# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20549

#### FORM 8-K

### CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of report: September 13, 2004 Date of earliest event reported: September 10, 2004

#### **BOISE CASCADE CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**1-5057** (Commission File Number)

**82-0100960** (IRS Employer Identification No.)

1111 West Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 50
Boise, Idaho 83728-0001
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (208) 384-6161

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- O Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

#### Item 8.01. Other Events.

On September 10, 2004, Boise Cascade Corporation (the "Company") participated in a remarketing through a Prospectus Supplement supplementing the Prospectus contained in and forming part of the Registration Statement on Form S-3 of the Company (Registration Statement Nos. 333-74981 and 333-74450) (the "Registration Statement") of its Senior Floating Rate Debentures due December 16, 2006.

The exhibit to this Current Report on Form 8-K is incorporated into the Registration Statement by reference.

#### Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
23.5	Consent of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC
	1

## SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: September 13, 2004

## BOISE CASCADE CORPORATION

By: /s/ KAREN E. GOWLAND

Karen E. Gowland Vice President and Corporate Secretary

## BOISE CASCADE CORPORATION

#### **Exhibit Index**

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## QuickLinks

<u>Item 8.01. Other Events.</u> <u>Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.</u>

SIGNATURE Exhibit Index

#### Consent of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC

We hereby consent to the reference to our opinion and the use of our name under the caption "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences" in the Prospectus Supplement dated September 10, 2004 to Prospectus dated May 16, 2000 forming a part of the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Nos. 333-74981 and 333-74450) of Boise Cascade Corporation.

In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933 or the rules and regulations issued thereunder.

/s/ BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

September 13, 2004

Chicago, Illinois

# QuickLinks

Consent of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC