

GUIDE to INFORMATION and SERVICES

This publication is also available online at:
www.msueextension.org/forestry/publications.htm

Many additional resource links can be found at the MSU Extension Forestry Website; for online resources: www.msueextension.org/forestry/resourcesforforestlandowners.htm

by MSU Extension Forestry: Christina Oppegard, Administrative Associate; Cindy Peterson, Forest Stewardship Coordinator; Peter Kolb, 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
Fax: (406)587-6761
www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov

Natural resource area directory

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mt/contact/local/>

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, and distributional data and plant photographs. Plant characteristics and identification features are described by going to: plants.usda.gov/java/

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, a 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: 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 USWF directory of district offices: www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/mt.html

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

Fax: (406)329-3347

www.fs.fed.us

For a full organization directory of the entire US Forest Service, by region and headquarters: <https://hrm.gdcii.com/directory/>

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 woodlot, 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. www.fs.fed.us/spf/

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 historic 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: <http://store.msueextension.org/>

Order Publications: orderpubs@montana.edu

For information and contacts by county or reservation:

www.msueextension.org/localoffices.cfm

MSU Extension Distribution Center

PO Box 172040

Bozeman, MT 59717-2040

(406)994-3273

Fax: (406)994-2050

www.msu.extension.org/

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, MS 0606

Missoula, MT 59812

(406)243-2773

Fax: (406)243-4715

extensionforestry@montana.eduwww.msuextension.org/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**

Cindy Peterson	Forest Stewardship Coordinator	Missoula	406-243-4706	cindy.bertek@mso.umt.edu
Peter Kolb	Forestry Specialist	Missoula	406-243-4705	peter.kolb@mso.umt.edu
Martin Twer	Education Specialist	Missoula	406-243-2775	martin.twer@mso.umt.edu

MSU Extension

Jason Badger	Extension Agent	Thomson Falls	406-827-6934	jason.badger@montana.edu
Brad Bauer	Extension Agent	Belgrade	406-388-3213	brad.bauer@montana.edu
Dave Brink	Extension Agent	Superior	406-822-3545	dbrink@montana.edu
Kevin Chamberlain	Mineral County Extension Agent	Superior	406-822-3545	ACXKC@montana.edu
Dan Lucas	Granite County	Philipsburg	406-859-3304	acsdl@montana.edu
Jeff Mosley	Range Specialist	Bozeman	406-994-5601	jmosley@montana.edu
Tracy Mosley	Park County	Livingston	406-222-4156	tmosley@montana.edu
John Pfister	Musselshell & Golden Valley	Roundup	406-320-1414	jep@midrivers.com
Boobi Roos	Daniels County	Scobey	406-487-2861	broos@montana.edu

Private

Ron Buentemeier	Retired Forester	Columbia Falls	406-862-3897	rbuentemeier@montanasky.net
Andrea Darling	Range Consultant	Clancy	406-652-5197	darlingja@juno.com
Don Feist	NRCS - Range/Soils	Plains	406-826-3701	don.feist@mt.usda.gov
Sam Gilbert	Forest Consultant	Helena	406-449-8674	gilbertas@centric.net
John Halpop	Sanders-Range	Thompson Falls	406-827-4929	
Betty Kuropat	Retired Forester	Columbia Falls	406-892-0129	bkuropat@centurytel.net
Ed Levert	Forest Consultant	Libby	406-293-2847	televvert@kvis.net
Roger Marshall	Forest Consultant	Seeley Lake	406-677-2673	mt.forester@yahoo.com
Holly McKenzie	Forest Consultant	Columbia Falls	406-892-4141	hmckenzie@centurytel.net

STATE

Chuck Seeley	Forest Consultant	Polson	406-883-0119	crseeley17@msn.com
Fred Staedler	Service Forestry	Anaconda	406-563-6078	fstaedler@mt.gov

Industry

Mark Boardman	Stoltze-Forester	Columbia Falls	406-892-7005	mboardman@stoltzelumber.com
Jim Cancroft	NW Consulting-Foreter	Helena	406-442-7555	nwmanage@montana.com
Chris Damrow	Stoltze -Forester	Columbia Falls	406-892-7005	cdamrow@stoltzelumber.com
Dennis Davaz	RY Timber - Forester	Livingston	406-222-3360	mtdavaz@aol.com
Gary Ellingson	NW Consulting Forester	Helena	406-442-7555	nwmanage@montana.com
Brian Hobday	Weyerhaeuser-Forester	Libby MT	406-293-6204	
Scott Kuehn	Salmon River Wood-Forester	Missoula	406-546-9304	montanaforester@yahoo.com
Owen Retzlaff	Pyramid-Forester	Seeley Lake	406-210-1459	oretzlaff@pyramidlumber.com

