

AUG - 5 1910

# MORE THAN HALF MILLION IS LOST

ENORMOUS FIGURES TABULATED  
BY FORESTERS OF DAMAGE  
BY FOREST FIRES.

## TIMBER DESTRUCTION

Thousands of acres of valuable holdings of government and private owners swept over by the flames—Army of men in the field working day and night to keep fires in check—Lemhi forest the latest to report serious conditions—Heavy rain needed.

### GOVERNMENT ALARMED.

Washington, Aug. 4.—The current year threatens to be one of the most disastrous to the national forests from fires in the history of the country because of drouth in the West. Officials of the forest service have decided to adopt energetic measures.

Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture, who is in the West on a tour of inspection of the forest reserves, has expressed a willingness, according to reports to the forest service, to incur a deficiency if necessary in the appropriation to fight the fires.

The danger is especially acute in Western Montana and Northern Idaho.

### Special Dispatch to the Standard.

Missoula, Aug. 4.—Astounding are the figures given out here at the forest service headquarters today concerning the losses by forest fires in the several reserves under the jurisdiction of field district No. 1 with headquarters in Missoula. Without having received a report from the supervisor of the Coeur d'Alene forest the total area of government holdings burned within the district is more than 91,550 acres and the loss in timber, fully \$400,000. Private holdings are figured at 20,520 acres burned and a loss of \$105,000.

In the Glacier National Park 5,000 acres have been burned over with a loss of 150,000,000 feet of timber. To be added to this is the expense of fighting fire, which to date has been more than \$50,000 for extra men alone. Within the district, outside of the Coeur d'Alene forest, there is a young army of 1,600 men fighting the flames tonight and, while they have been successful in holding the flames in a great many places and prevented a much larger loss, the situation is still acute and a soaking rain is the only thing that can save the remainder of

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#### One Fire Stopped.

The only rain reported of any consequence within the last 60 days was at Seeley lake last night, when a good shower subdued the flames so that they were under control tonight. In the forest west and south several new fires are reported tonight and a call for at least another 100 men has been made. To add to the above figures to arrive at a total loss and burned area in district No. 1, the local officials figure conservatively that reports from the Coeur d'Alene forest will show 8,000 acres burned over, a loss of \$200,000 and fighting expense of \$15,000. Add these figures to the others, both for the government and private holdings, and the following enormous result is obtained:

Total area burned over, 125,070 acres.

Total loss of timber, \$705,000.

Total expense of fire fighting, \$72,000.

With these figures staring them in the face forest officers have little encouragement in their work tonight, as the widely scattered fires and several new ones require an army of men to be effective. Much is being saved, however, and, in fact, if the vigilance of the men were to be abated for a day there are enough fires burning now to sweep the whole western section of the district clean.

#### Thirteen Different Blazes.

In the Lolo national forest Supervisor Koch has superintended the fighting of 13 fires, all of which were on private holdings along the St. Regis river. They are now all under control.

The government holdings along the St. Regis river have had seven serious fires, which covered an area of 3,000 acres, the most serious ones being the Hilda creek and Dominion creek fires where 100,000,000 feet of valuable timber is being exposed. The fire along Trout creek, which started on the other side of the Montana-Idaho divide, covers an area of 2,000 acres and is threatening 300,000,000 feet of commercial timber. Altogether there are within the forest reserves of district No. 1 nine fires known that are not under control. The most serious ones are the Nine Mile and Trout creek fires. The Nine Mile fire has burned over an area of 3,000 acres and is still devastating the vicinity.

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#### Want More Men.

Rangers from the more remote districts of the Clearwater forest sent requests tonight for 50 more men and a similar call came from the Lewis and Clark reserve. Employment agents at Spokane have been asked to furnish this supply tomorrow. To add to the smoke that has settled thickly in the Missoula valley and about the city, a prairie fire burned over the whole of Mount Jumbo last night and today. The fire started on the east side of the big hill last night and slowly spread and burned over the top and down the slope towards Missoula. The smoke is so thick here today that Jumbo can scarcely be seen, but at night the blaze was very vivid. There was no timber of consequence on the mountain, but much good pasture land was denuded. A close view shows Jumbo to have shed his coat entirely and changed from one of velvet green to dead