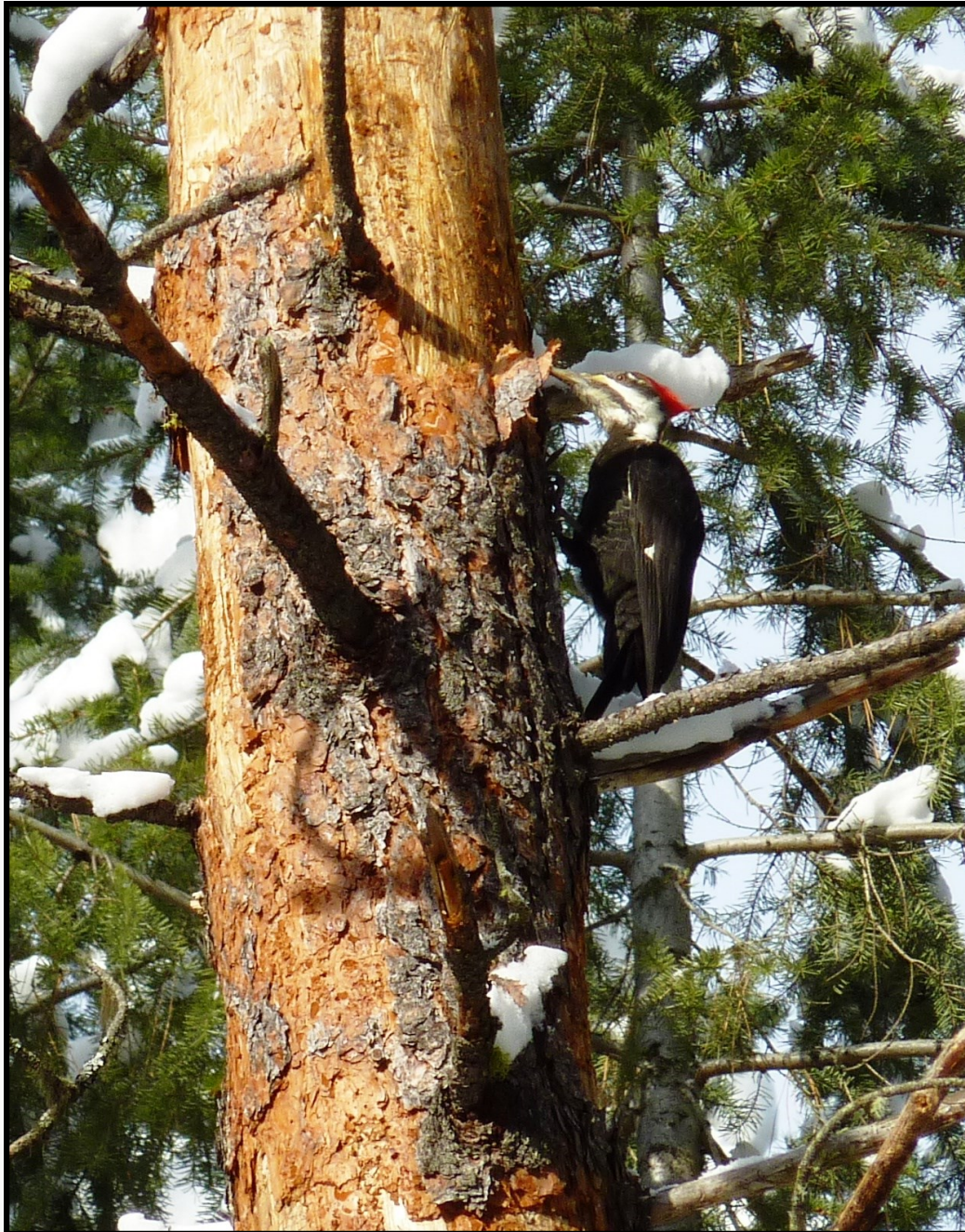


Montana Family Forest News

Issue No. 41—Spring 2014

A publication of the Montana Tree Farm System, MSU Extension Forestry, Forest Stewardship Foundation, Montana Forest Owners Association, and the Montana Forest Stewardship program.



This female pileated woodpecker peels back bark to find bark beetle and wood borer larvae. Pileated woodpecker holes tend to be rectangular in shape and they need either a specially made house or larger snag for nesting and an estimated 40 acres of denser forest for habitat. We have had a pair on our 20 acre Tree Farm for 5 years now and leave late summer/fall infested beetle trees standing until spring to feed them, when the tree(s) is dropped and remaining bark peeled to kill the remaining brood. Picture by Peter Kolb – MSU Extension Forestry Specialist.

Letter from the Editor**Tree Farm News**

- 1 Montana Tree Farm, letter from the Chair
- 2 Setting up a Contract to Grow Seedlings, by Brain Quilter
- 3 Foy's Community Forest and John Chase Tree Farms Recognized, by Mark Boardman
- 4 Flanagan Family Awarded 2012 Montana Tree Farmer of the Year, by Mike Justus
- 5 Western Pine Beetle, by Amy Gannon
- 7 Call for Nominations, by Paul McKenzie
- 8 Certification 101: Frequently Asked Questions, by Angela Mallon
- 10 Montana Tree Farm Annual Meeting

MFOA News

- 11 Big Sky NIPF-y Notes, Submitted by Debra Parker Foley

Extension Forestry and Stewardship News

- 13 Montana Forest Stewardship Steering Committee, Letter from the Chair
- 14 Spotlight on a Forest Steward/Tree Farmer Richard Goldberg, by Richard Goldberg & Cindy Bertek
- 16 MSU Extension Provides Estate Planning Resources, by Marsha Goetting, Ph.D,
- 17 The Next Generation of Family Forest Landowners and Natural Resource Professionals, by Martin Twer
- 18 Montana Master Forest Steward Program, by Martin Twer

Forest Stewardship Foundation News

- 19 Forest Stewardship Foundation, letter from the chair
- 20 2014 Montana Forest Landowner Conference
- 21 Ties to the Land Workshop

Features

- 22 Bureau of Business and Economic Research's Updated Website, by Steve Hayes
- 23 Management, Silviculture & Marketing Forest Products, by Vincent P. Corrao
- 24 Life After Dead Wood, by Daniel Hubbell

Dear Reader,

This newsletter highlights numerous articles that focus on information and resources that a forest landowner can use to better their knowledge and potentially implement on their own land. The overall concept is to provide articles that capture one's attention based on current issues and updates on various organizations on a state and national level. Our goal is to provide articles that will give important information and encourage landowners to develop new ideas towards their land.

Warm regards,

Christina Opegard, Family Forest News Editor

Christina.oppegard@mso.umt.edu

extensionforestry@montana.edu

(406)243-2773

Peter Kolb - MSU Extension Forestry Specialist

Cindy Bertek – MSU Forest Stewardship Coordinator

Martin Twer - MSU Extension Forestry Bioenergy
Assoc. Specialist

Montana State University Extension Forestry has taken on the responsibility of producing the spring Montana Family Forest News in cooperation with the Montana DNRC, Tree Farm Program, Montana Forest Owners Association, Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation, Montana Forest Stewardship Steering Committee, Montana Logging Association, Montana Wood Products Association, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Natural Resources and Conservation Service and the many sponsors whose advertisements you will find on the pages of this newsletter. All are committed towards the conservation of healthy and functioning Montana forests. We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please send us your comments!



RY TIMBER, INC.

Sawmill Sites:

5284 Hwy 89 South – Livingston, MT 59047
Phone 406.222.3360 Fax 406. 222.8748

85 Mill Road – Townsend, MT 59644
Phone 406.266.3111 Fax 406.266.3115

Corporate & Sales Office:

85 Mill Road – P.O. Box 220
Townsend, MT 59644

Phone 406.266.3111
Fax 406.266.3115

www.rytimber.com

RY TIMBER, INC. IS INTERESTED IN:

- Purchasing Timber and Timberlands throughout Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming
- Capitol available to purchase or help with purchase of ranches containing standing timber
- Acceptable species include Lodgepole Pine, Engelmann Spruce, Douglas Fir (including burned or bug-killed timber)
- Our foresters can work with you on your timber management or salvage projects.
- Also Purchasing Logs at our new Missoula Rail Siding.

