

Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement

(“Conservation Agreement” or “Agreement”)

For the Benefit of Canada Lynx in Montana by and between the,

F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company
Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.
Stimson Lumber Company, Inc.
(collectively, “Landowners and Forest Product Companies”)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“Service” or “USFWS”)

(all collectively, “Parties”)

September 5, 2008 Draft

Whereas, pursuant to Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (the “Act”), on February 28, 2008, the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to designate 27 million acres of land in 6 states as critical habitat for the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), a threatened species under the Act,

Whereas, in Unit 3 and 5 of the proposed Canada lynx critical habitat designation, in the state of Montana, the Service proposed to designate approximately 1.1 million acres of private land as critical habitat for the Canada lynx,

Whereas, the Parties desire to form a conservation partnership to preserve habitat and protect the Canada lynx,

I. Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is to form a partnership among the F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company, Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc., and Stimson Lumber Company, Inc., (collectively, “Landowners and Forest Product Companies”) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“Service” or “USFWS”). Through the implementation of this Agreement, the Parties intend to establish a conservation program that will provide conservation benefits for the Canada lynx.

The benefits of this Agreement for the Canada lynx include:

1. Landowners and Forest Products Companies will distribute lynx habitat management information developed collaboratively with the USFWS and supporting agencies and organizations to a variety of forest landowners and contractors not currently engaged with the USFWS or informed about Canada lynx habitat management measures;

2. An extensive array of forest products mills supporting the Agreement (listed in Section III, D.2.e) have agreed to distribute habitat management and other lynx information to landowners and log sellers as part of their fiber procurement programs. This action, combined with the actions of the Agreement signatories, will cause the vast majority of private landowners in Montana in Unit 3 and 5 who undertake forest management activities and sell their products to receive information on lynx habitat management to inform their on-the-ground activities for the benefit of lynx.
3. The Parties will collaborate to encourage private landowners and forest product companies to pursue funding for conservation efforts, e.g., cost-share, incentive programs, or grants for the purpose of Canada lynx habitat conservation;
4. Landowners and Forest Product Companies will develop new Canada lynx habitat management training for private field-level forest managers and contractors;
5. Landowners and Forest Product Companies will host annual technical sessions that include the USFWS to discuss recent research outcomes and management recommendations, identify collaborative adaptive management opportunities, and/or identify further research opportunities for lynx conservation;
6. Landowners and Forest Product Companies will develop, in collaboration with the USFWS, voluntary landscape-level management priorities and guidelines for private lands in Montana. These guidelines will be incorporated into the education and outreach efforts in 1 to 5 above; and
7. Landowners and Forest Product Companies will support Canada lynx research and monitoring through encouraging participating landowners and forest product companies to voluntarily provide reasonable access to their lands to conduct research, logistical and material support, financial support, and/or dissemination and implementation of the research results.

II. Geographic Scope. The Service has proposed about 9 million acres of state, private, federal, tribal and other ownerships for designation as critical habitat in Montana (portions of Unit 3 and 5)¹. Approximately 1.1 million acres of the proposed designation in Montana in Unit 3 and 5 are on private lands (Figure 1). Private lands within the Agreement are owned by a variety of landowner types from woodlot owners and ranchers to medium and large commercial timber and forest product companies. Lands owned by the Agreement signatory Landowners and Forest Product Companies cover about 35% of the approximate 1.1 million acres of private lands proposed to be designated as Canada lynx critical habitat in Unit 3 and 5 in Montana. Log and fiber procurement by the forest product mills owned by these entities reach out to hundreds of additional landowners across the region, ranging from woodlot owners and medium-sized landowners to large landowners such as the Montana State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Thus, with the addition of the supporting organizations identified in this Agreement, the geographic scope serviced by the Agreement is the vast majority of the private lands involved in forestry in the proposed Canada lynx critical habitat designation in Montana.

¹ Federal Register. 2008. Revised designation of critical habitat for the contiguous United States distinct population segment of the Canada lynx; proposed rule. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Vol. 73, No. 40, February 28, 2008.

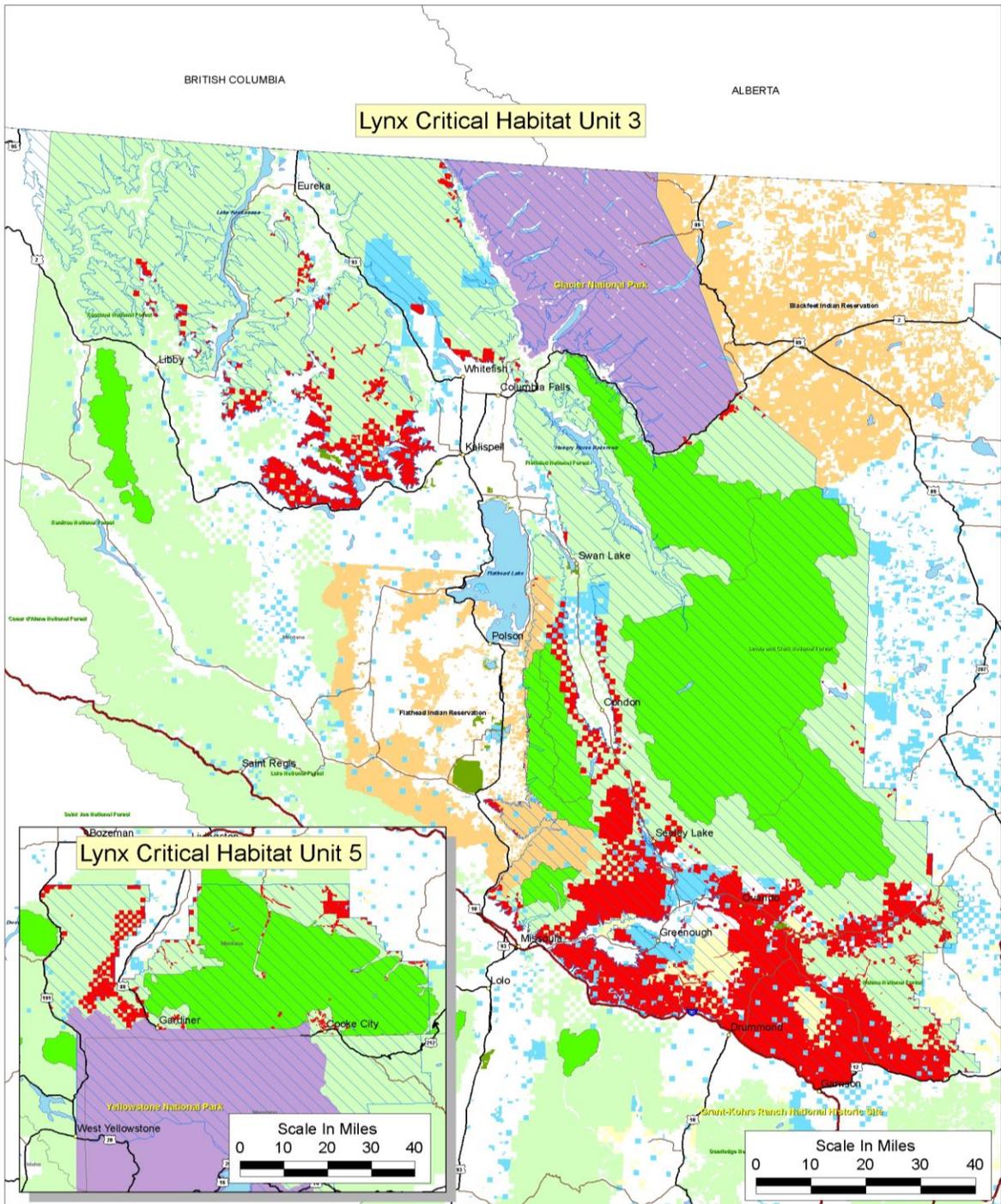
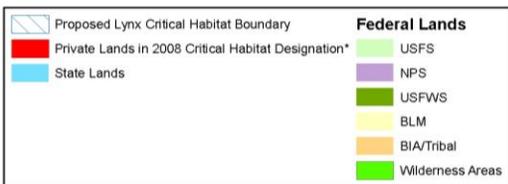


