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# Local Use Lumber Programs and an Alaskan Potential

# What is a Local Use Lumber program

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- It is state law/regulation in seven states allowing non graded/stamped locally produced dimensional lumber in some construction applications.
- It is an exemption to a building code that requires grade stamped lumber.
- It is focused on small mill operators to enter home construction markets
- Training in visual grading
- Allows the home inspector to reject the wood.







## Restrictions of Local Use Lumber Programs

- In some states the lumber must be sold to the end user.
- Most states only allow residential (one- or two-family home) construction 3 stories or less as well as out buildings.
- The mill operator must take and pass a grading course. The certification of the mill operator only lasts for 5 years and the mill operator provides a certificate with the milled product.
- Applies mostly to softwood

# The Wisconsin Example

- The Training Program – Five Year Certification provided by CES
  - A highly focused one day course focusing on lumber grading requirements and wood science (wood structure, moisture relations and drying, shrinkage and mechanical properties)

Simplified Grade	Description
Number 2 and Better	Substitute equivalent to <b>Number 2 Grade</b> of Structural Light Framing, Joists and Planks and <b>Standard grade</b> of the Light Framing use categories
Stud Grade	Equivalent to Stud Grade of the Bureau grading rules used in residential construction
Number 3 Grade	Substitute equivalent to <b>Number 3 Grade</b> of Structural Light Framing, Joists and Planks and <b>Utility grade</b> of the Light Framing use categories

# Wisconsin Example continued

- When sold, the mill provides a written certification of
  - Tally – number of pieces for each nominal size and grade
  - Use of non-standard sizes if applicable
  - Moisture Content -
    - Green – in excess of 19%
    - Partially Air Dried – seasoning has begun but MC is still greater than 19%
    - Dry – Wood has been dried to at least 19%
    - Kiln Dried – seasoned in a chamber to a pre-determined MC
  - Surface Condition
    - Surfaced lumber – generally dressed to S4S (surfaced four sides) unless otherwise specified
    - Sawn-To-Size (Saw-Sized) Lumber – Sawn to the dressed size for surfaced lumber but not planed on the faces
    - Rough Lumber – Lumber that has not been dressed

