

# The Forest Steward's Journal

Winter 2025

Volume 41

## *Journal of the Forest Stewardship Foundation*

*The MISSION of the Forest Stewardship Foundation is to "provide education and information to forest landowners, natural resource professionals and the general public about the science and ecology of forest lands, the many value derived from forested lands and the principles of sustainable forest land development."*

*DISCLAIMER: As in the past, we again advise that this information is submitted for your interest only. The Foundation's mission, as indicated above, is to "educate and inform", not to advocate or persuade. The Foundation takes no position, either endorsing or opposing, approving or disapproving, any of the assertions or arguments in the contributed information.*



## **Message from the Chair**

*By Ed Levert, Chair of the Forest Stewardship Foundation*

It is hard for me to believe that the Forest Stewardship Foundation has been around since 1993 when the original Forest Stewardship Workshop Committee decided that the workshop program was in jeopardy from a lack of reliable funding. Stan Pyron as the chair led the effort to form the non-profit organization Forest Stewardship Foundation to assure that resource education in Montana was available for forest landowners.

It's also hard to believe that this year will mark the 15th year that we have sponsored the Forest Landowner Conference. This year's conference will be jointly sponsored by the Forest Stewardship Foundation and the Montana State Society of American Foresters. The date is May 16th and the location will once again be at the Delta Hotels Helena Colonial in Helena. As always we promise an interesting program with subjects of interest to both forest landowners and to professional foresters.

*The following day on May 17th a half day field trip will be held to look at past activities and research on Mt Helena. Silent auction items would certainly be appreciated. You can contact Zoe Leake at 406-499-6037 if you have questions about the auction or let her know items you plan on bringing.*

In 2024 our Foundation was pleased to have sponsored a forest stewardship workshop conducted by Montana State University Extension Forestry. We hope to be able to continue support for this important educational program for forest landowners, hopefully sponsoring a 5th workshop in 2026. Not only do we sponsor the annual Forest Landowner Conference, educational workshops, but we also publish the bi-yearly Forest Stewards Journal that goes out to over 1200 recipients.

We were pleased to be able to work with Montana Tree Farm in bringing another Ties To The Land workshop to Missoula on March 7th. This outstanding educational opportunity on succession planning is critical in helping private forest landowners and others make important decisions in the future of their land. Montana Tree Farm handled all the arrangements and did a great job in reaching out to their membership. It isn't important who sponsors valuable educational efforts such as this as long as it gets done. You can find out more about this workshop by going to our Foundation website at [ForestStewardshipFoundation.org](https://ForestStewardshipFoundation.org).

If you aren't already a member of the Forest Stewardship Foundation, you can join our small energetic organization by registering online at [ForestStewardshipFoundation.org](https://ForestStewardshipFoundation.org) with a dues payment of only \$25/year.

## **A Brief Word About Christmas Trees**

*By Bob Starling, Landowner*

My wife and I are fortunate enough to own forested land that has been in my family for close to one hundred years. For most of that history, the primary focus of the land management decisions was, believe it or not, the harvest of Douglas Fir Christmas trees.

Eureka Montana was called, and deservedly so, "The Christmas Tree Capital of the World". Many Christmas tree companies had yards in the area and shipped trees by rail and truck all around the country and even to South America.

The treeing season started after a good cold hard frost usually in mid-October. When the yards started taking trees the race was on. People often counted on treeing season for a welcome

source of extra yearly income. People would cut trees on their own land or pay stumpage to someone that wanted to have their land harvested. The yards employed many people from tree graders, balers, bookkeepers, truck and boxcar loaders, and night watchmen. People that cut trees would often hire or have family members drag the trees, trim the butts and load as many as they could on the pickup and get to the yard to unload. These loads often had one hundred and fifty to two hundred trees ranging from four to ten feet.



As with any endeavor the people that were most successful were the ones that put in the most effort during the off season. That would be thinning and pruning. Knowing that Douglas fir was your preferred species you naturally thinned out the competitors. Pruning consisted of looking from the top and considering where it would make a good Christmas tree and then lopping off the lower branches. This isn't necessarily the best way to grow timber, but it has an enormous effect on the quality of a future Christmas

tree. By doing this style of pruning on Douglas Fir you slow the growth down making the space between the whirls tighter and therefore making a better looking Christmas tree. It also makes the fir needles a darker shade of green. Often you would also use your axe or brush hook to give the tree a few minor chops along the bole and slow the growth that way as well. Often a lower live branch was left so that when you harvested a tree above it the limb would take over from the stump and turn into a Christmas tree in a few years. This is known as a stump culture, again, not the best way to grow timber.

