

# Fish Creek Fire Native Riparian Revegetation

## 2005 Accomplishments

1,450 containerized units of alder, cottonwood, elderberry, and red osier dogwood collected from appropriate ecological zones were propagated and planted in 2005.

Five heavily disturbed sites were identified as places where the riparian stock would be most effective. Two of these sites were on Plum Creek Timber Co. land and state land. These sites included: 1) locally disturbed areas where stream crossings were removed and natural recovery potential of native hardwoods was low; 2) the edges of a ripped road segment near main Deer Creek where there was potential for direct sediment delivery to the stream channel; and 3) an old legacy timber harvest landing near the channel that was heavily weed invested and with little near-term potential for native plant recovery without intervention.

Implementation occurred during the week of March 21, 2005, under wet and snowy, yet favorable, spring planting conditions considering the previously dry winter.

The Forest contributed to the project with \$5,000 for NEPA, and by planting approximately **1,000** bare root stock ponderosa pine in the legacy landing site to further assist in establishing a healthy and diverse native plant community.

**Deviations** - Original proposal included 3,000 container stock units. This was reduced based on site conditions and plant ecologist input.

Also, the number of cuttings originally estimated as needed was reduced from well over 10,000 to just over 500 hardwood sprigs. The emphasis of cuttings will be in heavily disturbed areas where road crossings have been removed and stream corridor areas have typically been disturbed from mechanical activity, and where native plant recovery has been shown to be poor.



*Photo of Burned over Deer Creek Watershed, 2003, Fish Creek Drainage.*

**Year Awarded:** 2004

**Project completion:** 2005

**Report number:** 2 of 2

**Expenditures:**

- \$15,000 FY04 funding;  
\$0 remaining

**Partners/Contractors/Coop:**

- Plum Creek Timber Co., State of Montana, Montana Conservation Corps

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*MCC Crews planting riparian plants in the burned Deer Creek Watershed, Spring 2005*



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