




# North American Wood Pole Council Update

**“The Electric Utility’s Material of Choice”**

**Henry Walthert**  
Executive Director  
Canadian Institute of Treated Wood  
Secretary  
North American Wood Pole Council

## North American Wood Pole Council (NAWPC).



**North American Wood Pole Council  
(NAWPC).  
MEMBERS**

**CITW**

**SPTA**

**WWPI**

**Goal: Be the Pole Industry's  
communication link with the users.**



**North American Wood Pole Council (NAWPC).**

**INFORMATION TRANSFER**

- Trade Shows and Conferences.
- Technical Bulletins and Articles.
- Toll Free Number
- Web site.

**ENGINEERED BY NATURE**  
**ENHANCED BY TECHNOLOGY**

# North American Wood Pole Council

HOME LINKS CONTACT

**WOODPOLES.ORG**

**Welcome**

The North American Wood Pole Council is an independent council representing the producers and suppliers of wood poles and crossarms in North America. A primary focus of the council is to provide independent evaluation of the information. If inaccuracies are noted, users are urged to contact the Council as well as the source of the specific documents with their views.

**North American Wood Pole Council (NAWPC).**

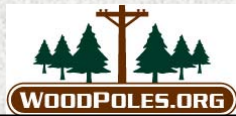
- ❑ **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**
  - Standards: ANSI 05 and National Electrical Safety Code.
  - Technical concerns that arise.
  - Council is preservative neutral.

North American Wood Pole Council (NAWPC).

- Supports Research Programs
  - Pole Dimension Study

**ANSI Data Collection Project**

□ CDF	9 Producers & 11 locations	6,185 poles
□ NRP	2 Producers & 3 locations	2,122 poles
□ SYP	11 Producers & 16 locations	5,429 poles
□ WRC	5 Producers & 9 locations	<u>5,791 poles</u>
□ Grand Total		<b>19,527 poles</b>

