

2023 Forest Stewardship Workshop Evaluation Summary



Workshop Coordinator Evaluation

Five workshops were facilitated in 2023: Frenchtown, Bozeman, Kalispell, Trout Creek, and Corvallis. A Forest Stewardship Workshop for Loggers was offered at the MLA in Kalispell April 18-20 (12 attended).

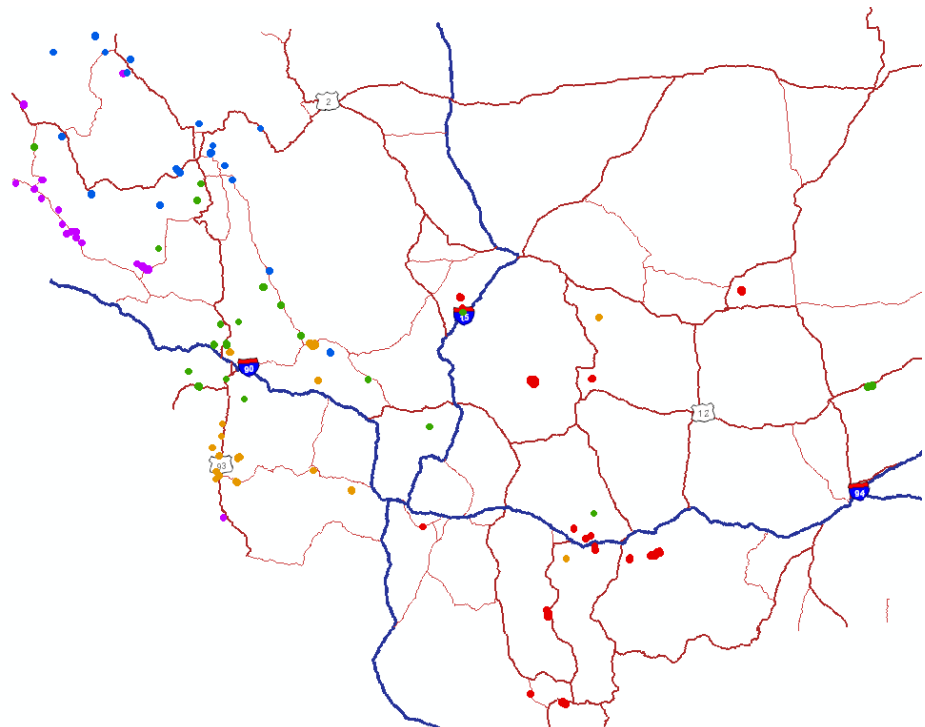
To advertise, workshop brochures were sent to all forest owners with 10 acres or more. Announcements were sent to Forest Stewardship Advisors, DRNC Service Foresters, MSU Extension, and Industry Foresters.

Those who completed the survey of 2023 workshop interest as well as people on the waitlist and those who had to drop from a workshop in 2022 were notified for early registration one week prior to the brochure mailing. The Frenchtown, Bozeman, and Kalispell workshops were all half or more filled within a couple weeks of notification. Those workshops were full at 20 ownerships within a month of advertising. As people dropped from locations in advance, positions were filled from a waitlist as far as possible. The waitlists had the following: Frenchtown 9, Bozeman 39, Kalispell 24, and Trout Creek 5, and Corvallis 1. There were also a few call ins who were added to workshops the last week prior to workshops if space was available.

