

MONTANA FORESTS IN FOCUS

A Forest Restoration Strategy for Montana

Montana's forest industry is integral to forest management, watershed restoration, wildfire risk reduction and the overall health of our forests. To ensure a stable, integrated mill infrastructure in Montana, we must promote active management of forests and a sustainable timber supply. At the same time, we must explore new technologies and markets for a variety of wood products.

Meeting the challenges facing Montana's forests will require the best science, monitoring, and sharing of available resources. Strong partnerships with a coalition of stakeholders will bring the brightest future for our forests.



In addition to state trust forested lands which are managed for timber revenues, there are millions of acres of non-federal forested lands belonging to and/or managed by other entities. Working with a variety of partners, we must promote stewardship of these lands to meet a variety of objectives.

Where appropriate, management activities should be coordinated with adjacent owners to achieve landscape-scale benefits.

There is a forest health crisis throughout the interior West, and Montana is no exception. While the intensity of the mountain pine beetle outbreak is waning, the after effects will have long-standing implications. With much of Montana's forests in federal ownership, it's incumbent upon elected officials, state, federal and tribal foresters, and Montanans to support land management activities aimed at restoring forests and watersheds, reducing fire risk, improving habitat and water quality, and the other amenities we rely upon our forests to deliver.