

## Attachment A: NRCS Soil Reports

## Local Roads and Streets

| Local Roads and Streets— Summary by Map Unit — Flathead County Area and Part of Lincoln County, Montana |  |                  |                          |  |              |                |
|---|--|------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------|----------------|
| Map unit symbol   | Map unit name  | Rating           | Component name (percent) | Rating reasons (rating values)                       | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| 71D   | Kingspoint gravelly silt loam, 4 to 15 percent slopes  | Somewhat limited | Kingspoint (95%)         | Slope (0.63)   | 41.6         | 2.1%           |
|   |  |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)                                  |              |                |
|   |  |                  | McMannamy (5%)           | Slope (0.63)   |              |                |
|   |  |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)                                  |              |                |
| 71F   | Kingspoint gravelly silt loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes | Very limited     | Kingspoint (80%)         | Slope (1.00)   | 17.2         | 0.9%           |
|   |  |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)                                  |              |                |
|   |  |                  | Repp (5%)                | Slope (1.00)   |              |                |
|   |  |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)                                  |              |                |
|   |  |                  | Sharrott (5%)            | Depth to hard bedrock (1.00)                         |              |                |
|   |  |                  |                          | Slope (1.00)   |              |                |
|   |  |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)                                  |              |                |
|   |  |                  | Walstead (3%)            | Slope (1.00)   |              |                |
|   |  |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)                                  |              |                |
|   |  |                  | McMannamy (2%)           | Slope (1.00)   |              |                |
|   |  |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)                                  |              |                |
|   |  |                  | 81E                      | Foyslake gravelly silt loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes |              |                |
| Frost action (0.50)   |  |                  |                          |  |              |                |
| McMannamy (10%)   | Slope (1.00)   |                  |                          |  |              |                |
|   | Frost action (0.50)                                    |                  |                          |  |              |                |
| Foyslake, greater slope (5%)  | Slope (1.00)   |                  |                          |  |              |                |
|   | Frost action (0.50)                                    |                  |                          |  |              |                |

| Local Roads and Streets— Summary by Map Unit — Flathead County Area and Part of Lincoln County, Montana |  |              |                                |                                |              |                |
|---|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Map unit symbol   | Map unit name  | Rating       | Component name (percent)       | Rating reasons (rating values) | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| 83E   | Ashleylake cobbly ashy silt loam, 8 to 30 percent slopes | Very limited | Ashleylake (75%)               | Slope (1.00)                   | 325.6        | 16.8%          |
|   |  |              |                                | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Foyslake (5%)                  | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Jimlake (5%)                   | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Ashleylake, greater slope (5%) | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Bendahl (5%)                   | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
| Frost action (0.50)   |  |              |                                |                                |              |                |
| 83F   | Ashleylake-Rock outcrop complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes | Very limited | Ashleylake (65%)               | Slope (1.00)                   | 356.1        | 18.4%          |
|   |  |              |                                | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Foyslake (5%)                  | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Jimlake (5%)                   | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Bendahl (5%)                   | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Ashleylake, greater slope (5%) | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                                | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |
| Frost action (0.50)   |  |              |                                |                                |              |                |

