

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS [tgmckay@fs.fed.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013 11:02 AM  
**Subject:** News Release: Logging closures at Lost Trail Ski Area  
**Attachments:** Lost Trail Ski Area - logging closures.docx



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**NEWS RELEASE**  
*Bitterroot National Forest*

United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Bitterroot National Forest  
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Hamilton, Montana 59840

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122**

September 17, 2013

**LOGGING CLOSURES AT LOST TRAIL SKI AREA**

Hamilton, MT. – Logging operations have been underway since July at the Lost Trail Powder Mountain Ski Area on the Bitterroot National Forest. The 225-acre thinning operation began last fall. Starting this week, Forest Road #5734 will be closed as crews are yarding logs on the road. Heavy logging equipment is also parked on the road and there will be log truck traffic in the area and at the base of chairlift #2. The road which provides access to Saddle Mountain and the Divide Trail is popular with mountain bikers, hikers, and bow hunters. Forest officials hope to have the road re-opened in early October.

Crews are thinning and removing beetle killed and infested trees in the ski area near chairlifts 1,2,3, and 5. Removing the trees is necessary because they present a hazard to the public and ski area operations. The project will keep dead trees from falling onto cables and into ski runs and will help protect area aesthetics, by reducing red and gray trees and emphasizing green, live trees.

Sun Mountain Lumber of Deer Lodge is the subcontractor on the project which will provide nearly 900,000 board feet of timber (330 truckloads) to Montana sawmills. Along with the timber harvest, the work will also reduce hazardous fuels and fire hazards created by the dead, dying and diseased trees.

This is one of more than a dozen timber salvage projects undertaken by the Forest in the past two years in an effort to protect popular recreations areas, campgrounds, and trailheads from increasing pine beetle attacks. Lost Trail Ski Area is one of the most popular areas on the Bitterroot National Forest visited by more than 45,000 people annually.

For more information contact the Sula Ranger District at (406) 821-3201.

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