

Montana Forest Stewardship



**“Empowerment of Forest Owners
Through Personal Involvement”**

Montana – 93 Million Acres

23 Million Acres - Forested

3.8 Million Acres - Family Forests

**1.36 Million Acres - Managed by
Forest Stewards**

Some Risks for Forest Lands

- Chance of wildfire due to excessive fuel build-up
- Invasive plants, insects and diseases
- Landscape fragmentation
- Unmanaged recreational activities
- Excessive soil erosion
- Loss of valuable riparian areas

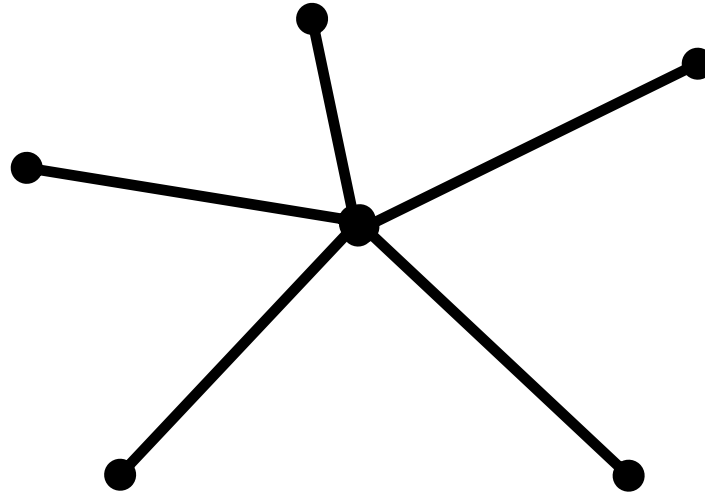
Forest Stewardship since 1991

MSU Extension Forestry
Planning Workshops for Family Forest
Owners

190 Workshops
4,452 Participants
2,883 Ownerships

Over 1.36 million acres managed by
Forest Stewardship participants

Forest Ownership - a tug-of-war? Or; a Balance of Management



Why Should I Attend?

- Learn about keeping your forest healthy and productive for generations to come.
- Learn how to identify and implement practical steps to meet your individual ownership objectives.
- Write a plan that may qualify your forestland for cost share opportunities.

What Will I Learn?

- How to write a Forest Stewardship Plan
- How to manage fire risk
- Range/understory vegetation management
- Where to go for help
- How to assess and maintain forest health
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- How to protect and enhance water quality
- Caring for your forest
- Forest ecology
- And much more!

National, State, and Local Partnerships



Private Family Forest Owners

Forest Stewardship Process

1. Identify forest management objectives
2. Further your understanding of how forests function
3. Inventory your forest's natural resources
4. Develop a forest management plan to meet your objectives and support your forest
5. Visit with a Forest Stewardship Advisor on your forest



Owner's Name _____
Plan Author (if not owner) _____

Forest Stewardship Plan
(double click on box and select 'checked')

Tree Farm Plan

This management plan outlines sustainable forestry guidelines for the conservation of natural resources within this forest and addresses immediate needs (next 5 years) as well as long term (50+ years) objectives and actions. It is endorsed as a certifiable sustainable forest management plan by the American Forest Foundation Family Forestry Program, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, and Montana State University Extension Forestry.



The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.
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1. Landowners begin the planning process receiving maps of their property and developing objectives.

