

**Final Environmental Impact Statement
Post Burn**

**Lolo National Forest
Ninemile, Superior and Plains Ranger Districts
Mineral, Missoula and Sanders Counties, Montana**

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Responsible Agency:

USDA Forest Service

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Abstract

This Final Environmental Impact Statement summarizes the analysis of four alternatives for the recovery of National Forest System land that burned in 2000 on the Lolo National Forest. The alternatives are driven by the Lolo National Forest's desire to respond to the direct effects of the wildfires of 2000, including: "Restoration and Recovery of Watersheds", "Restoration and Recovery of the Land", and "Working with People and Communities".

The Post Burn project area lies approximately 35 miles west of Missoula, Montana, near the communities of Superior, Huson and Alberton. The project area is approximately 127,000 acres and encompasses four of the largest fires that burned on the Lolo National Forest in 2000 (Upper Ninemile Complex, Alpine Divide Fire, Thompson-Flat Complex and Landowner Fire).

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative No new activities would be initiated at this time.

Alternative 2 – (Restoration and recovery with no vegetation treatments) Restoration activities would include soil stabilization, riparian planting, dam site rehabilitation with stream restoration, mine reclamation with stream restoration, trail stabilization, road reconstruction to Best Management Practice standards, culvert removals and replacements with stream restoration, road closures and decommissioning, road seasonal travel management restrictions, area travel management restrictions, roadside weed spraying, and heritage site interpretation.

Alternative 4 – Environmentally Preferred Alternative (Restoration and recovery with vegetation and fuels treatments and salvage in dry, low elevation habitat types. Emphasis on protecting linkages, corridors and wildlife habitat.) This alternative would include the restoration activities listed for Alternative 2, planting approximately 12916 acres in severely burned areas, commercial thinning and salvage on 1933 acres, prescribed burning and fuels treatment on 934 acres, and additional road travel restrictions.

Alternative 5 – Agency Preferred Alternative (Restoration and recovery with vegetation, fuels treatments and salvage) This alternative would include the restoration activities listed for Alternative 2, planting approximately 12916 acres in severely burned areas, commercial thinning and salvage on 4845 acres, prescribed burning and fuels treatment on 1686 acres, and 1.70 miles of temporary road construction.

The Record of Decision (ROD) has been issued with this Final EIS.