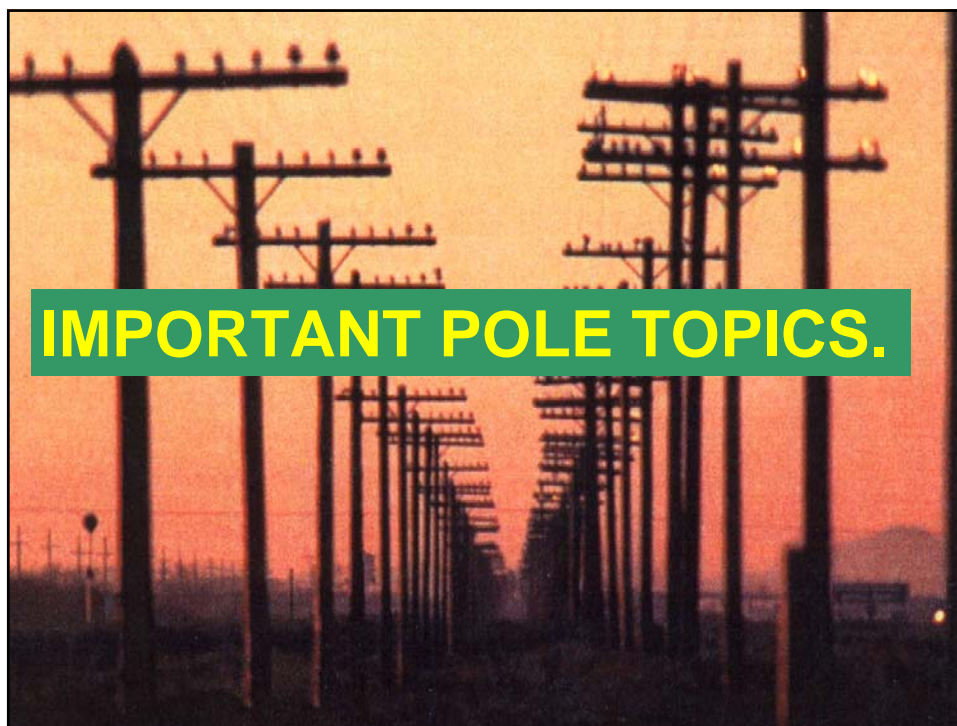


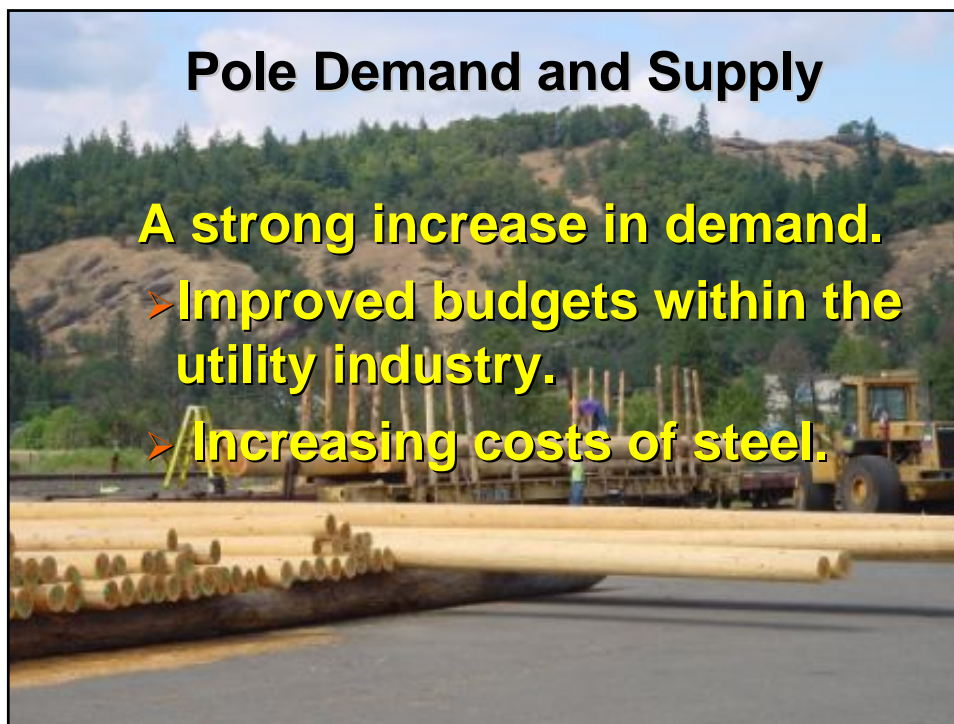
North American Wood Pole Council (NAWPC).

