

Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc.

Seeley Lake, Montana – Member Since 1960

Featured
Member



*Roger Johnson, President
Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc.*

During the post war slump of the late 1940s, friends Fred Johnson and Oscar Mood began talking about Montana. Johnson, born in Norway, and Mood, from another Scandinavian family, worked in the timber industry of Minnesota. Seeing a brighter future in Montana, they visited several lumbermen who had moved to Montana from Minnesota. Catching wind of a lumber mill for sale, they traveled to Seeley Lake in the winter of 1949 and purchased the Bockmier Mill, renaming it "J & M Lumber." In 1958, the company reorganized from a partnership between Oscar and Fred to a corporation owned by the two families and became Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc.

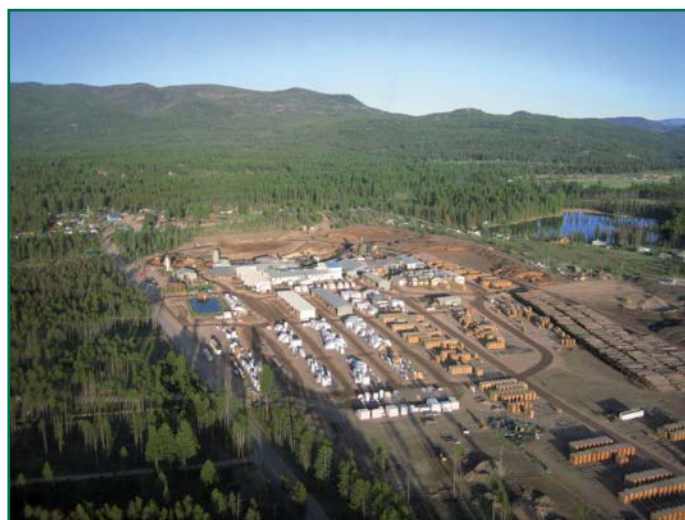
Over 60 years and three generations have passed since Fred and Oscar purchased the Seeley Lake mill, yet Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. continues to carry on the tradition of quality and stewardship. Pyramid Mountain Lumber is a random length, random width mill, producing ponderosa and lodgepole pine boards, 1x4 to 1x12 and 5/4 pine shop and Douglas Fir and Larch structural grades, 2x4 to 2x12. Their primary markets are in the midwest and southwest, with lumber distributed all over the U.S. Todd Johnson said that he has received photos from Afghanistan and Iraq where the civilian contractors, who were engaged in the rebuilding effort, were using lumber produced at Pyramid Mountain Lumber.

Roger Johnson, current Pyramid Mountain Lumber President, and second generation mill owner, started working for his father over five decades ago. He has been actively involved in many state and national wood products associations. He is a hands on owner-operator, from selling lumber to sawmill cleanup. Roger's sons, Steve and Todd, are the third generation at Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. Steve Johnson started his career at the mill over thirty-five years ago, sweeping the shop, cleaning restrooms, and picking up the yard. He now serves as Sales Manager, shipping 60 million board feet of lumber annually. Todd Johnson was sweeping and cleaning the mill at the age of twelve. Now Operations Manager, Todd is often found in the far corners of the mill doing whatever needs to be done to keep the mill running.

In 2001 the Mood family decided to pursue other life opportunities and Charlie Parke bought the Mood family's shares thus becoming a Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. owner. Charlie saw the need and felt compelled to keep providing jobs for the logging and timber industry. The people at Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. impressed him with their honest principles and common-sense management. The new relationship has worked well for all parties involved. Charlie Parke, Vice President of Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc., was raised in Drummond, Montana. Charlie started logging to help support his family ranch. Now, a son runs the Montana ranch, daughter and son-in-law run a ranch in Idaho, and a son, Adam, looks after Parke Logging. Another son, Grant, drives logging truck for Parke Logging.

As Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. continues to solidify its respected position in the timber industry, all eyes are on the future as the owners and staff work with landowners, loggers, policy-makers, and other leaders to create active management plans to develop healthy forests.

One of the ways healthy forest management occurs is through conservation easements. Modern conservation easements not only protect Montana's critical wildlife and water resources, but they also provide for selective harvesting to maintain healthy forests. Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. has developed



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Seeley Lake, MT*

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a positive reputation with the conservation organizations which administer these easements. Building such partnerships are vital to forest health while also providing the resources necessary to meet the future timber needs of the American people.

Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. ensures healthy forests through its commitment to light-on-the-land harvesting methods. For example, Grapple Skidders raise one end of the logs off the ground which reduces soil disturbance. Cut-to-Length harvesters fall trees with great precision which protects the other trees in the stand and the use of Log Forwarders create less ground pressure than a horse.

Since 1949, dedication to being trustworthy stewards of the land is Pyramid Mountain Lumber's hallmark. While the proper use of technology and engineering is heralded, it is truly the logging professionals, talented sawyers and equipment operators well-trained in stewardship principles who set the foundation for the future. Their abilities include expertise in identifying forest health concerns, streamside management zones, and Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Pyramid's success is due to decades of building personal relationships with landowners. The company's objective has always been to create healthy forests while producing quality lumber products in demand around the country. Because of its commitment to building positive long-term relationships and its proactive stewardship of the land, Pyramid Mountain Lumber is actively involved in numerous local and national issues.

Pyramid Mountain Lumber's forestry team has provided valuable leadership in the evolution of forest and logging practices and timber management. These professionals work closely with landowners and government agencies to maintain a standard of quality service. Pyramid has strived to educate local land owners and loggers to continue to persevere with their harvesting during the current market conditions and believes that recovery, though gradual, will come.

Pyramid has also taken steps to continue operation during the economic downturn, including a restructuring of debt to provide working capital and finance log inventories. Some projects were deferred until the market picks up. A workforce reduction and a wage reduction for all employees helped the company to continue to operate and move forward. The company strives to keep the workforce informed about current market conditions, operations costs, and cost containment measures.

As the economy slowly recovers, the mill plans to continue monitoring every aspect of their business and will source a wide variety of logs so they will be able to take advantage of whichever market improves first. They also plan to utilize sawmill consultants as necessary to improve production, recovery and sales realization.

Todd Johnson said that TPM has been able to help control costs of health benefits for their employees and dependents through the TPM Trust. TPM has also been a valuable resource with all Human Resource issues.



The last stop for a board is the dry chain. Finished lumber is manually stacked into bunks and then steel banded.



Steve Johnson, Sales Manager, Roger Johnson, President, Todd Johnson, Operations Manager

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