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# NEWS

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Southwest Colorado Logger Recognized as Logger of the Year**

**DEL NORTE, Colo.** – Del Norte logger Michael Rue has received the 2015 Colorado Outstanding Logger of the Year Award for outstanding timber harvesting efforts in southwest Colorado. The award is offered through the Colorado State Tree Farm Committee, which is an affiliate of the American Tree Farm System, and the Colorado Timber Industry Association (CTIA).

Rue operates Del Norte-based Michael Rue Logging, which for 34 years has harvested timber and provided logging services on federal, state, tribal and private forestlands in southwest Colorado. He was presented the award at a joint meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Society of American Foresters, CTIA and Colorado Tree Farmers held in Glenwood Springs on May 8.

“Mike and his logging crew are professional, safe and excellent to work and do business with. He fully understands the inherent risks and dangers of logging and promotes a safe operation, while complying with measures to protect the forest resources,” said Dan Wand, assistant district forester for the Colorado State Forest Service Durango District. Wand nominated Rue for the award, with support from other foresters who have supervised Rue’s logging.

Rue has three full-time employees and his logging operation typically involves heavy equipment including a feller-buncher, log skidders and loaders, a bulldozer and a logging truck. He also works with other independent truckers to haul logs to the mill.

Rue Logging networks within the logging and sawmill industry to provide timber from southwest Colorado to create forest products. The current spruce beetle epidemic in the San Juan/Rio Grande National Forests has more recently focused Rue’s efforts on spruce-fir forest types. He also works within mixed-conifer forests, harvesting white fir, Douglas-fir, aspen and ponderosa pine for various market outlets that may process logs, beams, boards, paneling and other wood products.

The Outstanding Logger of the Year Award was first initiated by the Colorado State Tree Farm Committee in 1988 to recognize loggers or logging companies doing an outstanding job of harvesting timber in the state.

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