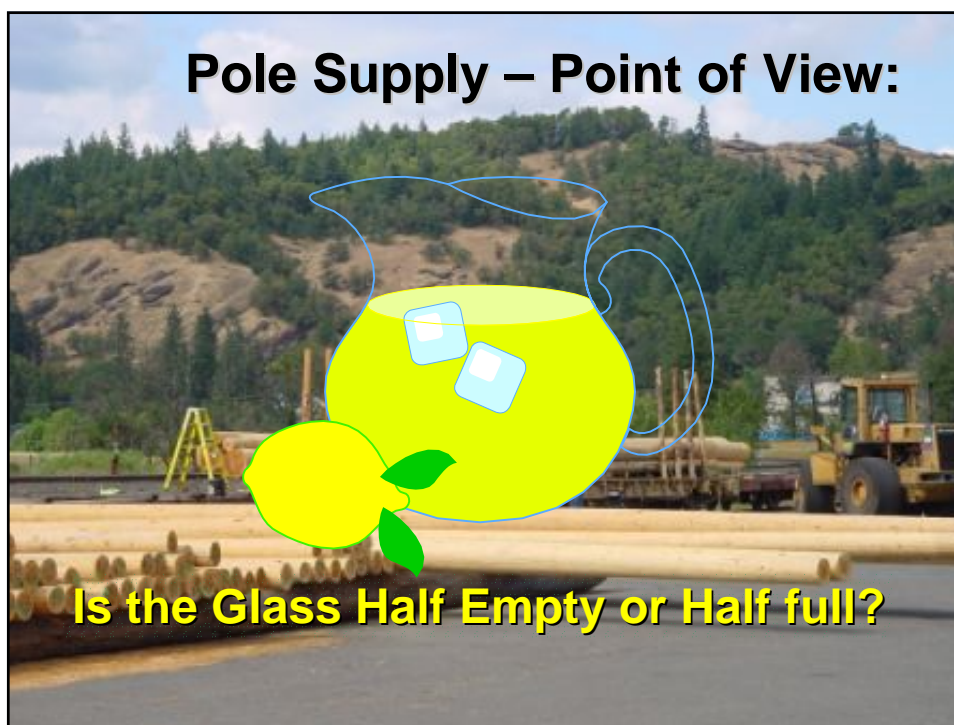
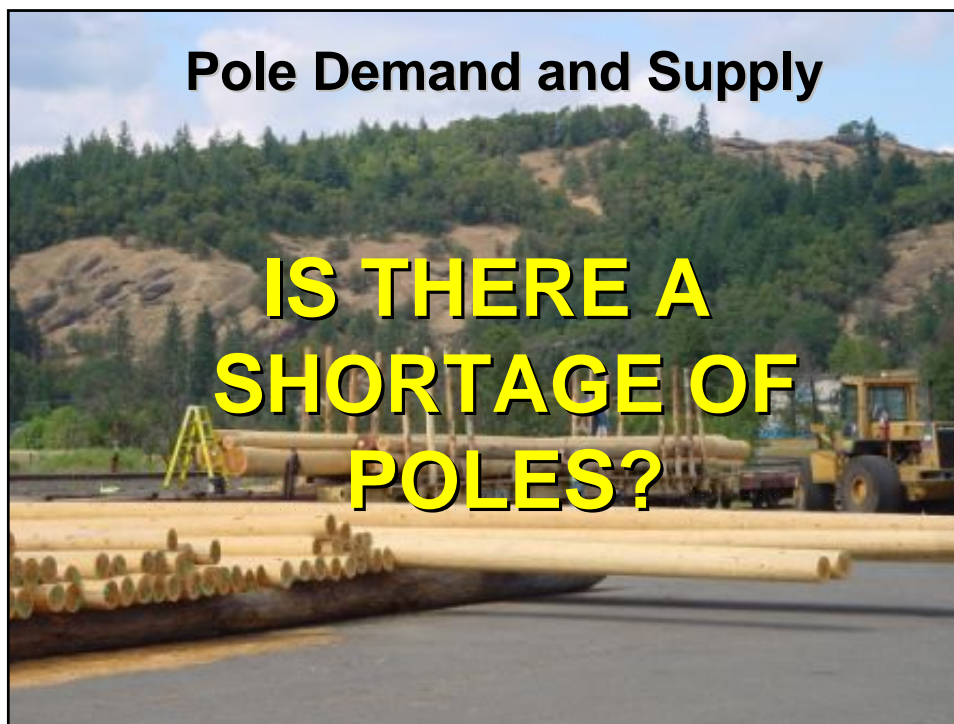
- Supports Research Programs
  - Through Boring Research.



