

# Weeds After Fire

Strong Coordination between Federal, State & County Agencies and Private Landowners Supports Effective Post-Fire Weed Management in Burned Areas of Southwestern Montana



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**Project Contact:**

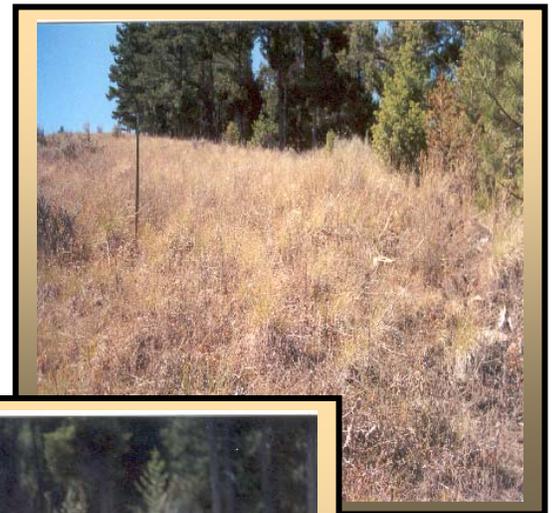
Janet Valle  
R1/R4 State &  
Private Forestry  
(801) 625-5258  
jvalle@fs.fed.us

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In the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, 357,000 acres of federal, state and private lands burned in 2000. With extensive acres already impacted knapweed and other noxious weeds, the sudden loss of forested canopy and healthy rangeland vegetation on over 300,000 acres of burned lands created an alarming vulnerability to greatly expanded noxious weed infestations.

The solution that has proven successful in the Bitterroot Valley, and in other places throughout the West, combines some federal State & Private grants, delivered through the Montana Department of Agriculture to the Ravalli County Weed District. John Day, the Weed District Superintendent works closely with impacted landowners to implement a weed management strategy that incorporates the use of herbicides and biological controls coupled with extensive reseeding and reforestation.

*“What impresses me most is the commitment of some of these landowners,”* explained John Day, Ravalli County Weed Superintendent. *“The federal grant dollars provide a great incentive for landowners to take action. Then, these folks match each federal dollar with a minimum of 4 – 5 dollars of their private funds plus the sweat equity. The combined efforts are creating a noticeable difference on the ground.”*



2001 picture (above) shows extensive knapweed. 2003 picture (left) shows hillside after effective weed treatments