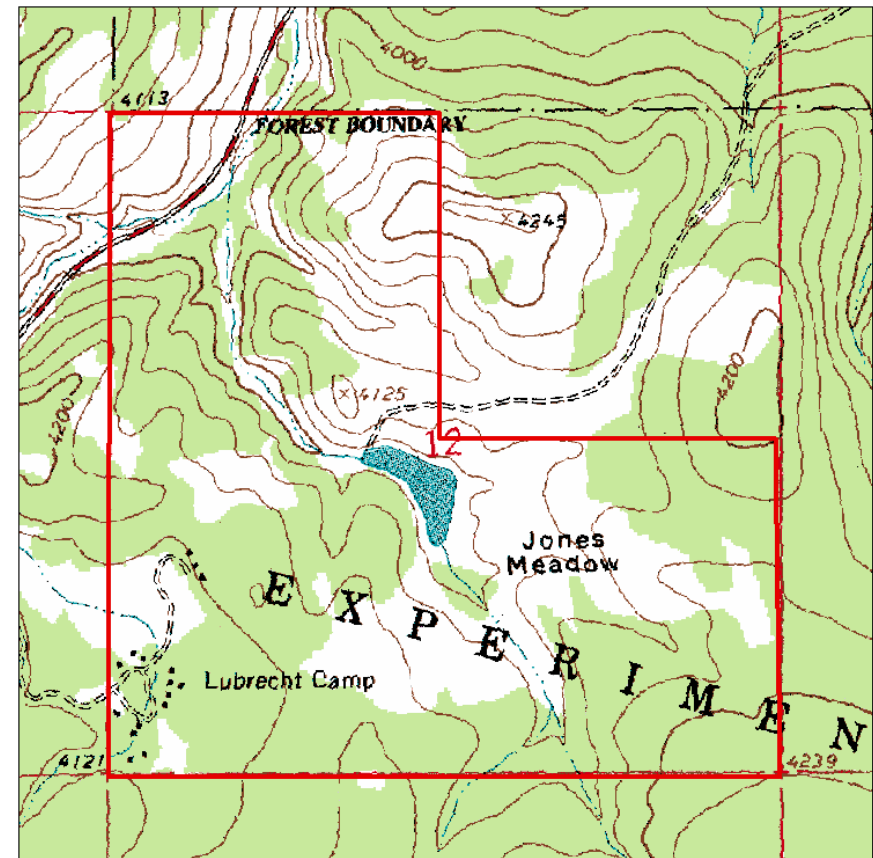
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1 inch equals 880 feet



Jones T13N R15W S12 GREENOUGH



1 inch equals 880 feet



2. Workshop sessions focus on three major forest resources

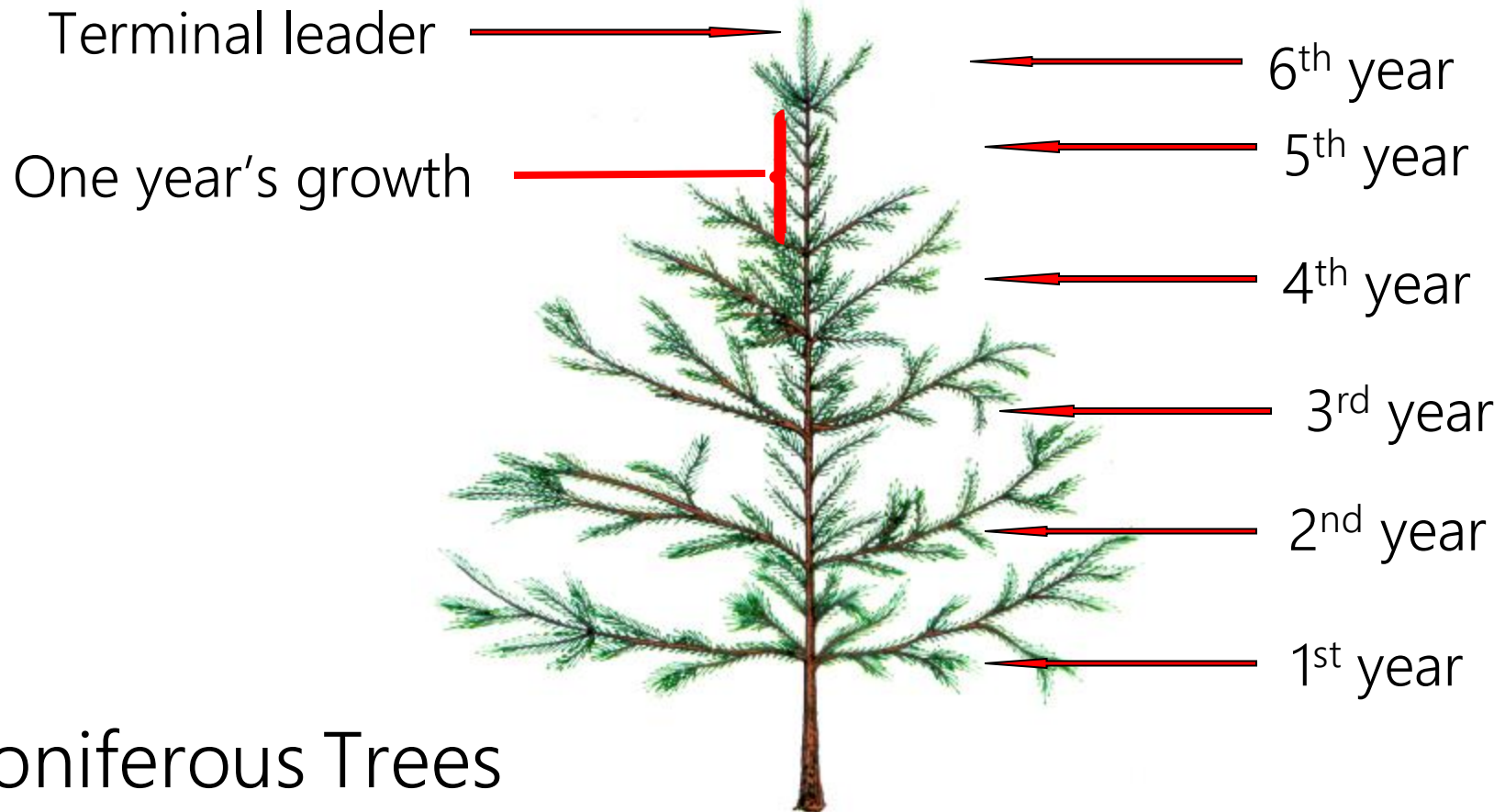
- Timber (your trees)
- Wildlife (their habitat)
- Range (the understory plants)

