Montana Big Tree Program - Nomination Form

TREE

Common name:

Scientific name:

Date measured:

Condition of tree: Excellent Good Fair Poor

Required Photo included? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date Photo Taken:

Permission to Use Photo in Publications and/or on Website? ☐ Yes ☐ No

MEASUREMENTS (see instructions)

(A) Circumference at **4.5 ft.** (in inches):

(B) Total height (in feet):

(C) Average crown spread (to nearest foot):

OWNER

☐ Private, Owner's name:

Address:

☐ Public, Agency:

National Forest/BLM Office:

Ranger District/Admin. Unit:

NOMINATION

Nominated by:

Address:

Verified by:

Address:

POINTS

Circumference (inches) + Height (feet) + ¼ Average Crown Spread (feet)= Total Points

from above: A+B+(.25xC)= Total Points

Calculated TOTAL POINTS:

LOCATION

Setting: ☐ Wildland ☐ Urban

County:

Township, Range, Section:

GPS coordinates, if available (see instructions):

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: (on condition, setting, history, or other)

DIRECTIONS & MAP

Give directions to the tree and, attach a photo-copy of a USGS Topo map with location marked. If a topo map is not available, sketch a map below showing the location of tree, road names, and prominent features (e.g., streams, trails, houses).

Mail this nomination form to: Montana Big Tree Program, c/o Dan Rogers, MT DNRC Forestry Assistance Bureau, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804

HOW TO MEASURE A TREE FOR NOMINATION

(updated based on rules listed in The National Register of Big Trees 2000, page 3)

DEFINITION OF A TREE

A tree is defined as a woody plant having one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 9½ inches in circumference (3 inches in diameter) at 4½ feet above the ground (breast height), a definitely formed crown of foliage, and a height of at least 13 feet. In contrast, shrubs are small woody plants, usually with several perennial stems branching at the base.

Trees included in the National Register of Big Trees include native or naturalized trees in the United States, including Alaska but not Hawaii. Hybrids and minor varieties are excluded from the National Register, although one is listed on the Montana Register. There are 826 eligible species and varieties: 747 native and 79 naturalized. To determine eligibility, American Forests uses Elbert L. Little Jr.'s Checklist of United States Trees (Native and Naturalized), published in 1979 as U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Handbook 541.

* Native tree species (also called indigenous) are wild and grew naturally or spontaneously in the undisturbed forest vegetation before the arrival of Columbus or other Europeans.

* Introduced tree species have been brought into the United States. A naturalized tree is an introduced species that has become common and established itself as though wild, reproducing naturally and spreading. Species accepted as naturalized are designated in the Register by the symbol (∆).

MEASURING CIRCUMFERENCE

Measure circumference of the tree in inches at 4½ feet above the ground. If there is a fork at this point (at 4½ feet), measure the smallest circumference below the fork. If the tree branches below 4½ feet, measure the largest single stem at 4½ feet above the ground.

MEASURING TREE HEIGHT

The height of the tree, measured to the nearest foot, is the vertical distance between two level parallel lines when one passes through the center of the base of the tree and another through the top-most point of the tree. If the tree leans, this top-most point may not be directly over the base of the tree. For this reason, you must stand out from the tree far enough so the top-most point can be seen from at least two directions. Tree heights can be measured with instruments such as a clinometer, Abney hand level, hypsometer, survey laser, or a transit. If you have trouble with this measurement, ask a local forester or surveyor for help.

MEASURING THE CROWN SPREAD

Determine the widest and narrowest spread of the crown that line up through the trunk of the tree. At the widest point, hold the top of a plumb bob higher than your head and sight upward along the string at the crown edge overhead. Move toward or away from the tree trunk until you are directly under the edge of the crown. Mark this point on the ground with a stake. Next, mark another point on the opposite side of the crown. Measure the horizontal distance between the stakes. Now similarly measure the smallest diameter of the crown passing through the center of the trunk. If available, you can also use a survey laser for this measurement. Add the two measurements together, and divide the sum by two. Round this figure to the nearest foot to obtain the average crown spread to report.

GPS COORDINATES

If providing GPS coordinates, you must also include information on the projection, datum, spheroid, zone, and units as appropriate.