



Roundwood News

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IRA Launches New Website

By Eric Wareham, IRA Executive Director



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Quality Roundwood Products for Work, Play and Life

Welcome to the Intermountain Roundwood Association website.

The Intermountain Roundwood Association (IRA) represents firms engaged in the harvesting, production and marketing of roundwood and associated products, materials and supplies. Through education and training, we also help members and consumers stay current on industry trends and new advancements in wood products technology.

Here you'll find valuable information about treated and untreated wood fence posts and poles, log and fencing products for farm, ranch and home, fence gates and archways, livestock and corral posts, hand and deck railings, log and rustic furniture, guardrail posts, pole barns and gazebos, wood preservative, tree stakes and vineyard poles, and more.

Real value of treated roundwood

Properly treated roundwood posts and poles are the preferred choice of the agricultural industry for fencing and other ranch and farm projects.

These materials are also popular for ranchette perimeter fencing, and are frequently specified by highway and park departments.

Preservative-treated posts and poles are strong, attractive, easy to install and feature a long service life. Properly treated wood is safe for the environment and utilizes sustainable, renewable resources to meet many agricultural and fencing needs.

Roundwood posts and poles are made from Aspen, Ponderosa Pine, Lodgepole Pine and Douglas fir timber. They are often manufactured from timber that is too small to cut into lumber products.



The IRA and the roundwood industry has a new place to hang its hat! The newly redesigned website was recently launched to incorporate more information about our industry and act as a centralized source of information for those looking for content about products and services of IRA members and information about the association.

The new website is a vast improvement on the old one as anyone with eyeballs can tell. The appearance is updated, but so too is the information contained on the website. There is information about the history of the association and the services it offers as well as an updated list of IRA members with contact information and a bit of information about the business as well. This is a great way to highlight our members and provide them more exposure to consumers through the website.

One way the website hopes to attract more visitors is through the additional content contained on the website. There is a section with FAQs and even research reports for those inclined to really know about the industry. The website will also be a location where all newsletters will be posted, including all the back issues we could find, which might provide some nostalgia for those wanting to go back (we went as far as 2005!)

All this information will serve to increase the search optimization of the website and hopefully attract some visitors as well as members. Visit the new www.intermountainroundwood.org website and take a look around!

WWPI wins federal grant to study post, pole industry

By Dallin Brooks, WWPI

A big push from industry and some timely advocacy from WWPI has resulted in a \$250,000 grant to study the preserved wood post and pole industry.

The U.S. Forest Service in April announced that WWPI received one of 35 Wood Innovations Grants awarded to businesses, non-profits, universities and tribal organizations. In all, some 103 proposals were reviewed.

WWPI Executive Director Dallin Brooks said four years ago when he approached the Forest Service about a grant, agency officials said treated posts and poles were “not innovative enough.” WWPI did manage to get a small grant in 2018 to update previous studies done in 2002 for the Intermountain Roundwood Association on the roundwood industry.

Brooks said that project opened the door for him to “get on my soap box” and convince the agency that treated posts and poles were the highest value-added commodity created from small diameter roundwood.

WWPI gathered support letters from the post and pole industry and put together the proposal with industry consulting company The Beck Group.

The grant will fund an in-depth study of the post and pole industry, with direct interviews with manufacturers to identify how it can better access roundwood resources and expand markets. Additionally, the industry interviews will be accompanied with the opportunity for federal, state and tribal forest managers to tour facilities and learn about value-added small diameter roundwood production.

The Beck Group will conduct the in-person interviews and WWPI will handle the administrative work required under the grant.

2021 IRA Annual Meeting

Mark Your calendars! The next IRA meeting will be held in Missoula on March 10th and 11th at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Speakers and topics to be determined. If you have ideas or want to speak, please let us know.

As in past years, there will be a reception/get together Wednesday night and meetings until 3 on Thursday including an offsite tour. See you in 2021!