2a. Workshops begin with information of how forests function beginning with regional and local factors

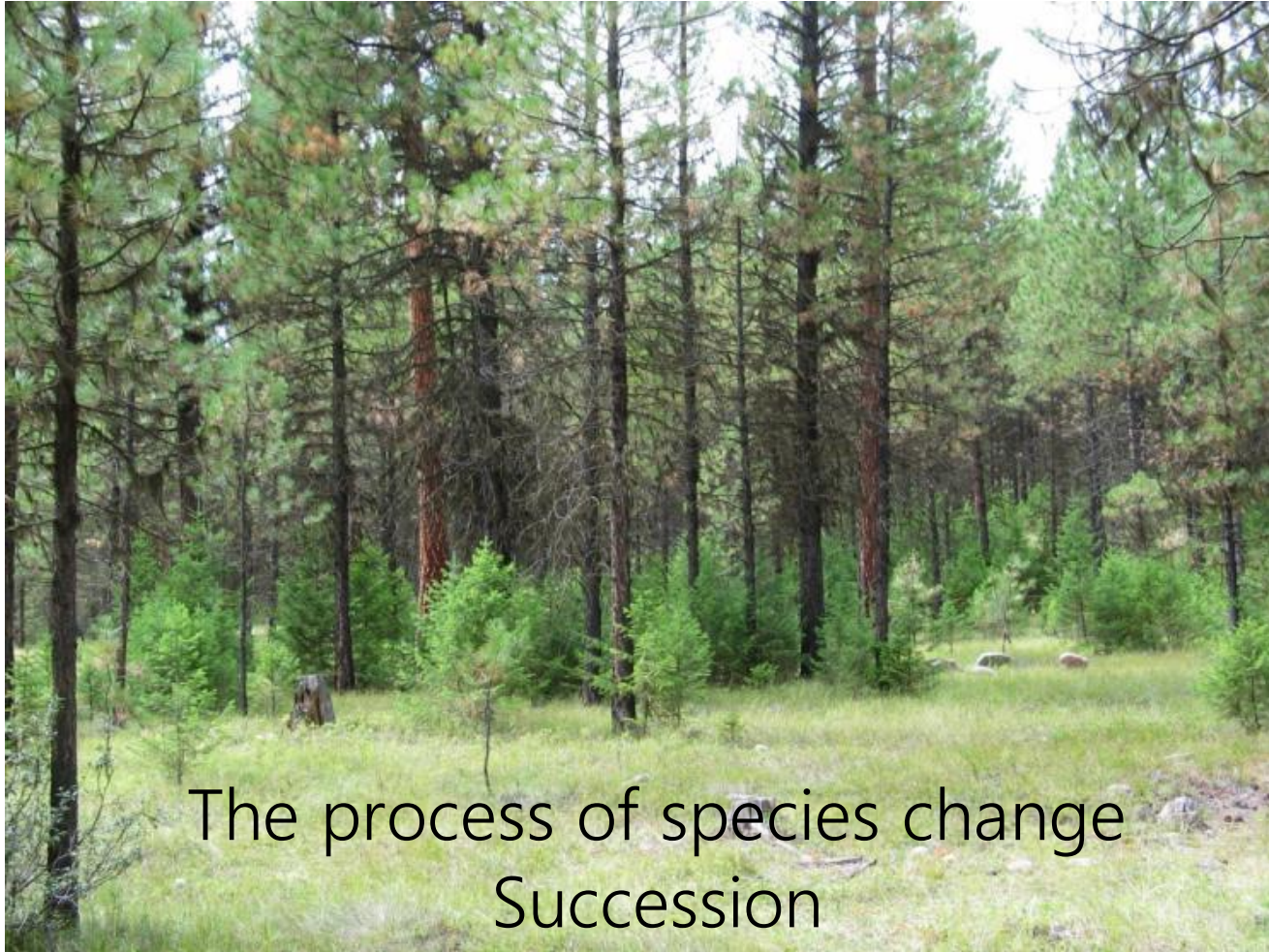
Montana's Forest Regions



2b. Moving to tree stand functions then to tree functions



2c. Small and large scale successional changes are discussed