Figure 1 - 2008 Proposed Canada Lynx Critical Habitat Designation in Montana



* State and Other Private Ownership data from NRIS "Public Land Ownership" layer dated 1/17/2007

Vicinity Map



III. Conservation Agreement Commitments

- A. Landscape-level Assessment and Voluntary Management Guidelines.** The Parties will collaboratively develop landscape-level habitat assessments, priorities, and voluntary lynx habitat management guidelines suited for private landowners. These efforts will support federal land management for lynx as guided by the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction² and economically viable forest management on private lands.
- B. Research Support.** The Landowners and Forest Product Companies will support Canada Lynx research and monitoring by participating as they are most able. This may include voluntarily providing reasonable access to lands to conduct research, logistical and material support, financial support, and/or dissemination and implementation of the research results. Landowners will also be encouraged to report lynx sightings and activity on their property through easy to use phone or internet systems. Research that results in science based, reasonable land management activities for lynx will be supported by Landowners and Forest Product Companies. Landowners and Forest Product Companies will be informed of and encouraged to participate in these voluntary opportunities through regular training and outreach efforts.
- C. Annual Technical Session.** The Parties to the Agreement will convene an annual technical session to discuss the status of the Agreement, adaptive management opportunities, new land management tools, new research and management implications, and other lynx conservation items;
- a). Academic and/or agency researchers will be invited to the technical sessions to present findings from current research;
 - b). Landowners and Forest Product Companies and members of forestry-related associations and organizations will be invited to the technical sessions to broaden the scope of lynx habitat management education.
- D. Landowner and Forest Product Company Education and Outreach.**
- 1) **Agreement Signatories Outreach.** Landowners and Forest Product Companies will provide lynx habitat management education material (developed via the Agreement) in mailings to private landowners and log sellers as part of existing Landowner and Forest Product Company fiber procurement programs;
 - 2) **Landowner and Forest Product Company Outreach via Supporting Programs and Organizations.**

² U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2007. Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction Record of Decision. USDA Forest Service, March 2007.

a). **Findings.** A number of existing education and training programs are currently implemented in the Project Area targeting private forest landowners and logging contractors. With the support of these agencies, organizations, and programs, there are multiple mechanisms to insert lynx conservation education, as described below. Letters of support from these entities that document their role as described in this Agreement are included in Attachment 1.

b). Montana Forest Stewardship Program.

i. **Findings.** The Forest Stewardship program, funded through the USDA Farm Bill since 1991, has helped more than 2,550 landowners assess and develop their forest management plans on 1,648 ownerships that represent 943,597 acres. The Master Forest Steward Program (MFSP) is a newly developed outreach educational curriculum designed to give landowners advanced special topics training. A new wildlife habitat management module is part of this advanced training with specific emphasis on threatened and endangered species (see Attachment 2). The program workshops focus on teaching landowners how to assess their forest conditions and offers an overview of management practices including wildlife habitat conservation. Many of the participants choose to become actively engaged in managing their forested lands for multiple resources, often with wildlife as a primary focus.

ii. **Lynx Habitat Management Module.** The Landowners and Forest Product Companies will support the MFSP in developing a new lynx habitat management teaching module, with review and approval by the USFWS, for addition to the Montana Forest Stewardship and Master Forest Steward programs, all as offered through the Montana State University Extension Service (see Attachment 1 for Montana State University Extension letter of support).

c). **State Service Forester Program.** The Landowners and Forest Product Companies will support the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT DNRC) Service Foresters in providing Canada lynx habitat management information, developed by the Landowners and Forest Product Companies with review and approval by the USFWS, to private landowners when assisting them with implementing on-the-ground forest management measures (see Attachment 1 for MT DNRC letter of support).

d). **Contractor Training.** In addition to private forestry consultants and state service foresters, the Montana Logging Association (MLA) provides a variety of voluntary training sessions annually to approximately 600 independent logging contractors and their employees. For some private landowners, these personnel are the only information sources for managing their forested lands, including information on wildlife conservation.

Therefore; the Landowners and Forest Product Companies support enhancement of the forest management training curriculum by including additional materials developed by the Landowners and Forest Product Companies with review and approval by the USFWS pertaining to lynx habitat management (see Attachment 1 for MLA letter of support).

e). Additional Supporting Organizations. In addition to the previously stated delivery mechanisms (see above Section III.D. 1 and 2.a to 2.d), other forest product companies not specific to this Agreement have volunteered to make lynx habitat management information available to the landowners and log sellers they work with; thus further extending the reach to small family forest owners (see Montana Wood Products Association Letter of Support in Attachment 1). This action, combined with the actions of the Agreement signatories, will cause the vast majority of private landowners in Montana in Unit 3 and 5 who undertake forest management activities and sell their products to receive information on lynx habitat and management to inform their on-the-ground activities for the benefit of lynx. These forest product companies are:

- Eagle Stud Mill, Inc., Hall, Montana
- Marks Lumber, Clancy, Montana
- Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc., Clancy, Montana
- Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc., Seeley Lake, Montana
- Riley Creek Lumber Company, Laclede, Idaho
- Rocky Mountain Log Homes, Hamilton, Montana
- Roseburg Forest Products, Missoula, Montana
- R-Y Timber, Inc., Townsend & Livingston, Montana
- Smurfit-Stone Container Enterprises, Frenchtown, Montana
- Thompson River Lumber Company, Inc., Thompson Falls, Montana
- Tricon Timber LLC, St. Regis, Montana

f). Additional Communication and Delivery Mechanisms. The Landowners and Forest Product Companies will develop and support the addition of Canada lynx habitat management information, in collaboration with the USFWS, to a variety of information outreach opportunities in Montana targeting forest management on private ownerships. These opportunities include:

- i.** The Montana State University Extension Forestry website;
- ii.** Brochures on rare species and communities developed by the Montana Forest Council and distributed to hundreds of private landowners and timber procurement entities;
- iii.** Inclusion of lynx-specific material into mailings and newsletters by various forestry organizations in the Project Area;

- iv. Inclusion of lynx habitat updates and management recommendations in the Family Forestry Newsletter offered to landowners through the collaboration of the Montana Tree Farm System and Montana Forest Owners Association;
- v. Communications through the Montana Society of American Foresters and Consulting Foresters Association; and
- vi. Coordinating with the U.S. Forest Service and USFWS to promote lynx habitat management on their websites.