DNRC

Matt Arno	Local Gov Forest Advisor	Missoula	406-542-4239	mattarno@mt.gov
Allen Branine	Service Forester	Swan Lake	406-754-2301	abranine@mt.gov
Devin Healy	Service Forester	Helena	406-459-8158	dhealy@mt.gov
Amy Helena	Forest Mgmt. Planner	Missoula	406-542-5803	ahelena@mt.gov
Dave Jones	Service Forester	Kalispell	406-751-2267	dkjones@mt.gov
Mike Justus	Service Forester	Libby	406-293-2711	mjustus@mt.gov
Angela Mallon	Stewardship Prog Mgr	Missoula	406-542-4221	amallon@mt.gov
Rick Moore	Service Forester	Kalispell	406-751-2268	ricmoore@mt.gov
Dan Rogers	DNRC	Missoula	406-542-4326	drogers2@mt.gov
Jeff Rupkalvis	Service Forester	Missoula	406-542-4313	jrupalvis@mt.gov
Brad Shoemaker	Service Forester	Billings	406-247-4403	shoemaker@mt.gov
Neil Simpson	Service Forestry	Clearwater	406-244-2382	nsimpson@mt.gov
Sean Steinebach	Service Forestry	Anaconda	406-563-6078	ssteineback@mt.gov
Eric Warrington	Stewardship Specialist	Missoula	406-542-4303	EWarrington@mt.gov
Everett Young	Service Forester	Plains	406-826-4721	eyoung@mt.gov

Federal

Tim Benedict	USFS -Forestry	White Sulphur Springs	406-495-3793	tbenedict@fs.fed.us
Matt Ricketts	NRCS – State Forester	Bozeman	406-587-6965	matt.ricketts@mt.usda.gov
Tami Sabol	USFS -Forestry	Victor	406-233-2804	tami.sabol@yahoo.com
Chris Town	NRCS-Forestry	Missoula	406-829-3395	cptown@blackfoot.net

Educational Forestry Publications

TO ORDER:

Call MSU Extension Publications (406)994-3273

For credit card order (406)994-3273, specify EB number

Online Store: <http://store.msuextension.org/>

Riparian Forest Wildlife

This colorful publication illustrates reasons for voluntary wildlife habitat management guidelines in riparian forest areas. It describes unique characteristics of forests along streams, rivers and lakes, and the countless wildlife species that need them to survive. Includes discussions and illustrations of plants, birds, fish, reptiles and mammals found in Montana's riparian forests.

Water Quality BMPs for Montana Forests

This colorful, copiously illustrated spiral-bound book details best management practices for watersheds, riparian and wetland areas, roads, stream crossings, and more; it discusses sediment, stream sides, soil, timber harvesting, reforestation, special winter concerns, and the cleanup of hazardous substances.

Growing Trees on Montana's Prairie

This 25-page booklet uses color photographs and detailed descriptions to show a variety of ways for growing trees on Montana's prairie. Topics covered include site preparation tips, planting tips, tree protection, growth enhancement devices and mechanical cultivation weed control.

Trees and Shrubs of Montana

This publication is focused on making it easy to identify trees and shrubs growing naturally within Montana. Species included: 21 conifers, 22 broadleaf trees, and 32 broadleaf shrubs.

Montana Rangeland

Rangelands are important to Montana's economy as it provides forage for the cattle industry. Rangelands are also home to many species of wildlife and the wide open spaces of grasses and forbs. Landowners must manage their rangelands to avoid overgrazing and it's important to be aware of management techniques. Rangelands however have been evolved to be grazed by cattle and wildlife, but they should not be grazed too many times during a growing season.

