The Northwestern Lumber Association’s 2019 Fall Mill Tour will take place in the beautiful “Inland Northwest” region, where we’ll be focusing primarily on locations in eastern Washington and the Idaho panhandle. We’ll see majestic, evergreen-covered mountains, pristine lakes, streams, and historic towns while learning about the timber industry and building product manufacturing processes from various companies. Traditionally, these Mill Tours cover just about anything and everything in the building materials industry, but you’ll notice that this trip is very focused on one common element – WOOD. With a nursery tour, sawmill tour, two different plywood plant tours, a “faux” reclaimed wood plant tour, a log home builder and timberland management discussions, there’s definitely a predominant theme shining through on this 5-day excursion.

September 29th – October 4th

**Couple:** $2800 ($1400 per person)

**Single:** $1650 per person

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Coach Bus Transportation & Driver Gratuity
- Five Nights Quality Hotel Accommodations (Sunday – Thursday)
- Five Hot Breakfasts and one additional full meal each day (the 3rd meal is at participant’s own expense)
- Six Behind-the-Scenes LBM Industry Tours

- Sierra Silver Mine Tour
- Lake Coeur D’ Alene Dinner Cruise
- 3-Hour Guided Tour of Spokane
- Snacks and Beverages on Bus
- Souvenir Apparel
- Shuttle service from last hotel back to the airport (if flying out Friday)

*Price does not include airfare. Participants are responsible for booking and paying for their own flights into and out of Spokane, WA (airport code: GEG.)*

To register, fill out the registration form (available on May 29th) and return it to jfleck@nlassn.org. Registrations will be honored on a first come, first served basis.

**ACT QUICKLY - SEATS ARE LIMITED!**
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th
ARRIVAL & WELCOME DINNER    Spokane, Washington

The trip will officially kick off on Sunday evening, September 29th at 6:00 pm with the Welcome Dinner & Orientation at the Ramada airport property (where we’re staying for the night). This is a chance to meet and/or reconnect with your fellow tour participants, run through the basics of the itinerary, collect last minute paperwork and your souvenir, and get to know each other a little better over dinner. After dinner, enjoy a nightcap in the bar or head outside and make smores over the campfire! Continue reading for a summary of all the great things we’ll do on this trip!

The hotel does have a complimentary airport shuttle but is also within a very short walking distance from the airport if you choose to stretch your legs after your flight. For those wishing to arrive earlier that weekend (Saturday), the Ramada has extended a discounted rate if you choose to use their hotel. The cost of this pre-tour room will be at your own expense, but please work with Jodie to book your hotel room.

SUNDAY NIGHT– STAY AT RAMADA HOTEL (AIRPORT PROPERTY) IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th
BOISE CASCADE PLYWOOD MILL    Kettle Falls, Washington

Surrounded by Douglas fir forest-covered hills and nestled along the banks of Lake Roosevelt is our first destination of the week – Boise Cascade plywood mill in Kettle Falls, WA. A very well-known brand, Boise Cascade is one of the largest producers of engineered wood products and plywood in North America and is a leading U.S. wholesale distributor of building products. They make exterior grade plywood and use 100% of all wood brought into their mill. This will be the first, and smallest, of two plywood mill tours on this trip so you’ll get to see the differences, similarities, and overall diversity of the company cultures.

VAAGEN BROTHERS LUMBER     Colville, Washington

Next up on the itinerary is Vaagen Brothers Lumber, a short distance away in Colville, WA. This large sawmill produces the highest quality lumber and wood fiber products possible while making the most use out of each log. They are champions in the industry, practicing forest sustainability & stewardship, zero waste, and quality timber harvesting & lumber production. Enjoy a detailed, behind-the-scenes tour at this location, as well as the opportunity to climb a crane (optional) to get an aerial view of the yard. We’ll also enjoy lunch here. Afterwards, we’ll drive back down to Spokane, where you’ll have the evening free to explore the restaurants, bars, shops, and parks in downtown.

MONDAY NIGHT: STAY AT DOUBLETREE CITY CENTER HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
On Tuesday morning, our route will take us over the border to St. Maries, Idaho. Here, we’ll tour PotlatchDeltic - the 2nd plywood mill on this tour. This is a much larger mill than the Boise Cascade mill, so it will provide an interesting contrast. With corporate offices based in Spokane, WA, PotlatchDeltic Corporation is a diversified forest products business that markets a variety of building products and offers private forest management and real estate. They run a multitude of mills in several states and are one of the largest private landowners in those regions as well. Because this is a large operation, we’ll spend a few hours with them and have lunch at this location before heading north to Coeur d’ Alene.

