

Trees and Forests:

Many tree species from all over the world provide the raw material for lumber production. Trees are a renewable resource that also produce oxygen and provide shelter and food to many different organisms, including birds and beavers. Some trees that are used in the production of lumber come from forests, including rainforests, which have high biodiversity. Forests are important ecosystems that also sequester carbon, filter water, and reduce soil erosion. Removing trees for lumber production negatively affects these and other ecosystem functions.

Tree Plantations:

Tree plantations are commercial forests where trees are grown and harvested specifically so that they can be used to produce goods, like lumber. Plantations may occur in areas that are not well suited to other forms of agriculture, like wetlands. However, wetlands also serve important functions in water purification and the provision of wildlife habitats.

Pests & Diseases:

Lumber production can be affected by wood pests and diseases. Insects like the mountain pine beetle and diseases like white pine blister rust can result in severe economic losses and ecosystem damage. Pests and diseases like these may be introduced to tree populations through the lumber trade and travel.

Scientists:

Scientific researchers might impact the lumber industry through the development of new processing methods and alternative building materials. The effects of forestry on biodiversity and other ecosystem services might also be revealed through scientific research.

LUMBER:

Lumber is a processed wood product that is used as a building material.

Big Business:

Canada is one of the world's largest lumber producers. Canfor, West Fraser, Tolko, Resolute, and Western Forest Products are among the most profitable and productive lumber companies in the country. These companies provide lumber to manufacturers and consumers in Canada and across the globe. Lumber is often treated and preserved using a variety of corrosive chemicals, like amine copper quat and copper azole.

Activists:

Anti-logging activists may interrupt logging activities and lumber sales by protesting tree harvesting practices, reporting illegal-logging activities, sabotaging logging efforts, or by boycotting wood products. Labour strikes undertaken by those working in logging or sawmilling industries might also interfere with the production and sale of lumber products.



Retailers:

Retailers are responsible for selling lumber and lumber products to consumers. Such retailers might include large "box stores", like The Home Depot or Lowes. However, smaller, community-based retailers may also supply such products to their customers.

Consumers:

Consumers purchase lumber and lumber products for a variety of purposes. For instance, many components of homes, including walls, roofs, doors, flooring, and furniture require lumber and other wood products. Several recreational goods are also made with lumber and wood products, including guitars, hockey sticks, and playground equipment.

Regulators:

In Canada, the lumber industry is regulated by the government. The *Department of Natural Resources* regulates where and how many trees can be legally harvested. The *Department of Global Affairs* determines the standards for exporting and importing goods, such as lumber. Currently, soft wood lumber is a controlled commodity due to disputes between the US and Canada. Even though the lumber industry is regulated, in 2014, Global Forest Watch named Canada as the largest contributor to global deforestation.

Workers:

Many workers are involved in the production of lumber. Loggers are responsible for harvesting trees and transporting them from place to place, while sawmill labourers take on the task of processing the harvested wood. These jobs are often characterized by low wages, job insecurity, and a variety of occupational health and safety hazards.