

*"Each product that leaves our company is processed out of respect for the environment, for the people that produce it, and for the customers that receive it." – Roy Thompson*

## Listening to the Land

*The Thompson Family  
RBM Lumber, Inc.*

**RBM** - Roy, Ben and Mom. On just about any Monday through Saturday, one can find brothers Roy and Ben Thompson and their mom, Evelyn (the head sawyer) hard at work at the family mill. Father Malcolm joins Ben in the logging operations, Ben's wife Joy runs finances and administration, and Roy's wife Janeth runs the picture frame and cabinet design shops.

regenerating, responding to diseases, insect infestations, and climate changes without human help for millions of years.

"Our challenge is to enter this perpetual life cycle without interrupting it," notes Ben Thompson.

"By studying the stories told by the life of trees, and by nature itself, we can learn how to treat the forest and the land. We can learn how to imitate what nature does, and what trees to take and when to take them." The family speaks often of their responsibility to take care of the forests and for their financial profitability to fit within the bounds of that responsibility.

The vast majority of the timber that is removed through RBM's logging operations is salvage of wind-blown, diseased, insect-infested, and fire-killed trees. Even then, the Thompson's are careful to leave some fallen trees for the myriad wildlife that depend on them for food, shelter, and cover. Because any disturbance in the forest can affect its

entire ecosystem, the Thompson's strive to create the smallest amount of disturbance to any location they work. Their care can be seen in the places they have logged. "We are dedicated to meeting the needs of the company and our customers without compromising the health and stability of the areas in which we work," says Ben. And by milling salvage trees, the company produces wood products with extraordinary variety of character and color.

The company produces flooring, moldings, wainscoting, stair treads, railing, counter and table tops, furniture wood, siding, rough lumber and beams (and more) in a variety of species, grades, and profiles from their small Columbia Falls mill.

Source: RBM Lumber, Inc., 2006



The Thompson Family

The Thompson family has over thirty years of industry experience and seemingly boundless passion for wood and wood products. Roy, Ben, and Evelyn have worked all facets of their business, and remain flexible based on the company's needs.

The Thompson's truly see the forests through the trees. They look at the forests as self-perpetuating: they have been growing,

Source: RBM Lumber, Inc., 2006



Selected & stacked lumber

Source: RBM Lumber, Inc., 2006



Freshly harvested logs

Source: RBM Lumber, Inc., 2006



Specialty woods and trim