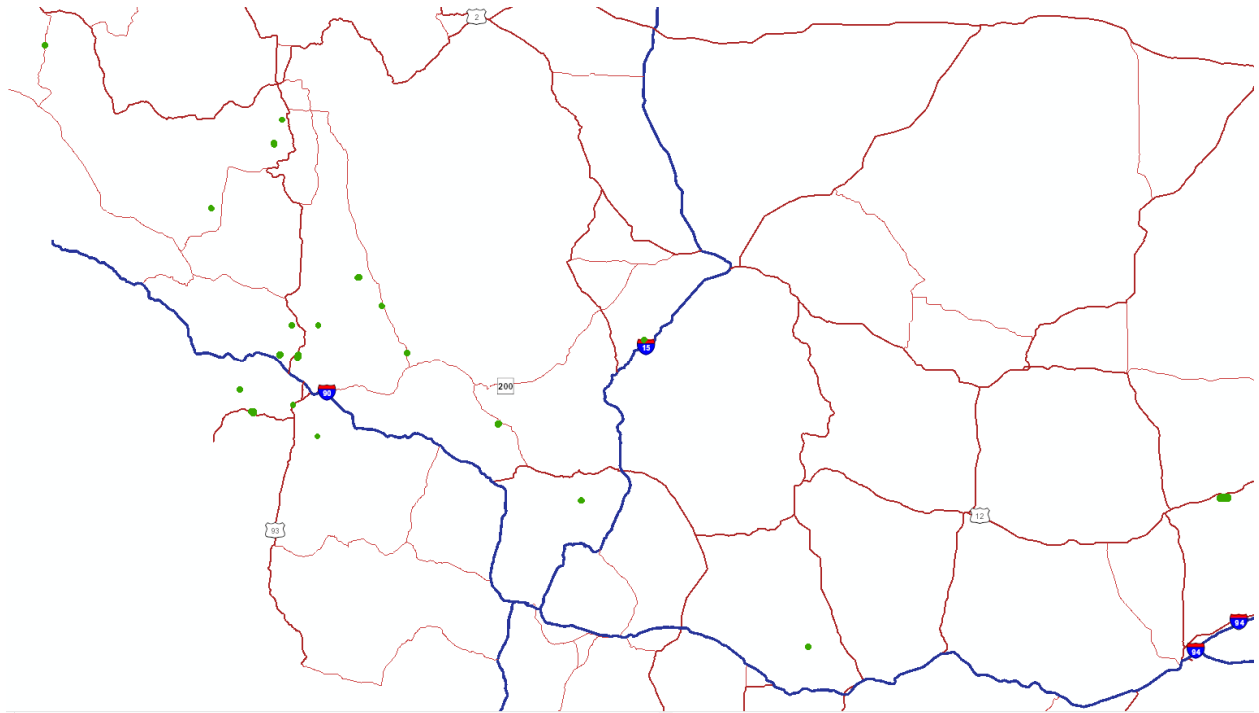
Forest Stewardship Workshops

Because of overlap of properties in close proximity, following are participant property locations for each WS

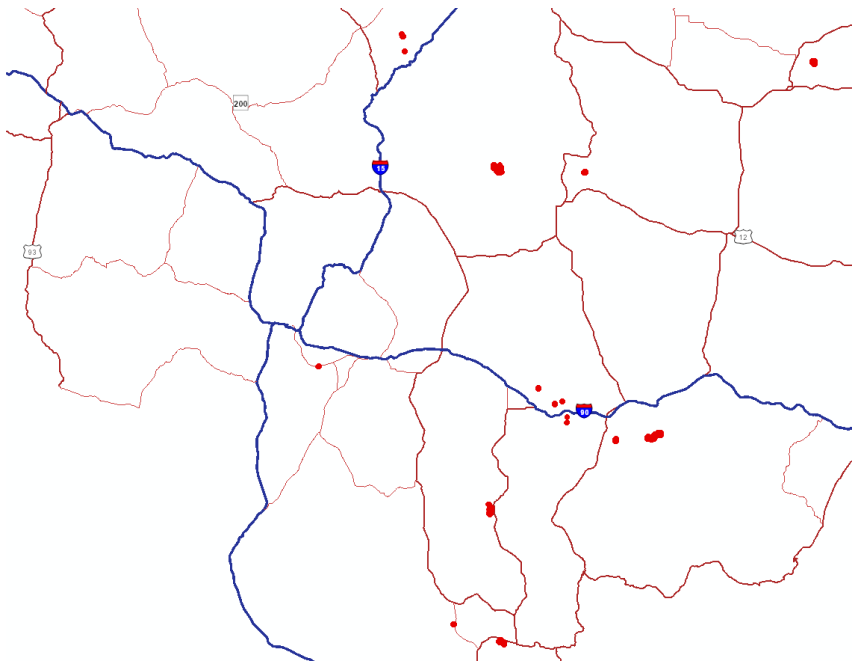
- Frenchtown-**Green**
- Bozeman-**Red**
- Kalispell-**Blue**
- Trout Creek-**Purple**
- Corvallis-**Orange**



