



**Contact: Laura Brookshire**

Phone: (573) 634-3252

Fax: (573) 636-2591

Laura@moforest.org

505 East State Street

Jefferson City, MO 65101

www.moforest.org

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **National Forest Products Week October 19th - 25th, 2014**

In 1960, a Congressional Joint Resolution by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed Public Law 86-753 which provided for the establishment of an annual 7-day National Forest Products Week beginning on the third Sunday in October. America's forests are a source of pride and they provide crucial products and materials for our citizens and communities.

This week is also Missouri Forest Products Week, a time to recognize the many products that come from Missouri forests. It's a celebration of the people who work in and manage our forests, those who make the products, and how they all contribute to our lives. We recognize the importance of our forests to our economy and way of life and we reaffirm our commitment to protecting them through wise stewardship and sensible land management.

"Missouri's forest products are a vital component of the state's economy," according to Missouri Forest Products Association Executive Director, Brian Brookshire. Brookshire emphasized, "Forest products industries contribute about \$7.3 billion annually to Missouri's economy. It supports more than 41,200 jobs at a payroll of about \$1.9 billion and is responsible for almost \$610 million in taxes, including \$77 million in state sales tax." Missouri is home to almost 500 primary wood products producers, which includes logging and saw mills; and over 900 secondary wood products producers including furniture, millwork, cabinetry, and other consumer products.

Missouri's forests extend over 14 million acres where three out of four trees are white oaks, red oaks, and hickories. Brookshire explained, "Missouri Forest Products Association promotes healthy and productive forests and the success and wellbeing of Missouri's forest products industries. We believe active forest management, utilizing sound forestry principles, is the key to addressing forest health now and ensuring a healthy and sustainable forest for the future. That is why we take the time each year to celebrate and recognize the contribution of Missouri forests and forest products."

*Missouri Forest Products Association (MFPA) is a statewide association whose mission is to encourage the wise use and conservation of our nation's natural resources and promote the business of all forest-related industries and encourages closer working relationships among forest products firms, forest owners, producers, and harvesters. For more information you can visit [www.moforest.org](http://www.moforest.org).*

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