



BIG SKY NIPF-ty NOTES



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

Montana Forest Owners Association
PO Box 10382, Bozeman, MT 59719-0382

www.montanaforestowners.org
info@montanaforestowners.org (406) 586-MFOA (6362)

Volume 22, No.1
WINTER 2017

MFOA Board Members and 2016 Officers

President	Mike Christianson, Bozeman
Vice-President	Peter Pocius, Helena
Secretary	Mark Boardman, Columbia Falls
Treasurer	Jody Christianson, Bozeman
Director	Allen Chrisman, Kalispell
Director	Peter Kolb, Evaro
Director	Pat Mandzak, Lewiston, ID
Director	Joe Moran, Drummond
Director	Jay Pocius, Helena

Winter Opportunities for Forest Landowners

Following are ideas for enhancing your forest before the snow melts.

Idea #1. On February 18, 2017, attend the Forestry Mini-College at the University of Montana in Missoula. This is a one-day educational event for family forest landowners, professionals, and everyone interested in forestry. Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue through 5:00 p.m. with a one hour lunch break. The fee is \$30 per person and it covers a catered lunch, refreshments between classes and handout materials. Each attendee can register for a maximum of four classes (out of 12 offered) at 90 minutes each. While you are there, stop and say hello at the MFOA booth. For more information, go <http://www.msuextension.org/forestry/fmc.htm>.

Idea #2. Plan your summer forestry work by enrolling in one of four stewardship workshops, scheduled as follows:

<u>Workshop Location</u>	<u>Workshop Dates</u>
Great Falls	May 11, 12 and 19, 2017
Libby	June 15, 16 and 23, 2017
Columbia Falls	July 13, 14 and 21, 2017
Thompson Falls	August 10, 11 and 18, 2017

Each workshop consists of all-day Thursday and Friday morning in the classroom. Friday afternoon is spent in a nearby forest. During the ensuing week, each attendee prepares an inventory of his or her own forest before attending the final workshop day the following Friday.

The workshop is designed to empower each attendee to inventory his or her own forest and enable each attendee to create his or her own forest management plan. You will walk away from this course with the tools necessary for you to make your own decisions, rather than hiring someone to tell you what to do.

Over 90% of past attendees stated they were pleased that they attended the workshop. For more information, go <http://www.msuextension.org/forestry/stewardship.htm>.

Idea #3. Attend a Pesticide Education Program (PEP) and secure your own pesticide private applicator's permit. The PEP, offered by MSU Extension, is an educational program promoting the proper use of pesticides. It provides educational resources regarding pesticide use, pest management, reading the label, pesticide law, health, safety and the environment. You will walk away from the PEP empowered to make your own pesticide decisions with full confidence that your pesticide knowledge is recognized by the government with enough confidence to issue your own personal permit. For more information on PEP, go to www.pesticides.montana.edu or see MontGuide 200809AG at www.pesticides.montana.edu/documents/montguides/PATmontana2016.pdf for the Montana Private Applicator Program.

Idea #4. Update your Forest Stewardship Management Plan if you have had a plan for a number of years. A good source for the project can be found at My Land Plan, mylandplan.org.

Idea #5. Research and apply for a grant to assist you this summer. There are various grants available to non-industrial private forest landowners for use in maintaining forests. If you have an interest in applying for such a grant or grants, check with your local MSU Extension Agent or the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Service Forester in your area. Another contact would be the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Idea #6. Order seedlings for your forest. The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery is taking orders for the spring of 2017. For information, go to dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/conservation-seedling-nursery.

Forestry Best Management Practices (Bmp) 2016 Field Reviews *(By Debra Parker Foley)*

In the summer of 2016 the State of Montana through the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) conducted its biannual BMP field reviews (formerly called "audits") of logging operations. These on-the-ground field reviews are non-regulatory and used to monitor and evaluate whether BMPs are being applied and effectively limiting non-point pollution from logging operations-in accordance with Stream Maintenance Zone (SMZ) laws. The sites are randomly selected and divided into ownership (state, federal, industry and non-industrial private). The field review teams consist of professionals in forestry, fisheries, hydrology, soils, roads engineering, conservation, and logging, and include a NIPF (non-industrial private forest landowner) representative. Public education and resource protection are the main goals. The 2016 BMP Field Review Report shows that BMP/SMZ application and effectiveness for family forest owners (NIPFs) was 99%. The next BMP field reviews will take place in 2018. If you have completed a timber sale and are contacted by the DNRC for a voluntary BMP field review, consider participating. A BMP field review on your forestland is an excellent opportunity for a multi-disciplinary team of experts to give you forestry advice. It is also an opportunity to show that family forest owners are responsible stewards of their land. For more information and to view current and past years' BMP field review reports, visit the DNRC's website

at dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/docs/assistance/practices/2016bmpexecutivesummary.pdf and dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/docs/assistance/2016-bmp-field-reviews-full-report.pdf

Montana's Legislative Session

The Montana legislature is in full session. It convened the first Monday in January. The legislature meets each odd-numbered year. If you desire the MFOA to advance a particular item or items with the legislature, please let us know. You may telephone or use the website www.montanaforestowners.org "About Us" tab, then "Contact Us" to provide your input.

Forest Priorities for President Trump

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) has provided a list of recommended priorities for the Trump administration. These high level recommendations include the following:

- Reinvest resources in forests through wildfire management reform
- Recognize that managed forests are healthy forests
- Foster development of new markets
- Appreciate the role of forests in providing clean air and water
- Invest in forest research and development

To view details on these recommendations, go to eforester.org and search “Presidential Transition Team.” (The SAF states that it has 12,000 members and is the largest professional society for foresters in the world.)

Forest Landowner Conference

The Forest Stewardship Foundation has advised us that its yearly Forest Landowner Conference will be held on Friday, April 21, 2017, in Helena. MFOA will have a table. Mark your calendars. Information will be available at mtlandowners.com/.

Forests as Investments

You may have thought you had heard of everything – but wait. Did you hear that anyone wanting to invest in forests and related businesses may do just that through the stock exchange traded funds (ETFs)? Two of them are iShares Global Timber and Forestry E.T.F. and Guggenheim MSCI Global Timber E.T.F.

Next

See you at the next issue of NIPF-ty Notes. Don’t forget to check out the MFOA website created by Board Member Jay Pocius, www.montanaforestowners.org.