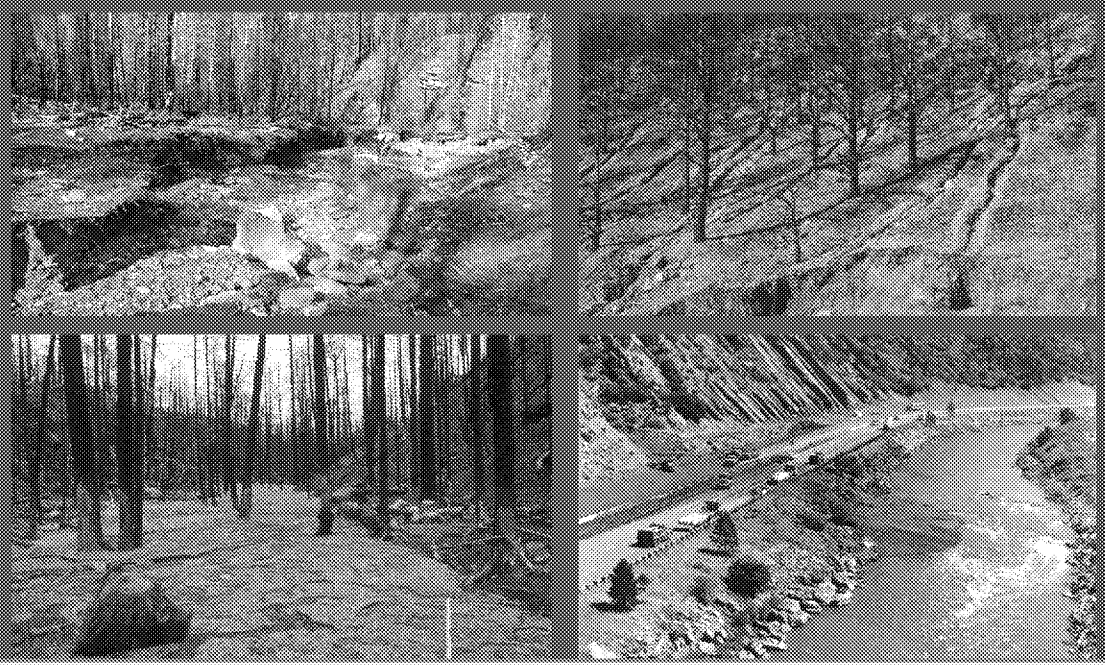
Areas Subjected to Wildfire Can Experience Severe Erosion Afterwards

Associated high flows in rivers draining such areas could cause a resuspension **of previously settled sediment** along with accumulated contaminants such as **mine wastes**



"The greatest risk to the soil and water resources following the Hayman Fire is erosion and sediment delivery to the streams and reservoirs." Hayman Fire Case Study, USDA Forest Service. September 2003

Concept of EPA GIS Exercise

- Some areas on the forested landscape that supply drinking water to communities are more prone to post-wildfire erosion than others
- Already completed research can aid in **identifying the most vulnerable areas**
- Armed with such information, land managers can **target forest fuel reduction projects to lessen the likelihood/severity of wildfire** and thus reduce the risks of post-fire erosion that could harm drinking water supplies

EPA Region 9 Office of Sustainability and FEMA collaboration

- First signed in 2011, renewed 2016
  - Following floods and tornadoes in Iowa in 2008
  - Smart growth, green infrastructure, and green building practices in long-term recovery
  - Between EPA's Office of Policy and FEMA's Office of Response & Recovery and Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

- What does EPA bring to hazard mitigation and disaster recovery?
  - Technical assistance for states, tribes, regions, and locals
  - Connect disaster planning to other community and environmental goals
  - Link disaster mitigation and recovery over time

How does it actually work?

- Relationships between EPA and FEMA staff
- EPA staff reach out about where we're working, and FEMA tells us about their overall priorities and needs
- Be ready after disasters, tie response & recovery to mitigation
- FEMA sends us money through Mission Assignments or Interagency Agreements
- Policy collaboration
  - Green infrastructure in Hazard Mitigation Plans (OWOW)
    - US Army Corps Silver Jackets flood management program
  - Community Rating System & Flood Resilience Checklist (OP)