| Local Roads and Streets— Summary by Map Unit — Flathead County Area and Part of Lincoln County, Montana |   |                  |                          |   |              |                |
|---|---|------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|
| Map unit symbol   | Map unit name   | Rating           | Component name (percent) | Rating reasons (rating values)                                | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| 711F  | Kingspoint-Sharrott-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 50 percent slopes | Very limited     | Kingspoint (60%)         | Slope (1.00)  | 508.1        | 26.2%          |
|   |   |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |                  | Sharrott (15%)           | Depth to hard bedrock (1.00)                                  |              |                |
|   |   |                  |                          | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |                  | McMannamy (5%)           | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |                  | Repp (5%)                | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |                  | 761F                     | Hogsby-Walstead-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 50 percent slopes |              |                |
| Slope (1.00)  |   |                  |                          |   |              |                |
| Frost action (0.50)   |   |                  |                          |   |              |                |
| Large stones content (0.05)   |   |                  |                          |   |              |                |
| Walstead (25%)  | Slope (1.00)  |                  |                          |   |              |                |
|   | Frost action (0.50)   |                  |                          |   |              |                |
| Kingspoint (10%)  | Slope (1.00)  |                  |                          |   |              |                |
|   | Frost action (0.50)   |                  |                          |   |              |                |
| Repp (10%)  | Slope (1.00)  |                  |                          |   |              |                |
|   | Frost action (0.50)   |                  |                          |   |              |                |
| 831D  | Ashleylake-Foyslake-Kila complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes          | Somewhat limited | Ashleylake (50%)         | Shrink-swell (0.50)   | 103.5        | 5.3%           |
|   |   |                  |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |                  |                          | Slope (0.16)  |              |                |
|   |   |                  | Foyslake (30%)           | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |                  |                          | Slope (0.16)  |              |                |
|   |   |                  | Kila (15%)               | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |

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|---|---|--------------|--------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|
| Map unit symbol   | Map unit name   | Rating       | Component name (percent) | Rating reasons (rating values)                                    | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| 835G  | Ashleylake-Rockhill-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 80 percent slopes   | Very limited | Ashleylake (50%)         | Slope (1.00)  | 109.4        | 5.6%           |
|   |   |              |                          | Shrink-swell (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              | Rockhill (15%)           | Depth to hard bedrock (1.00)                                      |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              | Mitten (10%)             | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              | Foyslake (10%)           | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
| 931G  | Repp-Kingspoint-Rock outcrop complex, 40 to 80 percent slopes       | Very limited | Repp (50%)               | Slope (1.00)  | 171.3        | 8.8%           |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              | Kingspoint (25%)         | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
| 1071E   | Kingspoint gravelly silt loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes, lake effect | Very limited | Kingspoint (85%)         | Slope (1.00)  | 75.8         | 3.9%           |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              | McMannamy (12%)          | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              | Sharrott (1%)            | Depth to hard bedrock (1.00)                                      |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Slope (0.63)  |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              | Walstead (1%)            | Slope (1.00)  |              |                |
|   |   |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                |
|   |   |              | 1081E                    | Foyslake gravelly silt loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes, lake effect |              |                |
| Frost action (0.50)   |   |              |                          |   |              |                |
| McMannamy (10%)   | Slope (1.00)  |              |                          |   |              |                |
|   | Frost action (0.50)   |              |                          |   |              |                |

| Local Roads and Streets— Summary by Map Unit — Flathead County Area and Part of Lincoln County, Montana |  |              |                          |                                |              |                |
|---|--|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Map unit symbol   | Map unit name  | Rating       | Component name (percent) | Rating reasons (rating values) | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| 1712E   | Kingspoint-Rock outcrop complex, 8 to 30 percent slopes, lake effect | Very limited | Kingspoint (70%)         | Slope (1.00)                   | 50.8         | 2.6%           |
|   |  |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Sharrott (5%)            | Depth to hard bedrock (1.00)   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                          | Slope (0.63)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | McMannamy (5%)           | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                          | Frost action (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Repp (5%)                | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
| Frost action (0.50)   |  |              |                          |                                |              |                |

| Local Roads and Streets— Summary by Map Unit — Flathead National Forest Area, Montana |  |              |                            |                                |              |                |
|---|--|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Map unit symbol   | Map unit name  | Rating       | Component name (percent)   | Rating reasons (rating values) | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| 23-9  | Andeptic Cryoboralfs-Andic Cryochrepts complex, steep          | Very limited | Andeptic Cryoboralfs (45%) | Slope (1.00)                   | 2.5          | 0.1%           |
|   |  |              |                            | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Andic Cryochrepts (40%)    | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                            | Large stones content (0.05)    |              |                |
| 23-8  | Andeptic Cryoboralfs-Andic Cryochrepts complex, hilly          | Very limited | Andeptic Cryoboralfs (45%) | Slope (1.00)                   | 4.2          | 0.2%           |
|   |  |              |                            | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |
|   |  |              | Andic Cryochrepts (40%)    | Slope (1.00)                   |              |                |
|   |  |              |                            | Large stones content (0.05)    |              |                |
| 26A-8   | Andeptic Cryoboralfs, silty till substratum, calcareous, hilly | Very limited | Andeptic Cryoboralfs (80%) | Slope (1.00)                   | 0.4          | 0.0%           |
|   |  |              |                            | Shrink-swell (0.50)            |              |                |

