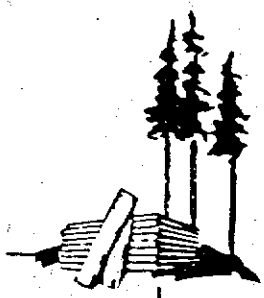
Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 4

The following exhibit is several assorted documents that exceeds the 10-page limit therefore it cannot be scanned. A small portion has been scanned to aid in your research for information. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. 4
DATE 2/16/05
BILL NO. SB417



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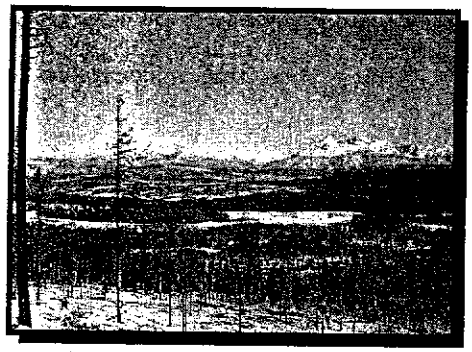
Logging:
A Key Component to Forest & Community Health

For 12 weeks Stoltze contractors and crew worked to restore less than one percent of the forest after the Moose Fire burned over 71,000 acres.



Through modern low impact practices logging cleared the way for new seedlings to be planted and left quality trees behind for seed, wildlife, and visuals.

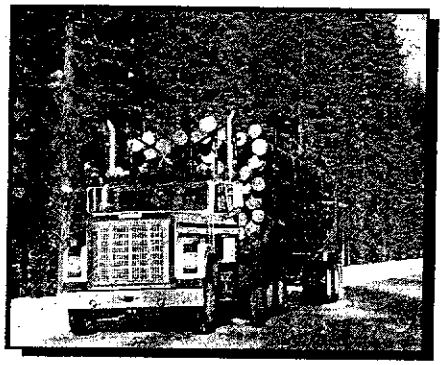
Non-management leads to disaster that reduces water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational use; also, loss of income and increased re-burn potential.

Thanks to all those who helped!

- Cofer Logging
- Quriam Logging
- Stoltze Logging
- Trumble Creek Logging
- Willie Bruns Trucking
- Carie Trucking
- Ed Covell Trucking
- Vern Fredericks Trucking
- Jump Trucking
- Keller Trucking
- Sunshine Trucking
- Uskoski Trucking

Economic Return to the State & Community

- Wages paid to loggers - $406,170.
- Wages for mill workers - $356,482
- 467 loads of logs came off the burned area.
- This load of logs generates approximately $1,046 dollars to the State. Overall that's $391,438 to the School Trust and $96,757 to "forest improvement." helping pay for seedlings to plant in the salvaged areas.
- Secondary jobs in community - $2,746,260.



Where people have cared for the forest, used them wisely, protected, developed and replenished them in good times; the forest, the land, and the people alike have prospered.

F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO.

4-21-02

FIRE AREAS BY ACRE

National Forest	Suitable	Regeneration	Salvage
Robert	13013	8540	3020	5390
Wedge Canyon	20390	9075	4475	4600
Beta Doris	5230	4000	1060	2710
Blackfoot Lake	15600	8060	1820	3740
Ball	7600	4265	1165	2150
Crazy Horse	8000	3000	350	2650
	69833	**36940**	**11890**	**21240**

Robert-Wedge Post-Fire Project
Purpose / Proposed Action

Proposed Action

Salvage

- Salvage harvest of dead trees and trees damaged by the fire and likely to die would occur on approximately 6050 acres in the two fire areas (Robert - 3075 acres; Wedge Canyon - 2975 acres) (*See attached maps*). Approximately 35 to 45 million board feet could be offered depending on future merchantability. The number of acres proposed at this time are very inclusive, portraying all the possible areas that would assessed for salvage opportunities. Further analysis and field verification may result in a reduction of proposed salvage acres, influenced by such factors as:
  - Site-specific salvage prescriptions (e.g. snag retention)
  - Logging system changes
  - Economic viability
  - Other resource concerns

