

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Forestry Division



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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2705 SPURGIN ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59804

Christine Dawe
Director, Renewable Resource Management
Northern Region
USDA Forest Service
Missoula, MT 59807

Dear Ms. Dawe,

Governor Bullock's Forest in Focus Initiative is a multi-dimensional strategy to accelerate the pace and scale of forest restoration in the state of Montana. A key focus of this initiative is working in partnership with the United States Forest Service in support of projects that meet the broader goals of this initiative, including: improving forest health, addressing impacts from climate change, and working within a collaborative framework to best manage our forests for a variety of objectives.

Under authority granted by the state Legislature, Governor Bullock has made up to one million dollars available from the state fire suppression account to engage directly in Forest Service projects which meet some or all of the following criteria:

- Are designated Priority Landscapes under the 2014 Farm Bill
- Are developed collaboratively with interested stakeholders;
- Provide restoration of vegetation, watersheds and wildlife habitat;
- Produce commercial timber volume;
- Enhance recreational opportunities; and
- Are financially viable.

Please provide proposals for USFS projects in the State of Montana that best meet the intent of this Initiative, and whose pace and outcomes would benefit from state investments. Project proposals should be no more than 3-5 pages and include the following information.

1. Project Name and Location. Include Forest, District and County.
2. Project Budget. Amount of state funding requested and how those funds will be used. Allowable activities may include: timber sale preparation and layout; wildlife, soil and botany surveys; carrying out Best Management Practices (BMP) on forest roads; or increasing collaborative effectiveness through facilitation or technical assistance.
3. Project Outcomes. Describe the anticipated results of the project in the following areas:
 - a. Restoration objectives
 - b. Wood fiber output
 - c. Recreation outcomes
 - d. Collaborative or community support for the project
4. Project Timeframe. When the funding will be expended and outcomes complete.

5. Project Map. Please also include a website link to project NEPA documents, if available.

Please submit all project proposals to Maureen Bookwalter as soon as possible. The DNRC will then select projects based on how closely they meet the objectives of the Governor's Forest in Focus Initiative. Should funding remain after initial project selection or additional funding become available, we will consider additional project proposals at that time. Upon review and acceptance of projects, the DNRC will proceed with processing grant award documents. Funds will become available once the grant document is signed. If you have specific questions about this grant program, activities to be accomplished or this process, please contact Maureen Bookwalter, she can be reached at (406) 214-2145, or email Mbookwalter@mt.gov.

We look forward to working with the USFS to advance forest restoration in Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Harrington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Harrington
Montana State Forester
DNRC Forestry Division