



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 5130/6730

Date: **October 3, 2001**

Route To:

Subject: Thirtymile Fire Investigation

To: Tom L. Thompson, Chairperson
Thirtymile Fire Review Board

In reviewing the Investigation and Management Evaluation Reports on the Thirtymile Fire, it is clear that we need to learn from the events that led up to the deployment and develop appropriate actions to prevent what happened from occurring again.

However, there have been continuing questions concerning why some of the victims and survivors remained on the rock scree above the road even though some witness statements confirm there was an attempt to get everyone on the road. As a result I am asking the Review Board to reexamine the factual report and witness statements relating to this question.

I agree with Forest Supervisor Sonny O'Neal that these firefighters are heroes. We may never know exactly what happened. But, we owe it to the firefighters and their families to pause for a moment and revisit the findings of the investigation report and witness statements concerning this event and try to determine what happened during those frantic moments.

/s/ Dale N. Bosworth
DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief

cc: Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester Pacific Northwest Region