- Salvage harvest would concentrate in the areas of high vegetation burn severity, where the fire killed nearly all the trees. An estimated 25% of the acres proposed for salvage have substantial numbers of surviving trees (>50% survival of overstory trees). The vast majority of these trees would remain after salvage harvest. Some live trees may be cut to accommodate landings, skid trails, skyline corridors or temporary road locations, or for safety reasons. Individual and variable sized patches of dead trees would be maintained to provide adequate present and future amounts of larger diameter standing/down trees across the landscape, or to provide for site protection.

- Impacts to the more severely burned soils would be minimized through the use of helicopters, winter logging, or skidding on slash mat materials (adequate amounts of available fine woody debris).

- Logging methods to remove merchantable trees would include helicopter, cable, and tractor type equipment such as crawler tractors, skidders, feller/bunchers, and cut-to-length harvesters. Up to 40 helicopter landing areas would be proposed and reclaimed after harvest activities. The approximate amount of acres and logging system proposed for each fire area is:

	Helicopter (acres)	Cable (acres)	Tractor (acres)
Robert	1570 (51%)	715 (23%)	790 (26%)
Wedge Canyon	1100 (37%)	240 (8%)	1635 (55%)
TOTAL LOGGING SYSTEM ACRES	2670 (44%)	955 (16%)	2425 (40%)

- Approximately 2.3 miles of new temporary road (several short segments) would be constructed to access some of the salvage units. In addition, about 2.5 miles of historic road templates may also be used to provide access to the units. These temporary roads would then be rehabilitated after logging activities. No new permanent roads would be constructed. Best management practices would be maintained to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality on those roads used during salvage activities.

PROPOSED ACTION

West Side Reservoir Post-Fire Project

Salvage

Salvage harvest of dead trees and trees damaged by the fire and likely to die would occur on a total of approximately 6,138 acres (approximately 20% of the burned area) within four fire groups (*See attached maps*):

Fire	Salvage Harvest
Beta/Doris	2159 acres
Blackfoot	1808 acres
Ball	1785 acres
Doe	386 acres
TOTAL	**6138 acres**

In developing the Proposed Action, the Interdisciplinary Team proposes to salvage only those acres that meet the following criteria:

- In burned areas with dead trees.
- Outside inventoried roadless areas and the Jewel Basin Hiking Area.
- Outside areas that currently meet old growth habitat.
- Outside areas that have been regeneration harvested in the recent past.
- Outside riparian areas. An exception occurs on a relatively few acres where burned riparian areas can be accessed by existing open road; these acres would be harvested by helicopter. One reason why these riparian acres are proposed for harvest is because future firewood gathering by the public has the potential to cause resource damage in these areas.
- Within stands with enough timber volume to be merchantable considering the harvest method appropriate for the soil type, steepness of slope, and available transportation system.

The number of acres included in the Proposed Action are the maximum that the Interdisciplinary Team considers at this time to be reasonable candidates for salvage. Further field surveys in the summer of 2004 may provide information that will reduce the total number of acres proposed for salvage harvest, may change the logging system proposed for particular units, or may cause other unforeseen reductions in total acres.

The Proposed Action focuses on salvage mostly within high and moderate vegetation burn severities:

Vegetation Burn Severity	Proposed Salvage	Percent of Total Acres
High	2950 acres	48%
Moderate	2410 acres	40%
Low	780 acres	12%

Mostly dead or dying trees would be harvested in all areas that burned. Some live trees may be cut to accommodate landings, skid trails, skyline corridors, or for safety reasons. Individual and variable sized patches of dead trees would be maintained to provide adequate present and future amounts of larger diameter standing/down trees across the landscape, or to provide for site protection. A total of approximately 70 to 80 million board feet could be harvested, the exact amount depending on merchantability at the time of harvest.

