

United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

# Bitterroot Fires 2000

An Overview of the Events, Effects on People and Resources,  
and Post-Fire Recovery Priorities

**Bitterroot National Forest**  
**Hamilton, Montana**

December 2000

## Acknowledgements

The Bitterroot National Forest extends sincere gratitude and appreciation to:

- The citizens of Ravalli County, who endured and came together to help one another during the crises we all faced during the summer of 2000.
- The numerous firefighters from Ravalli County, the State of Montana, many other states, private contractors, tribes, many federal agencies, and other nations. We truly appreciate the outstanding skill and dedication you displayed and the help you provided during the Valley's time of need.
- Our employees, local law enforcement, firefighters, citizens, groups, and agencies who have given so much time away from their families and loved ones to protect communities and resources. Many of these people also helped chart the course toward recovery, then worked diligently this fall to provide emergency rehabilitation protection across all boundary lines.

To all of these people, thank you for your dedication and giving!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "R".

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New growth sprouting in burned area. (USDA Forest Service photo)



A bear cub with burned paws was rescued south of Darby. He was treated by a local veterinarian then transported to Helena to a Fish and Wildlife rehabilitation center with the intent of returning the bear to the wild. (photo by Cass Cairns)