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**For Immediate Release**  
**November 29, 2005**

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## **TIME INC ENDORSES MINNESOTA LOGGER EDUCATION PROGRAM'S NEW MASTER LOGGER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

**“Today we are qualifying MLEP’s Master Logger Certification Program as meeting the requirements of our CSF (Certified Sustainable Forestry) program”, announced David Refkin, Director of Sustainable Development at Time Inc.**

**Duluth, MN –** Today, Time Inc. endorsed the Minnesota Logger Education Program’s (MLEP) Master Logger Certification Program. Logger certification promotes sustainable forestry and provides an independent, third-party audit of a logging business’s harvest, safety and business practices. It is a performance-based program for loggers that recognizes training, experience and the implementation of specific sustainable forest management and safety practices.

**“Today we are qualifying MLEP’s Master Logger Certification Program as meeting the requirements of our CSF (Certified Sustainable Forestry) program”,** announced David Refkin, Director of Sustainable Development at Time Inc. **“We look forward to working with MLEP to focus on continuous improvement of the program, similar to improvements we have seen in other qualified programs”.** Only two other state logger certification programs, Wisconsin and Maine, have received this recognition from Time. MLEP’s logger certification program is the only program qualified by Time Inc. in Minnesota.

**“Logger certification provides confidence to customers and the public that the person performing a harvest has the education and experience to do the job correctly”** said Dave Chura, MLEP’s Executive Director. **“Certification is an independent and formal recognition of those logging businesses who implement sustainable forest management practices and safe, professional operations.”**

Several mills in Minnesota and across the country have been asked to meet a target that 65% of the resource going into their product be certified by year-end 2005 and 80% by year-end 2006. Minnesota’s has 15 million acres of timberland. Of that 15 million, 38% is controlled by family forest landowners and these family forests provide 45% of the timber harvested each year.

**“Logger certification addresses this challenge by providing certified wood from family forestland to the market place. This means loggers and mills in Minnesota will be in a strong position to provide certified wood from family forestlands to customers like Time Inc.”,** stated Chura.

MLEP’s Master Logger Certification Program was developed by a working group including representatives from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Forestry Association, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Forest Industries, Associated Contract Loggers and Truckers of Minnesota, Minnesota Timber Producers Association, Izaak Walton League and Dovetail, Inc.