

## 2022 Forest Stewardship Workshop Evaluation Summary



### Workshop Coordinator Evaluation

Five workshops were facilitated in 2022: Frenchtown, Bozeman, Kalispell (July), Eureka, and Kalispell (Sept.). A Forest Stewardship Workshop for Loggers was offered at the MLA in Kalispell April 12-14 (18 attended).

To advertise, workshop brochures were sent to all forest owners with 10 acres or more. Brochures were sent to Forest Stewardship Advisors, targeted areas of DRNC, MSU Extension, Industry Foresters, and Fire Stations.

People on the waitlist and those who had to drop were notified for early registration one week prior to the brochure mailing. The Frenchtown, Bozeman, Kalispell July workshops were all half or more filled within a week. The Kalispell September workshop was almost half full. All workshops were full with 22 ownerships by the time of the workshops. Several people dropped before the workshop and the spots were filled from those on the waitlist. The Bozeman waitlist had over 50 people, Frenchtown about 30, the Kalispell and Eureka waitlists were shorter. In 2021 there were over 50 on the Kalispell waitlist, in order to serve these folks there were two workshops offered there in 2022.

### Forest Stewardship Workshops

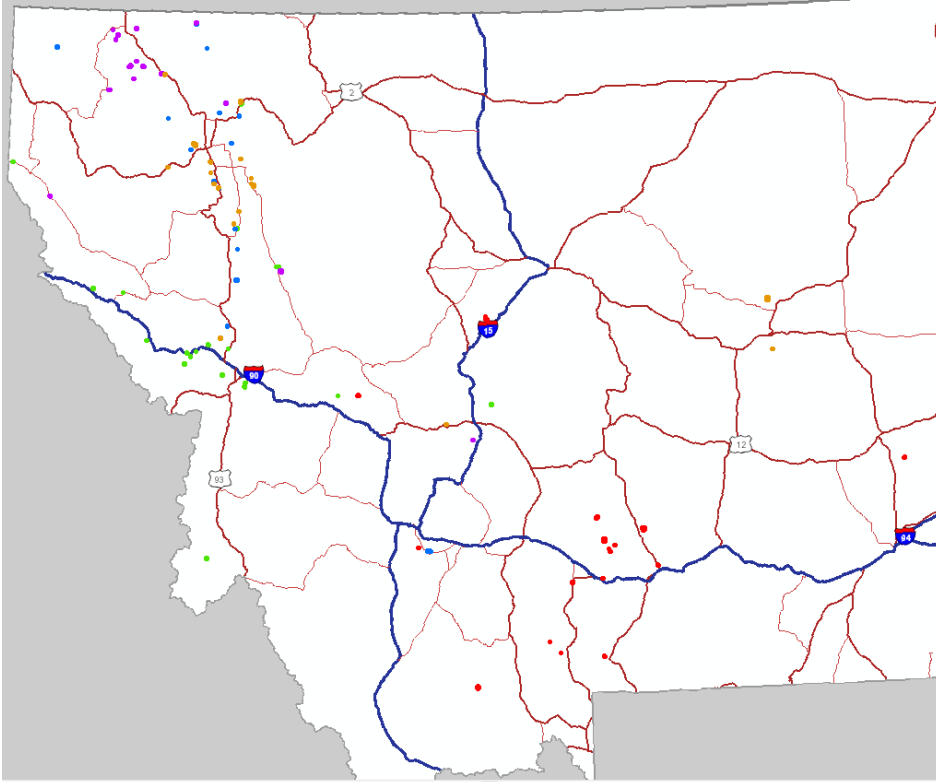
Frenchtown-**Green**

Bozeman-**Red**

Kalispell (July)-**Blue**

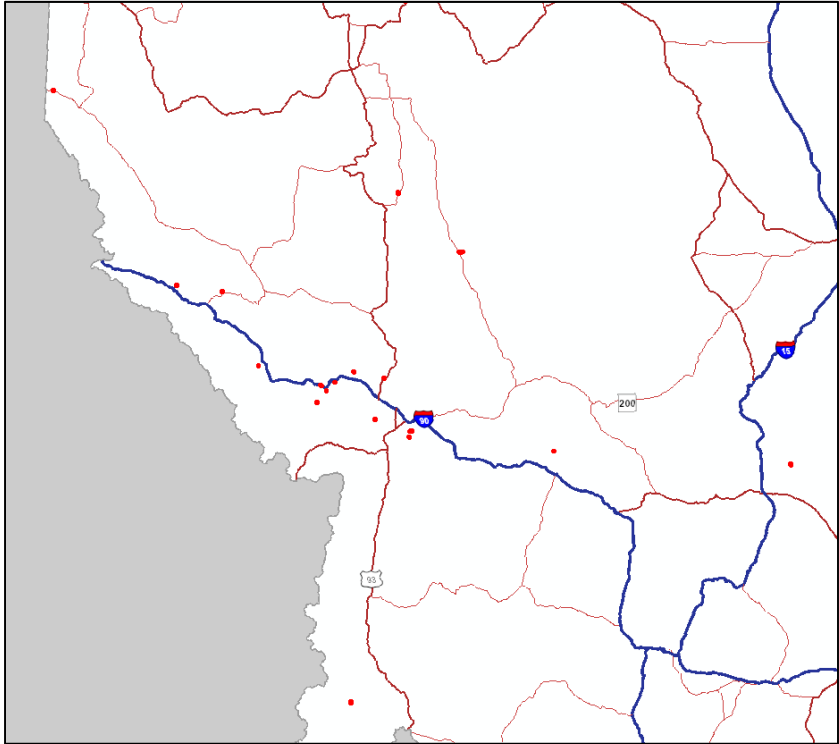
Eureka-**Purple**

Kalispell (Sept.)-**Orange**

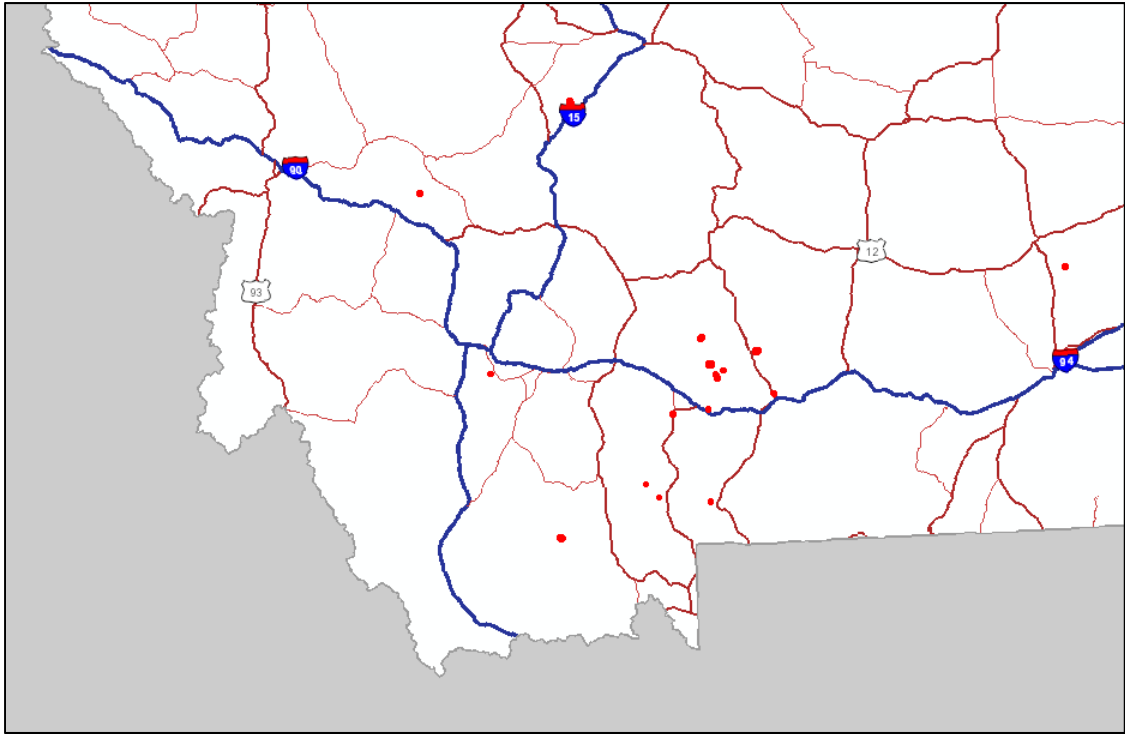