E. Cost-share Programs. The Parties to the Agreement will work collaboratively to facilitate the inclusion of lynx habitat management in:

- 1) Existing Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or other federal granting cost-share incentive programs (such as the Healthy Forest Reserve Program or Section 6 funds) offered to private landowners; and
- 2) New vehicles for establishing lynx habitat management cost-share programs or assistance on private lands. Examples of implementation opportunities might be funding assistance for experimental forest thinnings to maintain snowshoe hare habitat, regeneration of tree and plant species beneficial to lynx, forest debris management for lynx prey and den requirements, or habitat assessments to complement and assist management on nearby federal lands.

F. Annual Report. The Landowners and Forest Product Companies will prepare an annual report to the USFWS by April 30 of each calendar year that summarizes actions taken in support of the Agreement in the prior year. The report will describe implementation of the lynx habitat assessment and voluntary lynx habitat management guidelines. The report will also recount the number and type of training sessions held that included Canada lynx management information and education and the number and type of information and education disseminations such as websites, newsletter articles, and special presentations.

IV. Conservation Agreement Implementation and Term

1. Lynx Agreement Technical Team

Purpose:

- a). Coordinate overall Agreement implementation;
- b). Facilitate development of lynx habitat management guidelines and outreach material;
- c). Coordinate the addition of outreach material and lynx-related web links on the State Extension Forestry website;
- d). Facilitate the use of cost-share and other financial assistance programs to Landowners and Forest Product Companies for their implementation of lynx habitat management;
- e). Prepare the annual report to the USFWS for review and approval;
- f). Prepare and facilitate the annual lynx workshop.

Members:

- a). Montana State University Extension Forestry Specialist (e.g., currently Peter Kolb);
- b). Landowner and Forest Product Company representative (e.g. Landowner biologist).

2. Lynx Agreement Funding

Purpose:

- a). To fund costs associated with printing education and outreach materials;
- b). To fund costs associated with adding/updating material to websites;
- c). To fund costs associated with developing the annual workshop.

Funding:

Funding of the Agreement implementation will likely involve initial start-up costs for the purposes stated above followed by maintenance costs (e.g., printing, website updating, etc.). The actual funding needs will be determined collaboratively by the Parties at the annual workshop or through other communications. The following amounts are intended to provide a general estimate for initial planning purposes and would be provided on an as needed basis:

- a). Plum Creek Timber Company: \$5,000.00
 - b). Stimson Lumber Company: \$1,000.00
 - c). F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company: \$500.00
- Total: \$6,500.00

3. Agreement Signatory and Supporting Organizations Implementation Actions

- a). **SFI Landowners** (Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. & Stimson Lumber Company):
 - i. Distribute lynx habitat management education material (developed via the Agreement) in mailings and personal visits to private landowners, contractors and log sellers as part of fiber procurement programs;
 - ii. Support lynx habitat management educational opportunities for private landowners and forest contractors through financial and logistical support of lynx specific education and outreach opportunities sponsored by organizations such as Montana Logging Association Accredited Logging Professional trainings, Montana Tree Farm System events and publications, Montana Forest Stewardship Program, and others.
 - iii. Participate in lynx research as opportunities arise by voluntarily providing reasonable access to lands to conduct research, providing logistical and material support as able, providing reasonable financial support, reporting of lynx sightings, and/or dissemination and implementation of the research results.
 - iv. Participate in adaptive management experiments to implement lynx habitat management guidelines that are developed through the Montana Lynx Agreement in collaboration with multiple stakeholders and the USFWS;

- v. Participate in landscape level habitat assessments in cooperation with other stakeholders with review and approval by the USFWS.
- vi. Track and report habitat management and outreach activities that specifically further the implementation of this agreement.
- vii. Demonstrate implementation of Agreement terms on Company Lands through periodic 3rd party certification audits.
- viii. Contribute information to the annual report on implementation activities and participate in an annual Agreement implementation review and monitoring meeting.
- ix. Provide annual Agreement implementation funding.
- x. Provide Implementation Technical Team support.

b). **American Tree Farm System Certified Landowners** (F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company):

- i. Distribute lynx habitat management education material (developed via the Agreement) in mailings and personal visits to private landowners, contractors and log sellers as part of its fiber procurement program;
- ii. Support lynx habitat management educational opportunities for private landowners and forest contractors through financial and logistical support of lynx specific education and outreach opportunities sponsored by organizations such as Montana Logging Association Accredited Logging Professional trainings, Montana Tree Farm System events and publications, Montana Forest Stewardship Program, and others.
- iii. Participate in lynx research as opportunities arise by voluntarily providing reasonable access to lands to conduct research, providing logistical and material support as able, providing reasonable financial support, reporting of lynx sightings, and/or dissemination and implementation of the research results.
- iv. Participate in landscape level habitat assessments in cooperation with other stakeholders with review and approval by the USFWS.
- v. Track and report management and outreach activities that specifically further the implementation of this Agreement.
- vi. Demonstrate implementation of Agreement terms through periodic 3rd party Tree Farm System certification audits.
- vii. Contribute information to the annual report on implementation activities and participate in an annual Agreement implementation review and monitoring meeting.
- viii. Provide annual Agreement implementation funding.

c). **Supporting Organizations** (Eagle Stud Mill, Inc., Marks Lumber, Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc., Montana Tree Farm System, Pyramid Mountain Lumber Inc., Rocky Mountain Log Homes, Riley Creek Lumber Company, Inc., Roseburg Forest Products, R-Y Timber, Inc., Smurfit Stone Container Enterprises, Thompson River Lumber Company, Inc., Tricon Timber, LLC):

- i. Distribute lynx habitat management education material (developed via the Agreement) in mailings and other distribution mechanisms to private landowners, contractors, and log sellers as part of fiber procurement programs.

5. Conservation Agreement Term, Modification, and Termination

The Agreement shall have an initial term of 10 years (extendable in 5 year increments upon mutual agreement). At the end of the initial 10 year term and any renewal term, the Parties will conduct a joint evaluation to determine if there is a need to extend the Agreement for an additional 5-year period.

Modifications to this Agreement may be proposed by any Party and shall become effective only upon the written concurrence of all Parties. Renewal of this Agreement shall become effective only upon the written concurrence of all Parties.

Any Party may cancel this Conservation Agreement upon (30) thirty days written notice to the other Parties.

V. Background

A. Findings. This Agreement and the Background, attached hereto as Appendix A, addresses the primary constituent elements of Canada lynx habitat in Montana and addresses objectives in the Lynx Recovery Outline (U.S. Department of the Interior 2005). Authority for the Service to participate in this Agreement is provided in the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 USC 742a-742k), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended (16 USC 661 et seq).

B. Incorporation by Reference. The Background, attached hereto as Appendix A, is hereby adopted by the Parties and incorporated herein by reference. The Background may be amended by the Parties hereto by mutual agreement, all as in benefit to the Canada lynx.

