

GUIDE to INFORMATION and SERVICES

Many additional resource links can be found at the MSU Extension Forestry Website; for online resources: <https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/onlineresources/index.html>

by MSU Extension Forestry: Lexi Brown, Forest Stewardship Coordinator; Christina Oppegard, Program Manager; Peter Kolb (Ph.D.), Forestry Specialist.

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Guide to Information and Services for Montana Forest Landowners

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FEDERAL

Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

The NRCS works through local Conservation Districts to provide conservation planning and technical assistance to landowners and local units of government in dealing with their natural resource management concerns. In providing forestry planning and technical assistance, the agency works in cooperation with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Division of Forestry. Advising landowners about windbreaks and shelterbelts is also part of its forestry responsibility.

NRCS has staff in nearly every county. The local staff is supported by a state office staff of specialists in agronomy, biology, economics, engineering, forestry, wildlife, geology, hydrology, range management, remote sensing/geographic information systems, soil mapping and interpretations, soil mechanics, and water quality. These specialists can be called on to help address resource concerns regarding forestland. Soil maps are available through most county offices.

The NRCS (formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The local NRCS office in your county is listed under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture in your phone book.

Montana NRCS State Office, Natural Resource Conservation Service

10 E Babcock St.

Federal Building Room 443

Bozeman, MT 59715-4704

(406) 587-6811

Toll Free: (866) 880-6727

www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov

Natural Resource Area Directory

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>

NRCS's National PLANTS database

Provides information on forest plants, plants used in conservation work and threatened and endangered plants. The PLANTS database includes checklists, species abstracts, distributional data and plant photographs. Plant characteristics and identification features are described by going to:

<https://plants.usda.gov/home>

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. In addition, the purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations. Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on the land may participate in EQIP.

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip

Conservation Districts

Conservation districts are local units of government organized under state law to assist local land users; provide for the conservation of Montana's natural resources; and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Montana. Conservation districts issue 310 Permits which are required for any activity that affects the bed or banks of a perennial stream. Most conservation district offices are located at USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service offices. www.macdnet.org

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. The mission of the USFWS is to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information: <https://www.fws.gov/>

The objectives of the USFWS:

- Assist in the development and application of an environmental stewardship ethic for our society, based on ecological principles, scientific knowledge of fish and wildlife, and a sense of moral responsibility.
- Guide the conservation, development, and management of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources.
- Administer a national program to provide the public opportunities to understand, appreciate, and wisely use fish and wildlife resources.

For USFW directory of district offices: <https://www.fws.gov/our-facilities>

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) assists landowners with financing through government cost-share programs that conserve forestland resources and ensure future productivity. The FSA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. Funding for EFRP is appropriated by Congress. FSA is also a source for aerial photos.

US Department of Agriculture - Farm Service Agency

www.fsa.usda.gov

County offices: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=mt&agency=fsa>

United States Forest Service (USFS)

The US Forest Service is an agency of the US Department of Agriculture. They manage public lands in the national forests and grasslands. This manages 193 million acres of land nationally.

Northern Region

Montana, North Dakota, Northern Idaho, and Northwestern South Dakota

Federal Building,
200 East Broadway
PO Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807-7669
(406) 329-5311
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/>

For a full organization directory of the entire US Forest Service, by region and headquarters: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/faces-of-the-forest-service>

State and Private Forestry

The State and Private Forestry (S&PF) organization of the USDA Forest Service reaches across the boundaries of National Forests to States, Tribes, communities and non-industrial private landowners. S&PF is the federal leader in providing technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation's forests and protect communities and the environment from wild land fires.

State and Private Forestry programs bring forest management assistance and expertise to a diversity of landowners, including small woodlots, tribal, state, and federal, through cost-effective, non-regulatory partnerships. The staffs play a key role, along with others within the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, in implementing the National Fire Plan to manage the impacts of wild land fires on communities and the environment. <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/>

STATE

Montana State University - Extension (MSU)

MSU Extension provides statewide educational outreach resources to the people of Montana in their home communities. With diverse educational materials and programs that includes youth development, crops and livestock, forest landowners, yard and garden energy, and healthy living. Their continuing educational programs, demonstrations, workshops, publications and even newsletters educate and assist those in the community in the latest research and applications as well as historical information.

Educational materials are available on topics associated with forest management, agriculture, business management, estate planning, consumer finance, wood energy, farm management, soils, livestock, pesticides, pests (insects and animal), plants, range management, safety, water resources, and weeds.

Catalogs & free downloads: <https://store.msuextension.org/>

For information and contacts by county or reservation: <http://www.msuextension.org/localoffices.html>

MSU Extension Distribution Center

PO Box 172040

Bozeman, MT 59717-2040

(406) 994-3273

Extension Forestry

The MSU Extension Forestry office offers forest landowners, natural resource professionals, and loggers, publications and educational programs that provide practical knowledge about Montana forest lands and forest management options. With this knowledge comes the ability and motivation to manage forest resources. Educational programs include the Montana Forest Stewardship Workshop the core planning course for forest landowners and the Master Forest Steward Program, and many topic specific workshops, including Advanced Forest Management, Riparian/Wetland Forest Stewardship Workshop, managing shelterbelts and windbreaks, Forest Road Maintenance Workshop, Forest Wildfire Hazard Reduction Workshop. Extension Forestry also plays host to an Annual Mini-College held each year in Missoula. The Extension Forestry staff can answer specific forestry questions or provide information on forest management topics such as, management plans, markets for forest products, reforestation (tree planting), tree thinning, timber harvesting, forest wetlands and riparian areas, windbreaks and living snow fences.

MSU Extension Forestry

32 Campus Drive

Missoula, MT 59812

(406) 243-2773

extensionforestry@montana.edu

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/>

Certified Forest Stewardship Advisors

Natural resource professionals who have completed the Montana Forest Stewardship Advisor Training, conducted by MSU Extension Forestry, and served as a Forest Stewardship Workshop instructor achieve the status of certified forest stewardship advisor. All stewardship advisors are experienced in forest stewardship planning and adult education. Certified forest stewardship advisors have professional backgrounds in these fields: forestry, wildlife, range, fisheries, botany, riparian and wetland management, weed management, reclamation, soils, hydrology, and agriculture. Certified stewardship advisors are available to answer a variety of natural resource-related questions and offer professional services to landowners and other organizations across Montana.