**Because of overlap of properties in close proximity, following are participant property locations for each WS**

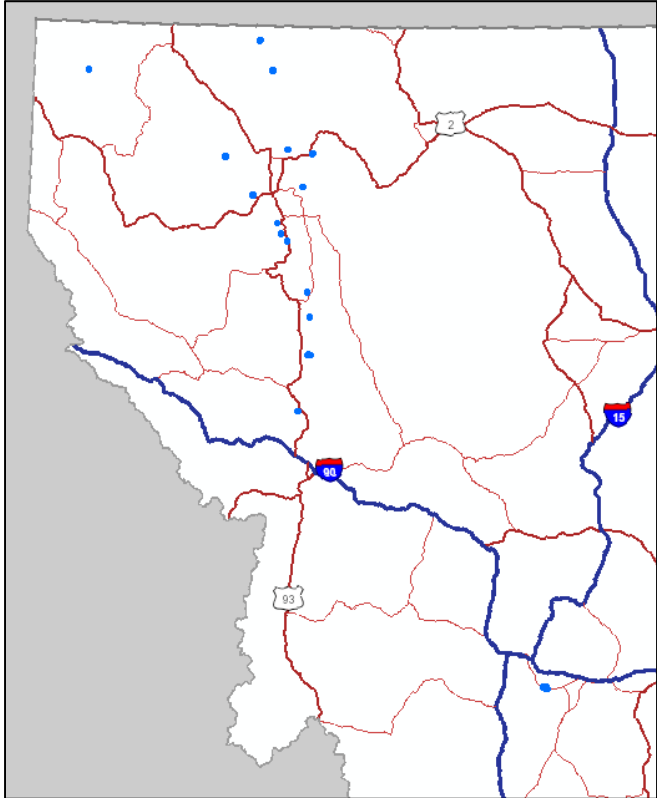
**Frenchtown**



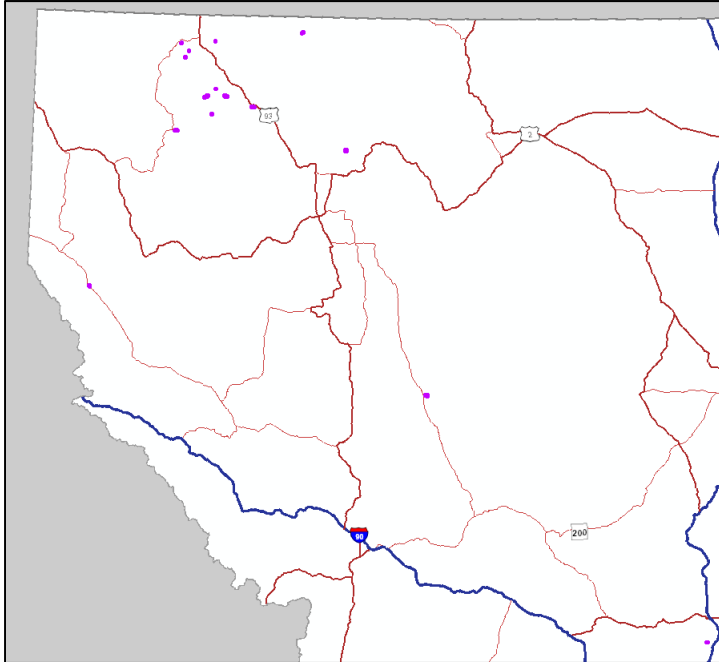
**Bozeman**



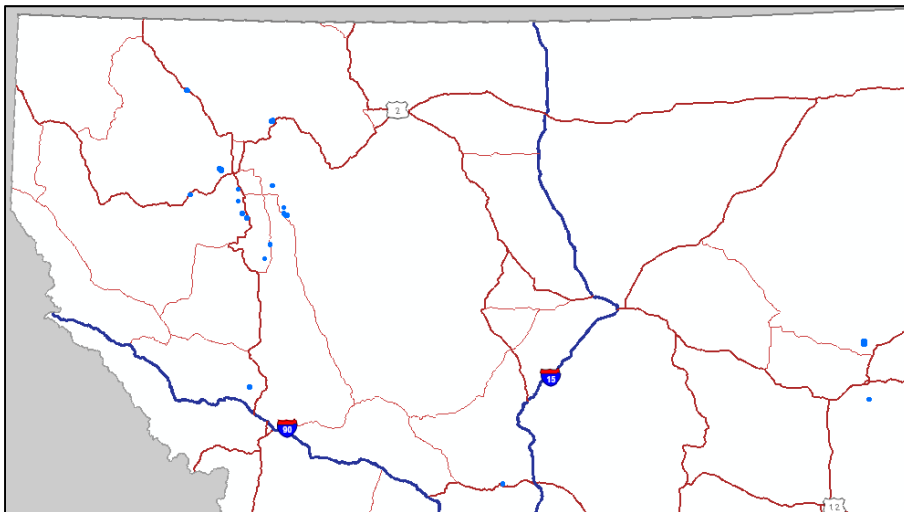
**Kalispell-July**



## Eureka



## Kalispell-Sept.



## Frenchtown, May 6-7 & 14

Nineteen ownerships, 28 individuals, attended the workshop. There were well over 20 on the waitlist some of the spots filled as they came open due to people dropping the course. Those remaining on the list will be used as a start for filling 2022 workshops.

The workshop was held at the Frenchtown Fire Station. The classroom has plenty of room to accommodate the spacing of participant groups. Advisors included advisors, Cindy Peterson,

Patrick Mangan (MSU) Bill Burdick (DNRC). In-training were Jason Glenn (NRCS), Benjamin Crystal (NRCS), Sabrina Schuler (NRCS), Nate Cole (DNRC Sanders County), and Wendy Carr (MSU Sanders County).

The field site was located up Roman Creek Road on USFS Echo Valley Disc Golf Course, about 10 miles from the classroom. There was sufficient room for parking, no outhouse. The forest is mixed conifer with varied understory species. Understory comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs.

Sixteen of the site visits are completed with plans submitted to date.