Signature Page (to be prepared)

Appendix A

Background

I. Landowners and Forest Product Companies. There are a diversity of landowner types in Northwest Montana, ranging from family-owned private entities to publicly-held corporate owners. All three landowners signatory to the Agreement are managed under a forest certification program (i.e., Sustainable Forestry Initiative <http://www.aboutsfb.org> or American Tree Farm System www.treefarmssystem.org). Lands owned by the Agreement signatories cover about 35% of the approximate 1.1 million acres of private lands proposed to be designated as Canada lynx critical habitat in Unit 3 and 5 in Montana. Log and fiber procurement by the forest product mills owned by these entities reach out to hundreds of additional landowners across the region, ranging from woodlot owners and medium-sized landowners to large landowners such as the Montana State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

A description of each Landowner and Forest Product Company follows:

F. H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company: F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. (Stoltze) is a family owned integrated forest management company located in Northwestern Montana. Stoltze is the oldest family-owned lumber company in Montana with its inception in 1912. Stoltze owns and manages approximately 38,000 acres of company timberlands located in Flathead, Lincoln, and Lake Counties. Stoltze also maintains a primary manufacturing facility in Columbia Falls. Raw material sources for this sawmill include company lands, private landowners, contractors, and multiple state, federal, and tribal land management agencies.

The Stoltze company mission statement is *“To maintain and expand F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. as a successful, profitable, productive, quality oriented forest landowner.”* Stoltze manages its company timberlands and manufacturing facility in accordance with a comprehensive set of Stewardship Forestry Goals and Principals. Stoltze company lands have been continuously certified by the American Tree Farm System since 1963 and are managed under a written management plan. To that end, the ownership, management, and operation of these lands and facilities provide a myriad of benefits to the environment, company, employees, and general public, both economic and societal.

Plum Creek Timber Company: Environmental leadership and innovation are core values at Plum Creek. With approximately 8 million acres of land in 18 states, we are the largest and most diversified land and timber owner in the country. Taking a long-term view serves both the biology and business of forest and land management at Plum Creek. Sustaining the essential qualities of our land and timber – species diversity, natural habitat, scenic beauty – is fundamental to all aspects of our operations. Plum Creek puts this philosophy into action through a number of programs and initiatives:

- Certification of forest management operations under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program with third party independent verification;
- Forestry Environmental Principles;
- Voluntary Habitat Conservation Plans and proactive collaborations to benefit biodiversity;
- Environmental management and research program staffed by scientists and natural resource specialists;
- Conservation land sales and easements;
- Environmental protections and innovations at manufacturing facilities;
- Manufacturing Environmental Principles;
- Land Development Environmental Principles; and
- Plum Creek Foundation Environmental Stewardship support.

Stimson Lumber Company: Stimson Lumber Company is a privately-held forest products and natural resource company based in Portland, Oregon. With its roots dating back to the 1850s, the company is one of the oldest, continuously operating forest products companies in the United States.

Stimson Lumber Company has assets and operations in four Western States: Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The Resource Group manages approximately 500,000 acres of company-owned timberland, consistent with the independent standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. The Resource Group is also responsible for procuring wood for the company's manufacturing facilities.

Attachment 1

Letters of Support from Agreement Supporting Organizations

1. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
2. Montana State University Extension
3. Montana Logging Association
4. Montana Forest Council
5. Montana Wood Products Association
6. Montana Tree Farm System
7. Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

Forestry Division • 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3199
(406) 542-4300 Telefax (406) 542-4217



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

August 28, 2008

Shawn Sartorius, Ph.D.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

RE: MONTANA PARTNERSHIP CANADA LYNX CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

Dear Dr. Sartorius:

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Forestry Division offers this letter in support of the Montana Partnership Canada Lynx Conservation Agreement.

DNRC believes the actions proposed in the Montana Partnership Canada Lynx Conservation Agreement will prove more effective in the preservation and protection of Canada Lynx than the proposed critical habitat designation. We believe that the highest leverage action is to provide as much information, education and face-to-face interaction with family forest landowners as possible. Within our existing forestry assistance program, DNRC can reach hundreds of family forest landowners a year with information related to conserving lynx habitat.

Our forestry assistance program works in conjunction with partners such as the U.S. Forest Service, Montana State University Extension Forestry, Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Montana Logging Association, Montana Wood Products Association, Natural Resources and Conservation Service and others to provide forestry information, education, and technical and financial assistance to Montana's family forest landowners. DNRC service foresters interact personally with approximately 500 family forest landowners per year through on-site visits, distribution of informational brochures, training and educational workshops, and forest management plan development and implementation.

In addition, DNRC annually provides forest practices and best management practices information to approximately 800 family forest landowners and logging professionals prior to harvesting forest products from their lands. DNRC service foresters work very

Shawn Sartorius, Ph.D.
August 28, 2008
Page 2

closely with family forest landowners in developing forest practice designs required for cost-share assistance in programs such as the EQIP program offered through NRCS. It will not be difficult for DNRC to incorporate lynx information developed through the Conservation Agreement into our program delivery.

DNRC supports the intent of this agreement and will work with the signatories in the distribution of the information resulting from this agreement to family forest landowners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Harrington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

ROBERT A. HARRINGTON
MONTANA STATE FORESTER

RH:kmk



Extension Forestry
Peter F. Kolb (PhD)
Montana State University Extension Forestry Specialist
Associate Professor of Forest Ecology & Management
College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana
32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812-0606
(406) 243-4705, e-mail: peter.kolb@cfc.umt.edu

September 5, 2008

Dr. Shawn Sartorius, PhD
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Montana Partnership Canada Lynx Conservation Agreement

Dear Mr. Sartorius,

On behalf of MSU Extension Forestry I would like to offer this letter of support for the Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement for the benefit of Canada Lynx habitat conservation and enhancement in Montana. The partnership consists of a broad group of forest landowner, forestry, logging, and wood products associations and agencies that all have a common interest: to conserve the working forests of Montana. A working forest is one that provides multiple uses and values to society which includes wood products, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, clean water resources, and scenic view-sheds.

To meet the objectives of a working forest, the Montana State University Extension Forestry has a more than 20 year successful history of providing science based educational programming for private forest landowners, logging professionals, and forest managers. For example, the Forest Stewardship Program which was first offered in 1990 through funding from the USDA Forest Service was designed to help non-industrial private forest landowners better manage their forests by offering multiple-objective forest management plan development assistance. MSU Extension Forestry developed a unique program that taught landowners how to assess their forest and develop their own plans according to their ownership objectives. This program was soon credited by the USDA Forest Service as having not only a high rate of enrollment by landowners but a greater implementation success rate than any other program in the United States. It has since been used as a model for landowner educational programming by many other states as well as foreign countries. We have recently been approached by the countries of Kosova and Serbia to assist them in developing a similar program in their respective countries.

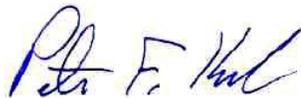
After 18 years of conducting this program we have not only assembled a long list of landowner graduates, but also gathered significant data as to what these landowners value and would like further assistance with. Ranking very high in interest has been more information on wildlife habitat management as well as tree health and wildfire hazard

reduction. To meet his need we have in the last two years invested heavily in developing and offering a "Master Forest Steward" educational curriculum in which one or more advanced wildlife habitat courses are offered. Since there is a need to provide information about threatened and endangered species, and specifically Lynx habitat, I have pledged to assist the Montana Partnership in helping develop and deliver specific information in the form of educational pamphlets, brochures and on-the-ground training for the conservation and enhancement of Lynx habitat. A specific course to this topic will be developed and offered as part of the Master Forest Steward program for private landowners.

