



Promoting Stewardship on Family Forest Lands in Montana

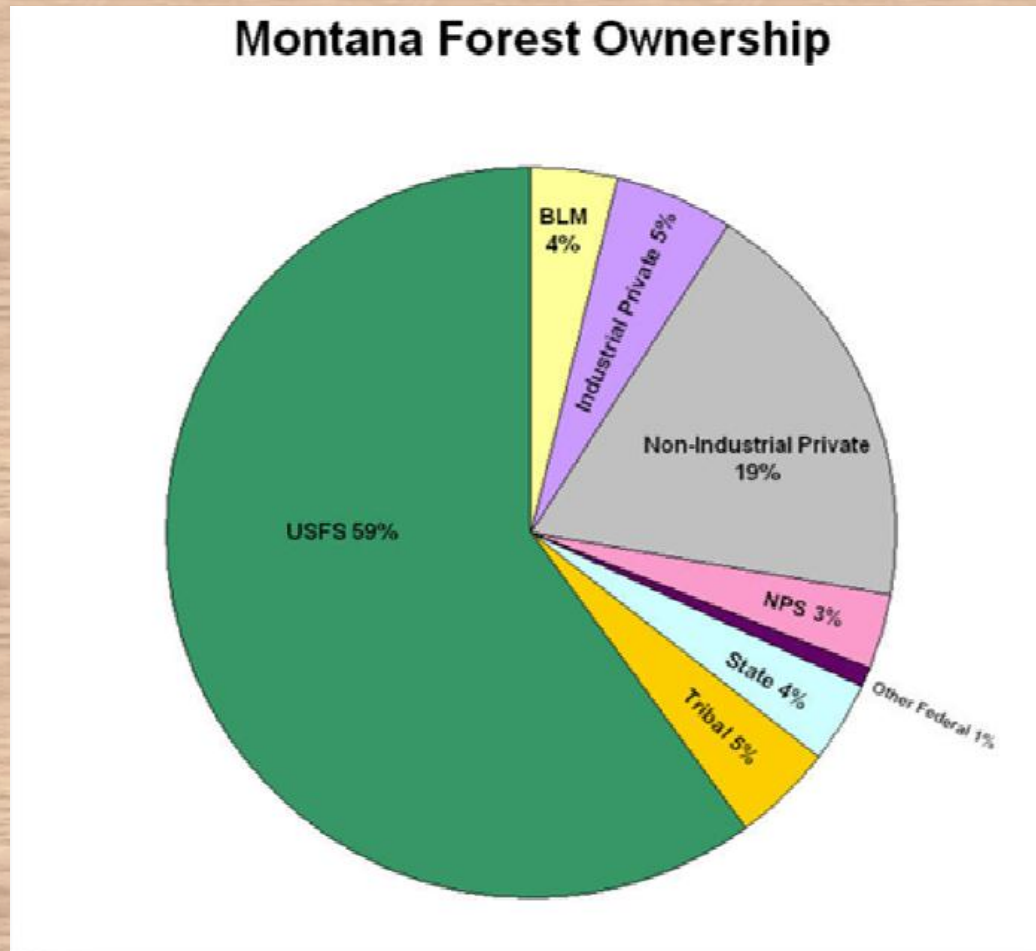
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Overview of Montana

- Montana = 376,980 km²
- Montana has approximately 9.3 million hectares of forest
- 2.5 million are privately owned
- 1.5 million are owned by 83,000 non-industrial private forest landowners
- Parcel size averages 40 hectares

Private lands in Montana



Threats to Forest Resources

1. Conversion to other uses, primarily residential (exurban) development
2. Catastrophic wildfires and epidemics of insects and disease
3. Water quality degradation
4. Loss of wood products harvesting and processing infrastructure



Critical Factors to Success

- Philosophy: landowners with good information and technical support will make sound decisions
- Credible threat of increased regulation if voluntary action is not successful
- Partnerships with other agencies
- Mechanisms to transfer support from federal/national level to state/local level – Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act

- Establishes coordination and cooperation between federal, state, and local agencies in state and private forest land management
- Promotes sustainable management on non-federal lands
- Provides resources (primarily financial) for educational, technical, and financial assistance programs on non-federal forest lands

DNRC Forestry Assistance Bureau

- Forestry Assistance Bureau
 - Bureau Chief
 - Conservation nursery
 - Forest Practices Specialist
 - Stewardship Section Supervisor
 - Urban Forestry Coordinator
 - Entomologist
 - Private Forestry Specialist