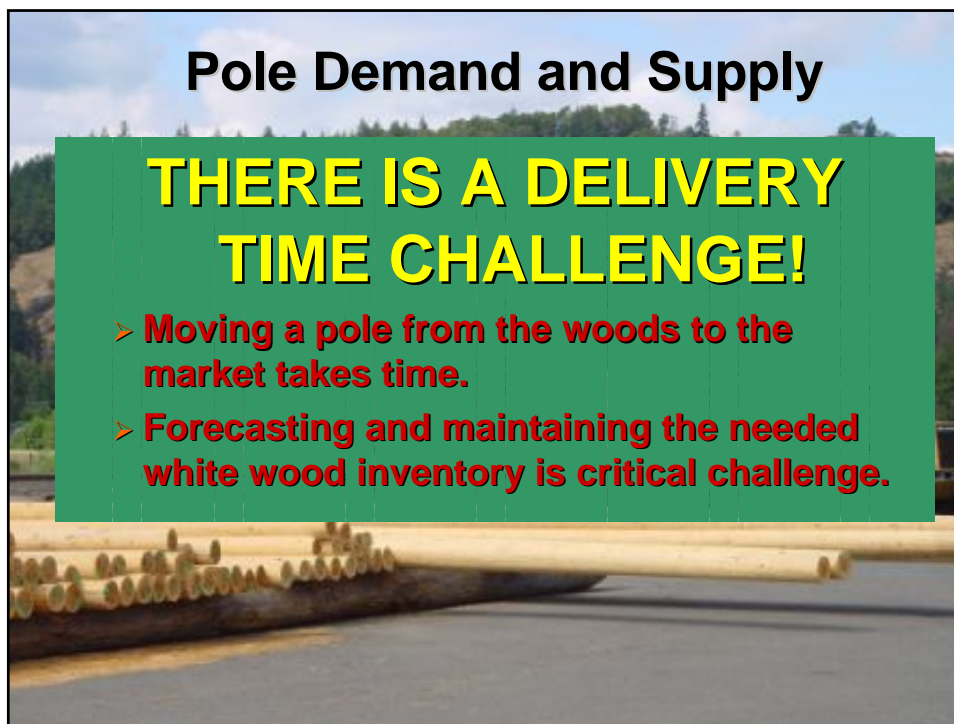








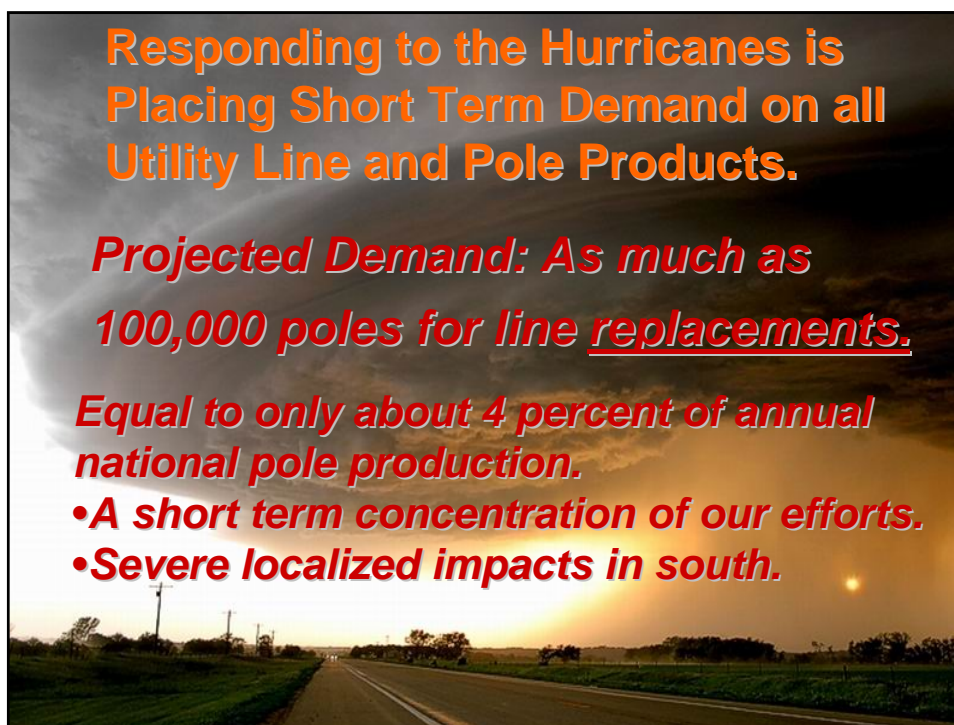




## Pole Demand and Supply

# THERE IS A DELIVERY TIME CHALLENGE!

- **Moving a pole from the woods to the market takes time.**
- **Forecasting and maintaining the needed white wood inventory is critical challenge.**



