

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

CHILCOTT   
STOLTZ   
IMAN   
FOSS   
BURROWS 

Members Present.....Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Ron Stoltz, Commissioner J.R. Iman, Commissioner Suzy Foss and Commissioner Jeff Burrows

Date.....February 26, 2014

► Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met with Dan Ritter, Acting Forest Supervisor with the Bitterroot National Forest and Todd McKay, Forest Service Information Officer for an update on upcoming projects as well as a discussion of fuel treatment on the west side of the valley and the Wildland Urban Interface. It was noted the Bitterroot National Forest includes portions of the Frank Church Wilderness, which is outside of Ravalli County. Dan presented a Fast Facts worksheet (see attached).

In regard to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), Dan addressed the west side of the valley as that is where the prevailing winds are. Recently they finished Sweeny Creek (150 acres) and Larry Bass (approximately 800 acres) forest thinning projects as well as another 130 acres next to Larry Bass surrounded by private lands. Upcoming projects include Roaring Lion to Camas Creek for forest thinning (1,500 acres), and Como project from Lost Horse to Lake Como (1,800 acres which will require an E.I.S.) Older projects in the past include Hayes Creek, Trapper and Frazier Draw.

Dan will obtain and submit to the Commissioners aerial photos for the beetle kill area. They believe they have reached the epidemic stage and are on the downhill trend. They are hopeful the exceptional cold will reduce the beetle population.

Dan stated they are still working on the Travel Plan. Litigation from Gallatin County has slowed this plan from completion.

Commissioner Chilcott addressed necessary access to the wilderness dams. The status of most of these dams is high to moderate hazard. Maintenance is necessary because the water in the dams provide water to our agricultural community; increased late season in-stream flow and reserve water for the wells as well as any catastrophic event such as dam breach. Dan stated the reconstruction of the dams which includes use of helicopters has been successful during his 20 year tenure. He understands the need to continually maintain these dams.

Public Comment: Ren Cleveland stated Commissioner Chilcott is wrong in his history, those dams were built by beavers, which was significant to our environmental eco-structure.

# BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

## FAST FACTS

[www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot)

### RANGER DISTRICTS

Stevensville Ranger District  
88 Main  
Stevensville, MT 598704  
406-777-5461

Darby Ranger District  
712 N. Main  
Darby, MT 59829  
406-821-3913

Sula Ranger District  
7338 Hwy. 93 S.  
Sula, MT 59871  
406-821-2340

West Fork Ranger District  
6735 West Fork Rd.  
Darby, MT 59829  
406-821-3269

### FOREST ACREAGE

1.6 million acres  
(1.1 million - Ravalli Co.)

### WILDERNESS AREAS

Anaconda-Pintler  
Selway-Bitterroot  
Frank Church River of No Return  
**Total Wilderness Acreage**

**ACRES**  
44,000  
512,211  
194,000  
750,211

### WILDERNESS STUDY ACT AREAS

Sapphire  
Blue Joint

**ACRES**  
44,116  
65,370

### RECREATION

Campgrounds & picnic areas  
Developed trailheads in wilderness/non-wilderness  
Cabins & lookouts for rent  
Boating/swimming/fishing areas

35 (241 campsites)  
24  
8  
6

### ROADS

Idaho  
Montana  
Total Miles

**MILES**  
81  
3054  
3135

### TRAILS

Forest Trails (Non-Wilderness)  
Wilderness Area Trails  
Total Trail Mileage

**MILES**  
753.1  
813.2  
1566.3

*They maintain roughly 1/3 of the total amt of trails*

<b>FIRE</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Lightning Caused Fires	60	88	80
Person Caused Fires	9	11	20
Acres Burned	33,284	134,485	47,646
Prescribed Burning to Meet Mgt. Objectives (acres)	4,401	1,061	369
Wilderness Fires and Recommend Wilderness (acres)	2,176	129,677	42,890

*705 thousand acres burned since 1999.*

#### **MAJOR RIVERS**

Bitterroot, Selway, Salmon

#### **ANNUAL WATER YIELD**

2.6 Million Acre Feet (1.7 in MT, .9 in ID)

#### **MAJOR LAKES AND RESERVOIRS**

#### **SURFACE ACRES**

Lake Como (Darby District)  
Painted Rocks Lake (West Fork District)

960

732

#### **WILDERNESS LAKES**

#### **SURFACE ACRES**

Bass Lake (Stevensville District)  
Big Creek Lake (Stevensville District)  
Blodgett Lake (Stevensville District)  
Canyon Lake (Stevensville District)  
\*Fish Lake  
Fred Burr Lake (Stevensville District)  
Hauf Lake (Stevensville District)  
Holloway Lake (Stevensville District)  
Knack Lake (Stevensville District)  
Lappi Lake (Stevensville District)  
\*Little Duffy  
\*McCalla  
Mill Lake (Stevensville District)  
Reed Lake (Stevensville District)  
Sears Lake (Stevensville District)  
Sheafman Lake (Stevensville District)  
Tamarack Lake (Darby District)  
Tin Cup Lake (Darby District)  
Wyant Lake (Darby District)

93  
242  
28  
32  
40  
15  
12  
25  
7  
8  
18  
47  
42  
5  
8  
5  
25  
125  
22

*\*These are Forest Service dams controlled by the Forest Service and utilized by fire.*

#### **TOTAL MILES OF PERENNIAL STREAMS**

400 Miles

#### **RANGE ALLOTMENTS**

Active Allotments  
Allotment Total  
Actual Grazing Use (AUM's)

19  
22  
2,482

#### **TIMBER HARVEST**

Volume Sold

<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
9.6 MMBF	16.7 MMBF	12.6 MMBF	7.2 MMBF (projected)

*Since 1999 124 million board feet sold.*

#### **PERSONNEL**

Permanent Employees

<b>2007</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>
122	110	106