Montana Certified Forest Stewardship Advisors

MSU Extension Forestry

Peter Kolb	Forestry Specialist	Missoula	406-243-4705	peter.kolb@mso.umt.edu
Lexi Brown	Forest Stewardship Coordinator	Missoula	406-243-4706	alexios.brown@montana.edu

MSU Extension

Jared Beaver	Wildlife Specialist	Bozeman	406-994-3709	jared.beaver@montana.edu
Dave Brink	Extension Agent Ag	Superior	406-822-3545	dbrink@montana.edu
Ben Hauptman	Extension Agent Ag	Phillipsburg	406-859-3304	ben.hauptman@montana.edu
Dan Lucas	Western Region Dept Head (Ag)	Western Region	406-274-8969	acxdl@montana.edu
Rose Malisani	Cascade Co. Ag	Great Falls	406-454-6980	rose.malisani@montana.edu
Patrick Mangan	Horticulture Agent	Flathead Reservation	406-210-9843	patrick.mangan@montana.edu
Jeff Mosley	Range Specialist	Bozeman	406-994-5601	jmosley@montana.edu
Tracy Mosley	Central Region Dept Head (Ag)	Wilsall	406-223-4727	tmosley@montana.edu
Juli Thurston	Sanders County Agent	Thompson Falls	406-827-6934	juli.thurston@montana.edu

Private

Allen Branine	Retired DNRC Service Forester	Swan Lake	406-212-0249	firebear@montanasky.us
Ron Buentemeier	Retired Stoltze	Columbia Falls	406-862-3897	rbuentemeier@montanasky.net
Allen Chrisman	Retired USFS	Kalispell	406-249-6130	achrisman52@gmail.com
Don Feist	Retired NRCS Range	Plains	406-826-3701	don.feist@mt.usda.gov
Jerry Furtney	RY Timber - Forester	Townsend	406-949-1531	jaforests@yahoo.com
Mike Justus	Retired DRNC Forester	Libby	406-293-0838	mjustus1954@gmail.com
Sam Gilbert	Retired USFS Siviculturalist	Helena	406-410-0546	gilbertas@centric.net
Scott Kuehn	Retired Industry Forester	Missoula	406-546-9304	montanaforester@yahoo.com
Betty Kuropat	Retired USFS Siviculturalist	Troy	406-295-7143	blueirismt@gmail.com
Ed Levert	Retired USFS Forester	Libby	406-293-2847	televert@kvis.net
Roger Marshall	Retired Industry Forester	Seeley Lake	406-677-2673	mt.forester@yahoo.com
Cindy Peterson	Retired MSU Extension Forestry	Missoula & Mineral C	406-370-7371	cindy10cap@gmail.com
Matt Ricketts	Retired NRCS Forest/Range	Bozeman	406-220-0119	jricketts61@gmail.com
Tami Sabol	USFS -Forestry	Butte	406-239-0742	tami.sabol@yahoo.com
Glenda Scott	Retired USFS Siviculturalist	Missoula	406-207-4401	dgscott@montana.com
Fred Staedler	Retired DRNC Forester	Anaconda	406-560-3723	threestads1pup@msn.com
Lorrie Woods	Retired USFS Siviculturalist	Columbia Falls	406-261-2900	jlnwoods@gmail.com

Industry

Matt Bishop	Stoltze-Forester	Columbia Falls	406-892-7014	mbishop@stoltzelumber.com
Mike Cotton	Stoltze-Forester	Columbia Falls	406-471-8269	mcotton@stoltzelumber.com
Dennis Davaz	RY Timber -Forester	Livingston	406-222-3360	mtdavaz@aol.com
Brian Hobday	Green Diamond	Libby	406-858-3512	brian.hobday@greendiamond.com
Mike Lilly	Idaho Forest Group	Trout Creek	406-649-7261	michael.lilly@idfg.com
Zack Miller	Weyerhaeuser-Forester	Kalispell	406-890-0188	zachary.miller@wy.com
Jeff Whitlock	Stoltze-Forester	Columbia Falls	406-892-7027	jwhitlock@stoltzelumber.com
Cameron Wohlschlegel	Stoltze-Manager	Columbia Falls	406-892-7009	cwohlschlegel@stoltzelumber.com

DNRC

Matt Arno	Bureau Chief	Missoula	406-542-4239	mattarno@mt.gov
Bill Burdick	Service Forester	Missoula	406-542-4313	wburdick@mt.gov
Gary Ellingson	GNA Forester	Helena	406-458-3507	gary.ellingson@mt.gov
Amy Helena	Unit Manager (Forestry)	Missoula	406-542-5803	ahelena@mt.gov
Thayer Jacques	Unit Manager	Hamilton	406-375-0412	tjacques@mt.gov
Ashley Juran	Forestry	Missoula	406-542-4280	Ashley.juran.mt.gov
Jeremy Rank	Service Forester	Libby	406-293-2711	jrank@mt.gov
Holly McKenzie	Forest Consultant	Columbia Falls	406-892-4141	hmckenzie@centurytel.net
Shawn Morgan	Service Forester	Polson	406-883-3960	shawn.morgan@mt.gov
Neil Simpson	GNA Program Specialist	Missoula	406-542-4371	nsimpson@mt.gov
Josh Stoychoff	Service Forester	Lewistown	406-535-1903	jstoychoff@mt.gov
Ali Ulwelling	Forest Action Plan Coordinator	Kalispell	406-751-2246	aulwelling@mt.gov
Erik Warrington	Stewardship Specialist	Missoula	406-542-4303	ewarrington@mt.gov
Jack White	Service Forester	Swan Lake	406-754-2301	jack.white@mt.gov

NRCS

Ben Crystal	NRCS Forester	Missoula	406-303-3433	benjamin.crystal@usda.gov
Jason Glenn	NRCS Forester	Missoula	406-303-3436	jason.glenn@usda.gov
Celie Meier	NRCS State Forester	Bozeman	406-587-6821	celie.borndal1@usda.gov
Sabrina Schuller	NRCS Forester	Missoula	406-303-3438	sabrina.schuler@usda.gov

Other Organizations

Luke Lamar	Swan Valley Connections-Wildlife	Condon	406-754-3137	luke@svconnections.org
Mike Mayernik	Swan Valley Connections-Wildlife	Condon	406-754-3137	mike@svconnections.org
Angela Wells	Tree Farm-Forestry	Missoula	406-542-4221	awells@forestfoundation.org
Brooke Durnin	American Forest Mgmt-Forester	Kalispell MT	406-751-2417	Brooke.Durnin@afmforest.com

Educational Forestry Publications, Factsheets, Newsletters, Instructional Videos, Mini-College Recordings

Free downloads and/or free or for purchase hard copies: <https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/>

MSU Extension Publications

Publications covering many topics: Weeds, range, estate planning and more!

(406) 994-3273

Email: orderpubs@montana.edu Online Store: <https://store.msuextension.org/>

Noxious Weeds

Weeds are a common problem for most landowners in Montana. Noxious weeds are identified by the state by a species' ability to take over large parts of the state due to its highly invasive behavior.

