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Wood Fiber Pricing Highlighted Forest Industry Sentiment and Struggles in Early 2021

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – April 7, 2021 – While wood fiber prices in the Q1 2021 *Forisk Wood Fiber Review (FWFR)* provides a “snapshot” of current forest industry dynamics, the recent publication also captured shifts, concerns, and market sentiment across North America’s forest regions. The late-February wintery event that headlined in Texas was more widespread, as sawmills and pulp mills east to Mississippi struggled for several days during the worst of the cold. As one procurement forester put it, “This is the first week that I can remember that we didn’t buy a single load of anything.”

In California (and filed under “unintended” consequences), the 4 million burned acres of forests generated a surge of charred, salvage material subsidized by public agencies for biomass markets, creating local chaos for those selling ag waste and urban wood. In Canada, concerns in British Columbia over increased stumpage rates going into effect January 1 had sawmills harvesting and stockpiling logs at high rates at the end of 2020. However, concerns dissipated with high softwood lumber prices in early 2021 and to date.

Analysis of Q1 2021 wood fiber pricing by *FWFR* Editor Tim Gammell and Senior Analyst Andrew Copley highlighted key implications by North American region. For example:

- Fiber prices in the U.S. Southeast, after stabilizing in Q4 2020, increased (in part due to very wet weather). This was true for chips and roundwood.
- In the U.S. Lake States, fiber prices fell across the board for the second quarter in a row.
- In the Northeast, fiber prices held steady, aside from hardwood roundwood which fell 5%.
- In the Pacific Northwest, prices diverged by species: hardwood chip and roundwood prices increased 3% while softwood roundwood and chips fell 5 to 7%.
- Eastern Canada fiber prices were mixed in Quebec/Eastern as compared to the Maritimes.
- Western Canada showed quarterly price increases for chips in US dollars.

For more information or to subscribe to the [Forisk Wood Fiber Review](#), visit www.forisk.com or contact: Heather Clark, hclark@forisk.com, 770.725.8447.

About Forisk Consulting: Forisk delivers forecasts and analysis of forest industry markets and timberland investments. Firms participate in Forisk’s research program by subscribing to the *Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ)*, *Forisk Wood Fiber Review*, *Forisk Market Bulletin*, or the North American Forest Industry Capacity Database; supporting benchmarking studies related to forest operations and mill capacities; and attending educational workshops and the annual “Wood Flows & Cash Flows” conference. www.forisk.com.