|                                   |         |        |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Totals for Area of Interest (AOI) | 1,939.2 | 100.0% |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|

| Local Roads and Streets— Summary by Rating Value |              |                |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Rating   | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
| Very limited                                     | 1,794.0      | 92.5%          |
| Somewhat limited                                 | 145.1        | 7.5%           |





## **Attachment D: Excerpts from Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan**

Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan - 2007

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Water Quality Planning Bureau

Watershed Protection Section

<http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nonpoint/2007NONPOINTPLAN/Final/NPSPlan.pdf>

### **4.3.7 Diffuse Urban and Suburban Pollution**

Diffuse pollution from urban and suburban sources is generated by a broad range of activities associated with domestic, municipal, industrial, and commercial land development and land uses. Mitigation of urban and suburban pollution sources presents challenges because once structures are in place, they may be there permanently and/or they may have long-lasting impacts on water resources.

Storm water runoff, construction, stream channelization, waste disposal, road sanding, and daily household activities may be potential sources of NPS pollution that affect water resources. Fertilizers, pet wastes, leaves, grass clippings, and faulty septic tanks can contribute to nutrient and bacterial pollution. Improperly handled chemicals, paints, solvents, detergents, antifreeze, and pesticides may also enter waterways. Landfills, particularly unlined facilities, pose a threat to surface and ground-water quality because harmful and toxic substances may leach into aquifers or surface waters. Roads can be a source of petroleum hydrocarbons and heavy metals from diesel and gasoline vehicle usage and even road maintenance activities like sanding and roadside vegetation management can contribute sediment, pesticides, and nutrients to adjacent waterways

#### **4.3.7.1 Major Sources of Diffuse Urban and Suburban Pollution**

Pollutants of concern and water quality impacts from urban and suburban sources are discussed in more detail in the following sections, together with NPS control mechanisms.

##### **Storm Water Runoff**

Buildings and infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks, and driveways generally have impervious surfaces that prevent water from soaking into the ground and as a result generate storm water runoff. Urban and construction storm water runoff are leading sources of NPS pollution. Nationwide, these sources account for 13 percent of water quality impairment (EPA 2005). In Montana, storm water runoff related to permitted and non-permitted activities represents about 1 percent (DEQ 2006) of all impaired stream miles in Montana.

Storm water runoff may carry high levels of pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, oxygen demanding substances, road salts, heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons,

pesticides, pathogenic bacteria, and viruses. The type and concentration of pollutants in storm water runoff is highly variable. The frequency and intensity of rain affects the amount of pollutants collected in overland flow, the distance pollutants are transported, and the level of sediment deposition and suspension. Impervious surfaces (streets, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, roofs, etc.) act as collectors and conduits for pollutants from concentrated human activities until storm water runoff picks them up and discharges them untreated to waterways via storm sewer systems. When left uncontrolled, these discharges can threaten public health, kill fish, destroy spawning and aquatic habitat, and contaminate drinking water supplies.

