

## Bitterroot National Forest Annual Report 2018



Project Title: Watershed Improvement through Sediment Reduction in Upper Sleeping Child Creek & Rye Creek	
Organization: Bitter Root Water Forum	
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Bitter Root Water Forum efforts in 2018 focused on education, monitoring, and planning for future efforts in partnership with the Bitterroot National Forest through the open Stewardship Agreement.

The Water Forum took every opportunity to inform the public about the work completed in the Watershed Improvement Project area and water issues facing the Bitterroot, giving presentations for local groups like the Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot and Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association. Through their printed media, e-newsletter, and social media the Water Forum reached over 1,000 community members multiple times throughout the year. Public understanding of road decommissioning and the benefits to watersheds still need improvement, but it was apparent that some of the people who have tracked on progress made by the Water Forum through the Watershed Improvement Project have a much better understanding of the process and its intended results.

Monitoring was accomplished through photo point pictures and drone footage collected during multiple site visits. Visual progress indicates that the affected areas seem to be recovering well. See attached images.

Throughout the year, Water Forum staff Heather Barber and Katie Vennie, met with Cole Mayn and Andy Efta multiple times to discuss possibilities for additional work to be completed as part of the Stewardship Agreement. Opportunities discussed included work on Robbins Gulch Road and other areas of the Darby Lumber Lands Phase 2 as well as the potential for assisting in implementing best management practices for road maintenance in the Water Forum's priority watersheds.

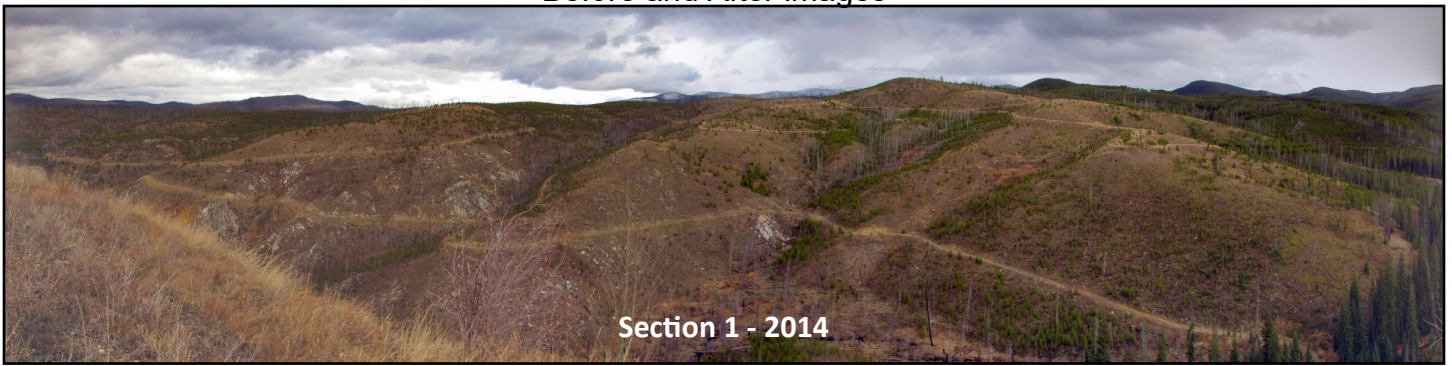
Cole and Andy also joined for a Water Forum Projects Committee meeting to better explain opportunities to decision makers. Because of the numerous opportunities, unknown timelines, and

difference in types of potential projects there were many internal meetings of the projects committee and Water Forum staff to discuss viability and determine how well the opportunities aligned with the mission of the organization.

The Water Forum hopes to engage in additional road decommissioning work to benefit priority watersheds and will have further discussion about involvement in Darby Lumber Lands Phase 2 as more information becomes available.



# Before and After images







3-2  
N46°  
01.962'  
W113°  
57.372'



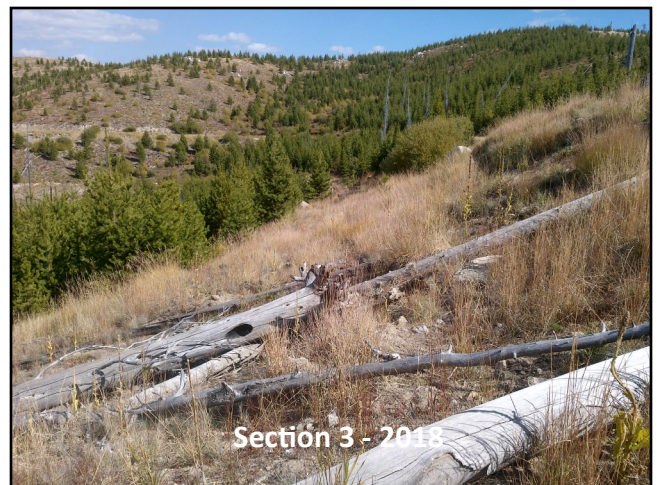
3-3  
N46°  
02.019'  
W113°  
57.411'



3-4  
N46°  
02.047'  
W113°  
57.402'



3-5  
N46°  
02.054'  
W113°  
57.422'







Section 3 - 2015

3-6  
N46°  
02.075'  
W113°  
57.280'



Section 3 - 2018



Section 3 - 2015

3-7  
N46°  
02.451'  
W113°  
57.026'



Section 3 - 2018



Section 3 - 2015

3-8  
N46°  
02.487'  
W113°  
57.091'



Section 3 - 2018



Section 3 - 2015

3-9  
N46°  
02.578'  
W113°  
57.149'



Section 3 - 2018





Section 11 - 2015

11-1  
N46°  
01.741'  
W113°  
56.047'



Section 11 - 2018



Section 11 - 2015

11-2  
N46°  
01.823'  
W113°  
56.094'



Section 11 - 2018

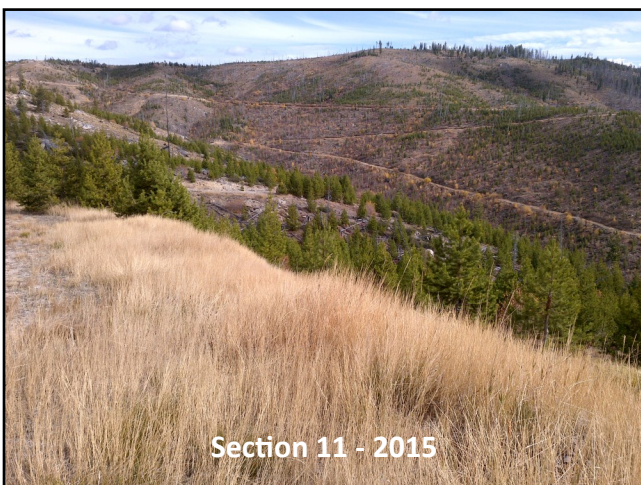


Section 11 - 2015

11-3  
N46°  
01.816'  
W113°  
56.070'



Section 11 - 2018



Section 11 - 2015

11-5  
N46°  
01.179'  
W113°  
56.141'



Section 11 - 2018





11-7  
N46°  
01.721'  
W113°  
55.492'