The local Christmas tree industry had many challenges over the years. They ranged from economic issues, competition from plantations, to the advent of artificial trees. The hardest impact was a blight that decimated the new growth on the Douglas fir trees. Nobody wanted a brown tree. The tree companies pulled out and the industry has never been the same. It took several years for the trees to recover their shape and color.

Not only did it affect the local economy, it affected the stewardship of the land as well. I consider it a microcosm of what can happen when any industry loses its infrastructure. Without the yards to buy the trees, many Douglas fir stands stopped being thinned and turned into thickets that are not very healthy. As a forestland owner I appreciate sawmills wanting to buy product from a private individual. I can't imagine not being able to sell logs once in a while, and helping with the incentive to improve our forest land. I would encourage people to contact a sawmill in their area and talk to them about your management

goals. I think many of their professional foresters would be more than happy to share their expertise.

A spin off of the Christmas tree industry was wreaths and garland. A lot of wreaths and garland are shipped out from the local area today. They are still using Douglas fir bows and employing people in the fall. My wife and I still benefit from Christmas trees, but on a much smaller scale. It's a great way to be on your land and do some thinning. The pruning takes away some of the ladder fuels for fire mitigation. It's a great tradition cutting a tree off your own land and the smell of a tree in the house adds to the season.

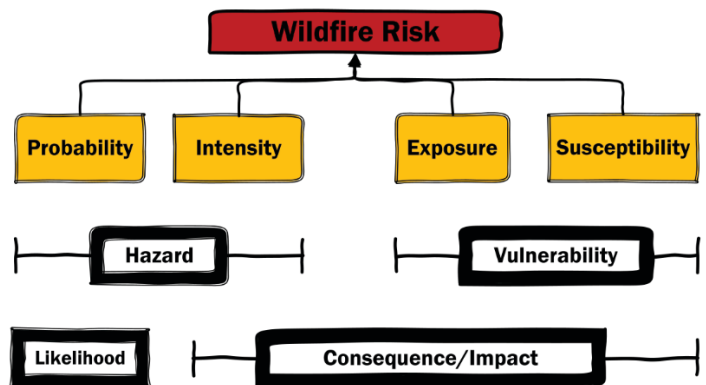
There are still markets out there for trees if you want to try it. I would suggest your local nurseries or nonprofit clubs that are looking for a fund raiser. If you have a wreath maker in your area they are probably looking for boughs in the fall. At the least, I would encourage you to buy a live cut tree. It actually does a whole lot of good.

*Ps. For a book on the subject try "The Montana Christmas Tree Story" by Darris Flanagan*

## Your Forest: Learning About and Reducing Wildfire Risk

*By Erick Warrington, Program Manager with the DNRC Stewardship Program*

"Wildfire risk," does the term resonate with you? Some years more than others perhaps? Wildfires can present a risk to your forest, and when not your forest specifically, often in a nearby forest around your community. Assessing wildfire risk involves looking at the larger forested landscape, which is usually a mix of private, state, and federal ownership, sometimes tribal and even local county or community owned forests. This article is not going to explore the elements of how or where fires tend to start, it's not going to talk about wildfire suppression actions by local, state, and federal wildland fire fighters, and it's not going to define all the various elements that account for wildfire risk (see the following graphic).



visit [mwra-mtdnrc.hub.arcgis.com](http://mwra-mtdnrc.hub.arcgis.com) for more info or Google "Montana Wildfire Risk Assessment"

Instead, this will start with the assumption that as a forest landowner you have considered the if's, when's, and then's of wildfire risk and have at a minimum, concluded to become more informed about the topic, or perhaps want to request some professional advice. Maybe you've reached the point where you're ready to act by managing the conditions of your forest to reduce the potential impact of high-severity wildfire behavior? Add a home, or other highly valued resource or asset to the equation and taking action becomes even more important.

Enter the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's (DNRC) Stewardship Program ([dnrc.mt.gov/stewardship](https://dnrc.mt.gov/stewardship)), one of several offerings under the Forestry Assistance Bureau. Located within the Forestry & Trust Land Division of the DNRC, the Forestry Assistance Bureau has a handful of staff at its office in Missoula, but it puts its proverbial boots in the woods through a network of Service Foresters and other staff located at regional Land Offices and local Unit Offices throughout the state.

