

# National Fire Plan

## Restoration and Rehabilitation

### Montana

### 2003



In FY 2003, the Gallatin National Forest completed all of their watershed rehabilitation project targets (16 acres), which included the removal of 24 culverts in the Taylor Fork Drainage as well as the Buck Creek Bridge and preparation of a 2004 water rehabilitation plan for the Bangtail range.

The Gallatin also had a busy year for Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) projects and support, including continuation of fire rehabilitation work for the 2001 Fridley and Purdy fires including weed monitoring and treatments, trail drainage and stabilization and road drainage stabilization. Road re-contouring BAER work for the Purdy fire was very effective in reducing erosion along 2 miles of closed roads.



West Fork Wilson Creek prior to BAER work. Accelerated overland flow from the burned slopes above was eroding the cut slope and road surface and increasing sediment delivery potential to West Wilson Creek, a Westslope Cutthroat fishery.



Two miles of road were re-contoured in October of 2002 with an excavator and drainage was re-established in draws and stream channels (culverts and road fill removed). Some drainage re-stabilization was required in July 2003.

By July 2003 the re-contoured roads were responding well to the treatments. Natural slope hydrology has been restored and the road prism no longer is a source of erosion or concentrated, increased overland flow from upslope burned areas. Potential road source sediment to West Wilson Creek has been greatly reduced



The Gallatin National Forest also secured funds for minor BAER treatments in the Rough Draw Complex fires for trail drainage and weeds. Gallatin Water and Soil staff provided considerable BAER support to other Region 1 Forests in FY 2003; Gallatin National Forest staff members served as the BAER team leader and implementation leader for the Kraft Springs Fire (Custer NF), BAER team leader and hydrology support for the Hidden Lake Fire (Beaverhead NF), BAER team leader and Fishery Biologist for the Wedge Canyon, Robert, and Trapper Fires (Flathead NF and Glacier Park), BAER team leader and hydrology support for the Black Mountain 2, Cherry Creek, and Cooney Ridge (Lolo NF), hydrology support for the Gold 1 fire (Bitterroot NF), hydrology support for the Crazy Horse fire (Flathead NF) and assistant BAER team leader on the Aspen fire (Coronado NF, Arizona).

The Gallatin NF Hydrologist continued to coordinate activities of the Greater Yellowstone Area Clean Air Partnership (GYA-CAP) which deals with air quality issues throughout the GYA.

For additional information on the National Fire P

The GYA-CAP consists of representatives from National Forests and National Parks in the Greater Yellowstone Area as well as from the Departments of Environmental Quality in



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