insurance premium for employees.


"Paying your people well and having good benefits for them pays," said Bob, "because when you have the best equipment out there, if you don't have good crews out there

and taking care of the ground, you're behind. We pay well and have good employees, and they stick around." New, young employees receive training, and the company sends them to the Idaho Pro-Logger program for timber harvesting training. "It helps keep us in the lead on what we're doing," said Bob.

"We have some employees who have been with us for 20-30 years, so we take good care of our people," said Bob. "They help take care of our business, and we keep growing every year.

"It's important to have the best equipment to operate efficiently, but you can't do that without good people. And we have a lot of good people here. I can't say enough about the people we have."

Danielson Logging was one of the first logging companies in Idaho to invest in a tethered timber harvesting system, according to Bob — using a winch at the summit to enable a track harvester to work on steep inclines. "A few more are doing it now," he said, although there is only one other logging contractor in the immediate area with a similar system. "We're doing a lot of tethering and mechanical cutting...That seems to be putting us ahead of the curve."

Despite the pandemic of 2020, it's been a good year for business, observed Bob. "This year's been probably one of our best years." Plenty of wood and work has been available, and markets are good. "It's been full steam ahead." 

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