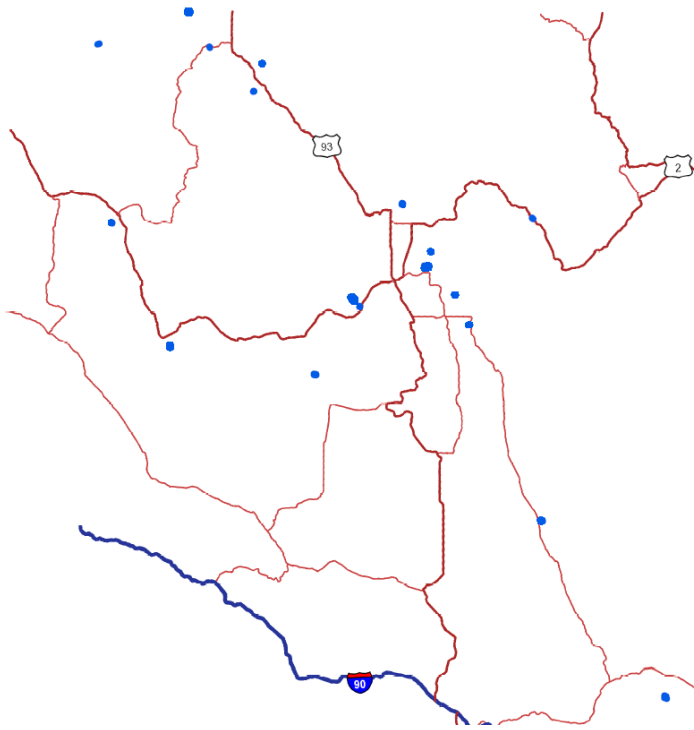
Frenchtown



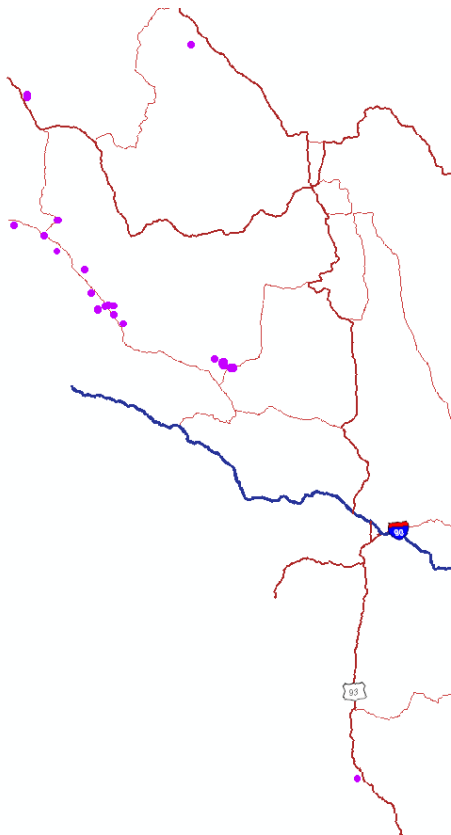
Bozeman



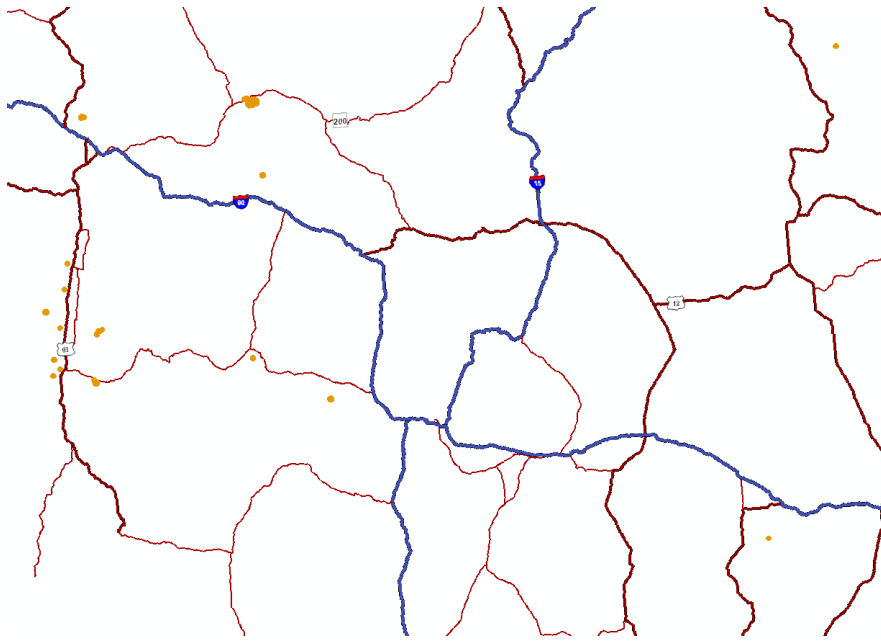
Kalispell



Trout Creek



Corvallis



Frenchtown, May 4-5 & 12

Twenty ownerships, 32 individuals, attended the workshop.