### **Bozeman, June 3-4 & 11**

Nineteen ownerships, 32 individuals, attended. There was a waiting list of over 15 people, there were some who dropped and others from the list were able to attend. Those remaining on the list will be used as a start for filling 2022 workshops.

The workshop was held at the Summit Church in Bozeman. The cost was \$300. The facility is easy to access and of space and tables for participants and displays.

Advisors included advisors, Cindy Peterson, Jeff Mosely (MSU Extension Ag Specialist), Jason Badger (MSU Extension Wildlife Specialist), and Matt Ricketts (Private Consultant), and in-training was Celie Meier (NRCS State Forester).

All presented clearly and were able to stay on time, work well with the participants, and answer questions and were intuitive to expand on questions and local issues of importance to the group.

The field site was located at a past participant, Brian Coles, forest on Jackson Creek Road. There is sufficient parking. The area has a multi-story conifer stand with mostly DF. The Understory comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs. There were four demonstration plots. The site is managed over many years with an objective for recreation. Brian allows the use of his trail for bicycle and cross-country running events and training. Eighteen visits were completed, and 16 plans have been submitted to date.

### **Kalispell, July 15-16 & 23**

Seventeen ownerships, 26 individuals, attended. There was a waiting list of over 50 people, there were some who dropped and others from the list were able to attend. Those remaining on the list will be added to the 2023 interest list for early registration.

The workshop was held at the Fairgrounds Grandstand Building. This is a good location as it remains cool during the hot days. There are plenty of tables and chairs. The cost was \$309. The facility is easy to access and has plenty of space for accommodating participants and display tables. We did need to bring water to drink and for hot drinks.

Advisors included advisors, Cindy Peterson, Rick Moore (DNRC), Holly McKenzie (DNRC), Jeff Whitlock (Stoltze), Matt Bishop (Stoltze), and Ali Ulwelling (DNRC) in-training.

The field site was located at Heron Park, about six miles from the classroom. There is sufficient parking. The area has a multi-story mixed conifer stand with WL, PP, LPP, DF and more. The Understory comprised of, native grasses, shrubs, and forbs. There were four

demonstrations plots. The site has been managed over many years. There is an abundance of weed species.

Fifteen visits were completed, and 11 plans have been submitted to date.

### **Eureka, August 5-6 & 15**

This workshop was funded by a \$5,000 Title 3 grant from the Lincoln County Commissioners with support from the MT Forest Stewardship Foundation and Jennifer Nelson, Lincoln County Forester.

Eighteen ownerships (30 individuals) attended the Eureka workshop. There were a few on the wait list with those who could attend added as openings arose.