### **Construction**

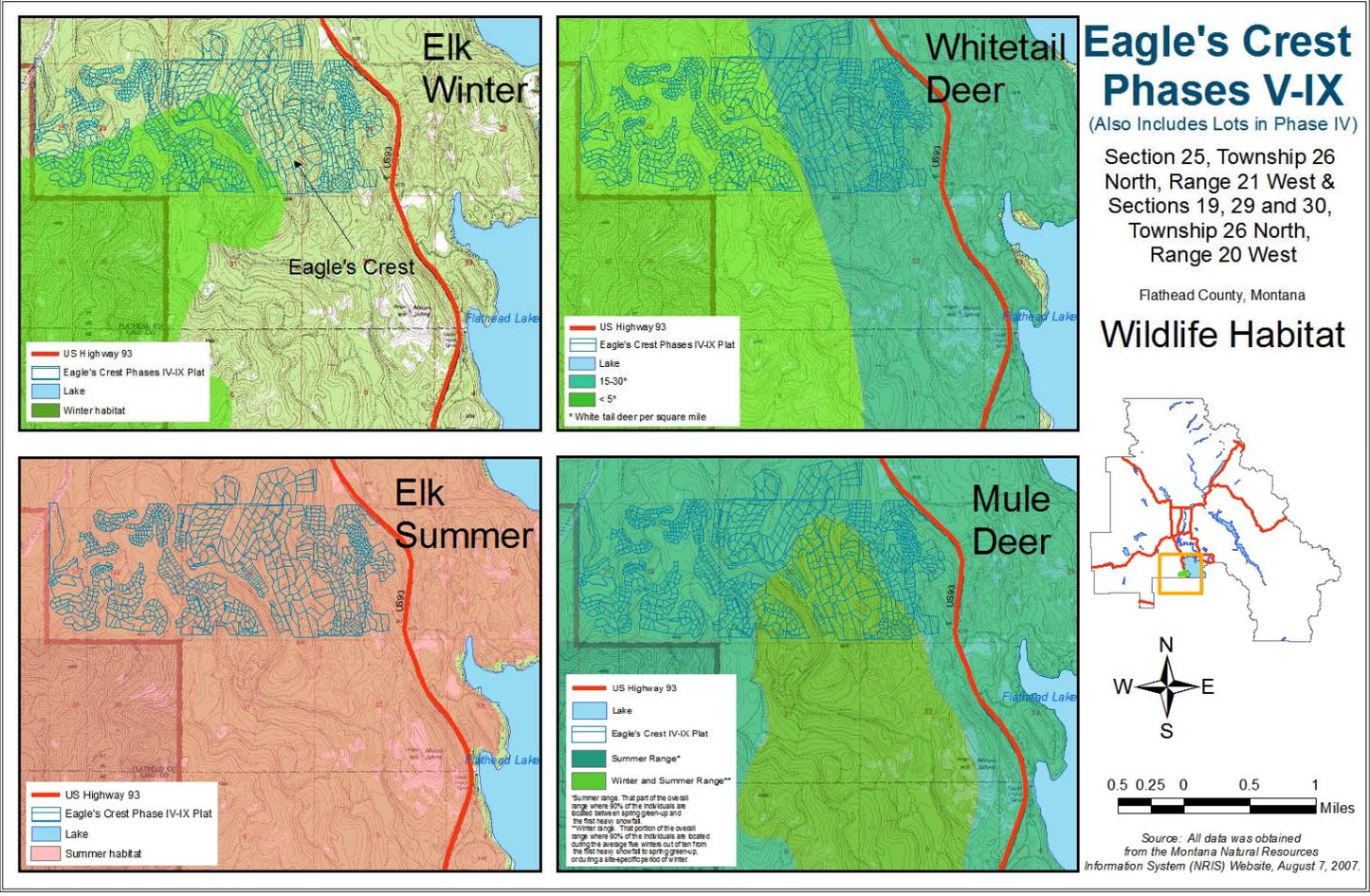
Suspended sediments constitute the largest pollutant loads to receiving waters in urban areas, with construction a leading cause of erosion. Typically, sediment runoff rates from construction sites are 10-20 times greater than those from agricultural lands and 1,000 to 2,000 times greater than those of forestlands. During a short period of time, construction activity can contribute more sediment to streams than is naturally deposited over several decades.

In addition to direct water quality impacts, construction and associated land development often changes the hydrology and geomorphology of receiving waters, with potentially adverse effects to aquatic and riparian habitat. Development reduces vegetative cover and increases the area covered by impervious surfaces, thus eliminating the natural water retention provided by plants and soils and reducing recharge to ground water. As the area of impervious surfaces increases, the volume and intensity of runoff during rain events increases (**Figure 4-4**).

