

National Fire Plan

New Fire Facilities on the Bitterroot NF Montana 2002



“We are proud of our new fire warehouse and excited about opportunities to contribute to the community through our fire fighting resources,” said Stevensville District Ranger Jeanne Higgins.

The Bitterroot National Forest and the local communities in western Montana are five facilities richer thanks to the National Fire Plan. Both the Stevensville and the Darby Ranger Districts are boasting new fire warehouses, hazardous materials buildings and a lookout. The new facilities will assist land managers and firefighters in preparing for and fighting wildland fires in the Bitterroot valley. Total funding from the National Fire Plan to help build fire related facilities on the Bitterroot National Forest was about \$1.1 million.

The Stevensville fire warehouse, under construction since last summer, was completed this January. The 3,200 square foot building houses two engines, and is equipped with a kitchen, storage and office space, two restrooms with showers, a fitness room, a mechanics area and a “ready room,” with lockers for gear.



The Darby Ranger District has something to boast about as well. Construction of the Bitterroot Hotshot warehouse was completed in January 2002. The 3,900 square foot warehouse provides accommodations for the Bitterroot Hotshots, including employee offices, a training/conference room, a “ready room,” two restrooms, and an area for storage. The warehouse also provides parking for two, 10-person, crew carriers (large trucks).

“The new Bitterroot Hotshot warehouse allows us to be better organized and equipped to handle our fire season each year,” said Darby and Sula District Ranger Craig Bobzien. Hazmat facilities on both the Stevensville and Darby Districts are currently under construction with expected completion in November 2002. The buildings will be used to consolidate and safely store hazardous and flammable materials used in firefighting, prescribed burning and other land management activities.



“Our new hazmat facility will enhance our ability to respond safely and efficiently as we work with our local rural fire departments and other community partners,” said Darby and Sula District Ranger Craig Bobzien.