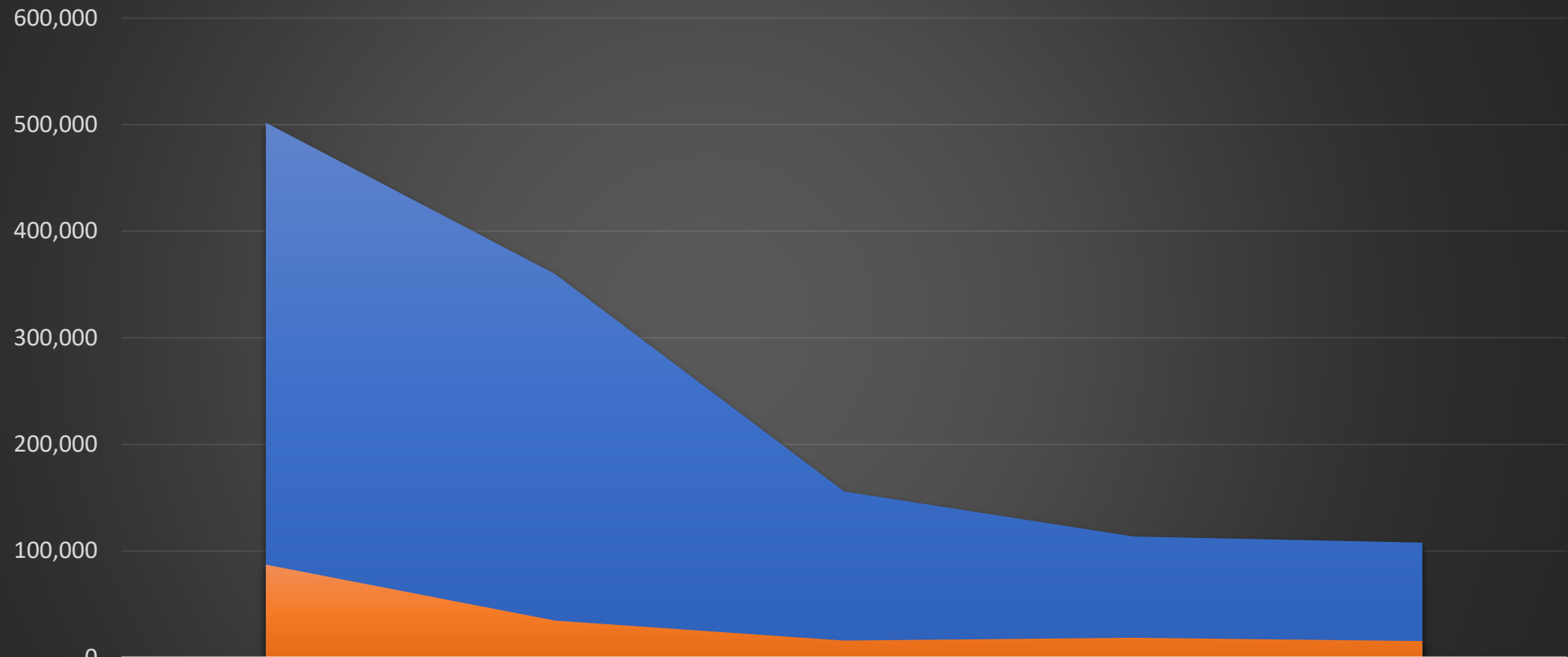




## Why is this needed in Alaska

- Wood Prices are increasing home construction
  - NAHB – wood prices add \$14,345 to new single family home construction
  - AHFC – cites high cost of construction as reason new building permits fell 15%
- Canadian import tariffs on softwood raised to 17.99% in 2022
- Alaska imports about \$20 million in wood products from Canada
  - Even more from the L48
- Forest Management opportunities
- Economic opportunities (Rural Communities)
- Milling Capacity

## Dimensional Lumber Production Capacity in Alaska (MBF)



	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
■ Sawmill Capacity	501,850	359,850	155,850	113,650	107,900
■ Estimated Production	87,117	34,695	15,807	18,540	15,544





# Alaska Local Use Lumber

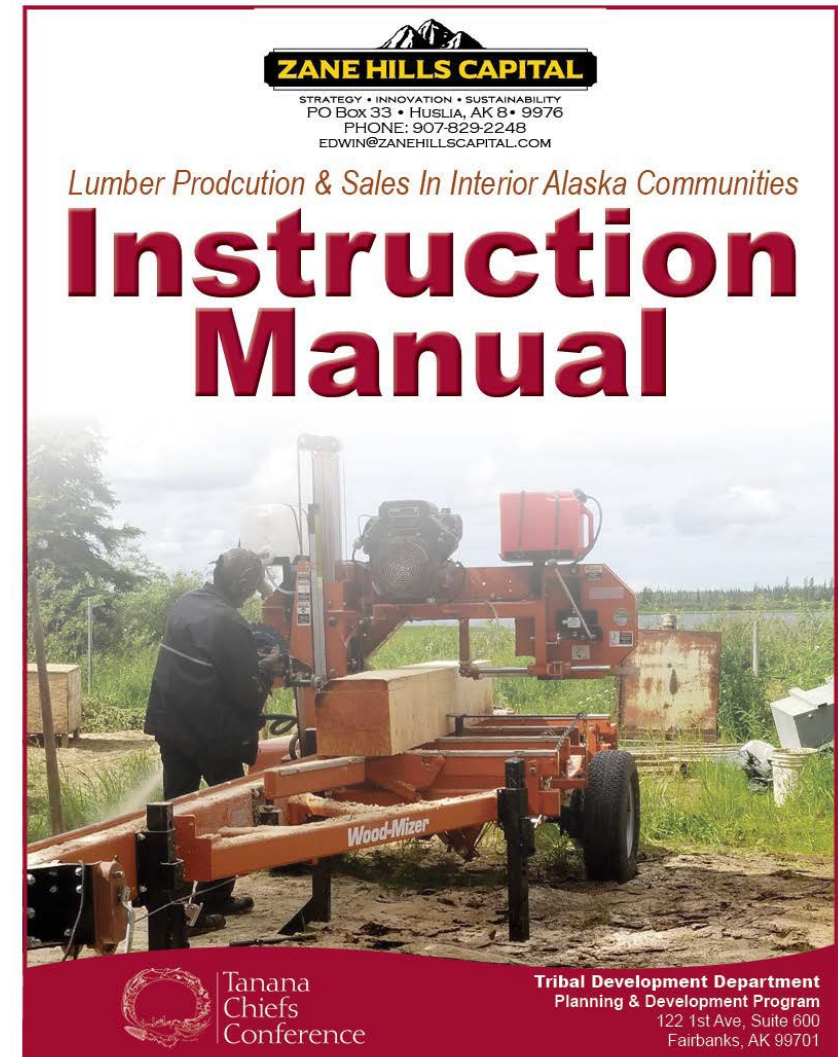
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- Sales of small mills have increased significantly in the last 2 years.
  - *“A year and half ago, Rittgers said he was taking orders for one sawmill a week. Now, he and his daughter take deposits for three or four sawmills a day.”* - Alaska Public Media
- Increase use of state forests and forest classified state land.
- Potentially increase harvest on ANCSA corporation land.
- Opportunity for Native Allotment owners
- Opportunities for private landowners
- Increase economic opportunities in rural communities
- Partner with entities that could provide the training such as the UAF cooperative extension forestry program



# Rural Alaska Example

- TCC business model example:
  - Average price of 8' 2X4 in Fairbanks – \$9.44
  - Average total price of barging 8' 2X4 to interior communities - \$12.00
  - Average total price of air shipment 8' 2x4 to interior communities - \$21.00
  - Total average price of one 8' 2x4 in interior communities – \$21.44 to \$30.44
- Grading and stamping requirements are an obstacle.



# Updates

- Engaging UAF CES on capabilities to develop training
- Starting Discussions with FPL on development of grading standards for Alaskan species
- Meeting with Wisconsin DNR to understand the administrative details of their program
- The inclusion of visually graded timbers into a program like this.

# Questions??

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