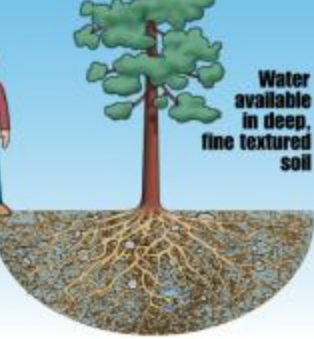
The process of species change
Succession

Twenty Year Old Trees

Water limited in shallow, rocky soil



Water available in deep, fine textured soil



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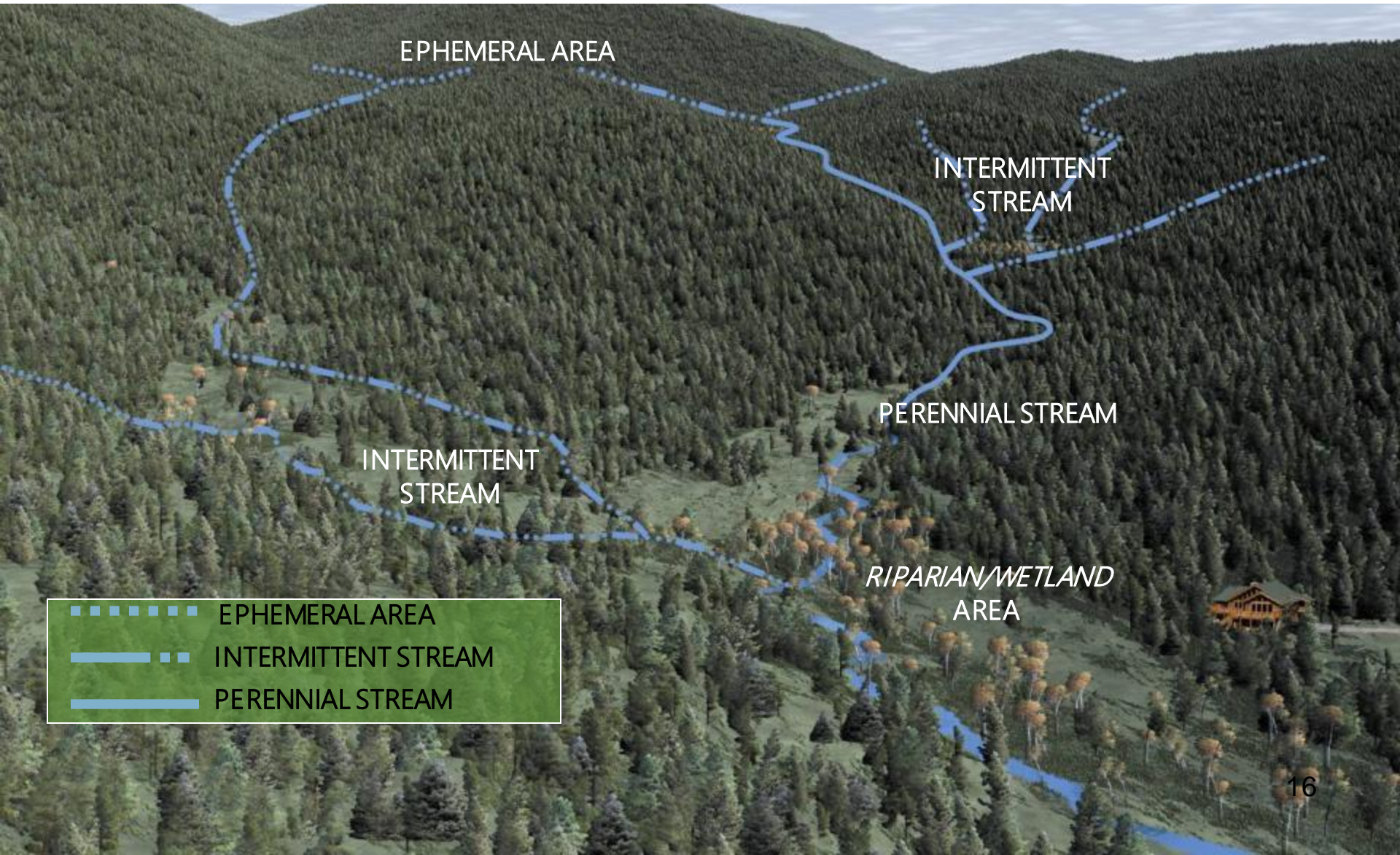
2d. Agents of Change Affecting Forests



