

PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENT



Package contents

Materials (also available at https://forestry.msuextension.org/forest-stewardship/prework-material/mfsp_prework_mat.html)

- Workshop cover letter and map to workshop facility
- Pre-class assignment instructions
- Aerial photograph and topographic map of your forestland
- 2 Clear plastic overlay sheets
- Six-inch ruler and wet erase marker
- JMR Ranch aerial photograph and topographic map with management units
- Videos: *The Big Picture & Northern Rockies Forests, their History, how they function, and their Future* (5 parts) view on-line at <https://forestry.msuextension.org/instructional-videos.html>

Assignments

- *Introduction to the Jones Meadow Ranch* (JMR) (blue)
- *Goals for my Forest Land* (purple)
- *Forest Landowner Guide to Legal Descriptions* (brown)
- *Guide to Management Unit (MU) Delineation* (orange)
- *Reading the Plants in your Forest* (green)

Publications

- *Trees & Shrubs in Montana Forests*
- *Important Plants that Every Forest Steward Should Know*
- *Important Examples: Forest Insects and Disease*
- *Guide to Information and Services*

Instructions

1. Check contents to make sure each item listed above has been included.
2. Read the pre-class assignment instructions thoroughly.
3. Complete the *Goals for my Forest Land* handout (purple). Follow handout instructions regarding goals and limitations. Consider discussing goals with all family members and partners who have an interest in your forestland.
4. Read the *Introduction to the Jones Meadow Ranch* (blue). The JMR is used as an example during several parts of the workshop and can be valuable for you to use to help develop ideas.
5. View video entitled *Understanding the Big Picture* (42 min.) Refer to the JMR topographic map and aerial photograph with management units and *Guide to Legal Descriptions* (brown) as references while viewing the video.

6. Read the *Guide to Management Unit Delineation* (orange) and complete the management unit delineation exercise. Review and correct, if necessary, the property boundaries. Using a wet erase marker draw your management units on your clear overlays.

Note: If you notice you are missing a part of your property or have the wrong map, please let me know right away so I can get you a corrected map.

7. Read *Plants in Your Forest* (green) and follow instructions.
8. Collect samples of plants from your forestland that you are unable to identify and bring them to class.
9. View the five part series videos titled *Northern Rockies Forest Ecology and Management*. (97 minutes total)
10. In preparation for the first day of class you should have:
 - Viewed all videos.
 - Read all handouts.
 - Developed a draft list of your forest property goals and limitations.
 - Examine your property's topographical maps and aerial photos.
 - Created an overlay, similar to the Joneses', with your property boundaries and management units defined.

The purpose of this pre-class work is to reduce the amount of live classroom time required of you. Because workshop participants' time and schedules are tight, it is our intent that you will complete this pre-class work at your convenience, thus reducing the need for extended classroom time. **The more effort you can put into the pre-class assignment, the more rewarding your live workshop experience will be.**

When you arrive at the workshop, you will be provided with a hard copy of a Stewardship Plan to complete. If you prefer to type your plan, the Forest Stewardship Plan template is available for downloading at Forms to Download. You might want to bring your laptop computer with you to the workshop. Most of the writing will be done during the break and the last day of the workshop. If you have time before the workshop, familiarize yourself with the plan format and begin thinking and even entering ideas you might have for managing and sustaining your forest resources.

Be sure to bring **all** the pre-class materials with you to class. Videos (if you borrowed dvds) will be collected the first day and rulers/markers the last day; all printed materials can be transferred into a notebook that will be provided for you on the first day. If you have questions, please call us at 406-243-2773. See you there!