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PLUM CREEK TIMBER COMPANY, INC. REPORTS

RESULTS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2002

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON – April 18, 2002 -- Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. (NYSE: PCL) today announced first quarter earnings of \$56 million, or \$0.30 per diluted share.

Plum Creek completed its merger with The Timber Company on October 6, 2001. For accounting purposes, The Timber Company is considered the surviving entity because of the structure of the merger. Therefore, reported financial results for periods prior to the merger reflect the financial results of The Timber Company. Results for the first quarter 2002 reflect the performance of the combined companies and are not comparable to the results reported for first quarter 2001.

Funds from operations, a simplified measure of cash flow from operations defined as net income plus depreciation, depletion, and basis in higher and better use lands sold, was \$91 million for the first quarter of 2002. The Company ended the quarter with \$285 million in cash and cash equivalents.

Plum Creek's first quarter dividend will be announced April 23, 2002, following the Company's Board of Directors' meeting.

“We delivered good results during the first quarter by executing well in each area of the business. During the quarter, prices for our timber held steady in most regions and showed improvements in others. Harvest volumes were higher than anticipated, a reaction to the relatively mild winter and good demand,” said Rick Holley, President and CEO.

“The better than expected earnings from our real estate business are the result of the early completion of a few large transactions originally scheduled for the second quarter. We continue to evaluate and position properties within our diverse portfolio that will be sold or exchanged to meet the demand for land with attractive recreational, conservation or development attributes.

“The manufacturing business continued its profitable track record due to improving demand for our lumber, plywood and MDF products,” concluded Holley.

Review of Operations

Compared to the fourth quarter 2001, sawlog prices increased approximately 6% in the Southern Resources segment and held steady in the Northern Resources segment. At the end of the quarter, sawlog prices in five of Plum Creek’s six timber regions were at levels above first quarter averages. Plum Creek experienced improving demand from mills as they reacted to unexpectedly high demand for lumber and structural panels in the first quarter. Pulpwood prices in both resource segments were unchanged from the fourth quarter due to continued weak demand and excess capacity in the pulp and paper industry.

First quarter revenue for the Real Estate segment was \$23 million, significantly higher than expected but lower than the \$27 million reported in the fourth quarter 2001, reflecting the transaction driven nature of the real estate business.

The Company’s lumber prices were up over 3% from the prior quarter due to strong demand for lumber. Improving plywood demand fueled a 16% increase in plywood sales volume over fourth quarter while a sales mix shift resulted in the Company reporting modestly lower prices for the product. Medium density fiberboard (MDF) demand improved during the quarter and sales volumes increased 13% from fourth quarter as the Company continued the start-up of its second MDF production line. Despite improving demand, MDF prices fell nearly 3% due to increased competition on the West Coast from imported MDF.

Outlook

Strong housing starts, good repair and remodel demand, and the potential for a recovery in pulp and paper markets are positive signs for Plum Creek’s businesses. Many mills are beginning to experience strengthening demand for their products, translating into improved demand for timber. However, the Company expects the persistent strength of the U.S. dollar and overcapacity affecting most pulp and paper markets will moderate any improvement in pulpwood prices. Plum Creek continues to anticipate modest improvements in sawlog pricing as the economy strengthens and mills increase their production in response to improving demand.

In the second quarter, Plum Creek expects log prices in the South to hold steady at first quarter levels. March sawlog prices in the North were above first quarter averages and the Company expects Northern sawlog prices to show improvement in the second quarter. The Company continues to experience strong interest in its real estate properties from developers and conservation buyers. However, because several transactions originally scheduled for the second quarter closed early, the Real Estate segment should report lower revenues and income than those reported in the first quarter. The Company expects lumber prices to hold at first quarter levels and plywood prices to improve modestly due to improving industrial demand. MDF sales volume should continue to increase as the new MDF line adds production. MDF prices should improve as higher value, thin-board production volumes increase from the new line.

“Plum Creek’s core timber business is showing signs of improvement in many regions. Our real estate and manufacturing businesses are performing well, and we continue to see potential for greater contribution to earnings and cash flow from the natural resources on our lands. In addition to our many internal growth opportunities, we continue to evaluate acquisitions that meet our disciplined investment criteria,” concluded Holley.

Earnings Conference Call and Supplemental Information

Plum Creek will hold a conference call today, April 18 at 2:00 p.m. PDT, to discuss these results, current business conditions and the outlook for the second quarter of 2002. To access the call, dial 1.877.679.9051 or 1.952.556.2804 (outside North America) prior to the scheduled start time and reference the Plum Creek earnings call. A recorded replay of the call will be available afterwards for 48 hours by dialing 1.800.615.3210 or 1.703.326.3020 (outside North America) and entering the conference code 5761547.

Supplemental financial information for Plum Creek operations, including statistical data, is available attached to the earnings release in the investor information section of Plum Creek’s website at www.plumcreek.com.

Plum Creek, a real estate investment trust, is one of the largest land owners in the nation, with over 7.8 million acres of timberlands in every significant timber-growing region of the United States and ten wood product manufacturing facilities in the Northwest.

Forward-looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Litigation Reform Act of 1995 as amended. Some of these forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as "believes," "expects," "may," "will," "should," "seek," "approximately," "intends," "plans," "estimates," or "anticipates," or the negative of those words or other comparable terminology. The accuracy of such statements is subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions including, but not limited to, the cyclical nature of the forest products industry, our ability to harvest our timber, our ability to execute our acquisition strategy, and various regulatory constraints. These risks, uncertainties and assumptions are detailed from time to time in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. It is likely that if one or more of the risks materializes, or if one or more assumptions proves to be incorrect, the current expectations of Plum Creek and its management will not be realized. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made, and neither Plum Creek nor its management undertakes any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

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