Logging methods to remove merchantable trees would depend on slope and soil sensitivity, and would include helicopter, cable, and tractor-type equipment such as crawler tractors, skidders, feller/bunchers, and cut-to-length harvesters. Impacts to the more severely burned soils would be minimized through the use of helicopters, winter logging, or skidding on slash mat materials (adequate amounts of available fine woody debris). Up to 50 helicopter landing areas would be proposed and reclaimed after harvest activities. Approximately 71% of the area would be logged by helicopters, 17% by cable, and 12% by tractor-type equipment.

Montana National Forest
Annual Growth & Mortality
2003

NOT Private or State

FOREST	GROWTH	MORTALITY	Truckloads / day
B-D	97.4 mmcf	21.4 mmcf	163
Bitterroot	42.1 mmcf	16.9 mmcf	81
Custer	7.1 mmcf	9.1 mmcf	22
Flathead	72.3 mmcf	35.8 mmcf	148
Gallatin	39.1 mmcf	22.2 mmcf	84
Helena	20.2 mmcf	9.0 mmcf ½	40
Kootenai	42.1 mmcf	97.3 mmcf alone	191
L&C	50.6 mmcf	8.8 mmcf	81
Lolo	90.9 mmcf	22.2 mmcf	154
TOTAL (mmcf)	461.8 mmcf	242.7 mmcf	
TOTAL (MMBF)	923.6 MMBF	485.4 MMBF	965

Keep mill running for 4 years (Owens Hurst)

Combined Total (Growth + Mortality) = 1,409,000,000 BF / year

* (Calculated on forested land which included suitable and tentatively suitable)

⇒ Currently the 9 independent mills need 165 truckloads per day.

(Truckloads per day based on 365 days per year.)

Healthy Forests Act cuts red tape to save lives, protect environment

By SCOTT MCINNIS
for Knight Ridder/Tribune

The newly enacted Healthy Forests Restoration Act is a good bet to go down in history as one of most significant environmental and forest management reforms to be passed by Congress in the last 100 years.

The legislation will dramatically reduce the large numbers of catastrophic wildfires that have ravaged Western states in recent years and, in so doing, eliminate millions of tons of carbon dioxide and other pollutants their smokes release into the air. Carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas that many scientists think is the chief culprit in global warming.

President Bush signed the law into place earlier this month, thus culminating years of contentious debate over the best ways to protect the health of our nation's forests.

Swift passage of the bill, first proposed in August 2002, was ignited by the wildfire infernos that raced through huge swaths of California in October – scorching nearly 750,000 acres of land, causing 22 deaths and destroying more than 3,600 homes. The Senate approved the legislation Nov. 21 on a voice vote less than an hour after the House approved it 286-140.

The need for this legislation is clear: America's forests and rangelands were being decimated by catastrophic wildfire on an unprecedented scale long before this fall's conflagrations in California.

Unfortunately, this growing crisis stems, in large part, from well-intentioned but misguided forest management policy.

For decades land managers have moved quickly to snuff out wildland fires in all forms, including nature's own frequent, low-intensity fires that serve to clear out forest buildups and rejuvenate ecosystems.

Without these natural periodic cleansings, tree densities in many areas have been allowed to increase tenfold, accelerating insect and disease scourges that create dry, combustible timber.

The result of this policy has turned our forests and rangelands into kegs of gunpowder that need only one small spark to set off a cataclysmic fire.

Entire communities and irreplaceable lives have been lost, millions of once pristine woodland acres have been charred, and countless threatened and endangered species' habitats have been incinerated.

The effects on air quality and water purity have been equally staggering. A recent scientific study found that wildfires emit incredible amounts of dangerous pollutants into the atmosphere.

For example, in 2002, wildfires are thought to have released more mercury into the air than all U.S. power plants. Significant amounts of lead and arsenic are also released each year from burned areas into streams and reservoirs, often contaminating municipal and agricultural water supplies.