## Responding to the Hurricanes is Placing Short Term Demand on all Utility Line and Pole Products.

***Projected Demand: As much as 100,000 poles for line replacements.***

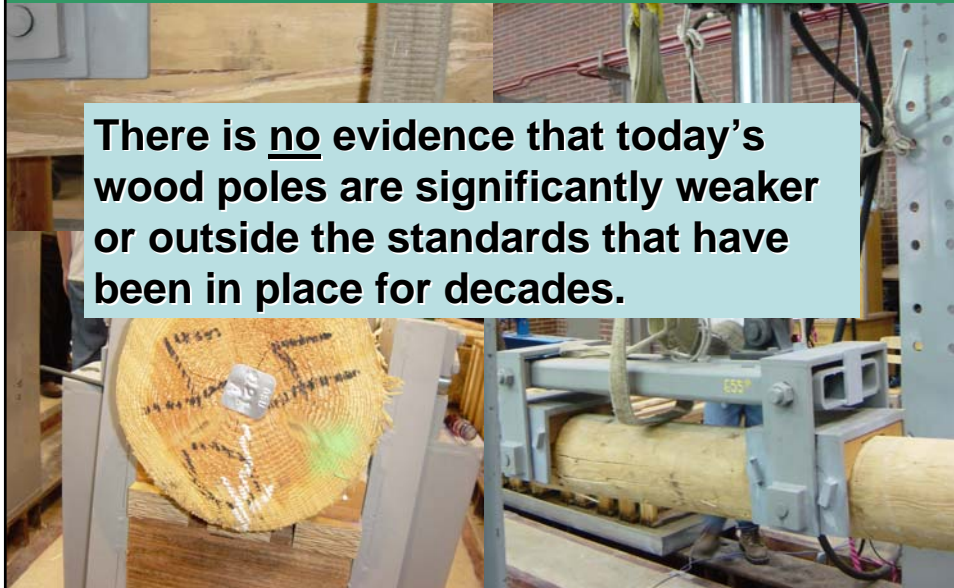
***Equal to only about 4 percent of annual national pole production.***

- ***A short term concentration of our efforts.***
- ***Severe localized impacts in south.***

