# Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project

## WHAT IS BEMRP?

A multi-disciplinary partnership of:
The USDA Forest Service
~ Rocky Mountain Research Station,
~ Bitterroot National Forest, and
~ Northern Region,
and The University of Montana.

Its structure encourages exchanging information, communicating research results, and accomplishing relevant and important research.

## MISSION

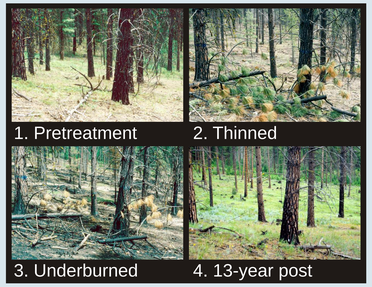
To strengthen the scientific theory and practice of managing Rocky Mountain ecosystems at the landscape level in the context of social, economic, and ecological opportunities and constraints.

**RMRS Research Work Units involved:**

Ecology and Management of Northern Rocky Mountain Forests ~ 4151
Economic Aspects of Forest Management on Public Lands ~ 4802
Wildlife Habitats ~ 4201
Fire Ecology and Fuels ~ 4403
Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

# RESEARCH ANSWERS QUESTIONS

## Fire and Fuel Treatments




Research and demonstration sites show land managers and owners how to reduce fuels on their lands and where treatments will have the most effect.

## Weeds

Land managers asked:
How detrimental are weeds to an ecosystem, and what are the effects of treating them?
BEMRP funding helped start multi-year and multi-disciplinary studies to find out.

## Social Aspects of Resource Management

LICK CREEK
Demonstration/Research Forest
Interpretive Auto Tour

"Direct contact with scientists and managers can help people sort through their own uncertainties about outcomes, and lead to more enriched discussions of the tradeoffs. . ."
*James Burchfield, The University of Montana*

## Effects of Forest Change on Fauna

BEMRP responds to the public's and land managers' strong interest in wildlife, especially the effects of vegetation management and natural disturbances like fire, insects, and diseases.

## Forest Restoration

Restoration improves forest health and wildlife habitat, and reduces wildfire severity.

# BEMRP is about Cooperation and Relationships

"**BEMRP** is looking at issues, thinking about solutions, and trying them out on the ground…People see value in the work. It's a relationship issue-Forest Service and University scientists understanding what managers' problems are and helping find solutions to issues that, in many cases, apply any place in the Region." -- *Kathy McAllister, Deputy Regional Forester for the Northern Region.*

More than **100 cooperators** have contributed funding and other support to BEMRP research.

BEMRP research inspired the **Burnt Fork Ranch** to treat 8,000 acres of grasslands and forests, with funding from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

**Montana State University Forestry Extension** uses the Lick Creek study site for informing non-industrial private forest owners on forest management.

**Middle School Students,** BEMRP, the Watershed Education Network, Bitterroot National Forest, and other partners are completing ecological restoration at a popular conservation education and recreation site.