For more information about noxious and problem weeds:

<http://animalrangextension.montana.edu/range/invasive-plants.html>

The Montana Historical Society

Looking for historical information about your property? The Montana Historical Society might have what you're looking for. Founded in 1865 Montana Historical Society is one of oldest institutions of its kind in the west of the Mississippi River. The Society is a state agency with a wide variety of programs. MSH compiles the Montana Historic Preservation Services Directory. It lists professionals who provide consulting and research services.

Montana Historical Society

PO Box 201201

225 North Roberts

Helena, MT 59620-1201

(406) 444-2694

Email: mhslibrary@mt.gov

<https://mhs.mt.gov/>

Laws and Permits

Montana only has two laws that directly influence forestry practices: 1) The Fire Hazard Reduction Law (HRA) that states that all woody debris generated by harvesting and thinning operations must be treated to the extent that under the conditions of a "standard bad fire day" a wildfire will not produce flames higher than 4 ft, and, 2) The Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) Law that provides specific standards for the type and extent of tree removal that may occur within and adjacent to a wetland and/or stream with surface flowing water (class I, II and III streams). Although not written into statute, stream and

water quality protection is also offered through the voluntary Best Management Practices guidelines that all professional foresters and contractors adhere to as a matter of pride and ethics.

Indirectly there are other regulations and guidelines landowners should be aware of and that might impact their management activities such as the Endangered Species Act, Antiquities Act, stream and floodplain development, Clean Air Act, county noxious weed regulations, and laws governing contract worker requirements. Landowners have the responsibility to become knowledgeable regarding the laws which regulate activities they may take on their property and act in accordance with those laws. Many laws and permits which apply to less common activities are not listed below. The intent of this information is to help forest landowners anticipate which laws and permits need to be considered regarding a planned action on their property.

Timber Harvesting

DNRC, Forestry Division

Hazard Reduction Agreement: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Forest-Management/logging-slash-reduction>

Burning Regulation and Permits: https://app.egovmt.com/burnpermit/?mode=burn_map

Streamside Management near water, Voluntary Best Management Practices:
<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Forest-Management/forest-practices>

Air Quality Burning Restrictions

MT Dept of Environmental Quality

County Air Quality Dept: <http://deq.mt.gov/Air>

Floodplain Development Permit

<https://deq.mt.gov/water/assistance>

Conservation District

310 and 404 Permits: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/licenses-and-permits/stream-permitting/>

Water Right Permit

Conservation District: www.macdnet.org/

DNRC, Water Resources Division: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Water-Rights/>

US Army Corps of Engineers:

<https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies/u-s-army-corps-of-engineers>

Noxious Weed Control

County Weed District: <https://www.mtweed.org/weeds/weed-districts/>

Endangered Species Act

US Fish and Wildlife Service: <https://www.fws.gov/law/endangered-species-act>

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

The DNRC mission is this: To serve the people of Montana by providing State Trust Land Management, Wildfire Protection, Water Resources Management, Conservation District Support and Resource Development, Forest Practices Regulation, and Promotion of water, soil, forest, and rangeland stewardship in a professional, open, and fiscally responsible manner. To accomplish this, the DNRC has been organized into seven divisions. The divisions described below have responsibilities associated with private forestland management.

Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

PO Box 201601 • Helena, MT 59620

(406) 444-2074

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/>

Forestry Division

Within this division the Service Forestry Program provides services to landowners to help them comply with state forestry laws and achieve their own forestry related objectives. Services include administering state laws for control of timber slash on private lands (Hazard Reduction Agreements); control of forest practices within Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) on federal, state, and private lands; providing information on Best Management Practices (BMPs); and giving technical advice for private forest management, urban tree management and insect and disease control. The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery produces tree and shrub seedlings for conservation plantings and reforestation on state and private lands. Contact the nursery for information on ordering plant materials. The *Montana Directory of Consultant Foresters* is available from area offices. Information on wildfire protection is available from Forestry Division Land Offices.

Division of Forestry

2705 Spurgin Rd.

Missoula, MT 59804

(406) 542-4300

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/>

Technical Assistance

Provided through DNRC Service Foresters who provide one-on-one assistance to landowners interested in learning more about their properties. Locate your Service Forester by list:

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Forest-Management/find-local-forester>

DNRC Urban & Community Forestry Programs

Urban forestry is the care and management of trees in urban settings (i.e., our streets and backyards). Services include:

- Technical assistance and training for communities and tree care professionals
- Financial assistance to municipalities and non-profit organizations
- Public education in support of planting and caring for trees in urban environments
- Volunteer coordination assistance to encourage participation at the local level

For more information about the Urban Forestry Program please visit

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Community-Local-Government/urban-and-community-forestry>

Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery

The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery (MCSN). The MCSN produces and distribute tree and shrub seedlings to private landowners, state, federal and tribal landowners and other conservation organization at a nominal cost; quality seedlings for non-ornamental conservation plantings in rural Montana.

Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery

2705 Spurgin Rd.

Missoula, MT 59804

(406) 542-4244

Email: mtnursery@mt.gov

Conservation and Resource Development Division

This division is responsible for the administration of the Conservation District Act, State Grazing District Act, Montana Agricultural Heritage Program and administration of numerous loans and grant programs. The division supports 58 soil and water conservation districts and 28 state grazing districts.

Water Resources Division

Water Resource Division regional offices provide direct service to the public. Regional offices administer establishment, recording, confirmation, and enforcement of water rights for the Water Rights Bureau. Assistance is available for landowners who wish to obtain a permit to acquire new or additional water rights or change an existing water right. The Water Operation Bureau assists with projects and permits associated with dam safety and floodplain management activities.

DNRC Water Resources Division

1424 Ninth Ave.

PO Box 201601

Helena, MT 59620-1601

(406) 444-6601

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/water-resources/>

Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The Department of Environmental Quality's mission is to protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations. The agency is responsible for the protection of public health and the environmental quality of Montana's water resources.

Water Quality

Several programs within the department relate to the topics below and can impact forest landowners:

Safe Drinking Water - Technical assistance and regulatory functions ensure water provided to the public meets public health and engineering standards; for example, well management and safety.

Water Quality Management - Regulates projects which are likely to cause pollution of state water; for example, road construction projects and logging activities in public water supply watersheds.

Nonpoint Source Pollution - Identification of streams and lakes whose quality is adversely impacted by nonpoint sources of pollution. Coordination of remediation and educational programs.

Water Pollution Control - Investigation and enforcement of Montana's water quality laws.

Water Discharge Permits - Control of the quality of waste water discharged into state waters; for example, Storm Water Discharge General Permits are required on some construction, mining, and industrial sites.

