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Western Fiber Pricing Diverged as Lumber Markets Fueled Turmoil

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – July 6, 2021 – Pricing trends in the Q2 2021 *Forisk Wood Fiber Review (FWFR)* highlight the impact of strong lumber markets on pulp-quality wood fiber. As sawmills across North America raced to take advantage of historic lumber prices, residual chip volumes flooded into fiber markets. Through Q2 2021, softwood chip prices are down 23% on average in the Pacific Northwest and softwood pulplugs are down 22%. This quarter, PNW price changes were minimal. “Chip and roundwood prices found a floor across much of the region,” according to *FWFR* Editor Tim Gammell.

Across the border in British Columbia, softwood chip prices are largely tied to market pulp prices for northern bleached softwood kraft (NBSK) pulp. A surge in NBSK pricing through the first half of 2021 fueled an increase in softwood chip prices despite sawmills increasing available supplies. With lumber prices still high and chip prices up 24% year-over-year, Forisk VP of Research Shawn Baker noted, “Sawmills in western Canada are benefitting from record prices on both their primary and secondary products.”

Wood fiber costs account for over half of total pulp manufacturing cost worldwide. The *Forisk Wood Fiber Review* includes prices and market commentary for all major North American regions, providing essential data for anyone that needs to track pulpwood, wood chips, and biomass prices in the world’s largest and most dynamic wood fiber markets. The *FWFR* provides updates of softwood and hardwood prices for all major markets in North America. Prices are reported for wood delivered to consuming plants as a range and average price. Each report also updates U.S. and Canada trade statistics for lumber, logs, wood pellets, wood chips and pulp.

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