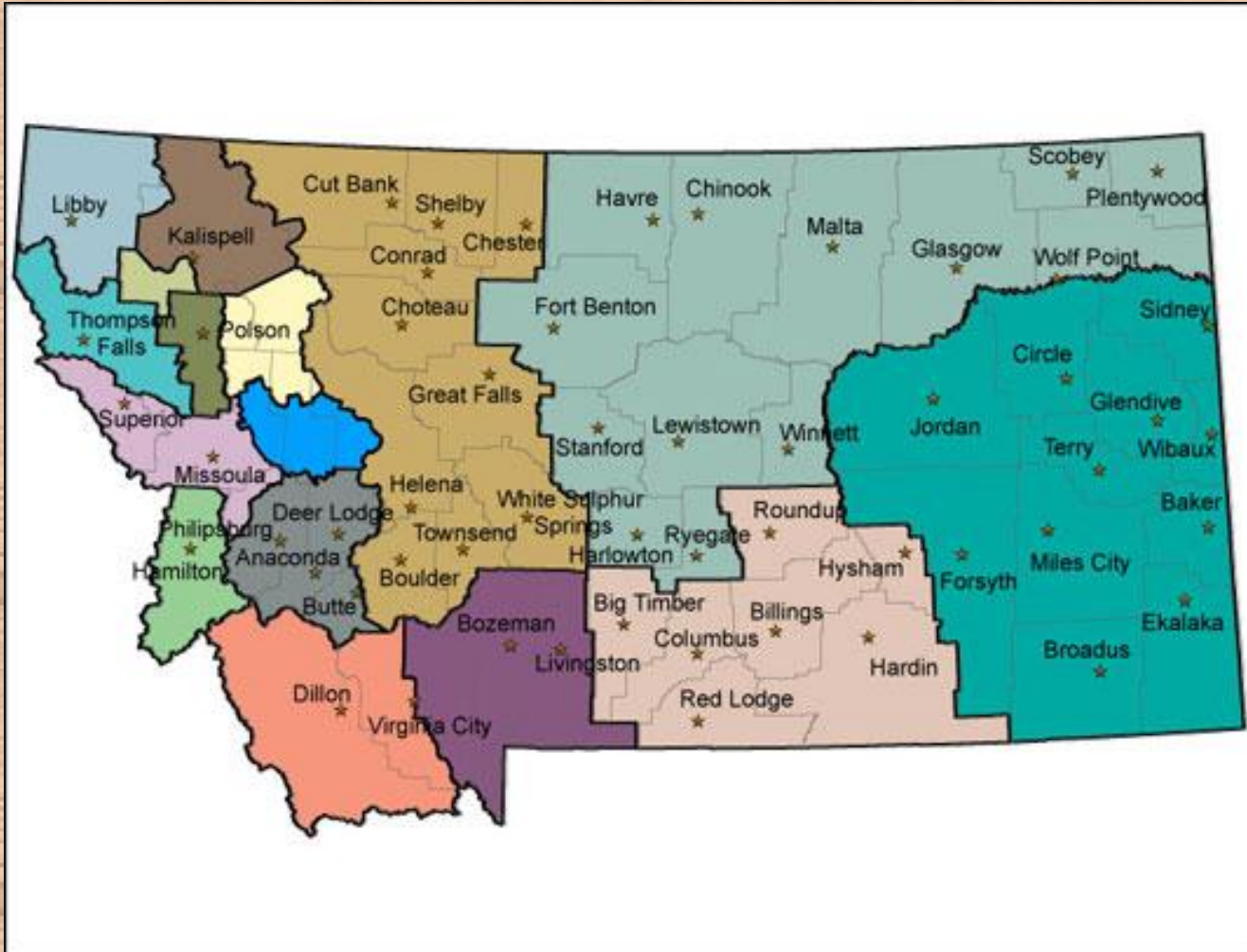
3 Focus Areas

1. Education
2. Technical Assistance
3. Financial Assistance

Partners

- USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry
- 16 DNRC service foresters in different parts of Montana
- Montana State University Extension
- Local governments (cities & counties)
- Non-profit organizations
- Private operators (loggers, contractors, consulting foresters)

Service Foresters



Forest Stewardship Planning Workshops

- Montana State University Extension
- Five 3-day workshops are held each year
- First 2 days: Basic principles, identification, basic forest inventory, BMPs, forest laws, think about goals and objectives
- One week doing inventory and setting goals/objectives. Forester visits property.
- Third day landowners present their plans and refine them

Additional workshops offered by MSU Extension

- 1 day workshops on specific forestry topics
- Master Forest Steward program
- Mini-College



Other educational programs and materials

- DNRC gives grants to partners for education workshops and materials – brochures, newsletters, posters
- Personnel to help instruct classes – specialists and foresters attend workshops and field trips



Financial incentives

- \$2 million each year distributed to landowners
- Hazardous fuel reduction, forest health projects, wildlife habitat improvement, reforestation, restoration
- Grants are “cost-share” 50/50 or 75/25
- Projects are managed by local NGOs or government agencies



Challenges

- Divestiture of large industrial private timber lands
- Instability of wood products market and infrastructure
- Wildland fire management
- Impacts of climate change

Advantages

- Population with a relatively high conservation consciousness
- Human resources
- Flexible and decentralized processes
- Relatively low pressure on forest resource base
- Resilient and intact forests



Transferable Concepts

- Good management is facilitated by officials who serve as guides rather than police
- Decentralized processes are key to applicable norms and regulations
- Technical assistance programs are just as important as financial assistance
- “Dis-incentives” play a role too
- Take advantage of knowledge and goodwill of loggers and forestry professionals



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