Ed Regan – 406.266.3111x210
Townsend, MT

Doug Hanson – 406.220.3593
Bozeman, MT

Dennis Davaz - 406-220-0102
Livingston, MT

Jerry Furtney-406-949-1531
Townsend, MT

Montana Tree Farm *Letter from the Chair*



Spring is just around the corner! With that comes the opportunity to get out in your forest and work your ground. Spring is a great time to go for a walk and monitor your forest, plant seedlings, spray or pull some weeds, thin some saplings, watch some wildlife, or plan for your next harvest. If you're thinking of a harvest the good news is prices are up and the mills are ready for your wood! We included a couple of articles on markets and reforestation for your assistance.

Lately there are some positive things that are happening for family forests. First I'd like to share a quote from American Forest Foundation President and CEO Tom Martin, *"The newly passed 2014 Farm Bill is the best for Family Forests that we've ever seen. The long-awaited Farm Bill provides resources critical to implementing conservation practices on the ground and making good forest stewardship affordable. The improvements in the new Farm Bill, critical to ensuring long-term forest sustainability, include stronger market opportunities for forests, specifically with improvements to the Bio-based Markets Program and a strengthened commitment to expanding prospects for wood in green building markets, the fastest growing market for wood products; Improved access to conservation resources, particularly the Conservation Stewardship Program, which rewards landowners for taking the 'next step' in conservation; Strong support for programs that combat forest invasive pests and pathogens and; Provisions to increase forest owners' regulatory certainty when protecting water quality..."* Lawmakers passed the Agriculture Act of 2014 (H.R. 2642, also known as the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill) on February 7, 2014. A portion of the Farm Bill dollars will go to conservation efforts such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which can assist forest owners with conservation projects such as planting, pre-commercial thinning and weed spraying. I happen to be

working with a landowner putting these funds towards some real great conservation efforts on the ground. In fact we will be planting 8,000 seedlings for diversification purposes this spring in addition to pre-commercial thinning of 37 acres on a new Tree Farm in the north of the Flathead area. Call your Tree Farm Inspector for more information on EQIP. In addition, we can thank the National Alliance for Forest Owners (NAFO) that lobbied congress to pass the bill that includes a provision preserving the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) classification of forest roads and forest management as nonpoint sources subject to state-derived Best Management Practices (BMPs) under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). This provision for forest roads and other silviculture activities exempts them from federal CWA permits used for factories and other industrial facilities, leaving in place the state BMP programs which have been a CWA success story. The provision also permanently protects forest owners from citizen lawsuits challenging compliance with any EPA measures addressing stormwater discharges. Finally, as I mentioned earlier the market for your wood products are looking very positive. Prices are up and log buyers are being very competitive. I won't go any further on this as I don't want to steal Steve Hayes' thunder.

Finally I'd like to personally invite everyone to our fall annual meeting in the North Fork of the Flathead River. We will have lots of fun and visit a couple of Tree Farms where we'll learn a lot! Make a full weekend of the trip, and enjoy a wonderful vacation in one of the most scenic areas of Montana, maybe the world!

By: Mark Boardman, Montana Tree Farm Chair

Montana Tree Farm Program
Po Box 17276
Missoula, MT 59808
www.mttreefarm.org

Mark Boardman, Chair
Angela Mallon, Vice Chair
Christina Oppgaard, Treasurer
Debra Parker-Foley, Secretary

Setting Up a Contract to Grow Seedlings

By: Brian Quilter, Nursery Manager DNRC

Landowners that maintain private forest and woodlots will eventually need to do some planting on their land. Obtaining good seedlings that are adapted to a site can be tricky. By making a contract with a nursery to grow your seedlings gives you control over the seed source, size of container the seedlings are grown in, and to some extent, the overall price.

To start the planting process, make a timeline to plan out how the entire process of acquiring and planting seedlings will go. This timeline needs to include: obtaining seed, sending it to the nursery to prepare for sowing, time for the trees to be grown to obtain the desired size, and finally the date as to when you would like to pick up your seedlings for planting.

The most important step to planting seedlings on your property is to ensure that the seedlings you plant are a good genetic match for your site. The best way to do this is to acquire seed that has been collected directly from native trees on your site or an area near your site that matches the characteristics of your site. Should you desire to use the seed bank of a nursery, ask to see a list of their seed in storage to verify that they have a source that matches the site.

Next, select a nursery and deliver the seed to them. Most nurseries start growing seedlings around March or April. You will need to deliver the seed well before then. Many seeds require pre-treatments. For most species this is around

a month of chilling. Western white pine and Rocky Mountain juniper need up to 6 months of pre-sow treatments. It is best to get in contact with the nursery soon after collecting your seed in the fall about making plans to grow your seedlings.

The nursery will want to know the size of container in which to grow your seedlings. A general rule is the larger the container, the more robust the seedling will be. However, the larger containers do increase the cost of the plant. For large scale plantings, a 10 cubic inch container is a good way to go.

Finally, decide on a planting date. With container seedlings, it is usually best to plant in either early fall or spring. Know your planting site and what would be best. Make arrangements with the nursery a head of time as to what your plans are so that they can have the trees ready at your planting date. Let your nursery know of any changes that may occur so that your seedlings arrive in the best condition for you to plant them.

For more information please contact Brain Quilter, Nursery Manager, MT Conservation Seedling Nursery at 406-542-4244.

Montana Tree Farm Scholarship

MT Tree Farm offers a \$500 scholarship annually to a resident of Montana enrolled (for the first time) or attending any accredited institution of higher education, on a full time basis, have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above, and must demonstrate an interest in forestry. **Applicants must have a Tree Farmer or a Tree Farm Inspector as a reference.** Perhaps you know someone who qualifies for this scholarship. If so, please let them know about this great opportunity.

The objective of this scholarship is to help a student with an interest in forestry and also to get knowledge out to these students about Tree Farm and the family forests of Montana. Making a connection between future foresters and land managers can lead to the development of long term personal and professional relationships.

The application deadline is September 15, 2014. For an application go online: www.mttreefarm.org/about-us/scholarship, email: cindy.bertek@cfc.umd.edu, or call Cindy Bertek at 406-243-4706

Foy’s Community Forest and John Chase Tree Farms Recognized

By: Mark Boardman



On Thursday October 29, 2013 the Montana Tree Farm Vice Chair and Certification Manager Angela Mallon and I met with representatives from Flathead County Parks and Recreation and other community leaders to recognize two new Tree Farms in northwest Montana.

Foy’s Community Forest, located west of Kalispell, is the recent recipient of a grant from the USDA Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. Foy’s adds 220 acres of beautiful working forest with high recreational value to the Montana Tree Farm System. Angela said, “Foy’s Community Forest is Montana’s newest community forest and the first in our state to be certified by the American Tree Farm System.” Jim Watson, a fellow Tree Farmer, has worked for six years to see these lands protected as an example of how to manage forests in a sustainable manner while providing recreational opportunities for the community. According to Watson, “It is an honor to be a member of the team that has worked so hard to secure this forest for public use and education.”

The 160 acre John Chase property is adjacent to Foy’s Community Forest and was the second Tree Farm recognized that day. Popular hiking trails extend from Foy’s onto the Chase property, where users are welcome thanks to his generosity in granting access. Chase’s outstanding stewardship and commitment to public access enhances the recreational value and open space characteristics of the adjacent community forest. Adding John’s 160 acres to the Tree Farm system is a huge privilege. John is currently conducting a fuels reduction project with Quiram Logging out of Whitefish, MT. This commercial harvesting brings many values to the community through jobs, wood resources, reduction of fire hazard, increased recreational opportunities,

enhanced wildlife habitat, and improved forest health.

Montana Tree Farm is part the American Tree Farm System® which is a network of 82,000 family forest owners sustainably managing 24 million acres of forestland. It is the largest and oldest sustainable woodland certification system in the United States, internationally recognized, and meeting third-party audit standards. There are 457 Tree Farms presently recognized in Montana.



Tree Farm Inspector Training

Prior to the Montana State Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting

3 CFE credits available

April 10th 12:30pm-4:30pm (lunch provided)

Ruby Inn and Convention Center

4825 N Reserve St. , Missoula, MT 59808

For new Tree Farm inspectors and those who are in need of re-certification (within the past 5 years)

Note: Please mention SAF if/when making reservations at the Ruby Inn

THOMPSON RIVER LUMBER CO.



- Actively buying timber at competitive prices.
- Timber management plans and appraisals
- Professional Forester to help with your land management goals.

Shawn Morgan
406-242-0328
shawn@thompsonriver.net

Flanagan Family Awarded 2012 Montana Tree Farmer of the Year

Submitted by: Mike Justus

On September 29 2013, the Flanagan family of Fortine, Montana was awarded Montana Tree Farmer of the Year at the annual Montana Tree Farm meeting held in Troy, Montana.

