

## **Jobs Watch: Graham County Snags 114 New Jobs, \$10 Million Investment**

By Administrator

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RALEIGH, (SGRToday.com) - A collaboration between state and local officials in Graham County have resulted in a deal for Oak Valley Hardwoods to expand its operations in Robbinsville, creating 114 jobs and investing \$10.1 million over the next five years.

Salaries will vary by job function and will include accounting, log traders, sales, operators, foresters, and office/clerical positions. The annual payroll for the new jobs created by this expansion will be \$3.4 million.

Headquartered in Charlotte, Oak Valley Hardwoods is a subsidiary of Tides and Times Group USA, Inc., and operates lumber, saw mill and dry kiln facilities and produces an assortment of wood products.

It already has operations in locations across North Carolina including Rutherford, Haywood, Caldwell, McDowell and Polk counties employing more than 160 workers.

"Timber is one of North Carolina's great renewable resources, so the expansion of Oak Valley Hardwoods is important to that industry," said Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker in a statement. "I am looking forward to seeing even more expansion in the timber sector in the future."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$156,000. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches.

In addition to the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C., other partners that helped with this project include: North Carolina Community College System, Tri-County Community College, Duke Energy, Town of Robbinsville, Graham County, and Graham County Economic Development.