Environmentalists concerned about carbon-dioxide emissions should know that Colorado's 2002 Hayman and Missionary Ridge fires were found to have released more carbon dioxide into the environment than all the cars and trucks in the state over the course of that year.

Federal and state land managers estimate that more than 190 million acres are at risk of large-scale wildfires – 25 times more land than the amount burned in California two months ago.

With record-setting blazes occurring each year – like Southern California's Old fire in 2003 and Oregon's Biscuit fire in 2002 – it is clear that we are far from the end of this fiery nightmare.

By employing 21st-century forest management techniques, land managers can control this destructive tide. But excessive analytical requirements coupled with confrontational administrative and judicial processes have created a maze of bureaucratic impediments that eat up time and attention that land managers could devote to this pressing problem.

In one prominent case, forest managers waded through three years of bureaucratic hurdles and appeals to treat wildfire-prone areas in Colorado's Upper South Platte Watershed – Denver's largest supplier of water. While still under appeal in 2002, the huge Hayman fire wiped our large parts of the treatment area contaminating the water supply and destroying hundreds of homes.

Sadly, this case is far from unique. With thousands of lives, environmental resources and delicate ecosystems at risk to wildfire, it would be negligent – if not downright criminal – to continue to impair our land managers in this disastrous manner.

I authored this bipartisan legislation to remove these bureaucratic impediments and bring about real reform to managing the wildfire threat to homes, people and the environment throughout the West. It will re-empower our land management professionals, giving them the tools needed to effectively address this crisis.

After years of searching for the right formula to aid our ailing forests, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act will inject the cool voice of common sense into wildfire policy, and free us from a logjam of overheated rhetoric.

Rep. Scott McInnis, R-Colo., was the author of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. He is chairman of the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health.

Fueling the Wildfires

by Warren Mass

California's deadly wildfires show that federal land management policies for the supposed protection of the environment are, predictably, having the opposite effect.

> *The federal eco-saviors ... have created ecological disasters of near-apocalyptic proportions. Tens of millions of acres of once-beautiful forestland have been transformed into charred moonscapes and dying, bug-infested, overgrown tinderboxes set to explode into blazing infernos.*
>
> — William F. Jasper
> "Endangered Property Rights"
> THE NEW AMERICAN
> October 25, 1999

As we write, the hills of Southern California are still smoldering. A recent headline in the *Los Angeles Times* read, "Some Evacuees Begin Returning to Homes." Having once lived in Los Angeles County, this writer is familiar with the hot, bone-dry Santa Ana winds that fanned the recent catastrophic wildfires. The philosophical thing to do, perhaps, would be to dismiss the widespread devastation as the inevitable result of nature reclaiming what man has interloped upon.

But it is not easy to dismiss the loss of 22 lives, more than 3,500 homes, and more than 750,000 acres of timber and brush. Our inquisitive human nature seeks explanations for tragedies, so we might satisfy ourselves that we (collectively) did everything humanly possible to prevent them — and that we will find ways to prevent similar catastrophes in the future.

It is emotionally wrenching to discover that human intervention could have prevented a major tragedy entailing loss of life. Even worse is the realization that, in the case of the recent California wildfires, the evidence shows that human action contributed to the tragedy.

Specifically, federal policies for managing our national forests have created the conditions for more frequent and larger wildfires. And although those policies were supposedly intended to protect the environment, it was entirely predictable that they would have the opposite effect.

Even the GAO Says So

But don't just take THE NEW AMERICAN'S word for it. When Senior Editor William F. Jasper warned four years ago that "tens of millions of acres of once-beautiful forestland" had already become "overgrown tinderboxes set to explode," he cited an April 1999 U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) study entitled *Catastrophic Wildfire Threats*. That study, Mr. Jasper noted, warned that "39 million acres on national forests in the interior West are at high risk of catastrophic wildfire" due to unnatural and excessive tree density, massive buildup of undergrowth, disease and insect infestation.

