



Photography by J.K. Lawrence Photography, Inc.

**AIA Montana 2002
Design Award of Excellence
Honor Recipient**

**Don McLaughlin, AIA
Place Architecture
118 East Main
Bozeman, Montana
406-586-0033
miller@placearch.com**

Statement of the Program: Create an energy efficient, elegant, cost efficient building that provides highly desirable work space and can showcase USDA Forest Service research and development. This is the Forest Service's national research facility.

The Solution: The 60,500 square foot building was constructed for under \$95.00 per S.F. with significant amenities and site work:

- Fire research, unique equipment construction, and special clothing laboratories, offices and library, and a training center are part of the facility.
- Clerestory lighting provides day-lighting throughout the facility.
- Light screens over the windows reduce direct sun and sky glare for computers with shades of various densities – very dense on the west and open on the north.
- Large equipment laboratories have day-lighting from clerestory space.
- Spaces are designed to create a contemplative and inspirational atmosphere relating directly to natural light and outdoor area.
- The building is intended to be recognizable as a Forest Service building with its “forest” of internal columns, sustainable materials, and exterior color palette of green and stone.
- Sustainable themes include energy efficient mechanical systems, natural ventilation, significant day-lighting and innovative building material products of agricultural material such as wheat board wall panels.

Missoula Technology & Development Center

Site Considerations: The exterior spaces are a critical part of the overall design:

- Sustainable design principles generated the overall design with all facilities having the long axis east/west for major southern orientation and protected exterior courtyards for equipment demonstration, project display and work areas.
- Major buildings are linked with an enclosed connector separating diverse uses such as offices and heavy equipment areas significantly increasing work efficiencies compared to the old facilities.
- Plant materials are native varieties with the major grass areas left in its natural state.