The Montana Tree Farm System recognizes the superior stewardship of its members through the annual Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year recognition program. These landowners are recognized for their remarkable efforts to enhance and sustain their forests and for spreading the practice of sustainable forestry.

The Flanagan's have been enrolled in the Tree Farm Program for 35 years and actively manage their forest for wood, water, wildlife and recreation. These are the corner stones of the Tree Farm Program.

In the past five years they have selectively thinned over 300 acres of their forest land. The thinning focused on removing the stagnant and low vigor trees, leaving healthy vigorous trees to flourish. These thinning projects helped reduce the fire danger adjacent to several subdivisions that were prioritized by the Lincoln Counties Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The by-products from their thinning are utilized in many ways. Small diameter trees are sold as firewood or for pulp at the Eureka Pellet Mill. Each year they harvest 25 tons of boughs and make over 4000 wreaths. They also manufacture two miles of Christmas garland. This creates local jobs from a renewable forest resource.

Brothers Pat and Joe raise 70 cows each year, most of the beef are sold locally as home grown beef. The Flanagan's have been involved with the restoration of over one mile of Grave Creek. Grave Creek is one of the most important bull trout fisheries in the upper Kootenai Basin. The stream is also listed on the states Impaired Stream list.

The restoration efforts have improved both fish habitat and water quality. Their work includes construction of two miles of deer proof fence. They have also planted trees and shrubs and have excluded their cattle from grazing for four years for the vegetation to recover. They have installed a fish screen at their irrigation diversion point to screen bull trout out of their irrigation canal. They have installed off stream

water sources for cattle watering to eliminate the cattle's impacts on water quality.

Outreach and education is another important component of the Tree Farm System. The Flanagan Farm hosted the 2002 Montana State Tree Farm Convention. This was also a Shared Streams Field Day with the American Tree Farm System. They have also provided tours to Western Montana Area Conservation Districts meeting in 2005 and the DNRC Service Forester Roundup in 2003. In 2011, their property was visited on a county sponsored firewise field tour. The stream restoration project was also used for a local stream contractor's workshop.

The family is involved with other partnering conservation organizations such as Lincoln Conservation District and Kootenai River Network. Darris Flanagan has written several books on the history for forest management including "The Montana Christmas Tree Story: An Historic Saga of Boom and Bust" and "Skidtrails: The Glory Days of Montana Logging". Both of these books document the history of Montana's forest products industry.

Darris Flanagan is Supervisor of the Lincoln Conservation District which provides outreach and education to landowners on natural resource conservation issues. Darris has also served as Chair of "Kootenai River Network", which is a trans-boundary watershed group dedicated to promoting resource management practices and restoration of water quality and aquatic resources. In 2004, the Flanagan's were awarded the "Private Landowner of the Year" by the American Fisheries Society.

Darris is a retired teacher and uses his teaching certificate to host Conservation District Realtor Workshops to educate realtors of water permitting regulations.

Western Pine Beetle

By: Amy Gannon, MT DNRC Forest Pest Management Program

By this point, we're all pretty well-versed in mountain pine beetle. But mountain pine beetle is not the only bark beetle infesting ponderosa pine in Western Montana. Western pine beetle, red turpentine beetle, and various species of pine engravers are equally common bark beetle inhabitants of ponderosa. They are commonly confused with mountain pine beetle so it is worthwhile to recognize their different characteristics and even have a few management options on hand.

Western pine beetle is the most difficult bark beetle to distinguish from mountain pine beetle. Both can create pitch tubes ("sappy" masses that look like popcorn) on the main stem of the tree but the galleries underlying the bark are QUITE different and serve as the distinguishing characteristic. Western pine beetle galleries are circuitous and do not have obvious larval galleries extending outward. Their larvae feed a little farther out in the bark which makes them more available to woodpeckers. Extensive woodpecker feeding is a common first indicator of western pine beetle. If you see scraps of bark at the base of your ponderosa look up, the circuitous galleries are often exposed.

Western pine beetle populations can build up to outbreak levels but generally, it causes small pockets of mortality or attacks individual trees. It is not as aggressive as mountain pine beetle and prefers mature, stressed, damaged, and fire-scorched trees. Trees that are successfully mass-attacked will die and bark beetle offspring will eventually emerge as adults and attack surrounding trees. Thus, removal of infested trees, debarking, or chipping is essential prior to adult emergence. Western pine beetle can have overlapping life stages so adults may emerge any time throughout the growing season. Furthermore, they can develop two generations in a single year. Interestingly, western pine beetle does not occur east of the Continental Divide.

Silvicultural treatments that enhance tree vigor are the most effective way to prevent western pine beetle activity in your forest. Insecticides can be useful in protecting high value trees against attack. Please note, insecticides are only preventive and do not kill beetles already infesting a trees. Carbaryl, bifenthrin, and permethrin are effective against

bark beetles but be sure to check the exact label of the product to determine appropriate application. Some insecticide guidelines differ according to whether they are applied in a forest or ornamental setting. Verbenone does NOT deter western pine beetle.

Red turpentine beetles also create pitch tubes in ponderosa pine but they are confined to the lower portion of the main stem and do not usually cause mortality. The larvae feed together and create a chamber versus linear, individual galleries. Excavation near the pitch tube will readily reveal this distinction. Red turpentine beetles are attracted to damaged, stressed, or scorched trees so take measure to protect your trees from incidental damage during harvest and remove trees heavily scorched by fire.

Pine engraver beetles, also known by their Latin name as "ips" beetles, will also infest ponderosa pine. These beetles are not aggressive and attack weakened and newly killed trees. Pine engraver beetles do not create pitch tubes but are indicated by accumulations of reddish brown boring dust accumulating in bark crevices or under pieces of slash. They create distinct galleries that are clear of boring dust and have multiple arms creating an "H" or "Y" shape. They often co-occur in trees that are infested by mountain pine beetle, western pine beetle, and/or red turpentine beetle. Pine engraver beetles commonly infest slash created by harvest and thinning. They have more than one generation per year and their offspring can attack and kill the tops of large diameter trees or residual small trees.

There are numerous ways to mitigate the damage caused by pine engravers. Ideally, create slash between August and December so that it will dry over the course of the winter and not contain adequate moisture to support engraver beetles. Restricting logging activities to this window of time may greatly reduce the potential for an outbreak. Because pine engraver beetles prefer slash over standing trees, this is accomplished by continually creating slash piles throughout a stand of older, infested slash piles. Or create large slash piles where the exterior portion will dry out while the interior retains its moisture. Beetles emerging from the exterior

continue on page 6

will migrate inward toward the moister material. If all else fails, pheromone-baited traps effectively lure beetles from slash piles and reduce the likelihood that they will attack surrounding trees. Traps must be placed before the second generation of beetles fly in June (depending on exact weather conditions). It is recommended that trapping be done with the guidance of an experienced forester or entomologist.

Winter is an ideal time to get out and inspect your trees for bark beetles. Boring dust is often persistent and visible, woodpeckers reveal which trees are harboring larvae, and beetles are clearly exposed by using a hatchet to remove bark. Infested trees will still have green crowns so be sure to get up close for a better look.

For more information on these and other forest insects, please visit: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/Forestry/Assistance/Pests>.



Helena Office:

(406) 442-7555
nwmanageMT@nmi2.com

Moscow, ID Office:

(208) 883-4488
nwmanage@
consulting-foresters.com

Deer Park, WA Office:

(509) 276-4699
DeerPark@
consulting-foresters.com

- **FREE initial consultation**

Our professional **forestry, wildlife and range** staff has provided service to forest landowners across the **Inland Northwest since 1984**. Let our experience work for you.

- Timber Harvesting
- Forest Insect & Disease Management
- Wildfire Hazard Reduction
- Natural Resource Mapping Services
- Forest Inventory
- Timber Valuation
- Reforestation
- Expert Witness
- Forest Stewardship Planning
- Precommercial Thinning
- Forest Road Layout & Design

www.consulting-foresters.com

F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.



Purchasing Logs and Stumpage We Specialize in Meeting Landowners Stewardship Goals!

We are actively purchasing Lodgepole Pine, Engelmann Spruce, Alpine Fir, Grand Fir, Douglas-fir and Western Larch. We offer competitive prices for logs, standing timber and timberland. Let our professional foresters help you meet your land management objectives.