Since that 1999 GAO warning, many experts continued to sound alarms about the impending catastrophe — but to no avail. Their recommendations were ignored by government officials. One of the experts who repeatedly warned of the coming inferno is Dr. Thomas Bonnicksen, professor of forest science at Texas A&M University. Weeks before the outbreak of the California firestorm, Professor Bonnicksen expressed his grave concern at the mounting danger in California's mismanaged national forests. His August 24, 2003 written statement to the U.S. House Committee on Resources appears prophetic in view of the devastating fires that ravaged the San Bernardino Mountains area in October:

National Forest Growth & Mortality

Flathead, Kootenai & Lolo National Forests
Based on lands suitable for timber production

Loads/day

Growth	Volume (Bd. Ft.)	# Log Truck Loads (4 MBF/Load)		# Houses (14.2 MBF/House)	Suitable Timber Acres
Flathead NF	60,351,618	41	15,088	4,250	673,803
Kootenai NF	64,108,049	44	16,027	4,515	1,263,000
Lolo NF	141,679,666	97	35,420	9,977	1,013,853
	266,139,333	187	66,535	18,742	2,950,656
					9,020 bd ft/acre

Growth & Mortality

Total Lds/day

Mortality	Volume (Bd. Ft.)	# Log Truck Loads (4 MBF/Load)		# Houses (14.2 MBF/House)	Suitable Timber Acres
77 Flathead NF	52,775,719	36	13,194	3,717	
203 Kootenai NF	232,143,601	159	58,036	16,348	
128 Lolo NF	45,318,572	31	11,330	3,191	
408	330,237,892	226	82,560	23,256	11,192 bd ft/acre

"Where people have cared for the forest, used them wisely, protected, developed, and replenished them in good time - the forest, the land, and the people alike have prospered."

- 100 Years of Federal Forestry

Trim Ends

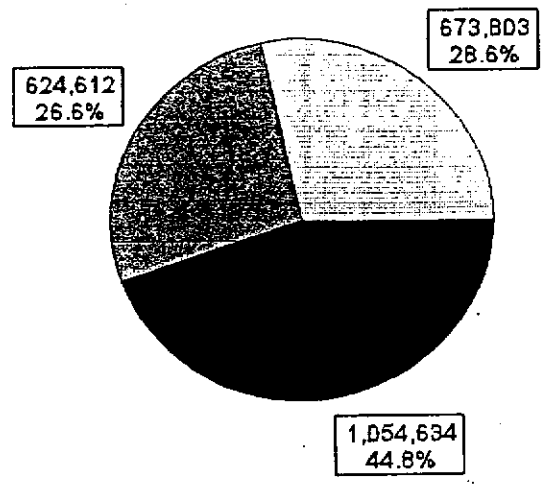
"And now, first and foremost, you can never afford to forget for one moment what is the object of our forest policy. That is not to preserve the forests because they are beautiful, though that is good in itself, nor because they are refuges for wild creatures...the primary object of our forest policy, as the land policy of the United States, is the making of prosperous homes. It is part of the traditional policy of home making in our country. Every other consideration comes as secondary."

- Theodore Roosevelt, in an address to the Society of American Foresters in 1903
June, 1995

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST FACTS

Total Flathead National Forest Acres	**2,353,049**
Total Timber Base	**673,803**
Total Other	**1,679,246**
(Wilderness, water, wildlife, recreation)	