For more information about rangeland:

<http://animalrangeextension.montana.edu/range/range.htm>

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:
www.msuextension.org/invasiveplantsMangold/noxioussub.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
Phone: (406)444-2694
Email: mhslibrary@mt.gov
www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/

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:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Assistance/Stewardship/slashred.asp>

Burning Regulation and Permits:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/assistance/practices/fpractices.asp><http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/debrisburning.asp>

Streamside Management near water, Voluntary Best Management Practices:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/assistance/practices/fpractices.asp>

Air Quality Burning Restrictions

MT Dept of Environmental Quality

County Air Quality Dept: www.deq.mt.gov/AirQuality/AQinfo.mcp

Floodplain Development Permit

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/permits/streampermitting/default.asp>

Conservation District

310 Permit: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/permits/default.asp>

404 Permit: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/Permits/StreamPermitting/FederalCleanWaterAct.asp>

Water Right Permit

Conservation District: www.macdnet.org/

DNRC, Water Resources Division: www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_rts/default.asp

US Army Corps of Engineers:

www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/whitney/Realestate/Adjland.asp

Noxious Weed Control

County Weed Dist: www.mtweed.org/find-weed-coordinator/

Endangered Species Act

US Fish and Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov/endangered/laws-policies/index.html

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

Phone: (406)444-2074

www.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

Fax: (406)542-4217

www.dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/default.asp

For forestry division land offices:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/FieldOperations/AreaOffices/Default.asp>

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:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Personnel/div/SvcForesters.asp>

By map: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Assistance/ServiceMap.asp>

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 <http://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Assistance/Urban>.

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
Fax: (406)542-4203
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.

Conservation & Resource Development Division - Director's Office

1625 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-1601
(406)444-6667
Fax: (406)444-6721
www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/consdist/default.asp

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
Fax: (406)444-5918
www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/default.asp
http://dnrc.mt.gov/field_operations/regionaloffices/Default.asp

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

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.

For a list of DEQ's satellite offices: www.deq.mt.gov/about/DEQlocations.mcp

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

Fax: (406)444-0581

www.nris.state.mt.us/

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

32 Campus Dr. #6840

Missoula, MT 59812-6840

(406)243-5113

Fax: (406)243-2086
www.bber.umt.edu/

Montana Manufacturers Information System

32 Campus Dr. MS 6840
Missoula MT 59812-6840
www.mmis.umt.edu

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FW&P)

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:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/mtoutdoors/>
Phone: (800)678-6668

To learn more about these programs, or to contact a biologist, contact your regional FW&P office: <http://fwp.mt.gov/regions/>

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.

A Montana Directory of Consultant Foresters is available from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forestry Division (406)542-4300.

The Association of Consulting Foresters

The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF) was founded in 1948 to advance the professionalism, ethics, and interests of professional foresters whose primary work is consulting to the public. ACF is the only national association for consulting foresters. www.acf-foresters.org

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.

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

CERTIFICATION

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 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: www.mttreefarm.org/

National: www.treefarmssystem.org/

SFI

1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 810
Arlington, VA 22209
(703)875-9500
Fax: (703)875-9510
info@sfiprogram.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/

National Forestry Association

374 Maple Ave. E, Suite 310
Vienna, VA 22180
(703)255-2700
Fax: (703)281-9200
www.nationalforestry.net

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

Fax: (612)208-1565

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

Fax: (802)434-3116

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

Fax: (510)452-8001

www.scs-certified.com

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

PO Box 10382

Bozeman, MT 59719-0382

<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 forests' 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

Fax: (202)737-2457

www.americanforests.org

FOREST OWNER ASSOCIATIONS

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
(800)476-8733
Fax: (703)281-9200
www.woodlandowners.org/

Northwest Woodlands

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

Subscribe: (503)488-2515,
Fax: (503)226-2515
Email: razor@safnwo.org

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

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.

FOREST OWNER ASSOCIATIONS

Montana Christmas Tree Association, Inc.

16020 Swingley Ridge Rd. Suite 300

Chesterfield, MO 63017

(636)449-5070

Fax: (636)449-5051

Email: info@realchristmastrees.org

www.christmastree.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
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 Venders:

www.montanaforests.com/localwoodisgood/

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
Fax: (406)892-1612
Email: info@stoltzelumber.com
www.stoltzelumber.com/

Newton Logging Inc.

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

Weyerhaeuser

Headquarters:
PO Box 9777
Federal Way, WA 98063
Phone: 1-800-525-5440
<http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/>

Pyramid Mountain Lumber Inc.

PO Box 549, 379 Boy Scout Road
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
(406)677-2201
Fax: (406)677-2509
www.pyramidlumber.com

Tricon Timber LLC

PO Box 158
126 Mount Highway 135
St. Regis, MT 59866-9659
Phone: (406)649-2485
(406)649-2486
www.intermountainroundwood.org/

RY Timber Inc. - Manufacturing Site:

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

RY Timber Inc. - Corporate & Sales:

85 Mill Rd.
Townsend, MT 59644
Phone: (406)266-3111
www.rytimber.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

Phone: (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.