Groundwater - Investigation of groundwater contamination problems and development of cleanup plans.

Air Quality Division <http://deq.mt.gov/Air>

The DEQ Air Quality Division is the state agency responsible for maintaining and improving air quality to protect public health, welfare and the environment. Programs which involve forest landowners are the Open Burning Season's Program and the Smoke Management Program. These programs are designed to allow open burning as described by the Air Quality Open Burning rules. The Air Quality Division is able to help individuals determine the allowed times for burning. Forest landowners can call the Ventilation Hotline (800)225-6779 for daily updates on burning restrictions during the forestry burning season).

Several counties have regulations that differ from state regulations. Counties with air programs include Missoula, Cascade, Yellowstone, Lincoln, and Flathead.

Natural Resources Information System (NRIS) - Montana State Library

The Montana Natural Resources Information System (NRIS) is a program created by the Legislature to make sources of data and information on Montana's natural resources easily and readily accessible. NRIS has three main components:

Montana Geographic Information System (GIS) acts as a clearinghouse for GIS databases and provides services to groups or individuals needing access to GIS technology.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) maintains a computer-assisted inventory of Montana's biological resources, emphasizing the locations of sensitive or threatened features.

The Montana Water Information System (MWIS) is a water data clearinghouse and referral service linking users with the best sources of information. MWIS is the starting point for locating water resources information in Montana, such as data on surface water, groundwater, water quality, riparian areas, water rights, climate data, and more.

Montana Natural Resources Information System, Montana State Library

PO Box 201800

1515 East 6th Ave

Helena, MT 59620-1800

(406) 444-3115

<http://nris.msl.mt.gov/>

Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BBER)

The BBER is the University of Montana, School of Business Administration's research branch. Located in Missoula, BBER has an ongoing major research program on the forest products industry.

BBER develops primary information about the number and size of mills and about the types of commodities produced. Also available is information on volume and source of timber used, capacity, utilization, employment, wages, production expenditures, spot market prices for logs and market destination for finished products.

BBER publishes a quarterly *Montana Saw log & Veneer Log Price Report/Montana Specialty Log Price Report* and the *Montana's Forest Products Industry Directory*. The magazine *Montana Business Quarterly* is offered on a subscription basis.

The University of Montana - Bureau of Business and Economic Research (MBB005)

Gallagher Business Building (MBB005)

32 Campus Dr. #6840

Missoula, MT 59812-6840

(406) 243-5113

www.bber.umt.edu/

Montana Manufacturers Information System

32 Campus Dr. MS 6840

Missoula MT 59812-6840

www.mmis.umt.edu

Montana Burn Permits and Information

Each county handles burn permits and timing. It is important that you know the procedures and rules for your area. To find out more about your county call the county office or search for “your county” burn permits. You can also contact your local fire department.

DEQ Open Burning Permits <https://deq.mt.gov/air/Programs/burning>

Burn Permits: <https://app.egovmt.com/burnpermit/>

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

The Montana Department of FW&P is the state agency responsible for protection, conservation, and management of the state’s wildlife resources and the habitat on which it depends. The department’s fish and wildlife biologists are located in regional offices across the state. They are available to give technical advice to landowners on the impact of various land management practices on wildlife and its habitat and can recommend activities to enhance wildlife habitat.

Programs which provide financial assistance to landowners for projects which improve fish or wildlife habitat include the Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement Program, the Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program, and the Future Fisheries Program.

The Montana Ecological Services Field Offices provide biological advice to other federal and state agencies, industry, and members of the public concerning the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitat that may be affected by development activities.

In Montana, these projects typically include activities such as agriculture, mining, utility lines, dredge and fill activities, dam and reservoir operations, oil leasing, and highway construction. The effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife are also assessed. Recommendations are then made regarding ways to avoid, minimize, or compensate for harmful impacts on fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The primary areas of responsibility for the Montana Ecological Services Field Offices include contaminant assessments, endangered species, Federal project reviews, and wetlands conservation.

The Acquisition and Conservation Easement Program protects wildlife habitat through conservation easements, lease acquisitions, and land purchases.

The FW&P’s Law Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcing state and federal laws, and rules and regulations pertaining to fish and wildlife in Montana. It investigates wildlife damage reports and assists in alleviating damage from wildlife.

FW&P’s Conservation Education Division publishes *Montana Outdoors*, a bimonthly magazine, which covers a variety of natural resource topics related to Montana’s fish, wildlife, and parks.

Subscription information:

<https://fwp.mt.gov/montana-outdoors>

(800) 678-6668

To learn more about these programs, or to contact a biologist, contact your regional FW&P office:

<https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/contact-us>

Montana Weed Control Districts

Montana Weed Control Districts represent the boundaries for each district. Each County in Montana is statutorily mandated to have a Weed Control Districts. Each district has a Weed Coordinator. These coordinators are in charge of helping citizens manage/control noxious weeds. This data has each Weed Coordinator listed along with website and contact information for the County Weed District. The legislation that oversees the creation, maintenance, or dissolution of this type of district can be found:

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0070/chapter_0220/part_0210/sections_index.html

http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca_toc/7_11_10.htm

The weed districts are based on county boundaries. The weed district attribute information for this dataset was collected from the Montana Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Program. Websites available were found online. For more information on Weed Control in Montana please visit the Montana Weed Control Association: <https://www.mtweed.org/> For more information on the state of Montana Noxious Weed Program with the Montana Department of Agriculture: <https://agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds>

Weed District Directory: <https://www.mtweed.org/weeds/weed-districts/>

FORESTRY CONSULTANTS

Forestry consultants offer a broad range of forestry expertise and services typically concerned with forest management and evaluation. Services generally include forestland appraisal, timber inventory (timber cruising), management plans, forest improvement plans (thinning and reforestation), forest health assessment, forest products marketing, timber harvest planning and administration, logging, road construction, surveying, obtaining permits, contract preparation, trespass investigation, damage appraisal, and absentee landowner representation. Pay particular attention to certifications, and dependable references when evaluating services. *Montana Directory of Consultant Foresters* is available from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division (406) 542-4300.

FOREST CERTIFICATION

Forest Certification is an attempt to distinguish wood products that come from “sustainable forests” from others, by use of a stamp or label that is easily recognized by the consumer. The standards and evaluation procedures used to define a sustainable managed forest vary widely between certification organizations. Landowners should use discretion evaluating individual certification organizations; their standards and performance vary. The question of whether certified forest products will receive a premium price has not been answered. To find out more contact the following organizations:

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

SFI is sponsored by the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA), one of the largest wood products trade organizations in the US. SFI has a set of Principles and Guidelines that member companies are required to incorporate into their management programs.

