



MONTANA



Montana Forest Resource Fact Sheet March 2004

Investment in Montana's Cooperative Programs:

Program	FY 2003	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2004
	Federal Funding	State Forester Match ³	Federal Estimate	State Forester Estimate ³
Forest Health Management ¹	89,000	87,000	97,500	97,500
Noxious Weed Management ²	834,300	N/A	747,500	N/A
Cooperative Fire Protection - State Assistance	1,005,400	4,439,066	1,067,300	4,200,000
Cooperative Fire Protection - Volunteer Assistance	375,600	375,600	374,800	380,000
Hazard Mitigation ¹	114,000	N/A	2,922,700	N/A
Hazardous Fuels projects adjacent to NFS projects	0	0	625,400	N/A
Forest Legacy ²	4,542,000	N/A	6,325,000	N/A
Forest Land Enhancement Program	318,945	318,945	0	0
Forest Stewardship Program ¹	306,500	305,000	277,000	277,000
Economic Action Programs ¹	807,236	N/A	1,250,000	N/A
Rural Conservation & Development Program	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Natural Resource Conservation Education	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Urban and Community Forestry ¹	247,690	246,000	221,000	221,000
TOTAL	\$8,671,671	5,802,611	13,939,200	5,206,500

¹ Includes dollars to MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation plus dollars delivered to other partners (tribes, communities).

² Delivered to other state agencies/partners, such as MT Fish Wildlife & Parks and MT Dept. of Agriculture.

³ Reported matching funds include only MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation matches.

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Montana, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of Montana's forestlands and rural economies. We emphasize timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies and conservation practices. Our goal is to maintain and improve the health of Montana's urban and rural forests and related economies. These programs:

- ◆ **Reduce costs** through the use of partnerships,
- ◆ **Increase values** through sustained productivity of forests, and
- ◆ Are **voluntary** and **non-regulatory** in their delivery.

Key issues:

Key issues which the State will address in implementation of the 2004 budget include:

- ◆ Increased demand for fuels mitigation assistance as a result of the 2003 wildfire season.
- ◆ Expanded delivery of National Fire Plan assistance programs through partnership with Montana Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&Ds).
- ◆ Monitoring and evaluation of the new Forestland Enhancement Program (FLEP).
- ◆ Increased activity in the Firewise Communities programs.
- ◆ Implementation of the state's Best Management Practices (BMP) Audit program, spring, 2004.
- ◆ Peak year of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.
- ◆ Continued implementation of the Western Governor's 10-Year Strategy, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, and the National Fire Plan.

Forest Facts and 2003 Accomplishments

SELECTED FACTS		SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
Population	909,500	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)	53
Acres of Forest Land	22.5 million	Area Under Stewardship Plans (current year)	16,210
Acres of Non-Industrial Private Forest Land (NIPF)	3.5 million	Area Under Stewardship Plans (all years)	540,036
Number of NIPF Landowners	11-15,000	Rural Acres Planted	10,550
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	1,670,431	Technical Assists to Private Landowners	584
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	50,554,670	Rural Fire Departments Assisted	400
Number Rural Fire Departments	379	Rural Fire Department Volunteers Trained	2,203
Number of Cities and Towns	233	State & Private Acres Surveyed/Monitored for Forest Health	7,087,322
Forest Based Employment	11,100	Forest Legacy Acres Protected	142,015
Forest Based Earnings	\$340 million	Urban Forestry – Participating Communities	132
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3 rd	Urban Forestry – Volunteer Days Generated	2,900
Montana Division of Forestry Budget	\$11 million	Economic Action Grants to Rural Areas	32

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation promotes the stewardship of Montana's water, soil, forest and rangeland resources; regulates forest practices and oil and gas exploration and production; and provides or ensures the provision of reliable, affordable electrical energy to Montana consumers. The Forestry Division of DNRC, headquartered in Missoula, plans and implements forestry programs through a network of field offices located across the state.

The forestry program has two major functions: fire and aviation management, and service forestry. Through the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, the Forestry Division and the State Forester lead the implementation of federally funded cooperative forestry and fire programs.

Program Highlights:

Urban and Community Forestry

For the third year, the Montana Urban and Community Forestry Program offered an Arbor Day Grants Program. 62 Communities received grants totaling \$12,300 to plant trees in commemoration of Arbor Day. This participation represents a 30% increase from last year. Also this year, eight new communities joined the ranks as Tree City USA, bringing the statewide total to 36. The Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association is preparing for a revision of the program's 5-Year strategic plan.

Fire and Aviation Management

DNRC's Fire & Aviation Management Bureau programs include State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, Aviation, Federal Excess Property, and Prevention/Training. In the 2003 wildfire season 579 fires burned 197,514 acres. DNRC provided direct suppression and county cooperative assistance on these incidents.

Through its Equipment Development Program, DNRC obtains federal excess property and develops it into fire suppression equipment and vehicles. 89 individual development projects were completed this year, including 13 new wildland fire engines.

Forestry Assistance

In FY2003, DNRC provided 1,295 forestry assists, including 87 timber sale assists. DNRC Service Foresters provided 1,550 person days of education on a variety of topics at events including fairs, school outreach, workshops, and the 2003 Forestry Expo.

National Fire Plan

Fuels reduction projects in several subdivisions were completed this year, and the response from the public for continued assistance has been high. Projects completed or near completion include:

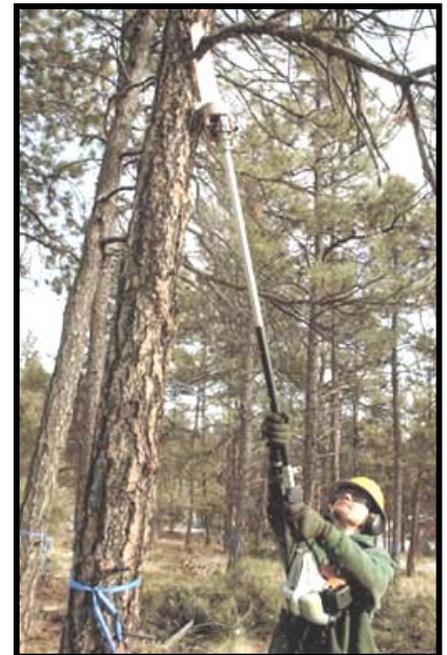
COUNTY	PROJECT	ACRES TREATED	COST/ACRE
LAKE	JETTE LAKE	108.1	\$687.47
FLATHEAD	BIG MOUNTAIN	105.05	\$1401.00
LINCOLN	EMKAYAN	45.0	\$834.00



Fuels Reduction in the Rattlesnake Subdivision near Missoula Montana. Work is performed by Missoula Rural Fire District Firefighters. Participating homeowners must enter into a cost-sharing agreement and take responsibility for disposal of slash via burning, chipping or hauling.

Through the Western States Fire Managers' Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program, Montana has received funding for fuel mitigation, homeowner action, and prevention education activities. For FFY04, close to three million dollars in projects have been approved:

YEAR	FUNDING
2001	\$587,000
2002	\$1.1 Million
2003	\$89,000
2004	\$2.9 Million



For more information contact:



Robert A. Harrington
Montana DNRC
Missoula, Montana 59804
Telephone (406) 542-4300
Fax (406) 542-4217
Email rharrington@state.mt.us

William W. Boettcher
USDA Forest Service
Missoula, Montana 59807
Telephone (406) 329-3280
Fax (406) 329-3132
Email wboettcher@fs.fed.us