406-892-7005

Serving Northwest Montana since 1912

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

It is never too early to start thinking about nominating our peers who exemplify the values of the Tree Farm program for the annual Montana Tree Farm awards. Montana Tree Farm bestows four awards at our annual meeting in October and the Committee looks to you, the tree farmers and inspectors, to help identify those deserving of recognition.

The **Montana Tree Farmer of the Year** award is intended to recognize Tree Farmers who's commitment to implementation of sustainable forestry is not only evident in the management of their own Tree Farm, but extends beyond their boundaries. This annual award is a stepping stone for potential nomination to Regional Tree Farmer of the Year awards and possible for the National Tree Farmer of the year award. Nominations can come from either inspecting foresters or other Tree Farmers who recognize excellence in one of their peers.

Tree Farm Educator of the Year is intended to recognize individuals who exhibit a passion for sharing the tenants of the Tree Farm Program, wood, water wildlife, recreation and using sustainable forest management as the tool to meet these goals through their role as an educator. Past awardees have come from a variety of sources including public school educators, landowner educators and youth educators in non-traditional roles such as day camps or extracurricular activities. The possible awardee pool is deep for those with goals of getting the message of sustainable forestry to people who have not yet been exposed to the concept or benefits.

Tree Farm Logger of the Year recognizes the outstanding professional timber harvesters who make meeting our land management objectives possible. Traits of a Logger of the Year candidate include: completing significant work on Tree Farm properties; adherence to BMP/SMZ guidance and law; participation in logger training, (Accredited Logging Professional status preferred); promotion of Tree Farm and

Stewardship programs; encouragement and support for implementation of forest stewardship on all landowners.

Tree Farm Inspector of the Year is chosen according to a criteria and point system evaluated by the awards subcommittee. Selection is based upon number of inspections completed, new recruits to the Tree Farm program, timeliness and neatness of inspection work (yes you do get points deducted for spilling coffee on the 004 form!), involvement in the Tree Farm Committee, outreach and promotion of the program and a host of other evaluation criteria.

In addition to these four annual awards, at the discretion of the committee, a **Lifetime Achievement** award is periodically bestowed on individuals who have shown outstanding long term commitment to the Tree Farm program and who have demonstrated unwavering support for the furtherance of good forest stewardship. This is a very special award and only used on rare occasions when truly deserving candidates are identified.

Remember, the awards and recognition only work if **you** participate by nominating folks who deserve recognition! Nomination forms for all of the awards can be found on our website or by contacting me at 406-892-7005. In order for the award committee to have sufficient time to review nominations, all nominations must be received no later than **August 1, 2014**. Happy Nominating!

Paul McKenzie – Awards Committee Chair

Certification 101: Frequently Asked Questions

By Angela Mallon, Montana Tree Farm Vice Chair and State Certification Coordinator

Since 1941, the American Tree Farm System has promoted sustainable management on family forest lands throughout the United States. Tree Farm's national office and state chapters offer landowners the tools they need to practice good forest management, technical advice to support their decisions, and networking opportunities to strengthen their collective voice as caretakers of one of America's most important resources. In 2004, Tree Farm expanded its mission beyond recognition and support to offer affordable forest certification to family forest owners in the U.S. This article addresses some of the most frequently asked questions related to certification.

What is forest certification?

Broadly speaking, forest certification is a guarantee that land management practices meet a certain standard of sustainability. A written certificate is issued by an independent third party verifying that the lands under that certification are being managed in a way that protects social, economic, and environmental benefits over the long-term. As part of the American Tree Farm System, your lands are endorsed as certified by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC). Endorsement by PEFC guarantees purchasers of wood and paper products that they are supporting sustainable forest management. Worldwide, PEFC endorses 25 forest certification systems covering 200 million hectares of forest land. As such, it is the world's largest forest certification system.

How is this certification different from the portfolio of services Tree Farm offered before?

Prior to 2004, Tree Farmers were only "certified" in the sense that they were recognized as members of an organization which promoted good stewardship on private forest land. Now, Tree Farmers are "third-party certified." This means that the Tree Farm program participates in a review cycle during which its 8 Standards of Sustainability are assessed by an outside, accredited certification body.

How do certification assessments work?

At least every three years, a sample of Montana Tree Farms receives a visit from their inspector, a member of the state steering committee, and an independent assessor. Assessors spend a couple of hours with each Tree Farmer, walking his or her property and reviewing the property's management plan to verify that plans and management activities are consistent with the Standards of Sustainability. When the statewide review is complete, the assessor prepares a report summarizing results of the state's program as whole, without identifying individual Tree Farms. So far, Montana's Tree Farm program has exceeded assessors' expectations in meeting the standards of sustainability necessary for third party certification.

What are the benefits of third-party forest certification?

Certain wood products markets deal exclusively or partially in certified fiber. Ecosystem services markets, such as carbon-banking or conservation easement programs, may require third-party certification. Certification under the Tree Farm System allows landowners access to certified wood and forest benefits markets.

I heard that Tree Farm is trying to establish a fee for membership. Why should I have to pay for a program that's been free for the past 70 years?

The American Tree Farm System receives financial support from a number of private and public sources, including donations from its members. At the state level, however, the majority of its day-to-day operations are run by volunteer committees, part-time paid administrators, or a combination of the two. A growing membership base, combined with the demands of meeting third-party certification requirements, strains the current structure beyond its capacity. The cost of maintaining an internationally certified program including assessments, record keeping, and administration costs, on average, \$25 per member nationwide. Current funding sources are not adequate to pay these costs over the long-term.

I hear that states can opt out of being certified at some point in the future. How will this work?

After soliciting and receiving significant feedback from its membership, ATFS is offering its 44 member states three pathways for future engagement. By December 31, 2015, each state must choose one of the following options:

Certification: Under this framework, state programs will maintain their certified status through a regional certificate held centrally by the American Forest Foundation. Beginning in 2019, states will contribute \$10 per Certified Tree Farmer annually to help offset the costs of certification, with a cap of \$7,000 per state. This contribution will help offset the costs of maintaining third-party certification. State programs will receive financial support from ATFS during the years that they undergo assessment.

Independently Managed Groups (IMGs): Under this model, a sponsor organization would hold an umbrella certificate on behalf of a group of landowners wishing to be certified. The Tree Farmers certified under the IMG are held to the same ATFS Standards of Sustainability but the IMG operates independently of American Forest Foundation regional certificates. Costs of operating an IMG include annual audit expenses and administrative fees and will be shared by IMG members.

Recognition: Under this framework, state programs would no longer be certified. Members would receive certain benefits of recognition, including assistance crafting stewardship plans, initial certification and re-certification visits from qualified inspectors, and Tree Farm signs. States would still be required to meet annual benchmarks for maintaining a quality program.

Who is going to decide which pathway Montana will take?

The Montana Tree Farm steering committee is dedicated to providing its membership with the preparation necessary to make an informed collective decision about which of the three options is most appropriate. In the next year, we will prepare and distribute a fact sheet explaining in further detail the costs and benefits associated with each pathway. In 2015, we will solicit your feedback, likely via phone or mail survey, and ask for a vote on which option is right for Montana. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact your state committee for further information.

See <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-for-tree-farm-certification> for more information on Tree Farm's Standards of Sustainability.



**Plum Creek is proud to do business with
Montana tree farms, and to practice
sustainable forestry on our timberlands
in northwest Montana.**





Montana Tree Farm Annual Meeting



Saturday, October 11th, 2014,

9:00am to 3:00 pm

Sondreson Community Hall, 8 miles north of Polebridge on
the North Fork of the Flathead River

Transportation from Columbia Falls to the Community Center will be arranged for those who do not wish to drive themselves.

A Tree Farm inspector appreciation event is planned for Saturday evening and Sunday, October 12th. Stay tuned for more details – fishing, grilling, and hopefully overnight lodging on Saturday will be provided (if we can reserve a USFS Cabin).





BIG SKY NIPF-ty NOTES

*Supporting non-industrial private forest owners (family forests)
in their rightful and responsible use, management and
enjoyment of their forest lands.*

Paid for by the Montana Forest Owners Association
P.O. Box 17126, Missoula, MT 59808

Web: www.forestsmtana.com
E-mail: info@forestsmtana.com

Volume 20, No. 1
SPRING, 2014

MFOA Elected Officers for 2014:

President—Debra Parker Foley; V. President—Pat Mandzak
Treasurer—Joe Moran; Secretary—Mark Boardman

STATE NEWS:

The Montana Legislature is not in session this year. However, Interim Committees are at work in 2014. Of interest to Montana's private forest owners:

Senate Joint Resolution 15: The Montana Legislature has adopted a Joint Resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, **“requesting an interim study evaluating the management of certain federal lands, assessing risks, and identifying solutions.”**

The Legislature stated that since over 25% of Montana's land is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, this management has a “significant and direct bearing on Montana's environment, education funding, economy, culture, wildlife, and the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens.” The Legislature also stated that federal funding for responsible management of Forest Service lands and BLM lands are in “serious jeopardy while critical threats such as beetle kills, invasive species, watershed degradation, access restrictions, and catastrophic wildfires continue to escalate.”