1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 810
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 875-9500
Email: info@sfiprogram.org
<https://www.forests.org/>

Montana Tree Farm

Tree Farm promotes the conservation and growing of forest resources in a sustainable manner on family forests. Tree Farms are more than pine plantations or Christmas tree farms. Tree Farms are varied in nature and contain many different habitats and stages of forest regeneration, from seedlings to mature timber. Biodiversity is a critical component of a certified Tree Farm. The Montana Tree Farm program is a non-profit organization affiliated with the National Tree Farm System and American Forest Foundation. Its purpose is to help private forest landowners manage their lands with the goals of conserving forests, water, and wildlife while promoting natural resources based recreational opportunities. Tree Farm supports the responsible harvesting of renewable natural resources and the Montana Wood Products Industry. If you have 10 acres or more of land that is forested or capable of supporting trees, you may become a member of the Montana Tree Farm program.

To join you will need 1) a written management plan and 2) demonstrate sustainable forest practices on your property to become a certified Tree Farm. The Tree Farm System is the oldest and only cost-free sustainable forestry certifying entity in existence.

MT Tree Farm and MSU Extension Forestry Forest Stewardship work together to bring continuing assistance, information, and education to forest owners. Many Forest Stewardship graduates join Tree

CERTIFICATION

Farm. MT Tree Farm offers a site visit by a natural resource professional every five years, at that time you may update your Tree Farm/ Forest Stewardship plan and receive advice for your forest for the next cycle. National Tree Farm publishes a bi-monthly magazine and MT Tree Farm sends out a bi-yearly newsletter and sponsors an annual Tree Farm conference.

Montana: <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/montana>

National: www.treefarmssystem.org/

American Forest and Paper Association

1111 Nineteenth St. NW, Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036

1-800-878-8878 or (202) 463-2700

Email: info@afandpa.org

www.afandpa.org

Green Tag Forestry

This is a cooperative program of the National Woodland Owners Association and Association of Consulting Foresters. www.greentag.org/

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The FSC is an international non-profit organization. They have established a set of Principles and Criteria that must be adhered to by accredited certifiers. Specific evaluation standards vary depending on country region, and certifier. Two certifying groups have been accredited in the US: Smart Wood and Scientific Certification Systems.

Forest Stewardship Council

212 Third Ave. North, Suite 504

Minneapolis, MN 55401

(612) 353-4511

Email: info@fscus.org

<https://us.fsc.org/>

SmartWood

SmartWood a member of the Rainforest Alliance, certifies both forests and forest product manufacturers according to FSC standards

SmartWood Headquarters

65 Millet St. Suite 201

Richmond, VT 05477

(802) 434-5491

www.rainforest-alliance.org/forestry/certification

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)

SCS certifies both forests and forest products manufacturers according to FSC standards.

Scientific Certification Systems

2200 Powell St. Suite 800

Emeryville, CA 94608

(510) 452-8000, Toll Free: (800) ECO-Fact

www.scscertified.com

FOREST OWNER ASSOCIATIONS

FOREST LANDOWNER ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Montana Forest Owners Association (MFOA)

The Montana Forest Owners Association is a non-profit organization directed by a voluntary board of non-industrial private forest landowners. MFOA seeks to further the economic, educational and policy interests of private forest landowners. MFOA is organized under the U.S. Tax Code allowing it to engage in policy activity without restriction. Therefore, MFOA is able to provide policy issues development, support educational workshops beyond the Forest Stewardship program. However, maintaining the website, identifying forestry issues and engaging in selected policy activities are MFOA's key objectives.

When managing multiple resources of the forest, we are sensitive to environmental concerns and implement our objectives accordingly. Whether landowners own one, ten, a hundred, or thousands of acres, private forest lands are often strategically placed and contribute significantly to Montana's economic, wildlife, cultural, and recreational values. We need you to help us reach every landowner in Montana with the message of sustainable multiple-use management of our forest natural resources and to give a "voice" to non-industrial private forest owners in the policy-making arena.

Montana Forest Owners Association

2814 Brooks St. #345

Missoula, MT 59801-7718

Email: MFOApayroll@gmail.com

<http://www.montanaforestowners.org/>

American Forests

American Forests is a national conservation organization—independent and nonpolitical—for the advancement of intelligent management and use of forest soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources necessary for a high-quality environment and the well-being of all citizens. The association seeks through its magazine, *American Forests*, to promote and enlighten public appreciation of natural resources. For more information contact:

American Forests

1220 L Street, NW, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20005

(202) 737-1944 CFC#10632

www.americanforests.org

National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA)

NWOA is a national organization of non-industrial private woodland owners. NWOA is affiliated with state and county woodland owners' associations throughout the US (See MT Forest Owners Association). Members receive the *National Woodlands* magazine (quarterly) and eight issues of the *Woodland Report*.

National Woodland Owners Association

374 Maple Ave. E, Suite 310

Vienna, VA 22180

(703) 255-2700

www.woodlandowners.org

FOREST OWNER ASSOCIATIONS

Northwest Woodlands

Northwest Woodlands is a quarterly publication of the Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho Forest Landowner Associations.

Subscribe: (503) 488-2515,

<https://www.montanaforestowners.org/nww-previous-editions>

World Forestry Center

4033 SW Canyon Rd

Portland, OR 97221

(503) 228-1367

www.worldforestry.org

Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation

Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation is a non-profit organization. The mission of the Foundation is to “educate and inform landowners, natural resources professionals and the general public about the science and ecology of forest lands the many values derived from forested lands and the principles of sustainable forest land development.”

Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation

PO Box 1056

Libby, MT 59923-1056

<https://www.foreststewardshipfoundation.org/>

National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA)

The National Christmas Tree Association is for forest owners who are serious about making a Christmas tree business both fun and profitable. The Christmas Tree Association promotes the traditions and memories of celebrating Christmas with a real tree. NCTA works to stop legislation and regulations that are negative to growing, wholesaling and retailing Real Christmas Trees and promotes beneficial legislation and regulations. A community of Christmas tree professionals shares the knowledge and experiences of thousands who share concerns, questions, and needs.

Montana Christmas Tree Association, Inc.

16020 Swingley Ridge Rd. Suite 300

Chesterfield, MO 63017

(636) 449-5070

Email: info@realchristmastrees.org

<https://realchristmastrees.org/>

INDUSTRIAL FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Some companies within the forest products industry offer landowners technical assistance in managing their forest lands. Each company differs in the amount and terms under which assistance is given. Services provided may include timber management planning, surveying, road building, and slash disposal. Service may be offered at no direct cost, or costs may be deducted from a stumpage price. Companies that offer assistance programs often wish to purchase forest products sold from the land.

Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

The Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA) is a voluntary non-profit association whose purpose is to:

- Promote wise long-term management of Montana's forests.
- Furnish opportunities for open discussion and lawful interchange of information concerning all aspects of the wood products industry.
- Accumulate and disseminate information regarding the wood products industry in order to foster the best interests of the industry and the public.

The Montana Wood Products Association was founded in 1972 and serves as a major voice for the wood products industry while actively dealing with timber, logging, and wood products manufacturing issues in the public arena, and with state and federal government.

Email: mwpa@montanaforests.com

<http://www.montanaforests.com/>

Montana Wood Products Manufacturers

The Montana Manufacturers Information System lists companies that purchase raw materials from forest lands to produce wood products. Raw material specifications, purchase prices, and method of value determination and payment will vary between purchasers. To find the products produced from the raw material purchased by manufacturers is available at: www.mmis.umt.edu

FOREST INDUSTRY

For a list of Montana Local Wood Products Manufacturers and Vendors:

<http://www.mmis.umt.edu/IndBrowse.asp>

Below is a list of the larger lumber companies in Montana

FH Stoltze Land & Lumber Company

PO Box 1429
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
(406) 892-7000
Email: info@stoltzelumber.com
www.stoltzelumber.com/

Newton Logging Inc.

173 Buffalo Stage
Kalispell, MT 59901-2780
(406) 755-1323

RY Timber Inc. - Manufacturing Site:

5284 US Hwy 89 South
Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 222-3360
www.rytimber.com

Sun Mountain Lumber

181 Greenhouse Road
Deer Lodge MT 59722-2071
(406) 846-1600
<http://www.sunmtnlumber.com/>

Thompson River Lumber Co.

241 Airport Rd
PO Box 279
Thompson Falls, MT 59873
(406) 827-4311 (Main)
Email: info@thompsonriver.net
<http://www.thompsonriverlumber.com/>

Weyerhaeuser

Headquarters:
220 Occidental Ave. South
Seattle, WA 98104
1-800-525-5440
<https://www.weyerhaeuser.com/>

Intermountain Roundwood Association

The Intermountain Roundwood Association (IRA) is a non-profit corporation representing the economic, educational and social interests of roundwood producers in the Intermountain Region. Anyone engaged in the production or marketing of posts-and-poles and associated products in the Intermountain Region is eligible for membership in IRA.

Forest landowners interested in selling timber for post-and-pole products can contact the IRA. They will refer you to a member in your area. The association:

- Works toward a consistently stable supply of raw materials.
- Portrays a united industry to government agencies.
- Works with government agencies on hazardous waste disposal alternatives.
- Works to find state and federal loan opportunities for small businesses.
- Locates new out-of-state markets for roundwood products.
- Provides information on workmen's compensation insurance to members.
- Distributes a newsletter with timely and pertinent information of interest to roundwood producers.

Intermountain Roundwood Association

PO Box 1275

Seeley Lake, MT 59868

(406) 677-2300

www.intermountainroundwood.org/

Montana Logging Association

The MLA has a diverse membership that includes professional loggers, log-truck owners-operations, forestry consultants, and other professionals. The MLA promotes responsible harvesting practices, regulatory compliance, civic and legislative involvement, and a commitment to professionalism. The MLA directs the Accredited Logging Professional (ALP) program which is designed to increase the knowledge and skills of professional loggers. Loggers with accredited status have completed an approved educational curriculum which addresses forest stewardship and sustainability, ethical and regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency. Many of these skills are vital to landowners who have decided to harvest timber or pursue stewardship-related projects on their property.

Montana Logging Association

2224 Montana Hwy 35

PO Box 1716

Kalispell, MT 59903

Email: mla@logging.org

www.logging.org/

(406) 752-3168

Educational Programs for Loggers

Throughout folklore and history, the woodcutter has long been portrayed as the "steward of the forest." Today, the logger still plays a key role in forest stewardship. The Accredited Logging Professional program was created to help revitalize this stewardship ethic, and also foster the professional growth and empowerment of loggers through education.

Accredited Logging Professionals are individuals engaged in Montana's logging industry who have demonstrated, through the completion of an educational curriculum, commitment towards professional standards that distinguish them from their peers. The Accredited Logging Professional program is a voluntary educational program. It is not a logger certification program.

Loggers who enter this program strive to understand the importance of their actions before, during and after timber harvesting activities. They complete a comprehensive regimen of education, practice, and application that will help them improve their services to the public. They have also committed themselves to an aggressive continuing education schedule to further improve their knowledge of forests and logging. These loggers have agreed to abide by a Code of Ethics which was established by Montana's Accredited Logging Professional Charter.

<https://www.logging.org/accredited-logging-professional>

Montana Logging Association

2224 Montana Hwy 35

PO Box 1716

Kalispell, MT 59903

(406) 752-3168

www.logging.org/

Montana Accredited Logging Professionals Directory

<https://www.logging.org/find-a-professional>

TOOLS and EQUIPMENT

Forestry Tools and Inventory Equipment

The catalog supply companies below sell **safety equipment** and a wide variety of natural resource management equipment and supplies. Most have professional technical staff available to answer your questions about particular products. All have catalogs available upon request.

AM Leonard, Inc. - Horticulture Tool & Supply Co.

241 Fox Drive
Piqua, OH 45356-0816
(800) 543-8955
www.amleo.com/

Bartlett Arborist Supply & Manufacturing Company

3003 E Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
Toll Free: (800) 331-7101
(313) 873-7300
www.bartlettman.com/

Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

205 West Rankin St.
PO Box 8397
Jackson, MS 39284-8397
Customer Service: (800) 752-8460
Sales: (800) 647-5368
www.forestry-suppliers.com/

Mallory Company - (Safety Products, Wild land Fire Equipment, and Forestry Supplies)

1040 Industrial Way
Longview, WA 98632
(360) 636-5750
www.malloryco.com

Terra Tech, LLC (International Reforestation Suppliers)

2635 W 7th Place
Eugene, OR 97402
Toll Free: (800) 321-1037
www.terratech.net/

Wagoner's Fraser Knoll Supplies & Equipment

384 Burnt Hill Road
Laurel Springs, NC 28644
(336) 982-3517
Toll Free: (877) 352-7355
www.fraserknoll.com

PLANTS AND NURSERIES

Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery

The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery (MCSN). The MCSN produces and distribute tree and shrub seedlings to private landowners, state, federal and tribal landowners and other conservation organization at a nominal cost, quality seedlings for non-ornamental conservation plantings in rural Montana.

Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery

2705 Spurgin Rd.

Missoula MT 59804

(406) 542-4244

Email: mtnursery@mt.gov

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Conservation-Nursery/>

Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS)

MNPS is a non-profit organization with six state chapters. The goals of MNPS are to preserve, conserve, and study the native plants and plant communities of Montana and to educate the public to the values of Montana's native flora. Member activities include workshops, field trips, volunteer botanical work, camping, and "wildflowering." For membership information contact:

Montana Native Plant Society

PO Box 8783

Missoula, MT 59807-8783

www.mtnativeplants.org

Kelsey, the MNPS newsletter, is published quarterly and is free to members. Other publications also available through the society include: List of Native Plant Related Books; A Guide to Montana Native Plant Gardens and Gardeners; Guidelines for Collecting Native Plants; and Montana Native Plant Source Guide

Montana Nursery and Landscape Association

For a complete list of Montana Nursery & Landscape Association members. The directory also includes native plant materials, wholesale products of trees, shrubs, flowers, seeds, sod, liners, and perennials. Customers can order online or by downloading the online order forms.

Montana Nursery and Landscape Association

Po Box 1366

Big Fork, MT 59911-1366

(406) 755-3079

www.plantingmontana.com

Members of Montana Association of Nurserymen

The Montana Association of Nurserymen is an association of those engaged in the nursery, turf, and landscape business. Its objectives include promoting the products and services of the industry, maintaining a high standard of business ethics, and improving the products and services of the industry. Members provide a variety of services to forest landowners such as:

- Landscape and irrigation contracting.
- Pesticide application.
- Wholesale tree, shrub, and specialty plant materials.
- Wholesale plant seed.
- Restoration services.

www.plantingmontana.com

MAPS and PHOTOS

Aerial Photography

Air photos are available from many government, commercial, and free sources. Photo resolution and quality vary with all sources. Be sure to have the basic information in order to obtain the right photos such as property legal description (section, Township and Range), name of the USGS quadrangle map(s) which include your property and copy of a map which indicates the location of your property.

Information about the US Geological Survey (USGS), go to:
www.usgs.gov/ or call customer Service at 1(888) 275-8747

Other sources for photography include:

U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Aerial Photography Program, Farm Service Agency and others. Photographs are available in color infrared color, or black and white. Scales and costs vary. Enlargements can be requested.

Montana Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)

<http://nris.mt.gov>

Cadastral

<http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral/>

Google Maps

<https://www.google.com/maps>

<https://www.google.com/earth/versions/>

MapQuest

<http://www.mapquest.com/>

Maps

Topographic Maps

USGS: <https://www.usgs.gov/>

MT Natural Resource Information System: <http://nris.msl.mt.gov/>

Topographic Map Software for Personal Computers

These vendors sell CD sets that include all topographic maps for Montana and other states. Various features enable the user to locate and modify maps for the area of interest. To order the correct topographic map (USGS Topographic Quadrangle), you will need to provide a legal description (section, township and range) for the area of interest. Depending on the location and size of the property, more than one map may be required.

AllTopo

www.alltopo.com/

(801) 412-0011

Cadastral

<http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral/>

Google Maps

www.googlemaps.com

<https://www.google.com/earth/versions/>

Gage

www.igage.com

(801) 412-0011

National Geographic Maps

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps/>

Catalog/Online Store: (800) 437-5521

For your GPS

OnXMaps

<https://www.onxmaps.com/>

Avenza Systems Inc.

<https://www.avenza.com/>

Map Depository Libraries

Libraries at the following locations in Montana have been designated as depositories for many of the published maps of the U.S. Geological Survey. Library personnel are specialists in advising patrons on coverage and availability of maps and cartographic products. Users may wish to preview maps prior to ordering from map vendors.

Montana State University-Billings	http://www.msubillings.edu/library/
Montana State University- Bozeman	http://www.lib.montana.edu/
Montana Historical Society Library	https://mhs.mt.gov/research/collections/map
Montana State Library	http://www.msl.mt.gov/
Montana Tech U of M	http://www.mtech.edu/library/
University of Montana Western	https://www.umwestern.edu/library/
Dawson Community College	http://www.dawson.edu/students/jane-carey-memorial-library
Lewis and Clark Public Library	https://www.lclibrary.org/
Flathead County Library	https://flathead.mt.gov/library/
Lincoln County Library	http://www.lincolncountylibraries.com/
Missoula Public Library	https://www.missoulapubliclibrary.org/
Miles Community College	http://www.milesc.edu/CampusServices/library/
Montana State University- Northern	http://www.msun.edu/infotech/library/
University of Montana	http://www.lib.umt.edu/
Salish Kootenai College	http://skclibrary.sk.edu/

Soil Maps

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) produces soil maps. Specialists are available to assist with soil map interpretation. Coverage is limited for some locations. The local office in your county is listed in your phone book under US Government, Department of Agriculture.

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Federal Building, Room 443

10 E Babcock Street

Bozeman, MT 59715-4704

(406) 587-6818

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

GRANTS/COST-SHARE

Western Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Association, Inc.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils help people conserve and develop their natural resources in a way that will improve the area's economy, environment, and standard of living. Because RC&D areas are locally organized, sponsored, and led, the program provides a way for people like you to make your community a better place to live.

Funds available through the RC&Ds vary. Check with your area RC&D to find what is available. Along with funding opportunities they also offer varying levels of technical assistance. To locate your area office visit <https://narcdc.org/>

STATE ASSOCIATION

President: Pam Gouse
Montana State Association
P.O. Box 870
1709 N 1st Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 363-5450
Email: bitterrootrcd@cybernet1.com

COUNCILS

Beartooth RC&D

Chair: Chuck Egan
chuckegan@optimum.net
Office Information: Chris Meheus
110 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 180
Joliet, MT 59041
(406) 962-3914
<https://www.beartooth.org/>

Bitter Root RC&D

Chair: Allen Bjergo
Executive Director: Becki Koon
Office Manager: Pam Gouse
P.O. Box 870
1709 N 1st Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 363-5450
<https://www.bitterrootrcd.org/>

Central Montana RC&D

Chair: Ken Ronish
Coordinator: Monty Seely
34 Third Ave. W
P.O. Box 660
Roundup, MT 59072
(406) 323-2755
<https://www.landcan.org/local-resources/Central-Montana-RCD-Council/12724>

Headwaters RC&D

Chair: Rick Edwards
Interim Executive Director: Marilyn Ross
Administrative Assistant: Stacy Fisk
65 East Broadway, 2nd Floor
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 782-7333
<https://www.headwatersrcd.org/>

North Central Montana RC&D

President: Craig Ostman
Craig.Ostman@usbank.com
Administrator: LaDonna Grotbo
1125 Oilfield Avenue
Shelby, MT 59474-1698,
(406) 434-9161, ext. 111
<https://www.landcan.org/local-resources/North-Central-Montana-RCD/12718/>

Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D

207 W. Callendar St.
P.O. Box 1105
Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 222-7227
<https://www.landcan.org/local-resources/Northern-Rocky-Mountain-RCD/12725>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/>

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.