The workshop was held at the Frenchtown Fire Station. The classroom has plenty of room to accommodate the spacing of participant groups. Advisors included advisors, Cindy Peterson, Patrick Mangan (MSU) Bill Burdick (DNRC) first two days only, Jason Glenn (NRCS), and Angela Wells (National Tree Farm).

The field site was located up Roman Creek Road on USFS Echo Valley Disc Golf Course, about 10 miles from the classroom. There was sufficient room for parking, brought a pop-up outhouse and portable loo. The forest is mixed conifer with varied understory species. Understory comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs.

Sixteen of the site visits are completed with fifteen plans submitted to date.

Bozeman, June 8-9 & 16

Nineteen ownerships, 39 individuals, attended.

The workshop was held at the Summit Church in Bozeman. The facility cost was \$450. The facility is easy to access and of space and tables for participants and displays.

Advisors included advisors, Cindy Peterson, Jason Badger (MSU Extension Wildlife Specialist) last day only, and Matt Ricketts (Private Consultant), and Sam Gilbert (Private Consultant). Kris Pickering, DNRC Service Forester from Billings was in-training. She could only attend the first day.

All presented clearly and were able to stay on time, work well with the participants, and answer questions and were intuitive to expand on questions and local issues of importance to the group. It was a little difficult the second day as I couldn't find another advisor to help out for the day.

The field site was located at a past participant, Franklin Coles, forest on Jackson Creek Road. There is sufficient parking. The area has a multi-story conifer stand with mostly DF. The Understory comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs. There were three demonstration plots. Franklin gave a ride to a couple people who had mobility issues in his razor to the plot site. The site is managed over many years with an objective for recreation. Franklin allows the use of his trail for bicycle and cross-country running events and training. Sixteen visits were completed, and fifteen plans have been submitted to date.

Kalispell, July 13-14 & 21

Eighteen ownerships, 25 individuals, attended.

The workshop was held at the Fairgrounds Grandstand Building. This is a good location as it remains cool during the hot days. There are plenty of tables and chairs. Plastic and metal chairs were available, we used the plastic. A few participants opted to bring cushions to sit on. The facility cost was \$450. The facility is easy to access and has plenty of space for accommodating participants and display tables. We did need to bring water to drink and for hot drinks.

Advisors included advisors, Cindy Peterson, Rick Moore (DNRC), Holly McKenzie (DNRC), Matt Bishop (Stoltze), and Jack White (DNRC). All were excellent and stayed on time with presentations.

The field site was located at Lone Pine State Park, about six miles from the classroom. There is plenty of parking. The area has a multi-story mixed conifer stand with mostly WL, PP, and DF with little in the way of seedlings and saplings. The understory comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs. There were four demonstration plots. The site has been managed over many years. There is an abundance of weed species. We set up an easy access plot for those who needed that.

Sixteen visits were completed, and fifteen plans have been submitted to date.

Trout Creek, August 3-4 & 11

Seventeen ownerships, 27 individuals, attended the Trout Creek workshop. There were a few on the wait list with those who could attend added as openings arose. All ended up having the opportunity to register, but could not.

The workshop was held at Lakeside Motel, the room is sufficient with plenty of tables and chairs.

Advisors included Cindy Peterson, Don Feist (private consultant), Glenda Scott (private consultant, retired USFS silviculturist), Nate Cole (DNRC).

The field site was at Historic Trout Creek Ranger Station. T24N R32W Sec6. This is about four miles from the Lakeside Motel. Julie Thurston, MSU Extension Agent, helped with coordinating the field site. The trees were mixed conifer. The understory included various shrubs, forb, and grass types. It is located about 4 miles from the classroom facility.

Fifteen of the visits are completed with thirteen plans submitted to date.

Corvallis, September 7-8 & 15

The workshop was full and included a good number from the local area and also several from all over the state. Eighteen ownerships, 28 individuals, attended the Corvallis workshop. There participants and those registered were a good bunch from the east side with many from all over the state. Those from the west side mostly registered for this workshop because all the other workshops were filled. Though there were initially 14 ownerships registered, many dropped as they moved into other workshops, a few had other things come up and just couldn't make it.