Mistletoe broom and mistletoe plant (on tree branch)

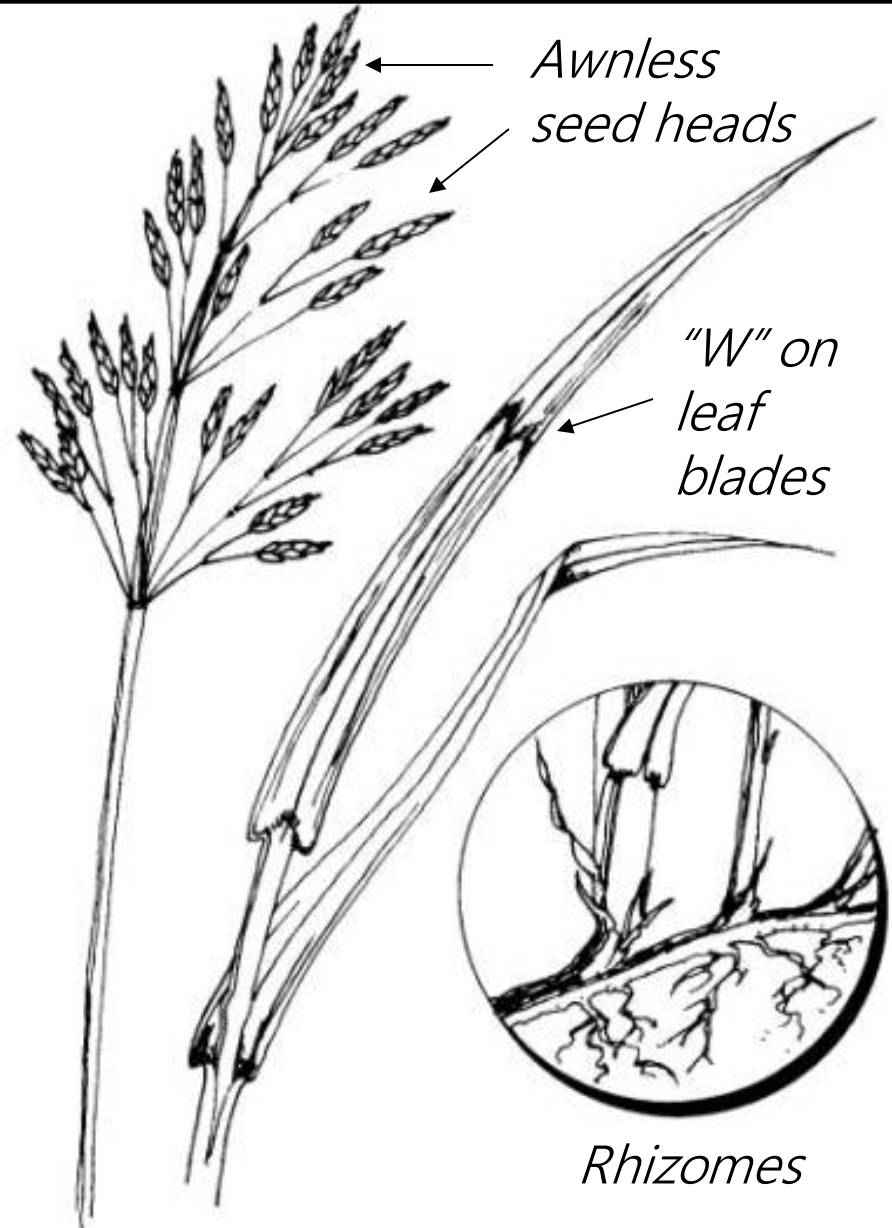


2e. Watersheds (importance and protection)



3. Participants inventory their forest

- Assessment and Identification of Trees and Understory Plants
- Wildlife use and habitat
- Soil
- Fire Rating



4. Step four is to develop a Forest Stewardship management plan that includes:

Wildlife Needs:

- Food
- Water
- Cover
- Space



4a. Management for fire resilience



4b. Developing silvicultural treatments: regenerative, multi-story, intermediate



4c. Planning for management of range and understory vegetation



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4d. Planning how and when work will be completed

Rubber Tire Harvester



4d. Planning how and when work will be completed

Please don't try this!!



5. Verify your plan and get answers to questions specific to your forest during a personal visit with a Forest Stewardship Advisor (a natural resource professional)



“Empowerment of Forest Owners through Personal Involvement”

Forest Stewards Understand...

Actively managed forests provide ...

- Viable, diverse ecosystems
- Sustainable wood supply and income