Most Montana family forest landowners pride themselves in actively managing and conserving their forests for multiple values. With this pride also comes an adamant desire to maintain their rights to make land management decisions for themselves. We have found a great effectiveness through the delivery of scientifically based educational information to these landowners, which compared to other states that have chosen to pursue a regulatory mechanism for modifying behavior, has proven much more effective. Montana landowners are not only receptive to modifying their management practices when allowed a choice; they have also shown that they are willing to invest substantial amounts of their own money and time. It is with this experience that I strongly encourage the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider this proposal as an alternative to listing private forest lands as critical habitat, subject to federal control. Although currently such controls are minimal for family forests, the knowledge that their lands were exempted because trust was placed in their ability to make sound forest management decisions with educational assistance is also a powerful motivator, and fosters a better cooperative spirit for future interactions.

The Montana Partnership is a never before seen cooperation and collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders who have a common interest in conserving working forests. As such they represent a significant conservation partner with the potential to assist with future collaborative efforts. It is with this knowledge that Montana State Extension Forestry considers this an excellent investment of our time and effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter F. Kuhl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Kuhl" clearly legible.



August 8, 2008

Dr. Shawn Sartorius, Ph.D.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Montana Partnership Canada Lynx Conservation Agreement

Dear Shawn;

The Montana Logging Association (MLA) offers the following letter of support for the above referenced Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement. The MLA represents approximately 600 independent logging contractors, each of which operate a family-owned enterprise that harvests and/or transports timber from forest to mill. In Montana, the vast majority of timberland is either owned or subject to federal agencies and regulations; therefore the welfare of the MLA members is directly dependent upon the policies and actions of federal managers.

As you know, the Service proposes to designate 1.3 million acres of private timberland in Montana. Since 1991, approximately 2,550 private landowners have developed forest stewardship management plans representing 943,597 acres. Many of these private landowners require a cost-share agreement with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) in order to develop and implement their management plans. Funding for this cost share program has traditionally come from the Farm Bill through Forest Land Enhancement Programs (FLEP) Stewardship Education or through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Under the new proposed rule, any application for federal cost share dollars triggers a federal nexus thus requiring a private timberland owner to consult with the Service prior to engaging in necessary management of their private lands. The Service has indicated if management impacts lynx triggering a "take" or "jeopardy" opinion private timberland owners will not be allowed to implement their management plans. Currently, the non-industrial private landowner provides 30% of the annual harvest in Montana, while the industrial private landowner provides 44% and the state trust lands provides approximately 5%. As you can see, potentially 80% or 400mmbf (approximately \$800million) of the annual timber harvest in Montana may be at risk under the federal nexus.

It is our belief that instead of restricting management on private timberlands, it is far more beneficial to allow a management direction that offers a variety of opportunities through a private, state and federal partnership that enhances lynx habitat and their viability through landowner education, research, monitoring and application of adaptive management.

1

PO Box 1716 * Kalispell, MT 59903-1716 * 406-752-3168 * Fax 406-756-9574 * Email: mla@logging.org

Therefore; we support the purpose of this Agreement to preserve and protect the Canada lynx through the implementation of the Conservation Strategy on private lands through actions of the conservation partnership and other affected organizations.

We believe the adoption and implementation of the Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement offers more opportunities to manage and preserve Canada lynx and their habitat than the absence of this agreement offers and again therefore offer our support by including lynx habitat and conservation education, as developed by the Partnership, in our array of educational opportunities if this Agreement is adopted.

The Montana Logging Association has not only developed an internationally renowned professional logger education program but was a significant partner in the development of Montana's best management practices almost two decades ago. The Association continues to strive for excellence in our educational opportunities and curriculum through the development of our Accredited Logger Professional (ALP) program which includes timber harvest practices, road engineering and maintenance, terrestrial and aquatic habitat enhancement, and the protection of Montana's precious water resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to lend support to this Agreement and we look forward to the new education, outreach, research and monitoring opportunities this Agreement affords.

Sincerely,



Julia Altemus
Resource Specialist
Montana Logging Association
PO Box 1716
Kalispell, MT 59903
(406) 752-3168



P.O. Box 1716, Kalispell, MT 59903

Mr. Shawn Sartorius
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

August 6, 2008

Dear Sir,

This letter is sent on behalf of the Montana Forest Council to indicate support for the proposed Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement for Lynx. Specifically, the Montana Forest Council will assist in the development and dissemination of educational materials and assist with conducting training workshops, to inform private forest landowners, logging and forest management contractors and their employees regarding conservation strategies and forest practices for lynx habitat protection and conservation.

The proposed Conservation Agreement is in concert with Montana's approach to inclusive on-the-ground training and education programs for private landowners and forestry contractors. It has been our experience that inclusive education, like our Accredited Logging Professional and Montana Forest Stewardship Programs results in a more consistent, invested and committed application of improved forest practices than a regulatory approach.

Sincerely,

Patrick Heffernan, MFC Administrator



August 7, 2008

Shawn Sartorius
USFWS
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Mr. Sartorius:

This letter indicates strong support from the Montana Wood Products Association for the Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement as it relates to the Canada lynx and its habitat. There are 15 member companies in the MWPA and at its May 28, 2008 Board of Directors meeting a unanimous vote of support for the Agreement was conducted.

The supporting forest product companies with membership in the MWPA are Eagle Stud Mill, Marks Lumber, Marks-Miller Post and Pole, Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Riley Creek Lumber Company, Rocky Mountain Log Homes, Roseburg Forest Products, R-Y Timber, Smurfit-Stone Container, and Tricon Timber.

The methods of communication and delivery mechanisms for forest management on private ownerships are detailed in the Agreement. However, I would like to highlight that the supporting forest product companies will distribute lynx habitat management educational material (developed via the Agreement) in mailings and other distribution mechanisms to private landowners, contractors, and log sellers as part of fiber procurement programs.

Additionally, the Montana Wood Products Association will do its part in the dissemination of related materials at appropriate times and places to help ensure public awareness of the Canada lynx and its habitat.

Thank you for acceptance of this letter of support on behalf of the MWPA membership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen Simpson".

Ellen Simpson
Executive Vice President

P.O. Box 1149, Helena, MT 59624 Phone (406) 443-1566 Fax (406) 443-2439 www.montanaforests.com



Montana Tree Farm System
PO Box 17276
Missoula, MT 59808

August 7, 2008

Shawn Sartorius
USFWS
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Mr. Sartorius,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Montana Tree Farm System in support of the proposed *Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement for the Benefit of Canada Lynx (Agreement)*. The mission of the Tree Farm System is: *To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.* In Montana, there are currently about 400 certified Tree Farms, encompassing approximately 125,000 acres of private forest land.

We strongly feel that the benefits to Canada lynx and lynx habitat that will result from implementation of the proposed Agreement will far exceed any benefits to lynx or lynx habitat that may result from Critical Habitat designation on private lands in Montana. This Agreement is a proactive, positive approach that will result in real on the ground changes in management practices that will benefit Canada Lynx habitat on private lands in Montana.