After lunch at PotlatchDeltic, we’ll wind our way north for an afternoon tour of the Coeur d’ Alene Nursery. Here, the group will be shown the entire process the nursery goes through to produce the magnificent trees seen so abundantly in northern Idaho. They’ll show us seed extraction from cones, seed cleaning and storage, their greenhouse and nursery beds, native plant production for restoration projects and, if time allows, the blister rust screening trials for Whitebark Pine. Following the nursery tour, we’ll head to our hotel in Coeur d’ Alene, where you’ll have the evening free to explore and dine in the area.

Looking to stretch your legs and satiate your exploration bug? Pending weather and interest, there will be an optional trip to a local hiking trail!

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE TOUR

• Itineraries are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or situations beyond NLA’s control. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned, but alterations may occur after the final itinerary has been issued. In-depth, “nitty-gritty” details will be provided in the Attendee Packets mailed out this summer to those that are officially registered for the trip.
• Be prepared for moderate walking and climbing, catwalks, noise and dirty conditions. Most of the tour locations being visited require the use of close-toed shoes and pants. It is always an option to sit out of a tour if you wish and we do our best to accommodate a variety of disabilities and physical fitness levels. All are welcome on these tours!
• Be prepared for sitting on the bus for up to 2 hours at a time (most of our daily routes are less than this). There IS a bathroom on the bus.
• Any hotel reservations made prior to Sunday, September 29th and after Thursday, October 3rd are the responsibility of the participant to pay for. (Note…Jodie can help make a PRE-reservation at the Ramada – our starting hotel – if you’re arriving early.)
• Although we are hopeful that most, if not all seats will sell for this trip, please know that in the event we do not have enough registrations to make this trip economically feasible, it will be cancelled. If we determine the trip will not move forward, you will be notified immediately (by mid-July at the latest) and your entire deposit (or full payment if already made) will be reimbursed to you. If you need to cancel, you will be refunded everything except the $250.00 per person deposit up until August 15th. After this date, a cancellation will result in no refund. Also, NLA cannot be held responsible for airfare reimbursement for any cancellation reason, so please make sure to purchase flight insurance.
On Wednesday, we’ll be taking a break from industry tours and instead indulge ourselves in the beauty and history of northern Idaho. We’ll head east into the mountains to the historic town of Wallace - a small town known for the fact that every single downtown building is on the National Register of Historic Places! Wallace is also famously known as the “Silver Capital of the World”, with 1.2 billion ounces of silver produced in the area since 1884. Silver mining is still a big part of their economy, (the area still ranks among the top 10 mining districts in world history) but today the mining is carried out in harmony with the mountain environment that attracts outdoor recreation enthusiasts from around the world.

We’ll be experiencing this iconic piece of history by jumping aboard a trolley from downtown to the actual mine location, during which the trolley driver will provide a narrated tour of historic Wallace. Once at the mine, you’ll get a first-hand tour, guided by retired miners, who will provide: historically and technically accurate narratives, explanations of exhibits, and live demonstrations of the operation of pneumatic-powered mining machinery. While in Wallace, you’ll have some time to explore the historic buildings and grab some lunch before we head back west to Coeur d’Alene.

The entire mine tour, including the drive to and from the mine, is 1 ¼ hours long. About 45 minutes of this is inside the mine. You’ll be going into a mountain, but not down, so there are no elevator shafts etc. Please be advised that there are moments where it will be dark, loud, etc. but the amount of walking is minimal. If you choose NOT to go into the mine, you may stay in downtown Wallace and explore.