The workshop was held at the fairgrounds Event Building B, the room is sufficient with plenty of tables and chairs, the temperature remained cool enough most of the day. The last Friday was at Youth Building, this room was small for the group and heated up in the afternoon. We did need to bring water to drink and for hot drinks.

Advisors included Cindy Peterson, Jeremy Rank (DNRC), Betty Kuropat (private consultant, retired USFS silviculturist), Holly McKenzie (DNRC), Ed Levert had family members attending, he attended the field and mapping day and was helpful in assisting participants. Ashley Machus, Outreach Specialist, Forestry Assistance, Stewardship Program, DNRC attended the first two days and the final day of the September workshop in Kalispell.

The field site was at Rexford Bench area, contacted the district recreation person for permission. The trees were mostly mixed conifer. The understory included various shrubs, forbs, and grass types. It is located about 15 miles from the classroom facility.

Seventeen of the visits are completed with 5 plans waiting to be submitted.

### **Kalispell, September 9-10 & 17**

Because of the high number of people on the 2021 waitlist and 2022 interest list for a workshop in Kalispell, we offered this second workshop. The workshop was full and included a good number from the local area and also several from all over the state. Eighteen ownerships (13 individuals) attended the Kalispell workshop. There participants and those registered were a good bunch from the east side with many from all over the state. Those from the west side mostly registered for this workshop because all the other workshops were filled. Though there were initially 14 ownerships registered, many dropped at they moved into other workshops, a few had other things come up and just couldn't make it.

The workshop was held at the Fairgrounds Grandstand Building. The last day was in the Country Kitchen, which is sufficient, but the roof is translucent and lets light in that reduces visibility of the projector. The Grandstand building is a good location as it remains cool during the hot days, not so much in the Country Kitchen. The cost was \$309. The facility is easy to access and has plenty of space for accommodating participant group distancing as well as display tables. We did need to bring water to drink and for hot drinks.

Advisors included Cindy Peterson, Holly McKenzie (DNRC), Rich Moore (private consultant, retired DNRC), and Tye Sundt (Weyerhaeuser), Jack White (DNRC) in-training.

The field site was located at Heron Park about 6 miles from the classroom. There is sufficient parking. The area has a multi-story mixed conifer stand with WL, PP, LPP, DF and more. The Understory includes several native grasses, shrubs, and forbs. The site has been managed over many years. There is an abundance of weed species.

Seven of the visits are completed with 3 plans remaining to be submitted.

**Participant Evaluation Summary**

1. 118 participants attended representing 91 ownerships. 72 responded to survey

2. How did you find out about the Stewardship Workshop? (no response-7)

Mail: **24- 40%** (last year 62%)

MSU-EF email or website, includes waitlist/dropped list: **16-24%** (last year 6%)

Family/Neighbor/Friend: **15 – 23%** (last year 21%)

Professional: **10-15%** (last year 4%)

3. Acres of *forest land* owned/managed. (*from evaluation*)

Minimum: **2.3** Maximum: **8.60** Total: **4,094** (no response-1)

- 14** 2.3-10-12.75 acres
- 20** 12-20
- 22** 21-47
- 9** 63-102
- 5** 160-340
- 1** 860

Demographics

<40	40-60	>60
5	34	40

4. Years Owned Property (no response-1)

- <5 years **32** (last year 9)
- 5-9 years **12** (last year 8)
- 10-19 **7** (last year 7)
- 20-31 years **14** (last year 9)
- 45-72 years **5** (last year 7)
- 184 years **1** (last year 1)

5. Purchased the property: **61** (last year 38)

6. Reside on property: **49** (last year 23)

7. **17** Ownerships plan commercial harvests on **788 total** acres (last year 528).

8. **51** (last year 35) Ownerships plan intermediate forest treatment on **1,649 total** acres (last year 955).

