# Title: Logger Myles Anderson is Unsung: A Hardworking Series by Shell Rotella T

**Transcript:** I'm about 4th generation in my family to be in the logging business and I knew from an early age that this is what I wanted to do. Today we have three different operations going on. We do pretty much everything in the process from falling trees, putting them on trucks and hauling them to the sawmill. A lot of these jobs are 30-40 miles from our shop. We're harvesting timbers right in the heart of the Redwood Forest. Our season is very short and so there's a lot of pressure to getting those logs to the sawmill and any little hiccup can cause us a lot of problems. Very strange to have rainfall like this this time of year but sometimes that's my luck. There's a lot of things moving, a lot of things out of our control and it's a very dangerous environment. Introducing rain into it makes everything more risky. A lot of the rules that we harvest timber under are to protect the spotted owl and the salmon. The idea is to keep the impact up on the ridge tops away from the stream so we operate a lot on steep slopes, 50,60,70% side slops is not uncommon and so we do a lot of cable logging and this allowed us to access timber that would otherwise be very difficult to reach. There's a unit down there that hasn't been cut yet. The only way to harvest the timber is to go down by hand and for a timber worker, being down there is extremely dangerous. You're talking about several thousand pound trees and when they hit, there's lots of stuff moving. At times, it's difficult to get out of the way fast enough. Working in wet conditions, the hill side's slicker, it's hard to get footing. It makes everything just that much more dangerous. Before we can cut down a tree on anyone's property in the state of California, they have to have a timber harvest plan which tells you what you can cut and so by going and doing single tree selection, the idea is to let the young trees take the water and sunlight that those big trees had and grow very rapidly. When you talk to the general public and you mention logging, they see these great big huge clear cuts, they don't see the kind of stuff that we're doing today there in the north coast of California. The history of Fort Bragg revolves around the earthquake that leveled San Francisco in early 1900. They needed lumber to rebuild and it didn't matter how they got it. Up and down the coast, just about every gulch had a small sawmill. The logs were extremely difficult to move and early on, they were loaded onto ships and taken out to San Francisco and other destinations. There was a lot of rough practices. They didn't have the equipment that we have today and I think there was definitely a need for change, without a doubt. Right now, the United States of America has more timberland than it did 100 years ago and that's because there not clearing as much land and it's a reflection of the timber industry's ability to regrow trees also. Growing up with these guys, it's almost like you're family. I think a lot of guys that flock to logging have an extreme work ethic. There's a certain amount of pride that goes with being able to see what you've accomplished in the day. That teaches you a lot about who you are as a person and what you're capable of doing.