The voluntary and self regulatory nature of the agreement has been proven effective in Montana with the success of the Voluntary Best Management Practices for Water Quality. This program has proven very effective at protecting water quality on all landowner types. We anticipate that similar success can be expected through voluntary implementation of management practices to conserve and improve lynx habitat.

Outreach and education on forest management issues are among the primary activities of the Tree Farm organization. The Montana Tree Farm System is committed to supporting the Agreement as reasonably requested and based on our resources available. Specifically, we are willing to include periodic lynx habitat updates and management recommendations in the Family Forestry Newsletter.

Water. Wildlife. Recreation. Wood. The four sides of the Tree Farm sign tell the story of sustainable forestry. Our members are committed to the sustainable management of private forest land for multiple benefits, including wildlife. We feel that implementation of the draft Agreement will have a substantially more positive effect on lynx and lynx habitat than would Critical Habitat Designation. Please fully consider and adopt the Agreement as proposed and exclude all private forestlands from critical habitat designation for Canada lynx.

Sincerely,

Paul R. McKenzie
Chair
Montana Tree Farm System



(406) 677-2201

379 Boy Scout Road • P.O. Box 549 • Seeley Lake, Montana 59868

Shawn Sartorius
USFWS
585 Shepard Way
Helena, MT 59601

August 8, 2008

Dear Shawn:

RE: Support for Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement for Lynx

Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc., a small, family-owned forest products company in Seeley Lake, Montana supports the Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement. Since we do not own any forest lands here in the middle of the highest known Lynx population in the lower 48 states, our commitment to implement this voluntary effort is similar to numerous successful educational and outreach programs on Natural Resources. Our support will follow Pyramid's efforts in promoting good stewardship of our forest resources.

Sharing knowledge, information, educational materials and developing long-term relationships with private forest landowners and log sellers is common place for Pyramid. The Montana Partnership Conservation Agreement for Lynx approach mirrors similar efforts in Montana, which have proven their success, primarily through the commitment of the partners to this Agreement.

Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. looks forward to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acceptance and support for this Partnership Agreement as an innovative approach to managing critical habitat for Lynx on private land. It is the right approach for all the right reasons. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Gordon Sanders
Resource Manager
406-677-2201 Ext. 27

Attachment 2

Curriculum, Training Opportunities, and Education Material Examples for Distribution of Lynx Habitat Management Information to Private Landowners

(Relevant wildlife habitat and management sections highlighted in red outline)

1. 2008 Montana Master Forest Stewardship Program – MSU Extension Forestry
2. 2008 Forest Wildlife Habitat Identification and Management Workshop – MSU Extension Forestry
3. 2008 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Workshop with Wildlife Habitat Module – MSU Extension Forestry and Montana Logging Association
4. 2008 Workshop for Loggers– Accredited Logging Professional training with Wildlife Habitat module
5. Example of Biodiversity & Lynx Habitat Management Information distributed to over 500 private small landowners and log sellers – Plum Creek educational pamphlet

During and after each workshop you will have a chance to fill out a form that identifies and addresses workshop specific management objectives on your forested property.

These forms are intended to supplement your existing forest management plan and can be credited towards your Master Forest Steward certification.

Once enrollment is full (max. 20) cancellations will be filled from a waiting list. Training location and additional details will be sent after application is received.

Cancellation: Please contact Extension Forestry immediately if you need to cancel. If there is a waiting list for this course, please give others a chance to attend if you cannot.

MSU Extension Forestry

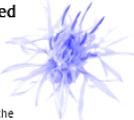
32 Campus Drive, MS 0606
Missoula, MT 59812-0606
Phone: 406-243-2773
Fax: 406-243-4715
E-mail: extfor@efc.umt.edu
<http://www.forestry.umt.edu/extensionforestry/>

Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and educational outreach provider.

Forest Noxious Weed Management

May 10, 2008

is a **choice core course** of the Montana Master Forest Steward Program



Workshop topics include:

- Weed identification
- Integrated plant management
- Grazing
- Biocontrol
- Herbicides
- Revegetation

Afternoon field trip

The afternoon session will be an outdoor field trip up Mt Jumbo where we will identify native plants and noxious weeds, covering topics discussed during the morning classroom session. This session will encourage questions and discussion with the course participants.

Presenters include Gary Hewitt (Sheep Institute), Jim Story (MSU Agricultural Research Station), Peter Rice (University of Montana), Helen Atthowe (Missoula County) and Marijka Haverhals (Missoula County)

Weed Identification

The County Weed District office has a plant clinic that is open M-F and landowners can bring in any plant for identification and get specific recommendations on management as well.

Sponsored by:



Forest Wildlife Habitat Identification & Management

May 17, 2008

is a **core course** of the Montana Master Forest Steward Program



Workshop topics include:

General wildlife habitat characteristics

Basic value of habitat features for wildlife
Basic habitat requirements, and how they may vary throughout the year

Species specific habitat requirements for

- Small Mammals
- Deer, Elk, Moose
- Carnivores
- Bears
- Songbirds
- Upland Game Birds
- Raptors

How to manage for wildlife habitat

Developing a Management Plan
Management Tools

Afternoon field trip

The afternoon session will be an outdoor field trip exercise, covering topics discussed during the morning classroom session. This session will be approximately four hours long, and will encourage questions and discussion with the course participants.

Sponsored by:



Application

Forest Wildlife Habitat Identification & Management
Lubrecht Experimental Forest,
Greenough, MT
May 17, 2008

Are you a Forest Stewardship Graduate? yes no

Please print clearly:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Primary phone (____) _____

Secondary phone (____) _____

Email _____

Registration Fee is **\$20** per ownership.
I would like to order _____ lunch(es) x \$10

Payment enclosed \$ _____
Make checks payable to *MSU Extension Forestry*.

Mail application and check by May 7 to:

MSU Extension Forestry
32 Campus Drive, MS0606
Missoula, MT 59812-0606

You will receive more information after we get your application.

Cut along dotted line and return application with payment

In 1994, the American Forest & Paper Association launched their Sustainable Forestry Initiative, known by the trademarked acronym: SFI®. The SFI® program continues to grow and several Montana forest products companies have their operations and timberlands enrolled in the SFI® program.

Plum Creek, Smurfit-Stone and Stimson have active wood procurement policies, which define the levels of training they wish their suppliers and contract loggers to attain. This allows each company to report the amount of wood fiber procured from suppliers and loggers who have completed education and training programs in sustainable forestry.

In 2005, new standards for SFI® were adopted, which include higher thresholds for supplier and logger training content.

In Montana, the Accredited Logging Professional (ALP) program continues to meet and surpass these new thresholds, but the Basic BMP/SMZ and Logging Safety Training does not meet all the training requirements of the new SFI® Standard.

This workshop fills these 'gaps' and provides an intermediate level of SFI® training for those Montana wood suppliers and contract loggers who choose not to pursue the full ALP program.

This workshop will also be of interest to Accredited Logging Professionals and Professional Log Haulers, who wish to learn more about SFI®.



Instructors will include:
 Patrick Heffernan - ALP Program Administrator.
 Henning Stabins - Plum Creek Wildlife Biologist.

