



Forest Health Resources

Forests of our region used to benefit from recurring wildfires that reduced the amount of fuels buildup. Large wildfires are no longer acceptable across our landscape, which has led to some overstocked forests that have a hazardous amount of fuels that can lead to catastrophic fires, infestations of pests and diseases, as well as an overall decline in forest health. These risks can be reduced with the proper implementation of forest management plans that seek to enhance and protect our valuable forestlands. Many family forest owners are challenged by managing their forest resources to balance forest health, wildlife habitat needs, and to generate enough return to fund forest management activities. We have compiled a number of resources below that will help you to make informed decisions about your forest resources, while continuing to balance the conservation values of your property.



Photo: Lucas Cain

Forest Sources

[Montana DNRC](#) - This interagency website is designed to provide a comprehensive source of information on mountain pine beetle in Montana. MT-DNRC's purpose is to provide a clearinghouse with the most accurate information available from a variety of sources.

- [Forestry Best Management Practices](#) (BMP's) - Provides useful information on MT Forest BMP's.

[USFS Forest Health Protection](#) - The Forest Service offers a number of programs to help landowners and communities conserve and manage forests.

[Montana Forest Stewardship Program](#), MSU Extension Forestry – The forestry extension office can provide various resources for your forest management needs. This program will help you to develop a long-term management plan for your family forest.

- [MSU Extension Forestry and Natural Resources](#) – Gallatin County Extension is partnering with Park and Meagher County Extension to assist landowners to improve the health of their forest and create survivable space around their home to reduce the danger from wildland fires.
Contact: [Brad Bauer](#), Natural Resource Agent, Phone: 406-388-3213

[Big Sky Natural Resource Council](#) - Local businesses, landowners, and organizations in the Big Sky area are taking action and addressing their forest health issues as a whole.

[Fire Safe Montana](#) - FireSafe Montana is a private, non-profit organization coordinating and supporting a statewide coalition of diverse interests working together to help Montanans make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe.

[Montana Forest Owners Association](#) – MFOA supports non-industrial private forest owners (family forest owners) in their rightful and responsible use, management and enjoyment of their forested lands. This web link provides a variety of information sources that private forest owners should be aware of.

Cost Share and Funding Sources

[Conservation Innovation Grants](#) (CIG) - NRCS

Program Contact: [NRCS-CIG](#), Phone: 406-587-6849

[MSU Extension Programs](#) – Gallatin County Extension partners with a wide variety of organizations and people to ensure the wise use of your natural resources.

Please contact GVLТ Stewardship staff with any questions you may have regarding agency information or cost share sources regarding your forest health needs; Contact: peter@gvlt.org