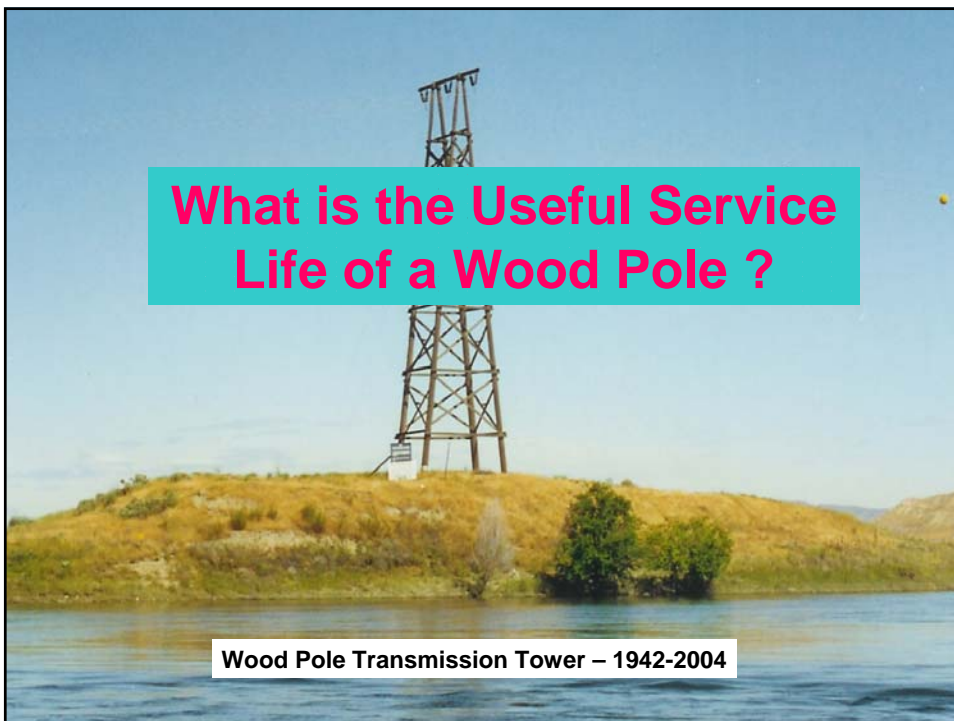


## Wood Pole and Crossarm Strength. Were the “good old days” really better?

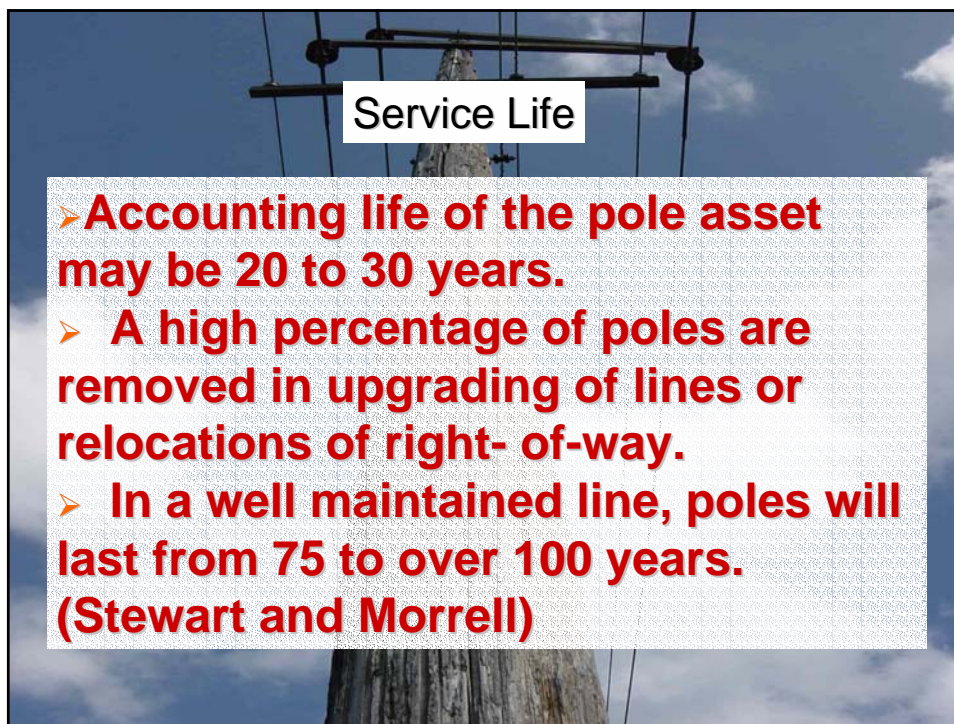
There is no evidence that today’s wood poles are significantly weaker or outside the standards that have been in place for decades.



## What is the Useful Service Life of a Wood Pole ?



Wood Pole Transmission Tower – 1942-2004




**Service Life**

- **Accounting life of the pole asset may be 20 to 30 years.**
- **A high percentage of poles are removed in upgrading of lines or relocations of right- of-way.**
- **In a well maintained line, poles will last from 75 to over 100 years.**

**(Stewart and Morrell)**

## **Life Cycle Economics.**

- ❑ **130 million treated wood poles currently in service in the U.S. (USWAG).**
- ❑ **Several million new poles each year.**
- ❑ **>99% of distribution poles are wood.**
- ❑ **Major player in Transmission.**
- ❑ **EDM Competitive Products Research (1996): Wood total life cycle costs 15 – 25% less than alternatives.**
- ❑ **Competitive position has only improved with increases in steel costs.**
- ❑ **Any higher inspection and maintenance cost offset by discounted purchase savings.**



**WOODPOLES.ORG**

ENGINEERED BY NATURE  
ENHANCED BY TECHNOLOGY

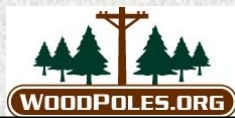
## Disposal

**What do you do with the pole taken out of service?**

**Re-use.**

**Co-generation.**

**Land filling.**



## Sustainability – Back to Basics

**The Formula For An  
Economic And  
Environmentally  
Sustainable Utility  
Pole.**



## Sustainability – Back to Basics Begin With One Starter Kit.



WOODPOLES.ORG



## Sustainability – Back to Basics

## Prepare for use.



WOODPOLES.ORG



### Sustainability – Back to Basics

## Take One Part Soil.



WOODPOLES.ORG

ENGINEERED BY NATURE  
ENHANCED BY TECHNOLOGY

### Sustainability – Back to Basics

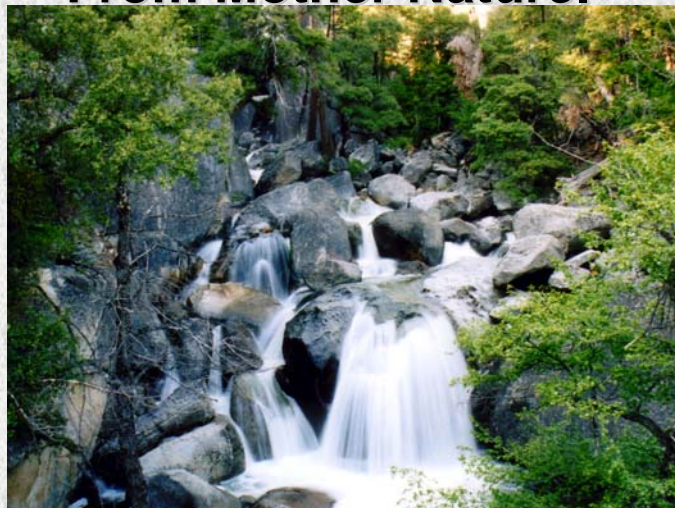
## Combine Starter Kit & Soil.