April 17 - Jokers Wild North Reserve Missoula

The Workshop will begin at 8:00 AM and will end at 5:00 PM.

Registration cost is \$ 15 and includes lunch and all workshop materials.

During the workshop, participants should expect to learn about:

- ☞ The SFI® program and Montana's forest products industry
- ☞ The major forest types in Montana and how they function and how they can be managed
- ☞ Understand the growth and regeneration processes of common Montana trees
- ☞ Forest aesthetics and visual management
- ☞ Harvesting and road management practices
- ☞ **Wildlife habitat protection and enhancement**

What you need to bring:

- ☞ Pens, pencils and eraser

Phone:

2008 SFI® Workshop April 17

Clip-and-mail

Please PRINT

Company Name:

Company Address:

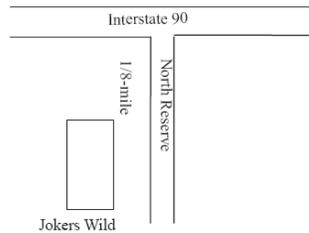
Person(s) Attending (names please) Payment amount (\$ 15 per person)

Total Enclosed \$

Please make checks payable to MLA Services, Inc. and return by April 1 to: P.O. Box 1716, Kalispell, MT 59903-1716

SFI® Workshop 2008

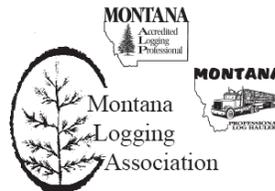
How to get there...



Produced by...

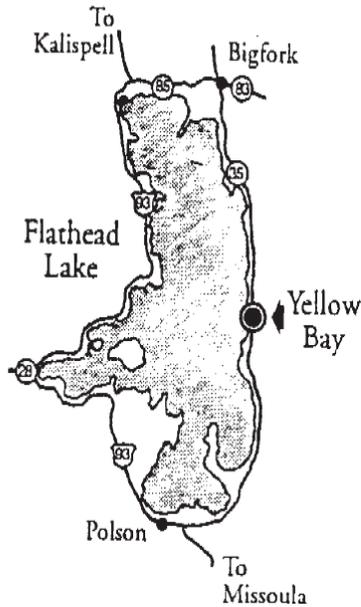


Sponsored by...



Please call the MLA:
 406-752-3168
 if you have any questions.

How to get to Yellow Bay



**2008
Workshop for Loggers
Produced by...**



Extension Service
Extension Forestry
School of Forestry
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
406-943-2773
Fax: 406-943-4715

Sponsored by...



If you have any questions, please call the MLA at: (406) 752-3168.

The Forest Stewardship Workshop for Loggers is the basic building block of the Accredited Logging Professional program. During the workshop you will learn about our Montana forest types, Montana's wildlife and your responsibilities while harvesting timber. You will learn how to measure tree growth and other forest resources using professional forestry tools, determine forest condition and potential and use all these new skills to develop your own forest stewardship plan for a forest. You will interact with other loggers and forestry professionals during this 4-day workshop and receive 40 hours of ALP & PLH credit.



This workshop

has also been rated by the Society of American Foresters Continuing Forestry Education program as worthy of 32 hours of category one credits.



The workshop is produced by Montana State University Extension Forestry and team-taught by specially trained natural resource professionals. You will enjoy getting to know these instructors during the workshop.

Over 420 loggers have taken this workshop since 1993; over 99% have indicated they would recommend this workshop to others in the timber harvesting business.

The workshop will begin at 8 AM on Monday, April 7 and will conclude by 5 PM on Thursday, April 10.

The facilities at Yellow Bay are outstanding. We have been using these facilities for workshops since 1994. Everything is provided for your comfort, all you need to bring is your personal gear, pencils and pens, and a calculator. You will be spending a good part of the workshop in the field and will need your rain gear, boots and hard hat.

Be prepared for a challenging experience; this workshop will change the way you think about forest land and timber harvesting.

The registration fee is \$ 550 for MLA members (\$800 for others) and includes: Meals, lodging and all workshop materials.

Registration will close April 1, 2008.

Please send in the attached registration form ASAP

FOREST STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP 2007 ... APRIL 7-10

Phone:

Person(s) Attending (names please)

Payment amount (\$ 550 per person Non-MLA members - \$ 800)

Company Name:

Company Address:

Total Enclosed \$

Please make checks payable to MLA Services, Inc. and return by April 1 to: P.O. Box 1716, Kalispell, MT 59903

Grand fir/Pacific yew forest (G2)

This forest community is found in moist areas that receive heavy amounts of precipitation during the winter and spring. Grand fir is the most common overstory tree, but spruce is usually present. Seeps and springs are often present and moss cover at the site is typically higher than surrounding areas. The small tree or shrub layer is dominated by Pacific yew, which can reach up to 30 feet tall.



Management areas: Low to mid-elevation areas in northwestern Montana.

Good management practices: Maintain the integrity of the site by retaining grand fir trees representative of the existing stand and minimizing disturbance to Pacific Yew.

Thanks for your cooperation in sustaining Montana forests and their special species and habitats.

For more information:

- Contact your Plum Creek forester.
- Visit one of these websites or contact your local Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; or Heritage Program office:
 - Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) — www.aboutsf.org
 - Threatened and endangered species — U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, www.fws.gov
 - Globally imperiled species — Montana Natural Heritage Program, <http://nhp.nris.state.mt.us>, and NatureServe, www.natureserve.org
 - State Streamside Management Zone law and best management practices — www.dnrc.state.mt.us
 - Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks — www.fwp.state.mt.us



www.aboutsf.org

SFI®, Sustainable Forestry Initiative®, and the SFI logo are registered marks of the American Forest & Paper Association.

0005

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Forest Communities in Northwest Montana



Broadening the Practice of Sustainable Forestry



Plum Creek

Growing Value from Exceptional Resources

Broadening the Practice of Sustainable Forestry

Through our commitment to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)® Program, Plum Creek supports conservation of the special species and communities found in forested areas of northwestern Montana. You will find many of these animals and plants listed in this booklet.

The SFI Program is a comprehensive system of principles and objectives that integrate the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil, water and air quality. The SFI Program provides assurance to customers, investors and the public of sustainable forest management practices. It is based on the premise that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions can coexist to benefit landowners, shareholders, customers, the people they serve, the environment and future generations.

Specific objectives in the SFI Standard promote the conservation of biological diversity. Biological diversity refers to all the different forms of life in an area, their interactions among each other, and their interactions with their environment. Conserving rare species is one aspect of sound forest management, but managing forest features such as dead trees and logs can help keep common species from becoming rare.

Forest Management Practices to Benefit Biological Diversity

Several practices enhance the likelihood of maintaining biological diversity in an area.



Dead trees (snags)

Retaining snags during harvest operations, especially larger-diameter snags, will benefit more than 60 animals that find food or homes in these features.

Down logs

Retaining down logs, especially larger ones, will also benefit a host of species such as small mammals or salamanders that use these features for shelter, feeding or breeding.