Once in Coeur d’Alene, you will have a couple of hours to explore the downtown Coeur d’Alene area. Visit the shops, stop at a brewery, walk along the marina boardwalk, or hike around Tubbs Hill with scenic views of Lake Coeur d’Alene (2.2 miles around outer loop). We’ll top the evening off by exploring one of the main elements the town of Coeur d’Alene is known for – gorgeous Lake Coeur d’Alene, a 26-mile long splendor of beauty. Aboard a double decker boat with an indoor climate-controlled cabin, panoramic windows, and full bar service, we’ll have a wonderful, private experience while on the water. This cruise is a fascinating mix of scenery, local history, and wildlife watching. You’ll hear a narration that highlights points of interest on Lake Coeur d’Alene, such as the gorgeous lake homes and the world’s only floating golf green. And while aboard this vessel, we’ll enjoy a delicious dinner while the sun sets around us.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT: STAY AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL IN COEUR D’ALENE, IDAHO**
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3rd
EDGEOOWOOD/ BIG CABIN LOG HOMES  Athol, Idaho
1 HOUR AT THIS LOCATION

On Thursday morning, we’ll head up to Athol, Idaho to look at something a little outside the lumber realm. Edgewood Log Homes (in the process of rebranding to “Big Cabin”) designs and builds custom log homes that are nothing short of exceptional. Their industry-leading innovations in log home architectural design and engineering and commitment to superior master craftsmanship really shine through and distinguish their work as a custom home builder and visionary leader in log and timber construction. At their location in Athol, they build most structural parts of a log home right on-site, which is what we’ll be learning about. Once completed, the log home components are then transported and reassembled on the homeowners building site. In addition, they have started producing and distributing a brand-new flooring and siding product, which we’ll also see while visiting their yard.

Note – this will be an optional tour. It is located about 30 minutes from the hotel and is primarily just an outdoor building site. No bathrooms or indoor sitting areas will be available unless you stay on the bus. Those not wanting to participate in this tour will be picked up at the hotel later that morning. However, DO consider attending – they make a fantastic product and their craftsmanship is unparalleled!

COEUR D’ALENE WOOD  Post Falls, Idaho
1 HOUR AT THIS LOCATION

After two plywood mills, a sawmill, a nursery, and a log home builder tour, our last industry tour on the trip is something many of you have never seen before. Coeur d’Alene Wood, LLC., located in Post Falls, Idaho, manufactures and offers an innovative, one-of-a-kind line of aged wood products - but the wood isn’t old. Their revolutionary, patented process accelerates the aging of wood and weathers the lumber to give it an authentic barnwood and reclaimed look and character. The process simulates the organic maturing of the wood that naturally occurs from extended exposure to nature’s elements, achieving a unique color and aesthetic appeal without the use of paints, stains, or other contaminants. They are a small company that is quickly growing the distribution of their product!
With the industry tours complete and Idaho in our rearview mirror, we’ll cross the border back into Washington and spend our last afternoon together in Spokane. We’ll head immediately to our lunch location – the beautiful, 130+ year-old Glover Mansion – to enjoy a private meal in one of the most gorgeous old homes of Spokane! Immediately after lunch, we’ll board our bus, along with a step-on guide, who will enlighten us on the rich history and attractions of Spokane throughout the afternoon. Spokane City Tour Highlights Include:

- Learn about the Native Americans that first discovered the area and where the city began.
- Travel along the Spokane River and view the Spokane Falls and the grounds of the former Expo ’74 site, now Riverfront Park.
- Learn about the Looff Carousel built in 1909, named one of the “Top Ten Carrousels in the US” by the National Carrousel Association.
- Visit “The Hill” with views of the city and stunning mansions.
- Tour inside the majestic Saint John’s Cathedral, said to be one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the Pacific Northwest. Marvel at the stained glass windows, wood carvings and design.
- Discover Manito Park while strolling through the formal French Renaissance Gardens, Perennial Gardens, Rose Gardens, Authentic Japanese Gardens, and flower-filled Conservatory (Rated as “One of the Top 25 Parks in the US” by Trip Advisor’s Travelers Choice Awards).
- See the historic area of Brown’s Addition, where many of the old mansions, built in the late 1800’s, have been restored to their original splendor.
- Stop at Bing Crosby’s childhood home to see the largest public collection of Crosby’s memorabilia in the U.S.

THURSDAY NIGHT: STAY AT DOUBLETREE CITY CENTER HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th

Friday marks the end of the tour, at which point you’re welcome to fly back home or stay for the weekend. Shuttle service back to the airport is included in the cost of this tour – you will just need to personally arrange a time with the bellman at the DoubleTree Hotel depending on when your flight is.

For those that choose to stay into the weekend, accommodations must be found and reserved on your own. Please keep in mind that it will be “Family Weekend” at Gonzaga University, a college in downtown Spokane. Hotels in the area are expecting to be sold out that weekend and will likely be offering higher rates. If staying, make sure to book your extended rooms as soon as possible!