<http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2013/billhtml/SJ0015.htm>

The Legislature conducted a survey of County Commissioners whose counties contain 15% or more land area under the management of the Forest Service and/or Bureau of Land Management. Thirty-five counties were surveyed. The survey and summary of responses can be found online at: <http://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2013-2014/EOC/Committee-Topics/sj-15/county-survey-response-totals.pdf>

All aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, will be concluded by September 15, 2014. The Montana Environmental Quality Council's schedule for this Interim Committee can be viewed at: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/Interim/2013-2014/EOC>.

Lewis and Clark County Firefighters No longer Obligated to Save Homes From Wildfires.

Lewis and Clark County recently adopted a first-of-a-kind resolution. The location of homes in Lewis and Clark County will no longer dictate fire suppression tactics or the placement of fire lines--they have no obligation to protect a home from a wildfire in the urban interface. Lewis and Clark County commissioners also directed local fire crews to receive training in basic wildfire behavior. For more info: http://missoulian.com/news/local/lewis-and-clark-county-firefighters-no-longer-obligated-to-save/article_1c5f648a-7117-11e3-849d-0019bb2963f4.html

UM and MSU BIOMASS STUDY— IMPORTANCE TO LANDOWNERS

Funded by a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, five universities, including UM and MSU, joined by research labs across the Northern Rockies, are researching ways to turn dead timber into a carbon-neutral and economically viable liquid fuel source for trucks and autos.

The group, Bioenergy Alliance Network of the Rockies, also includes the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the National Renewable Energy Lab, along with Cool Planet Energy Systems – a Colorado firm whose investors include General Electric, British Petroleum and Google Ventures.

Cool Planet has patented technology that converts non-food biomass into a high octane gasoline additive or even possibly biodiesel. The company is looking to establish five trial refineries near potential biomass sources, which include the forests of the Northern Rockies.

The proposal for Montana would mainly look to use existing debris generated from fire hazard reduction work, thinning and logging applications that currently are piled and burned. Converting it into an energy source would not only increase the utilization efficiency of work in the forest, it would generate income from what now is a cost.

This project is important to the 7.5 million acres of private lands where owners are actively trying to maintain a healthy forest. Much of the standing deadwood in Montana is federally owned U.S. Forest Lands where little can be done because of policy issues.

Cool Planet could build production plants in Montana. Montana has several advantages over its neighbors that include an existing logging infrastructure and the state's abundance of dead-standing wood. Potential sites might include the shuttered Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. site in Frenchtown, and the community of Seeley Lake, which has a functional logging mill and sits close to the Blackfoot Challenge, or the old Pablo Plum Creek mill site that could take advantage of the active management on tribal lands.

From the *Missoulian*, 12-24-13.

NATIONAL NEWS:

Farm Bill Passes

On February 7, President Obama signed the "Agricultural Act of 2014" known as the "FARM BILL." The Farm Bill is the product of the House-Senate Farm Bill Conference. It is a five-year farm bill that reforms agricultural policy and contains a number of important forestry provisions:

- Permanent extension of authority to enter into stewardship contracts;
- Fire liability provisions in stewardship contracts to be the same as timber sale contracts;
- Reaffirms that projects conducted under CE's should not be subject to Administrative Appeals;
- Designation by prescription (D X P) and designation by description (D X D) authorized for Forest Service timber contracts;
- A limited 3,000 categorical exclusion (CE) for use in treating insect and disease infestations.
- EPA barred from requiring Clean Water Act permits for forest roads;
- Good Neighbor Authority to allow states to perform work on federal forest lands;
- Expands Healthy Forest Restoration Act authorities to streamline projects in areas that have been identified as facing forest health issues;
- Gives Governors greater authority in the identification of critical areas and use of insect and disease CE.

The full text of the Bill can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr2642enr/pdf/BILLS-113hr2642enr.pdf>

MFOA is a non-profit organization directed by a voluntary board of family forest owners. MFOA provides policy issues development, giving a "voice" to Montana family forest owners in the policy-making arena. Visit our website at: www.forestmontana.com

Montana Forest Stewardship Steering Committee

Letter from the Chair



The MFSSC is steadily expanding its support of the Forest Stewardship Program and Landowner Assistance Programs. This enhanced support includes participating in various grant processes. Toward that end, the MFSSC will provide input to the State Forester on Western States Fire Manager's Grants, including participating in the scoring process. The MFSSC will also provide input to the State Forester on Competitive Grants. This will include participating in the screening of pre-proposals as well as recommending potential grants.

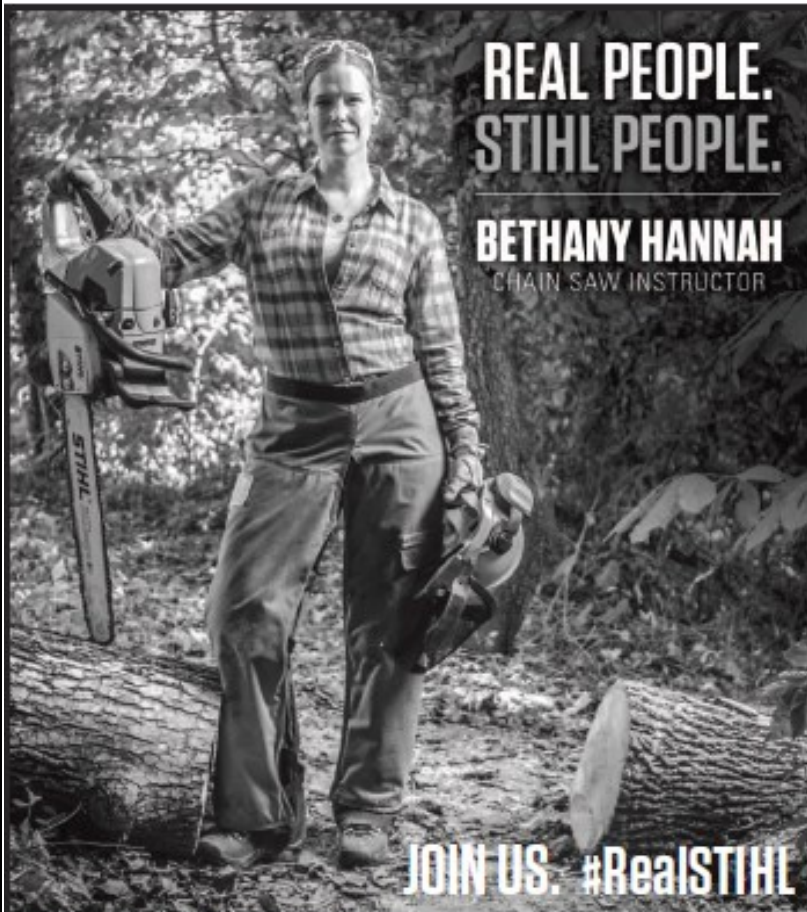
Lastly, the MFSSC is providing advice and input on utilization and updating of the Forest Action Plan.

The MFSSC is accepting applications from non-industrial private forest landowners who are interested to serve on the committee, and attend four meetings a year (usually in Missoula). You are welcome to attend a future meeting to assess your interest. Contact Jody Christianson at jody@mjchristianson.com if you are interested.

While expanding its role concerning grants, the MFSSC continues its unabated support of the Forest Stewardship Workshops through recommendations to the State Forester and to MSU Extension Forestry.

Mike Christianson, MFSSC Chair

The Legacy program continues with vigor and the MFSSC continues its ranking and monitoring of Legacy programs.



REAL PEOPLE.
STIHL PEOPLE.

BETHANY HANNAH
CHAIN SAW INSTRUCTOR

JOIN US. #RealSTIHL

Meet an Instructor
with a Passion
for Power



When Bethany picked up her first chain saw at the age of 20, she was immediately hooked. Now, as a chain saw instructor, former Hotshot firefighter and sawyer, her appreciation for STIHL has only grown stronger.