Conservation Innovation Grants

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation. Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) provides funding to help State and tribal governments encourage landowners to allow public access to their land for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation. VPA-HIP is a competitive grants program and only State and Tribal Governments may apply. Projects may be up to three years in duration. The maximum amount for a single award is \$3 million. Up to 25 percent of the funding for each award may be used to provide incentives to improve wildlife habitat on enrolled public access program lands.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/voluntary-public-access-and-habitat-incentive-program>

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative - Montana

The Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is a grass-roots voluntary effort to enhance private grazing lands.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/glci-grazing-lands-conservation-initiative/montana/grazing-lands-conservation>

Wetlands Reserve Easements

Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) help private and tribal landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/wre-wetland-reserve-easements>

GRANTS/COST-SHARE

MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

DNRC Fuels and Stewardship Grants

The DNRC, in cooperation with the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry branch, delivers cost share assistance for forest stewardship and fuel reduction activities on private forest lands. These cost-share programs are administered by the DNRC Forestry Division's Forestry Assistance Bureau. To find out if cost-share assistance is available in your area please contact your local DNRC service forester.

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Forest-Management/find-local-forester>

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. Funding for EFRP is appropriated by Congress.

Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

The program is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). To be eligible for EFRP, land must:

- Have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster and is suitable for growing trees); and,
- Be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

In addition, the natural disaster must create damage that, if untreated, would:

- Impair or endanger the natural resources on the land; and,
- Materially affect future use of the land.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration/index>

WILDLIFE

The Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP)

The Natural Heritage Program provides information on Montana's species and habitats, emphasizing those of conservation concern. They maintain a computer-assisted inventory of Montana's biological resources, emphasizing the locations of sensitive or threatened features.

Montana Natural Heritage Program

1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1800
(406) 444-5354
Email: mtnhp@mt.gov

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to conserving wetland habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. Membership includes a subscription to *Ducks Unlimited* magazine which is published bimonthly. Ducks Unlimited Regional Office works with landowners to conserve waterfowl breeding habitat in Montana.

There are five regional offices in the United States, for more information: www.ducks.org/

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited is a trout and salmon conservation organization dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring cold water fisheries and their watersheds. Local membership chapters are involved with planning and building stream improvement projects, working with government to secure fish-friendly legislation, and providing educational programs. Membership includes a one-year subscription to *Trout* magazine, membership card, decal, and other benefits.

Trout Unlimited, Montana Office

321 E Main St. #411
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 522-7291
www.tu.org/

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is a nonprofit habitat conservation organization headquartered in Missoula, Montana whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat by raising funds and support through the efforts of over 550 volunteer staffed chapters in United States.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

5705 Grant Creek • Missoula, MT 59808
(406) 523-4500 • Toll-Free: 1(800) CALL ELK (225-5355) <https://rmef.org/>

Montana Audubon Council

The Montana Audubon Council is the coordinating body of the nine National Audubon Society Chapters in Montana. The council concentrates its efforts on education, research, conservation, and public advocacy for the protection of Montana's outstanding natural heritage. The membership is located throughout the state. The council can aid you in finding what wildlife is on your land and provide you with ideas on how to manage your land for wildlife, particularly for birds.

Montana Audubon, Main Office

PO Box 595
Helena, MT 59624
(406) 443-3949
www.mtaudubon.org

National Audubon Society

225 Varick Street
New York, NY 10014
(212) 979-3000
www.audubon.org

Pheasants Forever

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant and other wildlife populations in North America through habitat improvement, public awareness and education, and land management. Local chapters establish habitat restoration programs with help from natural resource professionals and participate in fund-raising activities. Members receive *Pheasants Forever* magazine published five times a year.

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

1783 Buerkle Circle
St. Paul, MN 55110
Toll Free: (877) 773-2070
(651) 773-2000
Email: contact@pheasantsforever.org
www.pheasantsforever.org/

ENERGY

Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO)

AERO has a variety of projects, publications and services related to:

- Building with materials made of recycled substances and wood waste.
- Non-chemical forms of weed control.
- Building soil fertility using green manure and cover crops.
- Renewable energy and conservation technologies for homes, farms, and small businesses.
- Market possibilities for alternative crops and livestock products.

Alternative Energy Resources Organization

432 N Last Chance Gulch

Helena, MT 59601

(406) 443-7272

Email: aero@aeromt.org

www.aeromt.org/

Montana Green Power

A project by the National Center for Appropriate Technology in Butte, Montana. This project explores what's happening in solar, wind, and other renewable energy in Montana.

More information is available at <https://www.ncat.org/energy/>

For more information about renewable energy: <https://deq.mt.gov/energy/index>

Holistic Management International

Holistic Management is a nonprofit organization working to advance the practice of holistic management. Through educational programs they seek to produce stable environments and sound watersheds; restore profitability and sustainability to agricultural operations; improve the water resources of cities, industries and agriculture; increase wildlife species, numbers within species and the stability of wildlife populations; restore productivity and stability of riparian areas; prevent the waste of financial resources on faulty resource management practices; and increase citizen participation in sound resource management.

Opportunities to learn about holistic management are available through the Center's education programs. Courses are held at scheduled locations or can be brought to your community. Members receive the newsletter "*IN PRACTICE.*"

Holistic Management International

1010 Tijeras Ave. NW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

(505) 842-5252

www.holisticmanagement.org

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Conservation easements are a controversial topic. There are those who support the practice and those who oppose. Easements are placed on non-industrial private lands as well as industrial forest lands. The federal government is a prominent purchaser of easements and private property through the U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program.

A conservation easement is a voluntary legally binding agreement between a landowner and a qualified land trust or government entity that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect ecological, historic, or scenic resources. Besides possessing a piece of land and paying taxes on it, landowners have rights to the land such as the ability to subdivide, build structures, cut trees, mine for minerals, and other rights. A conservation easement allows a landowner to retain ownership while restricting some of those rights in order to protect the property's conservation values. Those rights may include the right to possess, manage, use, modify, develop, lease, or sell your land. In a conservation easement, landowners give up some, if not all, of those rights, and are still obligated to pay taxes. Easements can be custom designed and negotiated to meet the personal and financial needs of the landowner. An easement may cover portions of a property or the entire parcel. The easement will identify the rights the landowner wishes to retain, limit, or forgo. As with any other contract, it is wise to be informed and weigh the advantages and disadvantages both short and long term to having a conservation easement. Landowners needing information on how conservation easements work, how they can be used in estate planning, and the tax consequences of conservation easements can contact:

For a list of conservation easement holders: www.montanalandtrusts.org/memberdirectory/