



Daniel M. Dutton

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The challenges were daunting. In the 1980s the supplies of government timber in the Pacific Northwest were vanishing. New technologies in manufacturing as well as changes in marketing such as to big-box stores demanded informed decision-making and developing new strategies. Stimson Lumber Company—owned by three sisters and their heirs—was at a crossroads. Daniel M. Dutton joined the firm’s management team in 1989 and began a distinguished career as Chief Operating Officer and then as Chief Executive Officer. His guiding hand helped propel Stimson into the twenty-first century as a remarkable family-owned forest products company with a promising future.

Born in 1947 in Rockmart, Georgia, Dutton was the son of a construction worker and a housewife. His father, Daniel, Sr., endured the Great Depression and found employment skills during his service in the Civilian Conservation Corps. Dan graduated in 1965 from high school in Cedartown, Georgia. America was in the midst of troubled times: the civil rights movement, assassinations of political leaders, and the growing involvement in the wars of Southeast Asia.

Dan enlisted in 1966 in the Defense Language Institute, a multi-branch training program based in Monterey, California. In nine, intense months he learned to read and write Korean and then was posted for two years of duty with the U.S. Army in Japan. He completed his military service with the National Security Administration in Washington, D.C.

Older than most of classmates, Dan enrolled in 1970 in California State University, Chico, where he pursued a major in Communications and Education. He played football in 1970, 1971, and 1972, an important experience in learning cooperation, team-building, and focusing on goals. Following graduation in 1973, Dan went to work for Louisiana-Pacific Corporation

as a management trainee in Oroville, California. He held several positions with L.P. over the next decade and became a regional manager in Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado.

From 1985 to 1989 Dan served as president of Duke City Lumber Company in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The firm, a subsidiary of Hanson Industries, purchased public timber, manufactured forest products, and marketed them in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Dan also in 1985 became the president of Kent Products, Bellevue, Kentucky, a company manufacturing extruded plastics for industry and building components. Later that year he was also named president of Dura Steel, a manufacturer of steel, plastic, and wood kitchen and bath products based in Whittier, California.

In 1989 Dan moved to Portland, Oregon, to become executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Stimson Lumber. He became the company president on October 1, 1989, and chief executive officer on March 1, 1991. Stimson needed to chart a new future to survive. Working with the family owners, board, and company staff, Dan began defining new directions. These included the redeployment of assets, centralization of management, securing a company-owned timber supply, and—of utmost importance—nurturing succeeding generations of the Stimson-Miller families in understanding, managing, and building the corporation their ancestors had founded in Michigan in the 1850s.

Under Dan’s tenure from 1991 to 2005, Stimson Lumber achieved its goals. From a timber base of 110,000 acres in 1990, the company aggressively purchased new lands to secure more than 500,000 acres. In 2002 it disposed of redwood holdings in California—lands so well managed they became part of the Redwoods National Park—and acquired value-added lands in eastern Washington, Idaho, and Montana where the company had the potential not only to grow trees but to develop recreational facilities and

home sites. Stimson centered its operations in its corporate office in Portland. Dan encouraged the board to hold annual meetings that brought together key employees and several generations of family owners for fellowship and to weigh decisions affecting the company’s operations.

Dan’s years of service at Stimson occurred during controversies about Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Wilderness Act, and in Oregon—where the company had significant timberlands and mills—implementation of the state’s Forest Practices Act. Dan stepped forward to help develop the protocols for landowners to meet the Governor’s Salmon Plan with important decision-making on riparian zones and overall watershed management.

Dan saw his missions largely completed when he “retired” in April, 2004, and was succeeded by Andrew Miller, the sixth generation of the Stimson-Miller family to guide its fortunes. Dan remained on the corporate board and has continued to play an active role in the company’s operations.

Dan has served on the boards of the National Forest Products Association and the American Forest & Paper Association, the World Forestry Center, and the Oregon Forest Industries Council. He is a member of the boards of Universal Forest Products and Rombauer Vineyards (St. Helena, California) and Leonetti Cellars (Walla Walla, Washington). His public service activities have included the boards of the Annika Foundation, Providence Medical Center (Portland), Pacific University (Forest Grove), and the Classic Wine Auction.

Dan his wife, Sallie, have two children: Tami and Joseph (deceased) and two grandchildren: Paris and Sunny Pratt.

October 2014