The workshop was held at the Corvallis Grange. No charge for the facility. The facility is easy to access and has plenty of space for the group.

Advisors included Cindy Peterson, Thayer Jacques (DNRC), Kimberly Richardson (MSU), Benjamin Crystal (NRCS), Jason Glenn (NRCS).

The field site was located at Mill Creek Trailhead about 6 miles from the classroom. There is sufficient parking and an outhouse. The area has a multi-story mixed conifer stand with WL, PP, LPP, DF, GF. The Understory includes several native grasses, shrubs, and forbs.

Fifteen of the visits are completed with 9 plans submitted to date.

Participant Evaluation Summary

1. 153 participants attended, representing 92 ownerships. 72 responded to survey
2. How did you find out about the Stewardship Workshop? (no response-5)
 - Mail: **38- 58%** (last year 40%)
 - MSU-EF email or website, includes waitlist/dropped list: **9-14%** (last year 24%)
 - Family/Neighbor/Friend: **14 – 21%** (last year 23%)
 - Professional: **4-9%** (last year 4%)

3. Acres of *forest land* owned/managed. (*from evaluation*)

Minimum: **7** Maximum: **1,500** Total: **7,204** (no response-1)

- 24** 7-20 acres
- 22** 21-44
- 8** 100-207
- 5** 250-320
- 2** 650-921
- 1** 1500

Demographics

<40	40-60	>60
7	26	39

4. Years Owned Property (no response-1)
 - <5 years **26** (last year 31)
 - 5-9 years **18** (last year 10)
 - 10-19 **9** (last year 7)
 - 20-30 years **8** (last year 14)
 - 34-75 years **8** (last year 7)
5. Purchased the property: No-3; Yes-**64** (last year 61)
6. Reside on property: No-22; Yes-**47** (last year 49)
7. **12** Ownerships plan commercial harvests on **227 total** acres (last year 788)
8. **5-** (last year 51) Ownerships plan intermediate forest treatment on **1,649 total** acres (last year 955).
 - Intermediate treatments planned:
 - precommercial thinning: **38 owners** (last year 46)
 - planting: **20 owners** (last year 30)
 - pruning: **35 owners** (last year 35)
9. Number of acres participants plan to implement management practices that conserve or improve the following:
 - a. Wildlife Habitat **60 owners – 5,114 acers**

- b. Water Quality **30 owners – 2,637 acres**
- c. Forest Health **66 owners 5,491 acres**
- d. Wildfire hazard reduction/resilience **65 owners – 3,658 acres**

10. **100%** - workshop was good 5.5% or excellent 95%
100% agreed/strongly agreed the advisors were prepared and knowledgeable
100% agreed/strongly agreed they would recommend the workshop to others.

12. Topics of stewardship training of interest to participants:

Number marked yes

- 34** Timber management/Silviculture
- 36** Tree selection, Harvesting Options, and Slash Treatments
- 14** Marketing Forest products from your forest land
- 45** Forest Understory Plant/Range Identification & Management
- 42** Slash Pile Burning Practicum
- 45** Forest Debris Management - Wildfire Hazard Mitigation
- 44** Forest Wildlife Habitat Identification and Management
- 21** Forest Roads Assessment and design
- 54** Forest Insect and Disease Identification and Management
- 27** Forest Riparian Area Assessment
- 52** Forest Noxious Weed Management
- 21** Forest Financial Planning
- 23** Forest Soils Evaluation and Protection

