

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2017 10:28 AM  
**Subject:** News Release: Timber Contract Awarded on Westside Project  
**Attachments:** Westside project - timber contract awarded.docx

### Timber Contract Awarded on Westside Project

Hamilton, Montana (August 22, 2017) – Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor Julie King announced today that Pyramid Mountain Lumber of Seeley Lake has been awarded a timber contract for the Westside Collaborative Vegetation Management Project on the Darby/Sula Ranger District. The project includes over 2,000 acres of overstocked National Forest System lands between Lost Horse Creek and Roaring Lion Creek southwest of Hamilton.

The purpose of the project is to improve forest health and reduce hazardous fuels and lower crown fire hazards while also restoring wildlife and native plant habitat and diversity. In addition to the commercial and non-commercial timber harvests, the project also includes prescribed fire for fuels reduction. The Bitterroot Community Wildfire Protection Plan identified the project area as a ‘high priority’ for fuels reduction in the wildland-urban interface.

Project specifics include:

- Commercial timber harvest (logging) on 1,200 acres
- Non-commercial thinning to reduce tree densities on 978 acres
- Improve forest resilience to natural disturbances (fire, insects, disease).
- Manage timber to provide forest products, jobs, and income to local communities.

The project will provide over 6 million board feet of timber to Montana sawmills.

“We are excited to announce that we are awarding this timber contract to Pyramid Mountain Lumber,” said Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor Julie King. “Besides improving forest health and reducing hazardous fuels and the potential for crown fires, this project will provide jobs and economic benefits to our local communities.”

Work is scheduled to begin on the project this fall. For more information, contact the Darby/Sula Ranger District at (406) 821-3913. Stay in touch with us through [www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF](http://www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF) and [www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF](http://www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF).

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