

Press Release
(for immediate release)

The Charcoal Forest: How Fire Helps Animals & Plants

Beth A. Peluso

64 pages • 8 3/8 x 9

Full color • appendix • glossary • references • index

Paper \$12.00 • ISBN 0-87842-532-2

Publication Date: May 2007

After a fire, you might think a burned area is as barren and lifeless as the moon. But take a closer look and you'll find that even before the last wisps of smoke have cleared, the newly burned forest is already teeming with life. Many plants and animals find fertile ground here to grow, eat, and have offspring; some species are dependent on fire and cannot thrive or reproduce without it.

Unlike most books, which concentrate on the fire itself, *The Charcoal Forest* explores the new habitat created by the fire. Focusing on the Northern Rocky Mountains of the United States and Canada, the book describes twenty species of animals and plants that contribute to the reclamation and renewal of the charcoal forest. Why do some beetles fly toward a fire? Why will you almost never see a black-backed woodpecker outside of burned areas? How do fires help grow yummy treats like huckleberries and morel mushrooms? Kids and adults will delight in discovering the answers to these and other burning questions-and don't forget to find the black-backed woodpecker in the picture!

Beth A. Peluso received her BA in English with a minor in art. She has an MS in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana with an emphasis in natural history writing and illustration. She has worked as an editor, taught young children, and done scientific illustration. This is her first children's book.

The Charcoal Forest: How Fire Helps Animals & Plants is available from bookstores or directly from Mountain Press Publishing Company at 800-234-5308 or www.mountain-press.com.