Before Workshop														
1=Strongly agree 2=Agree 3=neutral 4=disagree 5=strongly disagree														
	b1	b2	b3	b4	b5	b6	b7	b8	b9	b10	b11	b12	b13	b14
Mean	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.6	4.1	3.6	3.5	3.8	2.7	3.7	2.7	3.8	3.3	3.1
Std Dev	1.05	1.18	1.01	1.17	1.01	1.07	1.01	1.12	1.18	1.39	0.99	1.08	1.16	1.15
Std Error	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.16	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.14
	1. I understand how my forest functions and changes over time.	2. I understand the structures and species in my forest.	3. I have the knowledge necessary to make informed management decisions for my forest.	4. I feel confident in making management decisions for my forest.	5. I have knowledge to write a management plan for my forest.	6. I know of resources to find additional information about forest management.	7. I feel confident talking to other forest owners about the management of my forest and theirs.	8. I plan to sell timber for forest products from my forest.	9. I plan to use timber from my forest for my own projects and purposes.	10. I plan to graze livestock on my forest.	11. I plan to implement specific management for wildlife use.	12. I plan to create alternative income (not mentioned above) from my forest.	13. I plan to apply for cost share funds to thin my forest.	14. I plan to apply for cost share funds to reduce fire hazard on my forest.
After Workshop														
1=Strongly agree 2=Agree 3=neutral 4=disagree 5=strongly disagree														
	a1	a2	a3	a4	a5	a6	a7	a8	a9	a10	a11	a12	a13	a14
Mean	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.7	3.3	2.3	3.4	2.0	3.5	2.4	2.2
Std Dev	0.53	0.53	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.60	0.75	1.17	1.16	1.45	1.08	1.13	1.16	1.20
Std Error	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.14	0.14	0.17	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14

Comments

Frenchtown

<p>I only have PP with no stream or ponds. I'm located on the paired so a lot of info. didn't apply to me. Suggest a forestry class for eastern Montana forests. I learned so much from some really great people looking forward to meeting Kris in Billings and furthering any forest education and seeing the results.</p>
<p>Overall terrific with dedicated resources. Professional, and super helpful, a little more time in the field would be good. Maybe a full day would be useful so that everyone knows how to properly gather the info for a PLOT.</p>
<p>Rather than PowerPoint presentation on what we can read ourselves in our handouts, we would like more anecdotal information from all of you that have so much experience and information that you could share with us.</p>
<p>Please investigate climate engineering. It is the largest single factor in our rapidly warming climate and erratic weather. Climate engineering elements are decisions which are causing draughts worldwide.</p>
<p>Wonderful workshop! Covered an incredible breadth and depth of information in 3 days. All the instructors were very knowledgeable and engaging. Time spent in the field and evaluating MUs on our property was especially fun. We learned a ton and feel much more confident improving our land often in this workshop. Love this class. Very detailed and informative. Suggestions: tailor class by land acre size to better direct the class questions or add another class for more detailed issues and extended knowledge. Overall all amazing topic to learn about, thank you.</p>
<p>More funding for the program. Higher salary for instructors. Update some of the older materials. Overall this workshop is super valuable for homeowners. Different perspectives and experiences with all instructors were beneficial. Thank you, Cindy, Patrick, Angela, Jason, Bill, and Kyle.</p>
<p>Appreciate the enthusiasm and forestry knowledge of the presenters. Some content seemed redundant. Thank you. Especially enjoyed learning how to use the assessment arguments.</p>
<p>Learned a lot. Pleasantly surprised at the amount of information. The only thing would be to beef up the legal section nobody seemed to know the actual law on certain topics.</p>
<p>Not sure everyone needs this workshop for less than 5 acres. Maybe not less than 10 acres unless you are really into trees.</p>
<p>I thought the workshop was amazing. The info we received was extremely helpful. We will try to get our neighbors to go.</p>
<p>Liked: lots of advisors to help. Practical experience in the field. Forced me to relearn timber cruising. 15 minutes in class room on a map & compass would help.</p>

Bozeman

More review needed of economic viability of various choices.
I was surprised at the binder and information that was waiting for me when got here (loved it) the field work was extremely helpful. I really appreciated the before and after slides to better understand results after 1 year and longer. I have a better understanding of the understory, which is what I had hoped for great workshop.
Pre-class reading and videos and class were repetitive.
I loved that the workshop went deeper into topics than I expected for 2 days of class. I learned a ton and on acres, I hadn't even thought about tied to forestry (like range management).
Excellent, the knowledge of presentation unbelievable. So grateful for this class. Such a fantastic service for property owners. A bargain-you all could charge for more.
Really liked hands-on outdoor activity.
Incredibly enlightening course. Enjoyed all the speaker's thoughtful presentations. Field work was essential.

