

For more information contact your local Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. office.



*Helping Montana organizations, businesses, people and environments succeed!*

Bitter Root RC&D  
1709 North 1st  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
bitterrootrcd@cybernet1.com  
http://www.bitterrootrcd.org/

Or contact the nearest Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) Forestry Assistance Forester.

**Montana DNRC, Hamilton Unit**



1801 North 1st, PO Box 713  
Hamilton, MT, 59840  
PH: 406-375-0412  
kgelderman@mt.gov  
http://dnrc.mt.gov

**Our partners include:**



All RC&D programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

(Blodgett Fire 2000, Pinesdale, MT)



**DON'T WAIT...**  
**until this is looming over YOUR home!**  
**The next fire IS inevitable.**  
**LOSING YOUR HOME shouldn't be.**

(Bear Fire, 2000, Conner, MT)



**What you do NOW will make a difference!**

**Wildland/Urban Interface:** "The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels."  
*Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (H.R. 1904-3)*

The intent is to define an area within or adjacent to private and public property where mitigation actions should occur to prevent damage and loss.

# How safe are YOU & your HOME?

**Living in the Forest Wildland-Urban Interface**



- 1** get information
- 2** develop a plan
- 3** be responsible



# 1 **get information** from your local RC&D or DNRC Service Community Forester.

» Assistance and support for creating and maintaining a healthy, fire resistant forest landscape.

(See “Related web sites” on this brochure)

» Information on government programs that assist forest landowners.

» Contact information for wildfire experts who can give advice on fuels and defensible space.

» Contact information for contractors who can perform forestry work, e.g. timber falling, thinning, pruning, and slash cleanup and disposal.

# 2 **develop a plan** with the advice and assistance of fire professionals.

## A. Wildfire professionals

» Various influences on fire behavior in your area, e.g. fuel type and densities, terrain, weather patterns and prevailing winds.

» Building site selection on various terrains – avoid steep slopes, draws and gullies.

» Appropriate tree spacing and pruning to resist crown fires.

## B. Rural fire professionals help with *defensible space*.

» Check to see if you are actually in a fire protection district and know which one is your responder.

» Defensible space includes all criteria that allows for making structures resistant to burning and for firefighter safety in defending structures in wildfire situations.

» Defensible space includes: good access and turnarounds for firefighting vehicles; removal of flammable items near structures; fire-safe building materials e.g. metal roof and concrete siding; fire-safe landscaping. (see: [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org))

# 3 **be responsible** implement the advice of forestry and fire professionals to create a healthy fire resistant forest and defensible space.

## Follow through with your wildfire plan:

» Emergency phone numbers

» Street signs visible

» Evacuation strategy

» Backup plan if access is cut off

» Consideration for pet and livestock safety

» Educate yourself to become knowledgeable about living safely in a forested Wildland/Urban Interface.

## Reducing the threat of fire through hazardous fuel reduction/mitigation



Before



After

## Related web sites

### Planning and preparation:

<http://www.bitterrootrcd.org/>

<http://www.bitterrootfireplan.info/>

<http://bitterrootfireguide.com/>

<http://firewise.org>

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry>

### Current fire information:

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc>

Northern Rockies weather, fuels, and fire info

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>

Current U.S. fire information on all fires on a daily basis *during the fire season*.

<http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/activefiremaps.php>  
Mapped location of all fires in the U.S. through infrared imagery.

<http://www.inciweb.org/>

Most complete and up-to-date info on all large fires in U.S., and is updated often.