Intermediate treatments planned:

precommercial thinning: **46 owners** (last year 28)

planting: **30 owners** (last year 14)

pruning: **35 owners** (last year 21)

9. Number of acres participants plan to implement management practices that conserve or improve the following:
  - a. Wildlife Habitat **64 owners – 860 acres** (last year 41 owners – 2,796 acres)
  - b. Water Quality **33 owners – 2,150 acres** (last year 24 owners – 734 acres)
  - c. Forest Health **71 owners 3,559 acres** (last year 47 owners – 3,166 acres)
  - d. Wildfire hazard reduction/resilience **69 owners – 3,537 acres** (last year 42 owners – 2,109 acres)
10. **100%** - workshop was good 18% or excellent 82%  
**99%** agreed/strongly agreed the advisors were prepared and knowledgeable  
**97%** agreed/strongly agreed they would recommend the workshop to others.
- 12. Topics of stewardship training of interest to participants:**

*Number marked yes (these numbers are considerably higher across the board than in years past. Probably due to the influx on new owners from out of state)*

- 39** Timber management/Silviculture
- 46** Marketing Forest products from your forest land
- 25** Forest Understory Plant/Range Identification & Management
- 46** Slash Pile Burning
- 43** Forest Debris Management – Wildfire Hazard Mitigation
- 52** Forest Wildlife Habitat Identification and Management
- 43** Forest Roads Assessment and design
- 31** Forest Insect and Disease Identification and Management
- 48** Forest Riparian Area Assessment
- 30** Forest Noxious Weed Management
- 48** Forest Financial Planning
- 32** Forest Soils Evaluation and Protection



<b>Before Workshop</b>														
<b>1=Strongly agree 2=Agree 3=neutral 4=disagree 5=strongly disagree</b>														
	b1	b2	b3	b4	b5	b6	b7	b8	b9	b10	b11	b12	b13	b14
Mean	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.8	2.9	3.7	3.3	3.2
Std Dev	1.0448	0.9961	1.2037	1.1838	1.2352	1.1258	1.0743	1.2671	1.21	1.4008	1.0008	1.2351	1.1584	1.1506
Std Error	0.1231	0.1174	0.1419	0.1395	0.1456	0.1327	0.1266	0.1493	0.1426	0.1651	0.1179	0.1466	0.1365	0.1356
	1. I understand how my forest functions and changes over time.	2. I understand the structures and species in my forest.	3. I have the knowledge necessary to make informed management decisions for my forest.	4. I feel confident in making management decisions for my forest.	5. I have knowledge to write a management plan for my forest.	6. I know of resources to find additional information about forest management.	7. I feel confident talking to other forest owners about the management of my forest and theirs.	8. I plan to sell timber for forest products from my forest.	9. I plan to use timber from my forest for my own projects and purposes.	10. I plan to graze livestock on my forest.	11. I plan to implement specific management for wildlife use.	12. I plan to create alternative income (not mentioned above) from my forest.	13. I plan to apply for cost share funds to thin my forest.	14. I plan to apply for cost share funds to reduce fire hazard on my forest.
<b>After Workshop</b>														
<b>1=Strongly agree 2=Agree 3=neutral 4=disagree 5=strongly disagree</b>														
	a1	a2	a3	a4	a5	a6	a7	a8	a9	a10	a11	a12	a13	a14
Mean	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.0	3.3	2.6	3.8	2.1	3.5	2.8	2.7
Std Dev	1.0525	0.8942	1.0863	1.0714	1.1119	1.0473	1.0611	1.2074	1.2744	1.3788	1.0757	1.3	1.3108	1.25776
Std Error	0.124	0.1061	0.128	0.1263	0.131	0.1234	0.1251	0.1423	0.1502	0.1625	0.1286	0.1532	0.1545	0.14823

## Comments

### Frenchtown

Super in-depth program, we learned so much. Things that have given us a greater appreciation of our land. Really appreciate all the work in preparation and resources at our disposal - both in materials and knowledgeable/experienced mentors. The amount of homework took us by surprise; worth every moment but would have been helpful to know in advance for time management & planning schedule.

I liked how advisors spent time on participant question instead of flying through things.

Maybe some workshops targeted towards certain climates within Montana since there are so many.

Access to equipment longer - or have for sale.

I really liked how organized everything was and the fantastic binder full of information. The ability to borrow inventory equipment was very useful (and fun).

Very well presented and prepared. I was impressed at how robust professional and encompassing of many levels of forestry this was.

Large amount of good, printed material. Would have been easier to go through those materials if they were 1) clearly explain what they are for at start 2) went through chronologically. Instructors had good and interesting points when they stopped reading from slides.

Having the workbooks and handouts is great. Having info to take home is important to retaining and understanding and sharing with family members who couldn't attend.

I really enjoyed the program. The amount of coursework outside of class was overwhelming on such a short time frame between work and not living at property (2 hrs. away). Other than that, I feel with what I have learned and all the material I compiled, I can make some good management decisions regarding my forest.