WOODPOLES.ORG

ENGINEERED BY NATURE  
ENHANCED BY TECHNOLOGY

Sustainability – Back to Basics  
**Add Generous Supply Of Water  
From Mother Nature.**



**WOODPOLES.ORG**



Sustainability – Back to Basics  
**And Sunshine.**






**Sustainability – Back to Basics**

**Allow To Rise For 40 – 80 Years.**



**INPUTS:**

- Seed
- Soil
- Water
- Sun
- Time
- CO2



**OUTPUTS:**

- OXYGEN
- HABITAT
- STORED CARBON
- MATURE FOREST

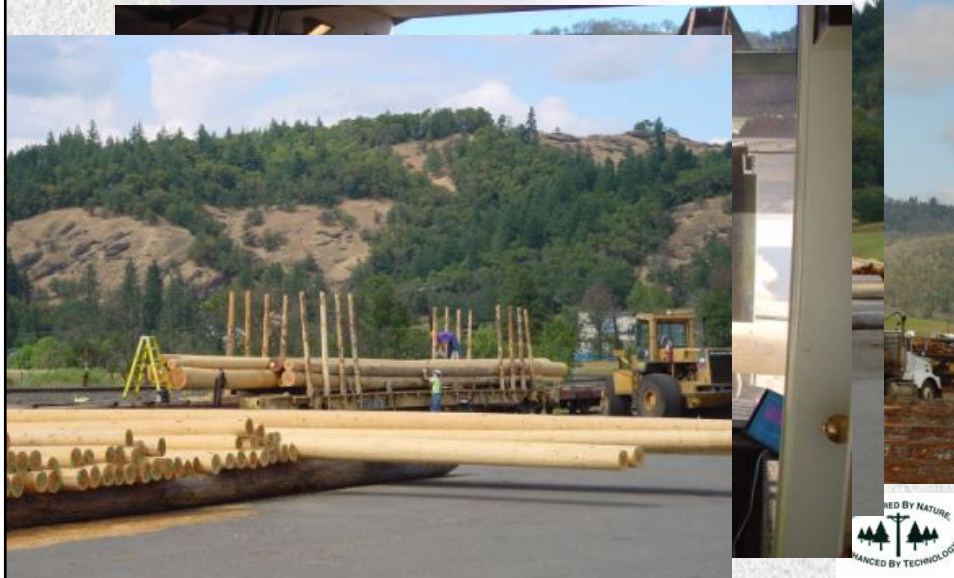


**Sustainability – Back to Basics**

**Harvest, segregating the best as poles.**



## Sustainability – Back to Basics White Wood Yard: Sort. Debark. Grade and Ship.



## Sustainability – Back to Basics Season and Frame.



**Sustainability – Back to Basics**

**Add a Touch of Preservative.**



**WOODPOLES.ORG**

ENHANCED BY TECHNOLOGY

**Sustainability – Back to Basics**

**Deliver.**



**WOODPOLES.ORG**

ENHANCED BY TECHNOLOGY

### Sustainability – Back to Basics

## Install as Needed.



### And To Complete The Sustainability Loop:

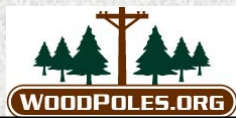
## Return To Step One



**By the time your pole has served its life, a new one will be grown and ready to replace it!**



**Renewability + Low Energy Use + Low Industrial Pollution Equals = Environmental Sustainability!**



Utility Solid Waste Activities Group

***“Treated Wood is the Electric Utilities’ Material of Choice.”***

**What do the Utilities Say?**

***“The bottom line is that treated wood offers the most energy-efficient, functional, cost-effective and practical material for use by electric utilities in providing electrical service to the public.”***

ANCED BY TECHNOLOGY

**THE WOOD POLE  
INDUSTRY IS PROUD OF ITS  
ROLE AND IS DEDICATED  
TO SERVING THE NEEDS  
OF THE UTILITY INDUSTRY.**

Thank You