Montana Logging Association

2224 Montana Hwy 35
PO Box 1716
Kalispell, MT 59903
Phone: (406)752-3168
www.logging.org/

Montana Accredited Logging Professionals Directory

www.logging.org/accredited_logging_professional/find_an_alp.php

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
Fax: (800)433-0633
www.amleo.com/

Bartlett Arborist Supply & Manufacturing Company

3003 E Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
Toll Free: (800)331-7101
(313)873-7300
Fax: (313)873-5454
www.bartlettman.com/

Ben Meadows Company

Po Box 5277
Janesville, WI 53547-5277
Toll Free: (800)241-6401
Fax: (800)628-2068
www.benmeadows.com/

Forestry Supplies, 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
Fax: (360)577-4244
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

Fax: (406)542-4203

Email: mtnursery@mt.gov

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery/default.asp>

The University of Montana Experimental Seedling Nursery (UM-ESN)

The UM-ESN is an experimental conservation seedling nursery, focused on research and hands-on training in the propagation of native plants for reforestation and revegetation. Based at Memorial Greenhouse on the University of Montana campus, the UM-ESN provides students and volunteers with practical training and experience in all aspects of the forest regeneration process. Seedling sales help defray program costs; a range of Montana species and stock types are available.

UM Experimental Seedling Nursery

Christopher Keyes, Director

Applied Forest Management Program

University of Montana

Missoula, MT 59812

(406)-243-6051

Email: christopher.keyes@umontana.edu

www.cfc.umt.edu/afmp/Nursery.php

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

PLANTS and NURSERIES

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
- Montana Native Plant Source Guide

Montana Nursery and Landscape Association

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.

Montana Nursery and Landscape Association

Po Box 1366

Big Fork, MT 59911-1366

(406)755-3079

Fax: (406)755-3072

www.plantingmontana.com

Members of Montana Association of Nurserymen

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.

www.plantingmontana.com/Default.aspx?pageId=1055192

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 different types of aerial photography, go to:

www.usgs.gov/pubprod/aerial.html#aerial

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

www.maps.google.com

www.earth.google.com

MapQuest

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

Maps

Sources for Topographic Maps

USGS: <http://topomaps.usgs.gov/>

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

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.

All Topo Maps

www.alltopo.com/

Phone: (801)412-0011

Cadastral

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

Fugawi

<http://www.fugawi.com/web/index-us.htm>

Google Maps

www.maps.google.com

www.earth.google.com

HuntingGPSmaps.com

www.huntinggpsmaps.com/

Gage

www.igage.com

Phone: (801)412-0011

National Geographic Maps

<http://www.natgeomaps.com/downloads.html>

Catalog/Online Store: (800)437-5521

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	http://mhs.mt.gov/default.asp
Montana State Library	http://www.msl.mt.gov/
Montana Tech U of M	http://www.mtech.edu/library/
University of Montana Western	http://my.umwestern.edu/library/
Dawson Community College	http://www.dawson.edu/students/jane-carey-memorial-library
Lewis and Clark Public Library	http://www.lewisandclarklibrary.org/
Flathead County Library	http://www.flatheadcountylibrary.org/default.htm

MAPS and PHOTOS

Lincoln County Library	http://www.lincolncountylibraries.com/
Missoula Public Library	http://www.missoulapubliclibrary.org/
Miles Community College	http://www.milesecc.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.skc.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
Fax: (406)587-6761
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

GRANTS/COST-SHARE

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

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

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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, a 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.

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

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) presents a significant shift in how NRCS provides conservation program payments. CSP participants will receive an annual land use payment for operation-level environmental benefits they produce. Under CSP, participants are paid for conservation performance: the higher the operational performance, the higher their payment.

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

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for private landowners to develop and improve high quality habitat that supports wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance. WHIP agreements can be for a time period with a minimum duration of one year after completion of the conservation practices, but not more than ten years.

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

Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

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

www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/glci/index.html

Wetlands Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary conservation program that offers landowners the means to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands on their property through permanent easements, 30 year easements, or Land Treatment Contracts.

www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/index.html

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.

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 in order 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.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=landing>

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
Fax: (406)444-0266
Email: mtnhp@mt.gov
<http://mtnhp.org/>

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
Phone: (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)\
www.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
Fax: (406-443-7144
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
Fax: (651)773-5500
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

Fax: (406)442-9120

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 that are in Montana.

More information is available at www.montanagreenpower.com/

For more information about renewable energy:

<http://deq.mt.gov/energy/renewable/default.mcp>

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

Phone: (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/