

State of Montana  
REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

Montana Department of Natural Resources and  
Conservation

FORESTS IN FOCUS - 2016  
GRANT PROGRAM (FIF16)

**SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The STATE OF MONTANA, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, (DNRC) is soliciting proposals for grants totaling two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for forest restoration and fuel reduction projects on non-industrial private, state, and/or tribal lands in Montana. These funds are provided as a component of Governor Steve Bullock's "Forests in Focus Initiative," with authority provided in Sec. 76-13-150 (4) & (9) MCA.

FIF16 will have one grant funding cycle, and proposals will be accepted from November 6, 2015 until January 7, 2016. Proposals must be received by 5:00 PM Thursday, January 7, 2016 at the DNRC Forestry Division Headquarters, 2705 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804 to be eligible.

**SECTION 2.0 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**2.1 PROGRAM SCOPE.** Funding is available statewide, and will be prioritized toward projects that efficiently complete forest restoration and/or hazardous fuel reduction, while producing commercial forest products.

Maximum individual grant award is five hundred thousand dollars, (\$500,000.00). Applicants may submit multiple project proposals, but only one grant will be awarded to any individual or corporation. Grants may be awarded in amounts less than the amount applied for.

**2.2 CONTACT INFORMATION.** The primary contact for this program is:

Roger Ziesak  
DNRC Forestry Division, Forestry Assistance Bureau  
2705 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804  
Telephone Number: 406-542-4338, Cell 406-239-9881  
Fax Number: 406-542-4217  
E-mail Address: rziesak@mt.gov

Questions regarding the process outlined in this RFGP should be directed to Roger Ziesak, or to Service Foresters located at DNRC field offices.

Proposals involving state trust lands must be developed with prior approval of and in coordination with, DNRC trust land staff. DNRC staff is not obligated to assist in the preparation of any grant proposal.

**2.3 PUBLIC OUTREACH.** Three public meetings are scheduled to clarify program requirements and answer questions about this solicitation and the FIF16 program.

**DNRC Central Land Office, Helena on Nov 17, 2015**  
**DNRC Southwestern Land Office, Missoula on Nov 18, 2015**  
**DNRC Northwestern Land Office, Kalispell on Nov 19, 2015**

Meetings will run from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Conference phone lines available upon request.

**2.4 PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

<b>Due Date &amp; Time:</b>	<b>JANUARY 7, 2016 (received by 5:00 pm)</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Delivery and Mailing Address:</b>  <b>MT Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation</b> <b>ATTN: Roger Ziesak</b> <b>2705 Spurgin Rd</b> <b>Missoula, MT 59804-3199</b>
<b>Comments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One <u>complete</u> copy of each proposal is required.</b></li> <li>• <b>Incomplete proposals or those received after the deadline will be disqualified.</b></li> <li>• <b>Paper, faxed, or electronic proposals are acceptable.</b></li> <li>• <b>It is the applicant’s responsibility to confirm receipt by DNRC of the complete proposal by the deadline.</b></li> </ul>

**2.5 GRANT AGREEMENT DURATION.** Grants awarded under this program will expire on **December 31, 2017**. Extensions will be granted at DNRC’s sole discretion. If approved, a single twelve-month extension will be granted.

**SECTION 3.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS**

**3.1 PROPOSAL.** Each proposal must include the following information:

- a) **Itemized Grant Request:**
  - 1) Total grant amount requested.
  - 2) Names of payment unit(s). Maximum number of six payment units.
  - 3) Individual acres and grant amounts for each payment unit.
  
- b) **Maps-** provide maps that clearly show proposed harvest units, land ownership, property boundaries, existing roads, new road construction or reconstruction, important streams, and types of treatments.
  
- c) **Description of proposed treatments** – Proposal should describe in full detail the overall treatment plan, including: what the forest stand currently looks like, type of stand treatment, harvest prescription, harvest system, desired leave tree species, leave tree spacing (for both merchantable and sub-merchantable trees), and forest fuels treatment(s) such as understory treatments. Photos may be used as part of this description.