The Stewardship Program works to connect landowners, natural resource managers, and communities with the tools needed to actively and sustainably manage their forests, commonly focusing on reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health. We do this by supporting or offering technical, financial, and educational assistance to those seeking it. DNRC

Service Foresters ([dnrc.mt.gov/serviceforestry](https://dnrc.mt.gov/serviceforestry)) excel in the arena of providing landowners with free technical assistance, but their roles are interwoven through the others as well. If you have a question about conditions in your forest or want some guidance to achieve the goals you have for your forest, connect with your local Service Forester.

Financial assistance is delivered through a series of grants aimed at mitigating wildfire risk and promoting forest health. The program administers four different grants, with the Forest Action Plan Grant being awarded by state funds while the remaining three are federally funded grants managed by the DNRC in conjunction with the US Forest Service's State, Private and Tribal Forestry program. These grants provide financial support to landowners by sharing the cost of the managing your forest. Landowners are required to provide a matching contribution, a ratio or percent of the total grant amount requested. Depending on the grant, this match can be met through the landowners' contributions (cash, timber value, or your own time and effort) towards completion of the project. To determine eligibility for grant funding, landowners are advised to contact their local Service Forester. Additionally, in many places there are local non-profit organizations and fire adapted community groups focused on identifying local needs and potential areas for future grant-funded projects.

<b>Forest Action Plan Grant</b>	Supports implementation of cross-boundary projects with priority areas identified in the Montana Forest Action Plan, Montana Wildfire Risk assessment, or local Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Projects should improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, and/or support urban forests.
<b>Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant</b>	Supports reducing hazardous fuels on private lands in order to protect communities adjacent to US Forest Service lands where prescribed fire activities are planned. Prescribed fire activities must be planned to occur within the following 3 years.
<b>Western States WUI Grant</b>	Supports establishing fire adapted communities, restoring resilient landscapes, and fostering effective response to wildland fire in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Projects should achieve one or more of the following: Reduce hazardous fuels in the WUI, WUI-based prevention and education, CWPP development or update.
<b>Landscape Scale Restoration Grant</b>	Supports landscape scale, collaborative, and cross-boundary science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes that address Montana Forest Action Plan priorities and leverage public and private resources. Projects can be located on state, private, tribal, or municipal forest lands.

The Stewardship Program has been working with partners, including efforts spearheaded by the Forest Stewardship Foundation, to develop a centralized website containing educational content and other resources for Montana forest landowners. [MTForestInfo.org](https://MTForestInfo.org) was launched in the summer of 2024 with the help of other partners like: MSU Extension Forestry, MT Forest Owners Association, MT Tree Farm System,

Natural Resource Conservation Service, and MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Go check it out!

The program also offers mini-grants of up to \$3,000 supporting opportunities for youth, or youth educators to learn about forests, natural resources and the forest products industry. This opportunity is called the Conservation Education Grant and is

funded by both state and US Forest Service federal funds.



It should not be overlooked that several other prominent financial assistance opportunities are available to private landowners through the US Department of Agriculture. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has their flagship initiative, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Thanks to Montana Focused Conservation, the NRCS has nearly, if not surpassed, achieving a four-fold increase of funds for forestry practices through EQIP since 2018! A unique program, the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) is administered by its sister agency, the Farm Service

Agency (FSA). EFRP is available to forest landowners impacted by a natural disaster, such as a wildfire, wind storm, or flood, etc. Funds can be used to remediate the effects of the disaster, restore the functional forest systems which were lost (ex., reforestation), and repair or replace qualifying infrastructure lost or damaged by the disaster.

Other local resources might be available through the network of Extension Services offices, Conservation Districts, Weed Districts, etc. On [MTForestInfo.org](http://MTForestInfo.org) you can find an “Assistance Guide” where you select your county for a list of local points of contact for these types of organizations. All this to say, you’re not alone in your efforts to actively, sustainably manage your forest. Although mitigating wildfire risk might be a gateway to taking action, it should not be your stopping point. Wildlife habitat, improving tree species diversity or individual species prevalence, promoting mature forests or promoting young forests, enjoying the aesthetic of flowering meadows or unique streamside riparian zones... whatever the goals you have for your forest, resources and resource professionals are available to help.