"Having a reliable tool, like a STIHL, is critical. When you take off the bar to replace the chain, you can do it under a minute. Being able to quickly maintain your tools in the field is paramount for safety and productivity." – Bethany



MS 391
CHAIN SAW \$569.95

★★★★★ 20" bar¹

"If I could give the MS 391 6 or 7 stars for power I would. Cuts through anything I throw at it like butter. Very comfortable to use, even for a smaller guy."



– user copper13

All prices are IMS-SRP. Available at participating dealers while supplies last. © 2014 STIHL IMS14-1MTF21-113853-1

FREE
EXTRA CHAIN LOOP

WITH SELECT
CHAIN SAW PURCHASE

Offer valid through 11/30/14
with purchase of MS 271, MS 311 or
MS 391 at participating dealers
while supplies last.

Up to a \$36.45 IMS-SRP

¹The actual listed guide bar length can vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on.



To find a Dealer: STIHLdealers.com

Spotlight on a Forest Steward/Tree Farmer Richard Goldberg

By: *Richard Goldberg & Cindy Bertek*

Richard Goldberg began his naturalist lifestyle as a legacy from his father who was a scout master. His early adolescence years included becoming a junior scientist and herpetologist under Gerry Williamson at the Savannah Science Museum in Savannah, Georgia. Backpacking the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain to the Shenandoah Valley during 1973 to 1978 gave him a great appreciation of the outdoors and a strong sense of independence.

Richard's four children understand the goals they are working towards and assist in the forest management practices. Several of his children enjoy what the property has to offer and their appreciation of their forest will certainly increase with time. Richard is a practicing Mechanical Engineer at the firm of DC Engineering in Missoula, MT. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Wildhorse Parks Road Users Association and as a landowner representative of the Montana Forest Stewardship Steering Committee (since 2004) and he is a member of Montana Tree Farm.



One early spring day in the rain: David Goldberg planting lodgepole pine seedlings

Since 1984, Richard has taken an active part in planning and managing his forest as well as land in the surrounding area. The desire for serenity and solitude were major components in acquiring his property. Over the years he has purchased adjacent properties as they became available. Richard's property is located in Powell County on the south west edge of the Helmville valley near Drummond, MT in the Garnet Range. The property includes one developed spring, undeveloped springs, two creeks, and a pond. The forest includes ponderosa and lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, aspen, as well as larch which he introduced on the more moist north facing slopes. The terrain varies and

provides many recreational opportunities.

Prior to taking the Forest Stewardship workshop, his forest management practices were mostly random. Activities involved weed spraying and harvesting deformed and dead trees for firewood. Richard says, "At the workshop I learned that private forest health is a huge responsibility. The management practices I established at the workshop gave me an action plan.

When I began pre-commercial thinning I purchased a saw mill so that I could use the wood instead of burning it in slash piles."



Slash treatment, burning jackpot piles

Richard has an active Forest Stewardship/Tree Farm Plan that is SFI (Sustainable Forest Initiative) certified for his 93 acres and an additional contiguous five acres which is owned by his partner, Kathy Dutton. His stewardship plans key objectives include management for forest health and diversity of species, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

The wildlife encounters at Richard's property include black bear, mountain lions, mule deer, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, snowshoe hares, coyotes, wolves, badgers and a grizzly bear sow with two cubs. There is a rich population of birds including owls, hawks, eagles, nighthawks, pileated woodpeckers, grey jays, stellar jays, roughed and blue grouse, and northern flickers to name just a few. Richard believes wildlife is not an unlimited resource and must remain wild. The policy at his forest is to observe, do not feed, and log sightings of the wildlife.

One of Richard's management practices is to introduce genetically superior trees which he purchases from the state nursery every other year. He plants tree species

where they naturally thrive and have been wiped out by disease or beetles. Unfortunately not all forest management practices turn out well. The pre-commercial thinning was done to meet some of his management goals; although, his preferred tree species were the same preferred species of the mountain pine beetle therefore he has several groves of nicely spaced dead trees. The pine beetle diverted his efforts for several years to mitigation and damage control.

Richard was recently involved with the USDA NRCS (John Bowe) wherein he applied for and received cost share assistance to implement management practices identified in his Forest Stewardship Plan. The Powell County Weed Control Program (Karen Laitala) has been a great resource in

the ongoing pest management. The Powell County Weed program assisted in weed control by providing the use of equipment and the cost sharing of chemicals. Richard dedicated a specific acreage to biological weed control practice and has built a thriving community of *Cyphocleonus achates* (knapweed root weevils) thanks to the efforts of Ms Laitala from the weed program. All weed control management has been reported to the Douglas Creek Weed Control Group (Sheila Manley) in an effort to provide statistical data.



Making slash sustainable, utilizing his own wood



Renewing life, a ponderosa pine seedling hosted by a beetle killed tree.

Richard says, “Being a forest steward and actively managing the forest is rewarding and a legacy I will hand off to my children and future generations to come. Being a landowner representative on the Montana Forest Stewardship Steering Committee has allowed me to meet forestry professionals who have enriched my life.”



Grass seeding, displacing weeds in areas where the slash was burned

Note from MSU Extension Forestry: Five Forest Stewardship workshops are offered annually, see the calendar at www.msuextension.org/forestry All family forest owners are encouraged to attend as well as Tree Farmers and second/third generation Forest Stewards and repeat attendees.

MSU Extension Provides Estate Planning Resources

By: Marsha Goetting, Ph.D, EFP, CFCS

An individual without a will may have writing one on their to-do list, but it's a task that is easily put off as we get busy for end of winter and spring activities. "Some people assume Montana law would distribute property the same way they would, so there is really no need to formalize their bequests with a will." says Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist.

"The following example is one that I use during my estate planning programs to show how Montana law may not be best for individual family situations," explains Goetting.

Assume Jack dies without writing a will. He has property valued at \$800,000 in his name only. Jack's survivors are his wife and parents. He doesn't have children. What dollar amount, if any, will Jack's wife receive? Most people believe that Jack's wife receives all \$800,000, which is wrong. Why? Montana law provides for the surviving spouse to receive the first \$200,000 in value of the estate and three-fourths of the balance. Because the property is solely in Jack's name, the remaining balance (one-fourth) passes equally to his parents. Thus, Jack's wife receives \$650,000. Jack's father and mother receive \$75,000 apiece. This is not the distribution Jack wants for his spouse. He wants his wife to receive all of his estate. Jack needs to write a will.

Other examples of what happens to property if a person dies without writing a will or trust are provided during educational programs Goetting presents across the state: <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/countypresentations.html>

Marsha also has webinars available on the Web <http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/webinars.html>

For those who prefer to get their information in writing there are 36 different estate planning MontGuides: <http://www.montana.edu/estateplanning/eppublications.htm>

Annual Forestry Mini-College Offers Comprehensive Series of Forestry Related Short-Courses

MSU Extension Forestry will be hosting the annual Forestry Mini-College on the campus of The University of Montana this Fall.

Forestry Mini-College is a one-day educational event for family forest landowners, forestry professionals and everyone interested in forestry, featuring a series of short classes on a variety of forestry topics and current issues.

Professionals from a variety of natural resources based agencies and industries as well as researchers from Montana State University and the University of Montana will present twelve concurrent sessions for participants to choose topics of greatest interest.

Full-length recordings of archived sessions as well as more information is available on the MSU Extension Forestry website <http://www.msuextension.org/forestry/fmc.htm> or by contacting Martin Twer, MSU Extension Forestry BioEnergy Coordinator, martin.twer@cfc.umt.edu, (406) 243-2775.

The Next Generation of Family Forest Landowners and Natural Resource Professionals

Submitted by: Martin Twer

For over 25 years, the Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp (<http://mnryc.org>) has provided young people an opportunity to study in an outdoor classroom the scientific principles, economic realities, historical heritage, and social perspectives of natural resource management today, to help future leaders in their quest to gain a perspective that is informed and progressive.

Campers spend one week (July 13-18, 2014) in the rustic setting of The University of Montana's Lubrecht Experimental Forest learning about Montana's natural resources. The accommodations are comfortable, the food is great, and the instruction and friendships are the best!

The camp is open to all youth ages 14-18. The full cost of the camp to students is \$200 which includes meals, supplies, and lodging. Campers are encouraged to contact their local Conservation Districts, which usually offer significant scholarships to our camp.

