

## **CHANGING HUMAN DEMOGRAPHICS INFLUENCE FOREST SERVICE MANAGEMENT IN MONTANA**

Jane Cotrell, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, Montana 59807

Human demographic changes in Montana have been occurring for some time, bringing both challenges and opportunities for Forest Service Managers. Movement of people into urban/forest interfaces have created social, political and legal interest and action regarding the management of forests with respect to both fire and wildlife habitat. Human demographic changes have brought increasingly diverse perspectives to bear on issues surrounding management of the National Forests, making analysis and decision on issues such as travel management very complex. Emerging issues involving open space, aquatic health, invasive species and instream flow needs have also shaped management on the National Forests in Montana. We have also seen recent successes where diverse public interests have come together to resolve issues.