Kalispell

As an educator, I've been to quite a few workshops/seminars, etc. and this one was exceptionally well planned it is evident these were a ton of thought put into creating this workshop. I liked the 'field' practice this was a great opportunity for us to "celebrate" our practice with a professional. Thank you all for your time effort, help, and expertise. Cindy, Rick, Jack, Matt, and Holly - you're awesome.
I am in awe at how useful this was to me.
The forms online could be greatly improved. I have learned so much in this class. The best information I've ever received to make my forest healthy.
I really enjoyed the time spent in my forest. The field exercise was extremely helpful for this.
Enjoyed every segment, learned so much
Really enjoyed the hands-on learning. Would love to see more. Loved the videos, a good mix of different media. The speakers were interesting and knowledgeable.
Some of the prep (videos) and handout materials are "old". If the data and science remain current this is not the issue but some info (certainly cost info) could be more up to date.
I loved the organization, attention to detail, and the classwork sessions. Appreciated the real-world experience in the field and the rental of equipment in order to do work on my own land were great. Kind of took away any trepidation about working with the forest. Instructors were professional and knowledgeable.
Very friendly and open environment to learn and discuss mgmt. ideas.
Everything

Trout Creek

The Friday morning outside inventory exercises were most helpful.
Put a mic on Don 😊
It was great overall. Could be some more focus on our NW forests, and plants.

Lots of information! Maybe microphone, sometimes hard to hear.
Great education.
Appreciate table of contents, schedule, and day preparation sheets love having notes of presentations to add own notes to.
We have applied for 2 NRCS grants and were denied twice after filling out an enormous amount of paperwork. Maybe instructors should stop “guaranteeing” the grants and advertising them. We don't understand why such hypocrisy takes place in such a good class.
We appreciated the promptness of starting/ending on time for the most part advisors didn't just didn't know the subject well. Overall, very helpful and engaging. Thank you.
Introduction to many ideas with information and pointers to follow up/self-study.

Corvallis

Great Course. Plot inventory really let me understand with higher insight what's happening on my property and what improvements are really needed. Terrific advisors. Thank you, Cindy!
Handouts are wonderful! Slide show that followed issues. Abbreviations maybe in the handouts a glossary would be helpful. i.e. equip, tips, dbh, 20", 5'. Figuring out areas was too complicated and overwhelming. Did not understand acres vs. plots vs. MUs and the calculations. Add a category on the back page: Noxious weeds cost share, before workshop strongly agree, after workshop strongly agree.
The PowerPoint slides on the projector screen did not always match with the handouts. I liked the Day 2 field trip. The breaks were adequate.
The materials are very well-organized. Advisors were knowledgeable. It is a lot of information. Almost overwhelming, not sure how this can be addressed.
Learned a lot.
You guys were amazing!
The binder was not very well organized. Would have wanted more information on logger, logging contracts, and financial aspects of logging.
Wish I went the distance sooner and would have avoided spreading Canada thistle.

Logger Workshop

2023 - 12 participants
Since 1994 - 600 completed workshop
Active ALP - 156

Location: Montana Logging Association, Kalispell

Field Site: Stoltze Expo, Columbia Falls

Participants: 12

Advisors: Cindy Peterson, MSU; Holly McKenzie, DNRC; Lorrie Woods, consulting forester

Rating/Evaluation

1. 100% agreed - strongly agreed: My participation in the workshop will help me to improve my communication and work with family forest owners.
2. 91% agreed - strongly agreed: The workshop provided me with useful ecological information I will use in my day-to-day activities in forest work.
3. 100% agreed - strongly agreed: Realizing that the objective was to teach the process landowners undergo when developing a Stewardship Plan, your ability to help forest owners to achieve their personal management objectives will improve.
4. 100% agreed - strongly agreed: Would you recommend this workshop to other timber harvesting/management professionals?
5. 100% agreed - The overall workshop good to excellent.

Annual Jobs

Private Forest Owner jobs annually: 52, acres: 12,800

State jobs annually: not reported

Fed jobs annually: not reported

Comments

Which portion of the workshop did you find most useful and why?

Hands on field work.
Too hard to decide! But wildlife type-specific forest needs were good.
Field study, multiple perspectives, good people.
The writing of the management plan was a great refresher.
The field day and the hands-on helped me understand the building blocks of stand management.
I thought Stewardship planning portion was most useful
Legal descriptions.
The field portion, I did learn a lot of plant names and want to learn.

Which portion of the workshop was least useful and why?

It was all useful to me.
Presenting the plans. Maybe if just one group presented to another.
The early ecology stuff. I felt like that would have been summarized in a quicker way.
I used it all.

Do you have any suggestions for improvement of the workshop?

Maybe better breakfast stuff like yogurt or something.
I would like to dive more into spacing considerations for different age classes at different aspects and elevation.