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Major Idaho Lumber Companies Merge

(Coeur d' Alene, Idaho): Bennett Forest Industries and Riley Creek Lumber are pleased to announce the merger of their lumber companies. This merger will be completed September 1, 2008. The combined company will operate four Idaho based lumber manufacturing facilities located in Chilco, Grangeville, Laclede, and Moyie Springs.

Both Riley Creek and Bennett Forest Industries are long-time family owned and operated companies focused on serving their customers and employees, investing in their facilities, and remaining committed to their forest products heritage. "The common core values and mission both companies share make this merger a unique opportunity for building a strong lumber franchise which is better positioned for providing a higher level of service to our customers and employees," said Scott Atkison. Atkison has been named President of the combined company.

Marc Brinkmeyer, owner of Riley Creek Lumber, will guide the new organization as Chairman of the Board. "This merger is the culmination of decades of effort from the Bennett and Brinkmeyer families – one company will now carry on our great traditions as we take better advantage of our combined manufacturing and marketing capabilities."

"We have been in the lumber business for the past five decades and although current operating conditions are about as tough as I have ever experienced, the opportunities in front of our combined companies have me as excited about our future as I can remember," said Dick Bennett, owner of Bennett Forest Industries. Bennett will serve the company as a Director and continue providing the company with his industry knowledge and wisdom.