<p><b>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</b></p>	<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</p> <p>A conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.</p> <p>NRCS provides non-industrial forest managers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement conservation practices which can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat.</p>
<p><b>Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)</b></p>	<p>Farm Services Agency (FSA)</p> <p>EFRP helps owners of non-industrial private forests restore forest health damaged by natural disasters by authorizing payments to restore damaged forests.</p> <p>The local FSA County Committee implements EFRP for any qualifying disasters which impact private forests, including wildfire, wind storms, floods, etc.</p>

## ***"Ties to the Land" Succession Planning Workshop***

It's no secret that today's family forests are critical resources. We who are privileged to own forest land supply society with timber and non-timber products, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty. We express our values in the responsibility we take for managing our forests and the joy we take in simply walking the land.

It's also no secret that the current owners of private forestland are aging. Look around at the next forest owner or Tree Farmer meeting. How many graying heads do you see? The truth is that millions of acres of family-owned forest, range, and agricultural land in the U.S. **will** change hands this decade. Whether that land we have worked so hard to conserve passes intact to our families or becomes a casualty to development, subdivision, or other conversion depends largely on how well we take charge of

the process of succession planning **now** while we have choices and time to implement those choices.

Do you want to pass your land to your children? Have you asked them if they are interested in owning and caring for the forest? Are you waiting for the kids to bring up the subject? Do your children have the skills to manage the family land? Are you able to explain to your family your devotion to the land and its heritage? Are you afraid to stir up trouble between family members by discussing the topic of inheritance? Are you just at a loss to know where to start with the whole idea of succession and estate planning?

**Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage**, an award winning day-long workshop about intergenerational transfer of forest, farm or range land is for all who need that boost to start the all-important family conversations about the future. The program presents practical tools and interactive exercises to help families learn to face succession head-on. The curriculum

touches on estate planning and legal processes, but focuses on the conversations that need to take place within a family **before** the attorneys and accountants are brought in.

Remember, succession happens! Whether that succession is planned and results in the successful transfer of your forest to the next generation depends on you. "Ties to the Land" can help.

*Montana Tree Farm is pleased to offer "Ties to the Land" on Friday, March 7, 2025 9:00AM-5:00PM at the Best Western Grant Creek Road, Missoula. Once again, outstanding instructors, Kirk and Madeline David will conduct the workshop. The cost of registration is \$50 for the first family member (includes the \$30 workbook plus reference material thumbdrive). Additional family members are \$20/each. Additional workbooks can be purchased for \$30 each. Refreshments will be provided. A block of rooms will be available for those attending this workshop the night of March 6th or the night of March 7th for those attending the Mini-college. For additional information contact Ed Levert at 406-293-2847. To register contact Ardrene Sarracino at 406-317-5477. Attendance is limited to 25 people per workshop so sign up now. Registrations must be in by February 28th.*

## An Introduction to Ticks

By Dr. H. Joel Hutcheson, an entomologist who worked in academia and for U.S. and Canadian government agencies

Ticks encountered in Montana or elsewhere are never desirable, but they can be avoided by those informed about the biology of this fascinating group of arachnids. There are three distinct taxonomic families of extant (i.e. not extinct) ticks: hard ticks (Ixodidae), soft ticks (Argasidae) and a third (Nuttalliellidae), represented by a single species found only in Africa. Approximately 950 species of ticks are known worldwide, making them one of the smallest groups of arthropods of medical and/or veterinary importance. As arachnids, they are more closely related to mites and spiders than to insects. Fortunately, only a fraction of tick species are of medical and/or veterinary importance, transmitting agents of disease and/or causing paralysis. The purpose of this article is to increase overall awareness of ticks and their biology that we could encounter in Montana or elsewhere.

**Hard ticks**, known as ixodids, represent the largest group, including approximately 700 species. These ticks are the most familiar to us, as described in popular media. Hard ticks have four distinct life stages: egg, larva (three pairs of legs), nymph (four pairs of legs but sexually immature) and adult (male or female). Except for the egg, each of the active stages feeds on one or more host individuals. Feeding habits differ greatly among tick species and life stages. There are 3-host, 2-host and 1-host ticks, depending on the number of host individuals (not species) fed on by a single tick during its lifetime. When ticks feed, their body size expands approximately 20 times and their weight approximately 100 times. Hard ticks concentrate their blood meals by salivating back into their hosts; this action is responsible for infecting hosts with pathogens or causing paralysis.