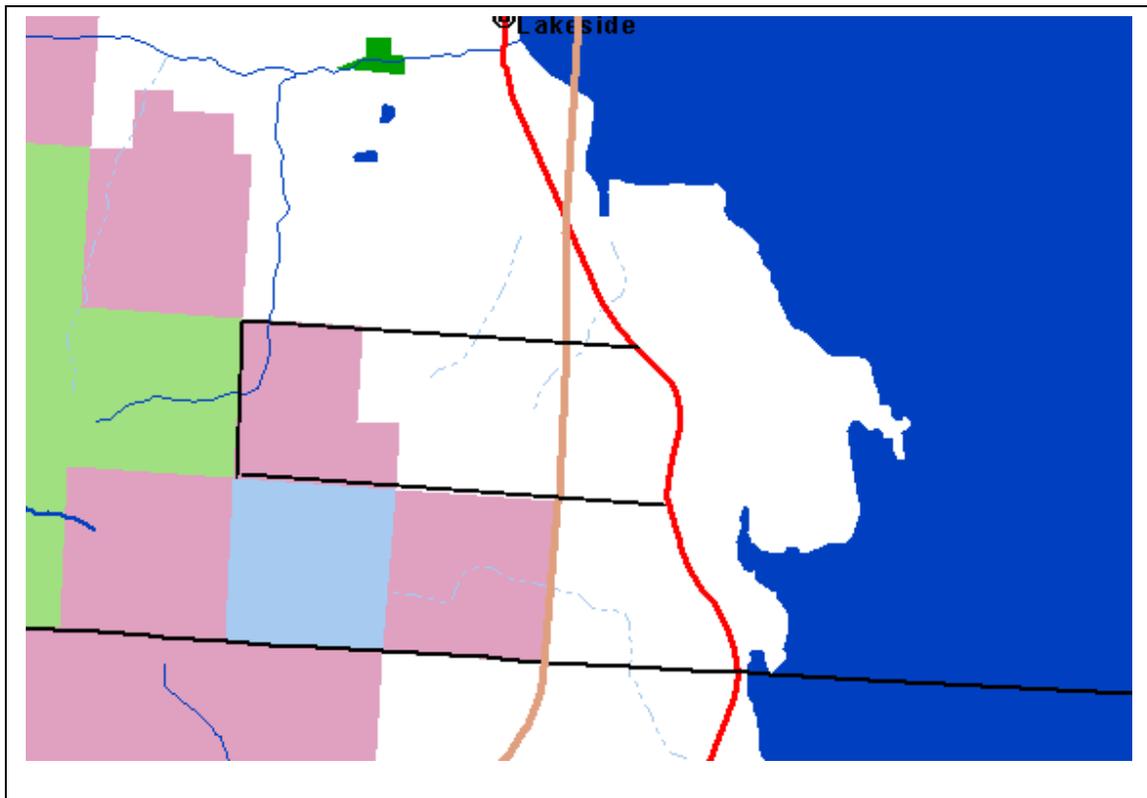
The resulting stream flows can lead to channel widening, erosion, decreased channel stability, stream temperature increases, and sediment suspension and deposition. Over time, these effects, as well as pollutant contributions, may adversely impact aquatic life and water quality and restrict recreational activity. Studies around the country have shown that when as little as eight to twelve percent of a watershed surface consists of impervious surfaces, aquatic life is adversely impacted (EPA 2005b).

(pg. 66– 68)

# Attachment E: Montana FWP – Elk, Mule Deer and White Tail Deer Range



## Attachment F: Land Ownership Surrounding Subject Parcel



Source: Montana NRIS



## **Attachment G: DNRC Guidelines for Fire Protection in WUI**

### **Montana DNRC – Fire Protection Manual 700 Fire Protection Manual Appendix E**

Fire Protection Guidelines for Wildland Residential Interface Development  
(<http://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Fire/Manuals/Documents/700Manual/700%20Manual%20Table%20of%20Contents%202005.pdf>)

Wildfire disasters in WRI areas are common in many parts of the nation, and the problem is increasing. This can be corrected only through comprehensive planning that includes housing development design, fuels management, and public education. A fire suppression organization by itself will not suffice.