Campers learn about wildlife, forestry, streams, soils, geology, range management, and recreation, taught largely by professionals that volunteer from a variety of natural resource management agencies and industries. The field sessions, specialty evening programs, guest speakers, hands-on learning-through-discovery, and campfires provide for a

lasting summer camp experience. They also spend a half-day rafting the Alberton Gorge of the Clark Fork River.

Student teams also compete in a land-use simulation game where they manage a 3,800 acre ranch for 20 years. As in real life, teams must make hard choices between profits and conservation ethics, especially if they face poor commodity prices. Most students enjoy the competition and have the typical reaction of, "Wow, I never knew that making a living by managing land was so hard."

An advanced level curriculum, the Conservation Leadership School, is offered for returning campers (fee \$250), including an overnight camping trip into the mountains.

For more information contact:

Martin Twer, Camp Director

Phone: (406) 243-2775

Email: director@mnryc.org

Camp website: <http://mnryc.org>

For Ages 14-18

Montana Natural Resources YOUTH CAMP

& Conservation Leadership School
July 13 - 18, 2014
Lubrecht Experimental Forest, Greenough





Your local Conservation District may cover a large portion of the camp fee (\$200, CLS: \$250) through a scholarship. More information and application forms at www.mnryc.org or contact

Martin Twer, Camp Director
406-243-2775, director@mnryc.org




Geology & Minerals

Forests Rangeland

Streams Wildlife

Soils Land-Use Game

Montana Master Forest Steward Program - An Advanced Curriculum for Forest Landowners

Submitted by: Martin Twer

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 personal objectives and resource potential for their land.

The initial Forest Stewardship Program is complemented by the multiple-workshop Montana Master Forest Steward Program (MMFSP). To gain the status of “Master Forest Steward,” landowners are required to complete seven core courses and three elective courses for a total of ten courses. Landowners who complete this program will be recognized with a certificate.

Each course provides participants an opportunity to find out about a new subject, study a familiar topic in more depth, interact with and learn hands-on from professionals as well as fellow landowners, and complete a subject-specific supplement to their existing Forest Stewardship Plan. While most of the classes are one-day, some are offered as two days, either back-to-back or with a week in between to allow landowners to conduct an inventory of their land regarding a specific topic, and return a week later to discuss their findings and hear about possible management considerations.

Since we are still in the process of scheduling our workshops for 2014 please visit our online educational calendar <http://www.msuextension.org/forestry/calendar.htm> for the most current information.

From an educational perspective we think it is important that landowners who enter the Master Forest Steward Program 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 the opportunity to pursue more in-depth training, but will also present them with an acknowledgement of their commitment, and achievement.

For more information on this program see online at <http://www.msuextension.org/forestry/mmfsfp.htm>

Contact: Martin Twer, MSU Extension Forestry BioEnergy Coordinator

Phone:406-243-2775

Email: martin.twer@cfc.umt.edu

Forester’s Ball Community Forestry Day



Saturday, March 23rd


10:00am –2:00pm

Auxiliary Gyms of the Adams Center


This interactive event at the Foresters Ball provides a venue for children and their families to engage in fun, experimental learning about the natural environment.

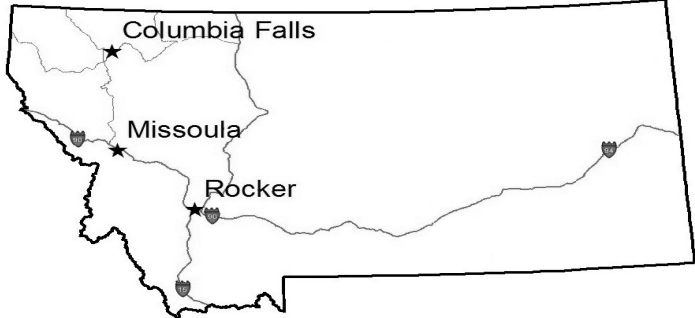
The is free and open to the public!

For more information about festivities <http://www.forestersball.com/events/community-day/>



2014 Forest Stewardship Workshop Schedule





<p>Missoula: May 1-2 & 9 Deadline is April 17, 2014</p>	<p>Røcker (near Butte): July 18-19 & 26 Deadline is June 4, 2014</p>
<p>Columbia Falls: August 7-8 & 15 Deadline is July 25, 2014</p>	

Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation

Letter form the Chair



Exciting events are happening with the Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation in 2014. Our 5th annual Forest Landowner Conference will be held once again in Helena on May 23rd. The theme for this year's conference is "The Family Forest-Strengthening Connections". Besides many forestry related presentations the conference will also offer sessions designed to provide new ideas to encourage and strengthen the involvement of family members in the family forest. Our opening session will be a presentation of the Emmy award winning video: *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time*, hosted by Kirk and Madeline David, Aldo Leopold Foundation Land Ethic Leaders. See the ad in this newsletter for registration information and a website that includes the conference agenda.

Kirk and Madeline David will also be facilitating two "Ties To The Land" workshops be in Missoula on May 22 and in Helena on May 24. The full-day interactive workshop is broken down into segments to assist families to

understand the basics of and value of family succession planning. The Ties to the Land presentations, video clips and discussion work best with multiple family members participating in the workshop. Costs of the workshop is only \$35 for the first family member and \$10 for each additional family member. Forest landowners, farmers and ranchers are welcome to attend and participate in the workshops. The workshops are limited to 25 attendees each and focus on the conversations that need to take place within a family before the attorneys and accountants are brought in. You can find out more about these workshops and register for them by calling (406) 293-2847.

By Ed Levert, Chair

TRICON TIMBER IS BUYING ALL SPECIES OF LOGS:

Including **BLUED Ponderosa and Lodgepole Pine**

Sawlogs, and Post and Poles

**Now buying logs (including dead/blued Ponderosa)
in Helena, Livingston & Laurel at our rail reloads**

Contact one of our Foresters for more information:

Bitterroot: Gordon Johnson (406) 239-0973

Blackfoot/Clark Fork: Scott Kuehn: (406) 546-9304

Eastern MT Jason Todhunter: (406) 274-6487

Western MT Mike Lilly: (406) 396-8367

Helena: Nick Jose: (406) 214-8403



PROVIDING HEALTHY FORESTS AND JOBS IN MONTANA

The Montana
Forest Stewardship
Foundation
with support from
Northwest
Management, Inc.
present the:

2014 Montana Forest Landowner Conference

Red Lion Colonial Hotel - Helena



The Family Forest: Strengthening Connections Friday, May 23

Topics will Include:

- Developing
Recreational Trails
- Becoming a Citizen
Scientist
- Cost Share Funding
Opportunities
- Weed Management
- Forest Land Appraisal
- Wood Product Markets
 - Future of Biomass
and more!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **May 16th**

COST: \$35 per person

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.consulting-foresters.com

then click on the **Events** tab at the top
of the page. Payments may be made
by credit card.

FOR MORE INFO / BROCHURE:

(406) 442-7555 childers@@nmi2.com



Ties to the Land Workshop

Succession Planning for Landowners

(The Human Side of Estate Planning)

Ties to the Land is coming to Montana!

This workshop is designed to assist family forest landowners with succession planning has helped property owners in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. A full-day interactive workshop broken down into segments to assist families understand the basics of and value of family succession planning.

The workshop program content includes presentations, videos, clips, and interactive exercise on the following topics:

- 10 Step to Successful Succession Planning
- Family Ties, Differing Objectives
- Conflicting Roles of Family and Business
- Choosing the Best Team of Advisors for you
- Putting the Plan Together, Success Strategies
- Transferring Ownership
- Legal and financial Instruments
- Open to Forest Landowners and Ag Producers
- And many more!



Montana Ties to the Land

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return this form with registration fee by May 16 to:

Forest Stewardship Foundation

PO Box 1056

Libby, MT 59923

(Please make checks payable to Ties to the Land)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NUMBER IN FAMILY ATTENDING: _____

Registration fee per family or ownership includes one workbook, CD, and refreshments.

Questions? Please call or email Ed Levert, 406-293-2847, televert@kvis.net

Please return this form with a check (\$35.00/first family member + \$10/ each additional family member attending) by 5 working days prior to the program you wish to attend. A Ties to the Land workbook will be provided to each family. If you would like additional workbooks, please add \$25 per workbook.