- d) **Post-treatment conditions** - A clear, concise description of what the forest stands look like after treatment is completed (for example: tree spacing for overstory and understory, etc.). This description will be the basis for final inspection before payment is approved.
- e) **List** volumes of each type of forest product that will be produced.
- f) **Relevance** to forest management plan for the property.
- g) **Operating Schedule**- Show the approximate start and stop dates for the operation showing completion of all activities including slash treatment by December 31, 2017.
- h) **Property Description** – name and address of landowners involved in the project, written proof of landowner cooperation, and legal description of lands to be treated.
- i) **Cost Information** - Proposals must include the following information for each payment unit. All costs must be listed on a per acre basis.
  - 1) Preparation Costs - includes administrative and lay-out cost.
  - 2) Commercial Treatment Cost –logging and mob/demob costs.
  - 3) Non-commercial Treatment Cost – includes mob/demob costs and slash treatment.
  - 4) Transportation Costs – haul costs to each specific mill or delivery point.
  - 5) Total number of jobs this proposal will create or sustain.
- j) **Partnerships** – Identify all sub-contractors, landowners, and partners who will participate in the project, and their responsibilities. Project logger/operator must provide information on any relevant qualifications, certifications, and skills for the on-the-ground project lead.
- k) **References** - Proposal must include at least two complete references where the applicant or the lead contractor completed forest management projects similar to those listed in the proposal. Company profiles are also acceptable.
- l) **Cost Share Contribution** – While not required, in-kind or cash contributions are strongly encouraged.

### **3.2 QUALIFIED TREATMENTS.**

- a) Forest restoration and fuel reduction through commercial timber harvest;
- b) Improvement of soil and water quality or wildlife habitat.
- c) Utilization of all types of commercial forest products, including: sawlogs, pulp logs, chips, posts & poles, firewood, shavings, landscape mulch, and/or hogfuel.
- d) New road construction, re-construction, or road obliteration is allowed when required for successful project implementation, provided it does not exceed 10% of the total project cost.
- e) Stream restoration, fisheries enhancement, prescribed burning, and/or noxious weed treatment is allowed provided it does not exceed 10% of the total project cost.

## **SECTION 4.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**4.1 GENERAL.** Proposals should treat forested lands that have not been treated in the last ten years, unless those forests are currently affected by insects, fire, or other damaging agents.

- a) Partnerships must be well established as part of the initial application process to ensure work starts as soon as practical.

- b) Projects granted to state and tribal entities are permitted to bid out the designated project after award.
- c) Project must be feasible and utilize the most efficient and cost effective methods for harvesting timber on a given landscape.
- d) Projects utilizing operators who are experienced and accredited through professional organizations such as the Montana Logging Association will receive preference during project scoring.
- e) Contractors/Operators must be registered to do business in MT.

**4.2 OWNERSHIP OF REMOVED MATERIAL.** All wood products removed from private lands are property of the applicant and/or landowner. DNRC will neither acquire nor retain an interest in any private forest products generated.

**4.3 STATE TRUST LANDS REQUIREMENTS.** On State trust lands, a timber sale/permit contract must be in place prior to the start of operations.

**4.4 ADDITIONAL TREATMENT SPECIFICATIONS.**

- a) **Slash Treatment** – The Applicant will treat all slash generated by the project in accordance with the State slash hazard (HRA) law.
- b) **Protection of Resources** - All treatments must conform to the Montana Best Management Practices for Timber Harvest and the Streamside Management Zone Law and Rules.

**4.5 APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES.** Applicants must secure provision of all equipment, manpower, materials, permits, and permissions required to accomplish the work as described in the proposal.

A final report must be submitted prior to final acceptance of the grant agreement. It must include:

- a) Volumes of wood products delivered.
- b) Revised map showing work completed.
- c) Pictures of the project (if any).
- d) Management objectives accomplished.
- e) Significant issues, such as changes that needed to be made.
- f) Number of direct jobs the project provided/sustained.

**4.6 DNRC RESPONSIBILITIES.** DNRC will act as Project Administrator, with the following responsibilities:

- a) Provide clarification of grant agreement requirements during project implementation;
- b) Conduct inspection of completed treatment areas and payment units;
- c) Process all payments to the applicant upon approval of payment units;
- d) Written approval and final acceptance of project.

## **SECTION 5.0 PAYMENTS**

**5.1 PAYMENT SCHEDULE.** Payments will be made following inspection of each payment unit and approval of treatments by a DNRC representative. Total number of payments associated with each award is limited to six (6).

**5.2 PERFORMANCE BOND.** DNRC will withhold seven and one half percent (7.5%) of each payment as a performance bond, not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00). This performance bond will be retained by DNRC until the project is one-hundred percent (100%) completed and approved.