

## Handout H12-1. Effects of the Lolo Peak Fire on Soils

Read the **Summary of the Lolo Peak Fire Burned-Area Report (LoloPeakFire\_BAER-ReportSummary.pdf)**, which was completed by a group of 26 experts when the fire was mostly contained. Use the information in the report to answer ONE of the question sets below in a 3-minute broadcast for a local radio station. If you need more information, consult the full Burned-Area Report (**LoloPeakFire\_BAER-ReportFull.pdf**). You may also obtain information on your topic from other sources.

Since you cannot include graphics in your radio spot, be careful to explain any information that you get from maps and graphs very clearly. Include appropriate sound effects. Do not use jargon or acronyms. If you absolutely must use technical terms, define them.

Record your radio spot. It will be “assigned listening” for the class.

### Address ONE of these question sets:

- A. **FLOODS:** How has the Lolo Peak Fire increased the possibility of flooding in the forest and in areas downstream? When is flooding most likely to occur? How long will the danger last? What can listeners do to stay safe?
- B. **FISHERIES:** It is hard for fish to stay healthy if their water gets murky with sediment or gets too warm in the summer. How might severely burned soils in the Lolo Peak Fire damage fish populations and habitat, especially that of the endangered bull trout? What can be done to prevent or reduce the damage?
- C. **SAFETY:** How have fire-caused changes to soils created hazards for people who are working or recreating in the burned area? Recreational activities could include hiking, skiing and snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, biking, and sledding. Local residents might be logging or cutting firewood in the burned area. What can be done to protect these people?
- D. **WEEDS:** Weeds are likely to invade and spread in places with bare soil, where there is little native vegetation. How have fire-caused changes to soils increased the likelihood that weeds will invade and spread in the burned area? What can be done to prevent or reduce increases in weeds?
- E. **HYDROPHOBICITY:** What are hydrophobic soils? Why should we worry about them? How much of the area burned by the Lolo Peak Fire has hydrophobic soils? What can be done about them? Will they stay hydrophobic forever?