Total Inventory Volume
5.1 Billion Board Feet
12.6 Billion Board Feet



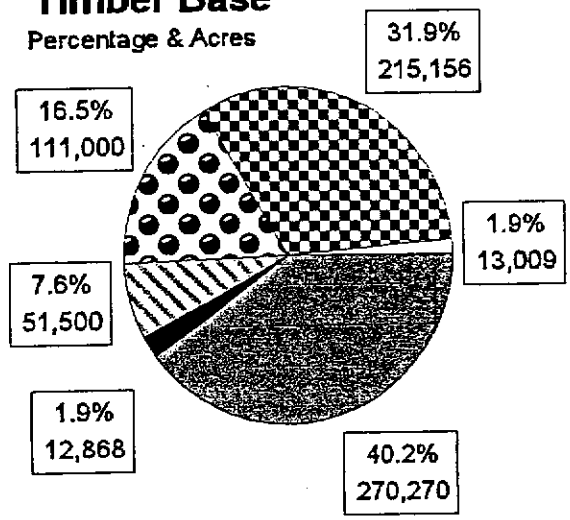
Forest Land Types

Total Flathead Acres	**2,353,049**
Non forest land	**-217,532**
Forested land	**2,133,517**
Forest Roadless Recreation land withdrawn	**-580,502**
Forest land within wilderness	**-862,856**
Non forest wilderness	**-18,356**
Suitable forest land (timber base)	**673,803**

Timber Base

Component	Percentage	Acres
Water	1.9%	13,009
*Deferred Excess #	31.9%	215,156
Old Growth	16.5%	111,000
Soils & Slopes	7.6%	51,500
Non forested	1.9%	12,868
**Balance	40.2%	270,270
Total Timber Base Acres		673,803

Timber Base
Percentage & Acres



* Deferred excess is acres not needed this decade to meet ASQ

** Balance component provides for:

timber	watersheds
visuals	grizzly bear habitat
riparian areas	wolf habitat
indicator species	deer/elk/moose (special)

On Timber Base - 673,803

	#'s in Million Board Feet	Ld/day
Current forest growth	60	41 } 77
Mortality	53	36 }
Allowable Sale Quantity	52	
Target Sell 2002	20.8	
Actual Sell August 2002	3.5MM	

Grizzly Bear:
60% of the timber base is occupied grizzly bear habitat.
1) **some is the bears exclusive habitat**
2) **some is the winter/summer habitat (some months are closed to the public)**
3) **most only allow 3 years of activity with seven years of non-activity**

87% of the total forest is occupied grizzly habitat (2,047,153 acres).

TABLE III-1 Management Area Acreage - Flathead National Forest
December 1985

	MA	Suitable Timber Land	W/Out Proposed Wilderness	Proposed Wilderness	Total
Non forest & Unsuitable Timber Lands	1	No	41,953	916	42,869
Unroaded Recreational	2	No	17,890	44,709	62,599
	2A	No	91,858	15,345	107,203
	2B	No	109,025	9,054	118,079
	2C	No	8,934	0	8,934
	2D	No	526	0	526
	2E	No	184	0	184
	2F	No	260	0	260
		Total	228,677	69,108	297,785
Amenity Value	3	No	39,862	395	40,257
	3A	No	495	0	495
		Total	40,357	395	40,752
Campgrounds	4	No	314	0	314
Timber Lands High Scenic Value	5	Yes	3,753	0	3,753
Visual Sensitive	7	Yes	42,861	0	42,861
	7A	Yes	5,934	0	5,934
		Total	48,795	0	48,795
Unroaded Timber Lands High Scenic Value	8	Yes	7,551	0	7,551
Whitetail Deer Winter Habitat	9	Yes	18,812	0	18,812
	9B	No	80	0	80
		Total	18,892	0	18,892
Administrative Sites	10	No	1,268	0	1,268
	10A	No	193	0	193
		Total	1,461	0	1,461
Grizzly Bear	11	No	69,812	0	69,812
	11A	No	17,491	9,985	27,476
	11B	No	1,592	0	1,592
	11C	Yes	9,852	0	9,852
		Total	98,747	9,985	108,732
Riparian	12	No	45,354	47	45,401
	12A	No	120	0	120
		Total	45,474	47	45,521