It was a bit confusing to have the outdoor class before the indoor class to go over plots. Most of the material was easy to follow in the binder, but a few sections were scattered or not there.

### Bozeman

Would like additional detail to help mitigate disease and insects.

Great experience as a whole! Thank you! Great Experience!

Awesome course!

This was a phenomenally practical class. Each instructor was a wealth of useful knowledge. I had no idea what I didn't know. Thank you for gathering and organizing all the data. I have a much different view of my property and forest and feel aware of what questions to ask and how to improve my forest.

Excellent Advisors for this course.

Appreciated the thoroughness of materials, organization, and planning. Every advisor was respectful of the individual primary objectives and expressed neutrality throughout all context validating opinions and built from day 1 to day 3 for big picture. Every advisor was approachable, kind, and knowledgeable. The associations, future generations, opportunities, and advisor resource is truly excellent. Well done to all! Thanks! (Great organization cindy!)

Phenomenal - a total paradigm shift! Super grateful for this fantastic opportunity.

Thank you. It informed and encouraged us.

Great all around. Excited for land visit

Since so much is site specific more intentional 1-on1 time with advisors would have been invaluable. Maybe during work periods schedule "office time" for individual participants.

The initial lectures were just redoing the videos- same slides and same language. I had hoped for new content. The fieldwork was the most useful.

### **Kalispell (July)**

I wish everyone planning to buy forested land would have to do this class before the sale is completed! Would like to use class equipment longer than during break. The practical field experience could be extended. I can begin to you how much I appreciate your knowledge and dedication and need to learn more Thank you!

I absolutely loved the outdoor education. It was also wonderful to have Cindy for my visit.

The mix of classroom and field experience was good. I've worked through about half of my 20 acres. I learned a lot to apply as I walk through the 2nd half, and was pleasantly surprised to learn that I have not made major mistakes. Great job! I'm grateful for that which you all have taught me.

Fantastic pre-workshop communication and assignments, with ample completion time. I had high expectations for this workshop, and it far exceeded my expectations.

There were some slides/presentations that were not in the book, would like a copy of those. Occasionally the presenter would say they didn't know the topic they were presenting on, would have been better to have someone who knew it better do it. Overall, it was great.

All the advisors worked well together. I loved how Rick interjects with his fellow advisors to engage in communication. Also, Rick's sense of humor! Excellent knowledge from all. Thank you for sharing all your knowledge - I loved this class and am excited to enhance my property.

Excellent experience particularly enjoyed the field trip and opportunity to put that knowledge into practice.

We enjoyed this class. It was extremely helpful.

Likes- field day. Dislikes- more group activity, more focus on managing deciduous trees.

Cost analysis with estimates for costs per commercial thinning was beneficial.

More hands on. More visual examples. Loved hands on at Herron Park and plant identification. All the instructors were very knowledgeable and approachable.

Don't stand up front and just read the book verbatim (Day 3 Morning) otherwise it was real good.

What an amazing opportunity. I am so grateful a program like this exists. I learned a ton but only a fraction of what I need to know. Great set up to be assigned an advisor. So many resources for practical application. So well organized to provide participants with knowledge and resources and example to make a Stewardship Plan. It makes sense!

### **Eureka**

I think this should be in all purchase agreements when buying property in Montana. Thank you all for his information.

Outdoor session was helpful - learn by doing! Could use microphone for easier hearing at back of room.

Extremely valuable workshop. I feel the time was well utilized and structured well. I liked the rotating presenters; the material was fantastic. All exceeded expectations. Nothing to be improved at this time.