The rocky mountain wood tick, *Dermacentor andersoni*, probably the most encountered tick species in Montana, is a 3-host tick, feeding on as many host individuals. These ticks feed (for days) on rodents or other smaller mammals as larvae and nymphs (immatures), but on larger mammals, including humans, as adults. These differences in host associations are influenced by their host-finding behavior, known as questing. Larval and nymphal Rocky Mountain wood ticks are limited in their ability to find hosts, while adults can survive much longer, being more resistant to desiccation (a tick's worst enemy). Ticks detect potential hosts by recognizing differences in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations as well as relative humidity and temperature. They have specialized receptors (Haller's organs) on the tarsi of their front legs (imagine having a nostril on each forearm) and they raise their front legs when questing, orienting toward the source of CO<sub>2</sub>, humidity, or higher temperatures, thus homing in on potential hosts. In 3-host ticks, each stage feeds for days, then drops from their host and after a few weeks, molts to the next developmental stage or oviposits (i.e. lays) a few thousand eggs (female) and expires. Male feeding behavior differs in that they feed for short periods and mate with one or more females, possibly on different host individuals, before expiring. So, if someone noticed ground squirrels on their property, these are likely to be infested with nymphal Rocky Mountain wood tick nymphs, which drop, then in a matter of weeks, molt into adults that would be searching for hosts approximately a month later in that gardening season.

One-host ticks feed on the same host individual and may have accelerated life stages; some 1-host species can complete their entire life cycle in approximately 21 days, depending on conditions, whereas 3-host ticks require a year or more. The winter tick, *Dermacentor albipictus*, quests as a larva, attaches and feeds, molts to the nymphal stage, feeds, then molts to an adult, which engorges, all on the same host individual, and drops from the host to oviposit and expire. Depending on latitude, altitude, and other climatic factors, winter tick eggs may hatch in August or September; larvae quest in September or October, and feed and molt to nymphs in October or November. Nymphs are on the host October through March of the next year, and feed and molt to adults during January through May. Engorged females drop during March and April, laying eggs during June. Though they are not known to infest humans, winter ticks may infest moose and caribou in such high numbers as to kill them by loss of blood.

**Soft ticks** differ from hard ticks in several ways. Like hard ticks, they have eggs and three active stages (larva, nymph, adult), but the nymphal stage may have as many as seven instars, meaning they feed and molt to another instar, rather than to the adult stage. The number of instars can vary, even within a single species. Most soft ticks are nidicolous, meaning they spend their off-host time in nesting material (or nearby). They also mate and oviposit more than once, similar to mosquitoes. Hard ticks usually oviposit once, depositing thousands of eggs, whereas soft ticks lay a few hundred after each of approximately 6 feedings as an adult. The cuticle of soft ticks differs from that of hard ticks in that they have a cement layer, similar to some insects, making them more resistant to desiccation. Some species of soft ticks have been reported to survive, under

conditions of optimal relative humidity, for 20 years; most hard ticks can survive for about two or three years. With a few exceptions, soft ticks also feed for minutes to hours, in contrast to hard ticks feeding for days. Like hard ticks, soft ticks also concentrate their meals via salivary glands, but they also have coxal glands, which secrete excess fluid while they are feeding.

One such soft tick, *Ornithodoros hermsi*, as well as a few others, cause problems for us when we inhabit small cabins at certain altitudes in the Rockies. Usually, a squirrel's nest is cleared out of the attic, thus removing the food source for these soft ticks, who are hidden in small cracks between nearby boards and such. Upon nightfall, when human guests are sleeping, these ticks crawl out of their harborage to find no squirrels, so they venture through the ceiling into the sleeping materials of the humans, and feed to repletion in a matter of minutes, sometimes infecting their hosts with bacteria known as spirochetes (*Borrelia* spp.). People usually have no memories of being bitten. However, weeks later, they may experience symptoms of relapsing fever.

**How to avoid ticks:** In general, avoiding questing ticks can be accomplished by avoiding tick infested areas (when known) and by avoiding vegetation on paths and trails. Most importantly, make sure to do a complete tick check after outings. If you do find ticks crawling on you or attached, remove them and place them (if available) into some kind of container, for either disposal or for later identification, if available. It's a good idea to include a pair of tweezers/forceps in your first aid kit while hiking or camping. One sure way to kill ticks on clothing or bedding (when there are several) is to use the heat available in a clothes dryer, with a heated cycle for at least 40 minutes. If using a sensor-based dryer, a wet towel added may increase the heat and time to the level and duration needed to kill the ticks.

