

## Potential outcomes

From an educational perspective we think it is important that landowners who enter the *Master Forest Steward Workshop* series are presented with the approach that the initial Forest Stewardship workshop is a first step in caring for their forest, and that additional information and knowledge is offered as they continue to learn about their land and adjust their management plan to meet new expectations and changes to their forest. By offering a "*Master Forest Steward*" curriculum we not only give landowners something to look forward to and a goal to achieve, we will present them with an acknowledgement of their commitment, and achievement.

If desired, graduates will be listed as local references for other private landowners.



### MSU Extension Forestry

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MSU Extension Forestry

# Montana Master Forest Steward Program

A new curriculum for landowners



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# Montana Master Forest Steward Program



One of the primary and most consistently offered forest-landowner oriented educational programs has been the *Montana Forest Stewardship Program*. The goal of this program is to help landowners assess their forests, develop short and long term objectives for their lands, and write a plan that reflects their resource potential and personal objectives for their land.

Over the years this program has experimented with different educational strategies, management plan templates and desired outcomes, and its role in context to other educational programming. After careful consideration, MSU Extension is expanding the initial Forest Stewardship Workshop from a one-workshop forest planning program to a multiple workshop *Montana Master Forest Steward Program*.

Tentative courses offered over a period of several years:

## Core Courses

- Forest Stewardship Planning Workshop
- Wildfire Hazard Reduction
- Forest Insect and Disease Identification and Management
- Forest Understory Plant/Range Identification and Management **OR** Forest Noxious Weed Management
- Forest Harvesting Practices/ Advanced Silviculture **OR** Timber Sale Management
- Estate Planning for Forestland Owners
- Forest Wildlife Habitat Identification and Management

## Elective Courses

- Forest Riparian Area Assessment
- Forest Roads Assessment and Design
- GPS Applications in Forestry
- Basic Computer Applications in Forest Stewardship
- Forest Soils Evaluation and Protection
- Small Equipment for Logging Operations
- Wildfire Restoration
- Managing your forest as a business (cost-benefit analyses, taxes)
- Forest Operations Safety

The original Forest Stewardship workshop will remain the primary class with additional complementary classes offered as advanced topics. Although the Forest Stewardship class is not a prerequisite, it will be required to qualify as a graduate Master Forest Steward.

As you may note, quite a few of the workshops listed under the *Master Forest Steward Program* already are offered. However, they are not offered as a consistent and coordinated curriculum. A few new workshops will be developed as a result of this program and others may be added in the future.

Landowners who attend 10 of the courses offered (seven core courses plus three elective courses) and complete this program will be recognized with a certificate.

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