### **207 BUILDING SPACING AND DENSITIES**

The distance between structures directly affects how fast a wildfire can spread. Local governments, developers, owners, and responsible fire authorities should consider base spacing and density dependent on slope and fuels in the area of the structures.

#### **1. Building Spacing**

- a. Residential structure spacing must meet county requirements. Attempt to space buildings, including mobile homes, at least 60 feet apart and at least 30 feet from the property line.

#### **2. Building Densities**

- a. Locate buildings on each piece of property so that developers and homeowners can reduce vegetation in accordance with Section 201. General guidelines to meet the defensible space are:
  - i. Slope 0% - 20% - A minimum 1 acre for a structure to be placed on lands in forest fuels.
  - ii. Slope 21% - 30% - A minimum 1.5 acre for a structure to be placed on lands in forest fuels.
- b. Never build structures in forest fuels where the slope is greater than 30%, at a canyon mouth, in a ridge saddle, or in other areas of extreme fire hazard.

# Slash and burn

*Climate change + commercial logging = big fire*

By: John S. Adams  
Posted: 08/16/2007

Around 3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 3, lightning sparked a blaze near the Jocko Lakes about 10 miles west of Seeley Lake. Fanned by gusty weekend winds, the fire ripped its way eastward across a patchwork of private, federal and state-owned land, blowing up to 18,000 acres by Sunday and earning designation as the nation's number-one priority wildfire. Gov. Brian Schweitzer declared a state of emergency after telling reporters that the Jocko Lakes fire was "the fire we've all prayed for 25 years wouldn't occur."

As the hottest and driest summer the state has seen in years continues without relief, fire managers across the region are reporting unprecedented fire behavior. Forest Service fire information officer Pat Cross told reporters on Aug. 4 that the Jocko Lakes fire displayed "activity firefighters haven't seen before in this part of the world." The fire spread from 10 acres to 300 acres in about 30 minutes, and on Saturday it advanced five miles in as many hours, according to one fire official.

Across the West, forest advocates and wildfire experts are now pointing to this summer's fire behavior as a harbinger of future fire seasons, and looking for lessons to learn as the globe continues to warm.

"What's happening is that climate change is colliding with past land-management abuses," says Tim Ingalsbee, executive director of the Oregon-based Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology.

Decades of patchwork clear cutting, forest thinning and road building has left a landscape ripe for extreme fire behavior, says Ingalsbee. Increasingly extreme weather—stronger winds, lower humidity, higher temperatures—is combining with hotter, more open, dryer and windier forests, creating disastrous conditions.

According to Kent Slaughter, fire behavior analyst for the Alaska Type 1 incident management team that's managing the Jocko Lakes fire, the blaze made its biggest run from west to east through the Placid Creek drainage. Aerial photos show that much of that terrain has been heavily logged. As of Monday, Aug. 13, the fire had burned 20,800 acres. More than 13,000 acres of that burned on private land mostly owned by Plum Creek.

"There is a mixed pattern of logging in there," Slaughter says. "A lot of those units that you are seeing are very heavy reproduction."

George Wuerthner, editor of the 2006 book *The Wildfire Reader: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*, points out that recently logged terrain does not necessarily create fire breaks: "Big logs don't burn very readily...But after a logging operation you have a lot of branches that are one to four inches in diameter, and that kind of stuff burns really well," Wuerthner says in an interview.

Commercial logging also opens up the forest to rapid growth of shrubs, bushes and small trees, Wuerthner says. Those fuels dry out quickly and burn readily, making them a prime ignition source for larger logs and trees.

Slaughter says he is less concerned about fire behavior in areas around the lake that have been thinned, opening up the forest crown, though he declined to comment on how commercial logging in the Placid Creek drainage may have impacted the rate of the fire's spread.