Pros: lots of expertise from presenters, tons of good info. Cons: lots of redundancy.
I am new to forest mgmt. having a glossary of terms would be helpful.
We traveled over 1,200 miles to attend the workshop. I had no idea how to perform tasks or evaluate forested land prior to the workshop. What a deep dive!!! I have been so impressed with the information provided. Cindy, Betty, and Jeremy have been amazing presenters and fantastic resources. Thank you!
Speakers could be louder/magnified. The screen was blocked by front row students. Plus, knowledge, humor, listening, empathy. Great!
Very well organized and informative. For improvement. Get rid of all math calculations. A lot of information. We were very late add so it was very nice we got in. I feel a lot more confident after going through the course.
It was hard to fill out some of the sample plots used to demonstrate how to evaluate the MU's. I felt the course was quite overwhelming good and detail - I was not prepared for so much detail.
It was a wonderful education. I had a wrong idea of what a healthy forest is.
<b>Kalispell (Sept.)</b>
Phenomenal
We gained a tremendous amount of knowledge. Field trip and MU survey on our property was great help with reinforcing education.
Loved this experience, very informative
Thoroughly informative. Exhaustive amount of resources and available material (a very good thing). I'm incredibly satisfied with what I've learned here and I feel empowered to execute my plan. Thank you.
I find personal experiences, lessons learned from the teachers more engaging than following a PowerPoint. I understand PowerPoint has its functions as well.
This is a lot of information all worthwhile, but a lot to digest. Maybe offering a 2nd year course as a follow up and to re-evaluate plans.
Additional time in the field. Identifying different species on individual property.
I really like the PowerPoints in the notebook to follow along. Would like to have outdoor "identification" and more different tree/under growth to do our sample plots. Very good program. Thank you.
Well done all around!
Perfect. Super information and relevant. Learned a ton.
If presenters tell us where to find the material they are covering before presentations. Most did.
Presentation and materials on silviculture and harvesting need to be updated and fit the objectives of most if not all alternatives. Many that I spoke w/were not planning large scale harvesting and more interested in how impact forestry. Silviculture is evolving from the classic methods of clear cut. shelterwood etc. to an ecological approach incorporating the science of complexity (see Palikat.al, 2021, O'Hara, 2014, Pittman, 2008, Tappeiner, 2015). The publication on riparian forest is excellent w/information I can use. Peter Kolb's videos could use some updating.

**Logger Workshop**

**2022 - 18 participants**  
**Since 1994 - 570 completed workshop**  
**Active ALP - 156**

**Location:** Montana Logging Association, Kalispell

**Field Site:** Herron Park, Kalispell

**Participants:** 18

**Advisors:** Cindy Peterson, MSU; Holly McKenzie, DNRC; Lorrie Woods, consulting forester

**Rating/Evaluation**

1. 100% agreed to strongly agreed - My participation in the workshop will help me to improve my communication and work with family forest owners.
2. 89% agreed to strongly agreed - The workshop provided me with useful ecological information I will use in my day-to-day activities in forest work.
3. 100% agreed to strongly agreed - Realizing that the objective was to teach the process landowners undergo when developing a Stewardship Plan, you're ability to help forest owners to achieve their personal management objectives will improve.
4. 78% agreed - strongly agreed - Would you recommend this workshop to other timber harvesting/management professionals?
5. 100% agreed - The overall workshop good to excellent.

**Annual Jobs**

Private Forest Owner jobs annually: 198 - acres: 24,962

State jobs annually: 25 – acres 3,371+

Fed jobs annually: 21 – acres 3,961+

**Comments**

7. Which portion of the workshop did you find most useful and why?

All of it
I found going out into the field was the most useful and it is hands on
Making plots, learning how to measure
I found the grazing part was good as we ranch and log
Out in the field, hands on learning works. Also, group conversations, and learning everyone's experiences.
Talking to the instructors and contractors - network
Lots of information on why being good land stewards is important; not doing anything is not good for maintaining forest health
Plots to understand overall unit
Running plots - have never seen how it was done
Forest structures + when/why to implement certain strategies
All portions were equally useful
How far to thin trees and thinning trees ...

The most useful portion was learning about the various forest structures. This allowed a better understanding of interaction with wildlife.
How to talk to landowners because I can help them more now that I have the knowledge
Developing objectives - this is something I can do with clients to assist them in planning
Legal issues. Legal issues are confusing at times
Maps & laws of trespassing because I learned new things

8. Which portion of the workshop was least useful and why?

Doing the paperwork
All is useful
It was all useful to me
I don't think any part was not useful, so no good answer.
The plots and plan/presentation. Just give us the data already summarized and let us do a walk through the whole property.
Coming from commercial logger, don't foresee having to complete a stewardship plan
Dealing with potential land owners - just not applicable to me
All were useful
All portions were equally useful
The wildfire portion mainly because of previous knowledge. The presentation did not provide any new information.
The fire portion because I do it for a living
Basal area
SMZ, BMP, Basal area because there are other classes I have to take on those topics