I plan to attend Ties to the Land at: (Please Check Box)

Missoula
 Thursday, May 22
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Best Western Grant Creek Inn
 5280 Grant Creek Road
 For Lodging Info Call 406- 543-0700

Helena
 Saturday, May 24
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Red Lion Colonial Inn
 2301 Colonial Drive
 For Lodging Info Call 406-443-2100

Bureau of Business and Economic Research's Updated Website

Submitted by: Steve Hayes, CF

Montana's forest landowners have a valuable resource available through the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER). The BBER has updated and redesigned its web-site (www.BBER.umt.edu). Posted are many current and past reports on the forest products industry in most of the western states. There is quite a collection of new and ongoing studies and reports addressing many topics of interest to Tree Farmers and timberland owners. One of the most visited pages on the web-site is the quarterly delivered log prices in Montana. This information is updated four times a year by the BBER. Surveys are sent to major purchasers of logs in Montana, asking them what they are paying for delivered logs categorized by species and in some cases size. It is further broken down by region either eastern or western Montana. Purchasers are also asked what they expect the demand is for these logs for the next 60 days. The delivered log prices are averaged from all respondents and displayed in a table and reported on the BBER web-site. A caveat listed on the table along with the prices explains some of the limitations of this information. It includes a statement that these prices are not necessarily a reflection of current market prices. Fair market prices may vary a great deal based on log sizes, length, quality, contract size and terms, and a number of other factors. All prices reported are recent averaged price per thousand board feet (MBF), Scribner decimal rule, delivered to the mill site. Although a snapshot in time, delivered log prices can help landowners see what is happening in the general log market. A historical view of delivered log prices displayed along with *Random Lengths* historic composite lumber prices (Figure 1) is a good representation of the relationship of log and lumber prices in Montana over the last 24 years. The figure displays the general trend of a long decline in lumber and log prices. Lumber prices can fluctuate widely with lumber demand and can be tracked weekly where log price changes happen more gradually and are tracked quarterly. Timing of the changes is not always the same and one can lag the other when prices increase or decline.

The steep decline of lumber prices during the recent tough years (2005-2010) which included the "Great Recession" was followed by a decline in log prices. Although a delay is indicated in the figure log prices declined during the same period and log price recovery took longer to develop when the economy and lumber demand improved.

This is one example of what BBER tracks and makes available on the web-site for Montana's forest landowners. Feel free to contact us for further information on delivered log prices or other forest industry issues you might have questions about.

Steve Hayes, CF Research Forester at the University of Montana-Missoula, Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

Email: steve.hayes@business.umt.edu

Phone: (406) 243-5113.

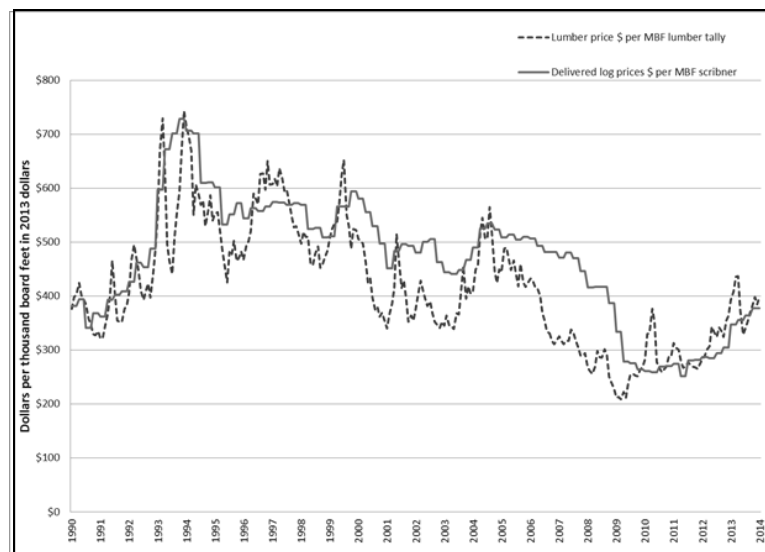


Figure 1 Lumber and delivered log prices in Montana 1990-2014, adjusted to 2013 dollars (sources: *Random Lengths*; BBER).

Management, Silviculture & Marketing Forest Products

By: *Vincent P. Corrao, President, Northwest Management, Inc.*

The year is coming to a close and the hype about the “super cycle” did show some improvement in the log market, but we did not see the all-time highs many expected. The market is projected to continue improving during the next 3 to 5 years as it follows the housing market which continues to improve. As the market strengthens and will eventually hit some very favorable prices in the years to come, it will be important for landowners to begin planning their harvest strategies and to implement silvicultural practices that will improve and/or maintain the health and vigor of their forest. In the past when prices hit all-time highs, a landowner could expect strong prices for all logs. Small sawlogs such as chip’n saw and cottonwood provide special opportunities to apply silvicultural practices in an economic efficient manner. High log prices provide opportunities for landowners to conduct thinnings and selective harvest to improve species composition, forest health and spacing of desired trees. Increased prices also provide income for reinvestment into the resource such as site preparation, vegetation management, tree planting and pre-commercial thinning on non-merchantable overstocked stands.

Many landowners have Forest Management Plans or Stewardship Plans and now would be a good time to review the goals and objectives in these plans to determine the operational needs that would be implemented to meet those goals. Most management plans have inventories which identify tree species, average diameter, average tree height and volumes per acre. These metrics should be evaluated to determine what you would like the forest to look like into the future and to maintain your goals and objectives of forest health, wildlife habitat, access and regeneration efforts in keeping the land fully productive for future growth.

If access is an issue, you may want to evaluate road building cost as well as any culverts and road maintenance that may be needed. Different types of harvest require logging contractors with equipment that can meet the objectives while utilizing all the products

produced during harvest. Planning your harvest early provides an opportunity to contact and schedule logging contractors that can best meet your needs particularly in thinning and selective harvest. Identifying harvest stands on your property requires preparing the sale area which may entail marking harvest boundaries, marking individual trees, road layout and needs to provide sufficient time to advertise and market your products during key periods when demand is up. The excitement about a “super cycle” did not materialize in the short term, but in the next 3 to 5 years the expectation is that log prices will continue to increase and reach very favorable prices and to capitalize on the market. Implement the planning and preparation now, so that you can take advantage of the cyclic nature of the log market.

Vincent P. Corrao, President, Northwest Management, Inc. has provided forest management services including silviculture and forest products marketing to forest landowners for over 25 years. www.consulting-foresters.com



Watershed Consulting provides:

- Forest Assessments and Management Plans
- Bark Beetle & Hazardous Fuels Abatement

Learn how Watershed Consulting can work for you!

www.watershedconsulting.com

Serving Western Montana for 20 Years!

Life After Dead Wood

Submitted by: Daniel Hubbell, American Forest Foundation



Provided by Shutterstock

The American Forest Foundation's (AFF) free woodland owner website My Land Plan provides a fun and interactive tool for Montana's landowners. More than 4,500 woodland owners have already mapped half a million acres of land and its features, connected with professionals, set goals and took action in their woods.

We know that biodiversity, hunting, and recreation are extremely important for many of Montana's 38,000 family forest owners, and that's why we created My Land Plan's section on snags, logs, and brushpiles. That's right: dead wood.

At first glance, leaving dead wood where it lies may seem like a waste but this practice can actually form a key component in a forest management plan. By ensuring that some snags remain, family forest owners can help provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Wildlife biologists estimate that up to 20 percent of woodland species like the gray fox depend on stumps, dying trees, logs, and other woody debris to survive and thrive.

Wildlife managers and foresters across the country encourage landowners to leave some of these decaying wood features on their land.

With today's perfect storm of invasive pests, disease, catastrophic fire, flooding, drought and storms, active stewardship is essential to the health of our forests and its inhabitants. My Land Plan's snags, logs, and brushpile information can help any woodland owner start attracting wildlife in just a few steps. Learn more at mylandplan.org/snags.

In addition to tips for dead wood, My Land Plan offers information on a wide range of topics and a network of support for landowners. It offers free resource to help woodland owners plan their next steps and map out their land. When a problem's too great, it's easy to ask a question or find a forester through the site.

Sign up for My Land Plan to protect the benefits that come from forests wildlife habitat, clean water, clean air, outdoor recreation, wood products, and good paying rural jobs.

Create your secure account today at www.mylandplan.org/signup. If you have questions about My Land Plan, please contact the American Forest Foundation at info@mylandplan.org.



Harvest on new Tree Farmer John Chase property by Quiram Logging out of Whitefish, MT. Photo courtesy of Mark Boardman.



Community forest presentation, photo courtesy of Mark Boardman.



Logger Floyd Quinn discussing logging operations with new Tree Farmer John Chase, his articles on page 3. Photo courtesy of Mark Boardman.