

“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 daylong 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.

