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New Publication Shows Decline in U.S. Softwood Sawmill Capacities

Madison, Wis.— Although softwood sawmill production in the U.S. and Canada increased at an average of 13 percent over the past five years, a Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) publication indicates that this growth was not evenly distributed. According to Henry Spelter, an FPL economist and co-author of *Profile 2001: Softwood Sawmills in the United States and Canada*, production grew by 49% in the Maritime provinces of Canada, but increased only five to seven percent in British Columbia and the U.S. West. “*Profile 2001* points out the differential capacity trends for softwood sawmills in various regions of both countries, which is useful information in analyzing the impact of the recently expired softwood lumber agreement between the U.S. and Canada,” says Spelter.

Published by FPL, *Profile 2001* provides an updated overview of softwood sawmill capacities in the U.S. and Canada. It lists softwood sawmills in both countries by region, along with their capacity over the past six years. Maps that accompany the charts show the location of these sawmills, with maps of U.S. areas also depicting softwood roundwood inventory by county.

This free publication may be ordered by contacting FPL at 608-231-9200 (phone) or 608-231-9592 (fax), or by sending an e-mail message to mailroom_forest_products_laboratory@fs.fed.us. Please include the publication title or serial number (FPL-RP-579) in the request.

The USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory was established in 1910 in Madison, Wis., with the mission to conserve and extend the country's wood resources. Today, FPL's research scientists work with academic and industrial researchers and other government agencies in exploring ways to promote healthy forests and clean water, and improve papermaking and recycling processes. Information is available at FPL's Web site: www.fpl.fs.fed.us. Through FPL's Advanced Housing Research Center, (www.fpl.fs.fed.us/ahrc/), researchers also work to improve homebuilding technologies and materials.

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