"Then we start getting into the politics of fuels and thinning treatments, and I'm going to stay away from those," he says.

Slaughter might stay away from politics of fire and fuels, but politicians sure won't.

While many of the state's biggest fires are burning on land that has been heavily logged, or are burning within wilderness boundaries, Montana Sen. Jon Tester recently implied that lawsuits over timber sales are partly to blame for what he termed, "the buildup of dry, ready-to-burn fuel in Montana's forests."

"We'll never get back to the timber harvest levels of the 1970s, nor, probably, should we," Tester said on the Senate floor Aug. 3. "But the pendulum has swung too far, and now we are too often fighting in the courts about cutting down trees. Quite frankly, we don't have enough people working out in the woods. That's a problem economically and ecologically."

Forest protection advocate Matthew Koehler of the Missoula-based WildWest Institute points out that only one timber sale in the state—the 1.35-million board feet Keystone Quartz sale in the Beaverhead/Deerlodge National Forest—is under a court-ordered injunction to halt logging: "To give you some indication of how small of a timber sale it is," Koehler says, "that's approximately one one-thousandth of the total volume of timber that's harvested in Montana annually."



Photo courtesy USDA

**The Jocko Lakes fire, which grew to more than 18,000 acres in fewer than three days, made its eastward run toward Seeley Lake through this heavily logged stretch of forest east of Jocko Lake**

Koehler agrees that more people ought to be working in the woods, but he says the focus should be on reducing fire danger around homes and communities rather than cutting trees deep in the forests, potentially creating prime conditions for fires to spread.

Wuerthner recently toured the 3,100-acre Angora fire that destroyed 255 homes southwest of Lake Tahoe earlier this summer. He says the majority of the homes that burned weren't a direct result of the wildfire.

"Structural fires put out way more heat than any forest fire," Wuerthner says. "What happened was a number of houses that didn't have any fire-wise preventative measures done on them caught fire and then burned the neighbors' houses that did."

As the Jocko Lakes blaze continues to creep toward Seeley Lake, and residents toil through rolling evacuations, more than 800 firefighters are doing their best to protect homes and businesses. The only thing that will put an end to the danger is a fire-dousing rainstorm. Nobody expects that to happen any time soon

"It will be quite a while longer until we get a season-ending event," Slaughter says.

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Article published Aug 17, 2007

## 3 homes charred near Frenchtown

The Associated Press

FRENCHTOWN — High winds pushed a wildfire out of the forest and into houses in a rural area west of Missoula on Thursday, destroying at least three homes and threatening 235 others, authorities said.

Some 300 residents were ordered to evacuate, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The Black Cat fire was among more than a dozen major wildfires burning in Montana. By late Thursday, it had burned at least 850 acres, although firefighters said that was a conservative estimate. FEMA spokesman Ricardo Zuniga said state officials had reported the fire at an estimated 3,300 acres.

The fire, which began Tuesday about 16 miles from Missoula, took off Thursday afternoon when thunderstorms blew over the area, fueling erratic winds.

"The winds were really gusty," said Paula Rosenthal, a fire information officer. "We really had growth on this fire basically in every direction."

No rain or lightning was reported, but the winds pushed the fire south into a subdivision with some 60 homes, she said.

Three mobile homes were destroyed, according to FEMA. It was not immediately known where those homes were located.

The federal government late Thursday approved a request from the state that will cover up to 75 percent of costs to fight the fire, Zuniga said.

Nearly 120 firefighters were working the blaze, and fire officials hoped to get more crews Friday.

Mutual aid from Gore Hill and Vaughn volunteer fire departments was requested by the fire department in Frenchtown Thursday night, according to a Cascade County Dispatcher.

"One of our big problems with this fire is that we haven't been able to see it from the air," Rosenthal said. "It's been under a thick blanket of smoke."

A fire southeast of Missoula continued to threaten homes along Rock Creek. Nearly 80 homes and cabins remained evacuated Thursday, but people were allowed brief visits to check on their property. The blaze was one of three burning in the area. Combined, the fires had scorched about 41,705 acres, or just over 65 square miles.

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