

Forest Recovery Can Help the Forest and the Community: it doesn't have to be a drain on the taxpayer

STATEMENT FROM NOVEMBER 2005 TESTIMONY OF DR. PETER KOLB:

*“On the Sula State Forest recovery treatments implemented under the supervision of professional foresters generated over **\$5 million** for Montana Schools. Whereas mitigation procedures such as contour felling on the Bitterroot National Forest (PHOTO BELOW), cost between **\$500 and \$2,000 per acre**. Modern logging practices and technology coupled with restoration practices can be a very effective means of mitigating the identified undesirable effects such as soil erosion while also conserving the beneficial attributes of wildfire such as snag creation and nutrient cycling in a cost effective manner.”*



The Bitterroot Fire Complex caused massive damaged on the Bitterroot National Forest. One of the reasons that recovery efforts have not proceeded quickly is because of the cost of implementing these programs. If done quickly as FERRA would allow, recovery after fires can be done in an environmentally sound manner and can generate money to pay for other restoration and replanting efforts in Montana.



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Also visit <http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/forestrecovery.cfm>