Green trees

Retaining green live

trees benefits those species that use a variety of tree species and sizes for feeding, shelter or breeding sites. Retaining these trees along streams,



Magnum mantleslug (*Magnipelta mycophaga*, G2/G3)

This slug lives in a few locations in northwestern Montana, northeastern Washington, the Idaho panhandle, and southeastern British Columbia. The slug is easily identified by its large size (from 1½ to 3 inches), spotted body, and distinctive mantle (soft tissue lip)

covering more than two-thirds of the top part of the body.

Management areas: Occupied sites so far have been found in moist, cool forests near water sources.

Good management practices:

- Implement the state Streamside Management Zone law.
- Implement Montana's Best Management Practices.

Spruce/skunk cabbage forest (G2), spruce/soft-leaf sedge forest (G2)

Both these forest communities are found in areas of a high water table with wet, saturated and organic soils. Sites are often boggy, with standing water in depressions most of the year. Spruce trees of varying ages are the most common trees at these sites.

Stands can range from open to more closed-canopy conditions. Skunk cabbage is a large-leaved plant with a strong odor. Soft-leaved sedge is a grass-like plant with slender, often drooped over stems, ranging from 5 to 15 inches in height.



Management areas: Low to mid-elevation areas in northwestern Montana, especially near low-gradient streams, ponds or seeps.

Good management practices:

- Implement the state Streamside Management Zone law to protect the integrity of these often stream-associated wetlands.
- Implement Montana's Best Management Practices. Manage forested wetlands when the ground is solidly frozen.

Management areas: The Northern Continental Divide and Cabinet-Yaak recovery zones were established in northwestern Montana to restore and maintain grizzly bears. Private lands within these recovery zones and adjacent areas can contribute to these goals. Contact FWP to find out if your property is in a grizzly bear zone.



Good management practices:

- Eliminate food attractants that can lead to a habituated grizzly: Keep a clean workplace and store attractants in bear-proof containers.
- Considering adjacent land uses and conditions, provide a mix of habitat types, including some cover retention in highly used bear-feeding areas such as stream corridors, wetlands, avalanche chutes and berry-producing shrub areas.



Gray wolf (endangered)

Wolf populations are distributed throughout northwestern Montana. Managing wolves involves providing a combination of winter range, good feeding habitat, and secure areas for deer, elk and moose.

Management areas: State wolf conservation and management are focused on allowing wolves to find

their place on the landscape wherever their biological needs are met and where human social tolerance permits. Large contiguous blocks of public land offer some of the best habitat because of the lower probability of human conflicts compared with those areas of intermixed public and private lands.

Good management practices: Implement sustainable forest management practices. Through time, the diversity of outcomes from forest management provide habitats for deer, elk and moose.

Canada lynx (threatened)

Lynx generally inhabit higher-elevation areas (greater than 4,000 feet) within cool coniferous forests and feed primarily on snowshoe hares. Hares are often found in young to mature forests where tree stems are dense, abundant shrubs and saplings are present, and/or green tree branches are low to the ground (or snow layer) to provide food and cover. Suitable snowshoe hare habitat is provided at different times of a managed forest's growing cycle.

4

Globally Imperiled Species and Forest Communities

These are plant or animal species and forest communities identified by the Montana Natural Heritage Program and the NatureServe organization as being rare and vulnerable. Species and communities are ranked according to their global (rangewide) status, including the number, size and distribution of known populations, habitat sensitivity, and life history factors or threats that make the species or community vulnerable.

Those species or forests that are especially vulnerable to extinction are ranked either as:

Species

- Globally critically imperiled (G1) — extremely rare (often fewer than five populations exist)
- Globally imperiled (G2) — extremely range restricted and/or rare (often fewer than 20 populations)

Forests

- Globally critically imperiled (G1) — extremely limited or rapidly declining numbers
- Globally imperiled (G2) — very limited or declining numbers

Conservation measures for these species are voluntary for private landowners.



Carinate mountainsnail (*Oreohelix clrodi*, G1)

Only a handful of locations for carinate mountainsnail are known globally, all in the Mission and Swan mountain ranges of Montana. This species is easily identified by the prominent ridges on its coiled snail shell. The shell is usually fawn to white in color, about 3/4 to 1 inch wide, and appears flattened. Due to the few sites discovered, uncertainty exists over its distribution and habitat requirements.

Management areas: Occupied sites so far have been found in moist coarse talus (typically on south-facing slopes) and areas adjacent to streams.

Good management practices:

- Implement the state Streamside Management Zone law to protect the integrity of streamside areas.
- Implement Montana's best management practices that further conserve water quality and stream habitat.

6

Management areas: Higher-elevation areas of cool coniferous forest adjacent to large blocks of contiguous public lands or interspersed public and private lands.

Good management practices:

- Implement sustainable forest management practices. Considering the context of your property and adjacent land uses, maintain or promote areas of habitat diversity that provide low, dense cover for snowshoe hares.
- Retain some down logs, jackstraw material, and/or wind throw areas that provide denning areas for lynx.

Bull trout (threatened)

Bull trout generally prefer cold-water streams. Stream conditions that promote and maintain bull trout include low sediment levels; in-stream habitat diversity such as logs, pools and overhanging banks and vegetation; and connected stream segments throughout the stream system.



Management areas: Bull trout streams are widely scattered across northwestern Montana. Contact FWP to determine if a stream on your property contains bull trout.

Good management practices:

- Implement the state Streamside Management Zone law and Montana's Best Management Practices to protect the water quality and integrity of our state's streams.
- Obtain the appropriate permits from the local conservation district if performing work on perennial streams (such as culvert installation).



Water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*, threatened, G2)

Two-thirds of all known water howellia sites are found in the Swan Valley. Howellia is an annual aquatic plant that grows in shallow isolated potholes that typically dry out by the end of summer. A slender stem grows each year from the pond bottom to the surface where small white flowers develop.

Management area: Swan Valley.

Good management practices: Implement the state Streamside Management Zone law and Montana's Best Management Practices to conserve these open water or marshy wetlands.

wetlands or rock outcrops provides additional benefits to habitat diversity. Some of these trees will become future snags as they mature and die.

Habitat diversity

A diversity of habitats in an area will help ensure a variety of species will exist over time. Due to the often-conflicting requirements of many species, one habitat type cannot provide the needs for all species. A diversity of forest conditions, often provided by multiple landowners, may best provide the suite of habitat types to support all life forms.



Threatened and Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (as governed by the Endangered Species Act) has identified several plant or animal species that are in danger of extinction (endangered status) or likely to become an endangered species without conservation action (threatened status). Legal requirements prevent harming or harassing these species or adversely modifying their critical habitat.



Bald eagle (threatened)

Bald eagle populations are recovering due in part to the protection and management of nest sites on private lands.

Management areas: Bald eagles typically nest along lake and river shorelines. Contact the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to determine if a nest is on your property.

Good management practices:

- Consult the *Habitat Management Guide for Bald Eagles* (available from FWP).
- Retain the nest tree and any alternate nest trees in eagle territories.
- Retain several future nest trees — typically larger-diameter, prominent trees.
- Refrain from harvesting activities near active nests in the spring and early summer.

Grizzly bear (threatened)

Grizzly bears are generalists that use a variety of habitats. Managing to conserve grizzly bears typically means reducing human-bear interactions. By avoiding habituation of bears to humans and reducing encounters that lead to dead bears, private lands can contribute to grizzly bear recovery.

5