Loggers constitute the backbone of the forest economy in the American state of Minnesota, through their logistical work harvesting and transporting wood from stump to mill. However the last quarter century has brought change to the social and economic organization of Minnesota loggers. Once the employees of timber companies and mills, loggers today are self-employed, highly mechanized and capitalized, and dependent on relationships with landowners, who control wood supply; and mills, who control price. In this talk I explore how structural factors within the Minnesota wood product supply chain are affecting the business positions of loggers, including mechanization and capitalization, contract vulnerabilities with mills, increased competitiveness for wood supply, and lack of organized labor and political capital. I draw on data from in-depth interviews with a range of actors, including loggers, timber sale administrators, and mill managers, in order to illuminate a diversity of perspectives. My goal is to understand how loggers have been affected by broader market shifts: externalization of services, price and demand volatility, loss of industry through mill closures, and changes in forestland ownership and management, including the separation of mills from their land bases. This research will be of interest to policy makers and others interested in understanding how economic transitions, such as the declines in extraction industries within the Global North, are experienced by lower level producers in the supply chain, such as loggers. I conclude by exploring possible policy interventions that might increase the health and sustainability of the Minnesota logger workforce, for instance by mitigating contract and supply uncertainties and by reducing personal financial liabilities.