- Good forest health and vigor, Fire resilience
- Wildlife habitat
- Livestock grazing
- Watershed, stream and wetland protection
- Enhanced beauty of the land
- Decreased landscape fragmentation
- Natural resourced based recreational opportunities

Opportunity to continue learning and planning:

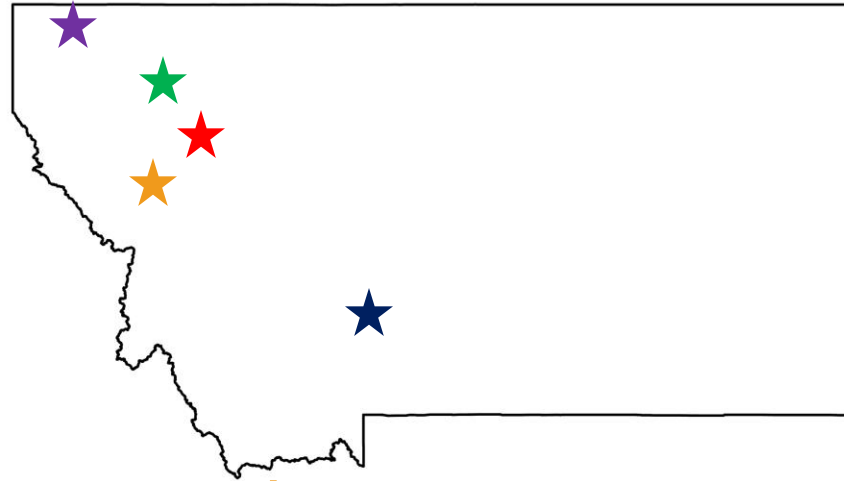
Montana Master Forest Steward Program

1. Forest Stewardship Planning Workshop
2. Continue to learn through advanced and focused workshops (Master Forest Steward and Mini-college)
3. Graduates can be local references for other private landowners

Financial and In-Kind Supporters

- Family Forest Owners
- MSU Extension Forestry
- MT Department of Natural Resources (DNRC)
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- Stoltze Land and Lumber, Columbia Falls
- Idaho Forest Group, St. Regis
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Private Forestry Consultants

2024 Workshops



May 2-3 & 10 in **Frenchtown**

May 23-24 & 31 in **Bozeman**

July 11-12 & 19 in **Kalispell**

July 25-26 & August 2 in **Eureka**

September 5- 6 & 13 in **Condon**

Forest Stewardship of Montana

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