**How to safely remove a tick:** There are several fallacies associated with removing ticks. The most effective way to remove an attached tick is to grasp it as close to the skin as possible and to pull it straight out slowly. If possible, use forceps (i.e. tweezers), tissues or other material to avoid direct contact with the tick during removal. I knew of an instance where someone contracted Rocky Mountain spotted fever by removing several ticks from a neighbor's dog. Also avoid any treatments like cigarettes, lit or unlit matches, nail polish, and the like. If a tick is heated while attached, there is a distinct possibility that it can regurgitate (just as a heated pot boils over) into the wound, releasing its gut contents. After removal, make sure to clean and disinfect the wound, even if the mouthparts (sometimes called the "head") may be left behind in the wound; these mouthparts are relatively inert and are usually expelled as a wound heals.

**Some fallacies about ticks:** Ticks crawl; they do not jump. They also do not drop out of trees onto the back of one's neck. If a tick gets on a person, they have stealthily crawled up one's clothing from either the ground or from vegetation, usually located below one's waist. As an example of a tick's stealth, you can watch a live tick crawl across your arm or leg and, unless they collide with a hair, you are unlikely to feel them crawling across your skin.

**Pathogens transmitted by ticks:** Ticks can transmit a wide variety of disease agents, rivaling that of mosquitoes; some ticks may transmit more than one kind of pathogen. The list includes Protista/Protozoa, viruses, and bacteria. Protists include *Babesia* and *Theileria* spp. Viruses include Powassan virus, tickborne encephalitis virus, and Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic fever virus (which is as bad as its name suggests). Bacteria include the agent of tularemia, which can also be transmitted directly by rabbits; spirochetes, including the causative agents of relapsing fever and Lyme disease (one of the most well-known tickborne diseases); and rickettsia, including *Ehrlichia*, and *Anaplasma* spp. and the agent of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (*Rickettsia rickettsii*).

**Tick paralysis** is a condition caused by a toxin in tick saliva. Several species of ticks worldwide can cause paralysis. Although this ascending paralysis requires days of tick attachment and can be fatal if unchecked, the paralysis subsides in hours once the tick has been removed.

## Forest Stewardship Foundation Board Members

Board members can be contacted by sending an email to [forestwededucation@gmail.com](mailto:forestwededucation@gmail.com).

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Need information on 

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# VISIT [MTFORESTINFO.ORG](http://MTFORESTINFO.ORG)

A website dedicated to connecting Montana private forest landowners, like you, with the resources to make your forest management goals a reality.

## what is mtforestinfo.org?

MTForestInfo.org is a centralized education and resource website for Montana forest landowners. Education and resources are provided by a variety of Montana forestry organizations and agencies. From the site, you can then navigate to these landowner forestry organizations for additional services and resources.



## the website

On MTForestInfo educational guides, web resources, and videos are organized by topic. There is also a page for landowner events and an assistance guide by county, so you can find the right educational, in-person private forestry assistance, or financial assistance to help you meet the stewardship goals you have for your forest!



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*The Forest Steward's Journal is a publication of the Forest Stewardship Foundation. Comments, articles and letters to the editor are welcome.*

## ***Please Join the Forest Stewardship Foundation***

*Through memberships of only \$25/year, we have been able to secure grants, publish and distribute the semi/annual the Forest Steward's Journal to over 1200 addresses and co-sponsor the annual Forest Landowner Conference and Insect & Disease workshop. Making forest education happen across the state is what we are all about. Over the past 25+ years these efforts have also included conservation easement and succession planning workshops, sponsorships of forest stewardship workshops along with a host of other efforts.*

*As a non-profit organization, our board members are not paid, but are passionate about this cause. Your membership means a great deal to our continuing success. Our membership has steadily increased over time to 140 members. Please consider joining the foundation by completing the membership application form/envelope found in each winter edition of the Journal or by going to our website at: [www.ForestStewardshipFoundation.org](http://www.ForestStewardshipFoundation.org).*

*Thanks for your help.*

*Ed Levert, Chair*

## ***Save the Dates***

Mar. 7	Missoula Grant Creek Inn Missoula, MT	Ties to the Land
Mar. 8	Forestry School University of Montana	Forestry Mini-College
May 16	Colonial Delta Mariott Helena, MT	Forest Landowner/ SAF Conference
May 17	Colonial Delta Mariott Helena, MT	Mt. Helena Field Trip



## ***MSU Extension Forestry Stewardship Workshops***

May 22-23, 30  
Frenchtown, MT

July 24-25, August 1  
Kalispell, MT

June 12-13, 20  
Bozeman, MT

August 14-15, 22  
Plains, MT