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ST. LOUIS, MO. 63102

Missoula, Mont.

Missoula
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FORESTRY PEOPLE ESTIMATE LOSSES

Government Service Issues a Comparative Statement as to
the Damage Done by Recent Fires in Forests of
Western Montana---Conditions Improve
---Only Wind Is Now Feared.

153
A conference was held yesterday between Henry Neill, chairman of the state land board, and Assistant District Forester Silcox. Mr. Neill came to Missoula to arrange for co-operation with the forest service in fighting the forest fires and to assure the forestry officials that the state will be glad to bear its share of the financial expense incurred in fighting the fires. Mr. Silcox said that nothing could be expected from the conference, as the forestry department had all the men necessary at present, and could not handle any more on the fire line. It will be some time before the amount of state ground burned over can be estimated and the cost figured.

Yesterday's reports show that the situation in general is better than it

has been, and, unless high winds should arise, the conditions seem to be becoming more favorable every day. High winds would mean the rapid spreading of the flames and would probably take them out of control.

The Miller creek fire is threatening railway and Blackfoot Lumber company timber, and these companies were notified of the situation yesterday by the forestry service.

The following table has been compiled by the men in charge of the different fires and will give some idea of the amount of damage done, although the estimates are very low and particularly so in regard to the private losses. The number of men employed has been increased to 1,500 by the forces sent to Iron Mountain and Miller creek yesterday.

Forest—	No. Men	Acreage	Cost of Handling	Govt. Damage	Private
Deer Lodge.....		750	\$ 112	\$ 1,040	\$
Flathead	70	7,000	1,300	10,000	.....
Kootenai	150	10,000	5,000	20,000	.....
(Private)	40	9,000	1,000	.....	18,000
Cabinet	300	23,000	15,000	25,000	50,000
(Private)		11,500	.....	.....	.....
Helena	10	3,000	1,500	.....	.....
(Private)		20	400	.....	.....
Blackfeet	200	25,000	5,000	150,000	35,000
(Glacier Prk.)		5,000	.....	.....	.....
Nez Percé	35	2,800	750	8,000	.....
Lolo	375	4,000	8,000	5,000	8,000
(Private)		11,300	.....	.....	.....
Pend d'Orelle.....	140	10,000	7,000	12,000	.....
(Private)		4,000	3,000	6,000	.....
Missoula .....		.....	.....	10,000	26,000
Coeur d'Alene		60,000	10,000	200,000	.....
Clearwater	130	20,000	700	200,000	.....
Govt.	1,410	165,550	\$54,362	\$641,040	\$138,000
*Private		35,820	4,400	.....	.....

*Information concerning private ownership probably far too low since the returns are very incomplete.