

**Montana Forest Action Plan Implementation Program
Funding Available from Montana DNRC Forestry Division**

- Request for Proposals -

Opens: December 1, 2020

Due: January 29, 2021

Updated 11/30/2020

Program Information

Program Goal and Purpose: Provide financial support for the implementation of projects as part of the Montana Forest Action Plan (MFAP). The MFAP is Montana's all lands, all hands plan for addressing forest health and wildfire risk issues across the state of Montana. The plan consists of a Statewide Assessment of Forest Conditions, designated Priority Areas for Focused Attention, and a set of Recommended Goals and Strategies to achieve cross-boundary forest restoration and management. Applicants are encouraged to be familiar with the MFAP, which can be found through this link: www.montanaforestactionplan.org. The purpose of this grant program is to accelerate the pace and scale of forest management in order to reduce wildland fire hazards, improve forest health, and increase restoration activities on Montana's forested lands.

Grant Amount: Project budget requests are expected to be in the \$ 50,000 to \$ 500,000 range; however, exceptions may be considered. Award amounts may vary due to funding availability, the number and quality of applications received, and the ranked priority of forest health and wildfire risk concerns that are present in the proposed work area. Funds will be used to reimburse costs incurred from projects.

Source of Funding: Available grant funds are comprised of funds that DNRC has received from the state's fire suppression fund, under the authority of MCA 76-13-150, and federal grant funds awarded to DNRC by the USDA Forest Service, under Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) # 10.698, Cooperative Fire Assistance.

Program Administration: This program is administered by the Forestry Division of Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and assisted by the Montana Forest Action Plan Implementation Committee (FAPIC), which was established by the Montana Forest Action Advisory Committee (MFAAC). The purpose of the FAPIC is to advocate and assist with the implementation of the Montana Forest Action Plan to ensure efficient, effective, and collaborative cross-boundary management across Montana's high priority landscapes. This group will provide ongoing oversight and accountability for the Montana Forest Action Plan implementation, beyond the dissolution of MFAAC.

Eligible Applicants: Grant funding is available to Montana landowners; local, state, federal, and tribal governments; collaborative groups, contractors; and nonprofit groups working on cross-boundary forest management projects. Successful applicants will be required to certify their capability for managing a grant of state and/or federal funds and submit proof of insurance prior to the execution of grant agreement.

Project Requirements:

The following are *required components* for the project to be considered:

1. 15% Match funds from non-federal sources (cash and non-cash contributions)
2. If applicable environmental analysis is complete or details are provided as to requirements to finish review.
3. The funded project activities can be completed in two years. Extensions may be provided for situations that delay implementation (such as limited burn windows).

Project Selection Criteria:

Projects will be scored on their alignment to the following Goals and Strategies outlined in the Montana Forest Action Plan. Specifically:

- The goals of the project accomplish multiple objectives described in the Montana Forest Action Plan, specifically pertaining to:
 - Forest Health
 - Wildfire Risk
 - Working Forests and Economies
 - Biodiversity and Habitat
 - Human and Community Health
 - Urban and Community Forest
 - Sustaining Cross-Boundary work in Montana
- The project area includes multiple land ownerships or builds upon work completed on adjacent ownerships.
- The project is located within a Priority Area for Focused Attention, as defined by the Montana Forest Action Plan, or in another area with a strong need for management to reduce wildfire risk or improve forest health.
- The project was collaboratively developed and involves multiple partners.
- The project utilizes special tools and authorities to increase active forest stewardship across boundaries (such as Wyden and Good Neighbor Authorities).
- The project implements forest management recommendations in the Montana Climate Solutions Plan (http://deq.mt.gov/Portals/112/DEQAdmin/Climate/2020-09-09_MontanaClimateSolutions_Final.pdf).
- The project includes a plan for monitoring and evaluation of the project's goals and outcomes.
- The project includes a communication, education, and outreach plan.

Submission Process and Evaluation of Project Proposals

Proposals of the project will be submitted via email to montanaforestactionplan@mt.gov by **January 29, 2021**.

The Forest Action Plan Implementation Committee will assist an agency review panel in evaluating and selecting proposals to be funded. The review panel will consist of natural resource managers from DNRC, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Resource Conservation Service, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

If selected for an award:

Award and Disbursement: A formal grant agreement will be executed between the successful applicant and DNRC. Funds may only be used as described in the executed grant agreement unless otherwise agreed upon, in writing, by DNRC. Disbursement of grant funds by DNRC will occur upon the approval of submitted documentation of reimbursable costs.

Reporting: Grantees will report to DNRC on a semi-annual basis to describe project accomplishments and how funds are being utilized. A final report will be required stating how the funds were used and the outcomes that were achieved.

**MONTANA FOREST ACTION PLAN
2020 IMPLEMENTATION
REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Submit electronically to montanaforestactionplan@mt.gov by January 29th, 2020.
Projects will be scored on their alignment with the Goals and Strategies outlined in the Montana Forest Action Plan.

PROJECT TITLE:

PROJECT SUMMARY: (500 words)

Provide a brief overview of the project including goals, activities, desired outcomes, and how conditions on the landscape would change as a result of the project.

PROJECT AREA: (500 words)

Describe the project area including boundaries, ownership, adjacency to other completed projects, existing conditions, relationship to Priority Areas for Focused Attention as identified in the Montana Forest Action Plan, or other rationale for prioritizing the need for action.

LANDSCAPE-SCALE PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES: (1000 words)

Provide information about federal, state, tribal, or local priorities the project addresses. List cross-boundary and resource goals and objectives for this landscape. How do these connect with the Goals and Strategies outlined in the Forest Action Plan? *As an example, consider describing how the project would improve habitat, or reduce wildfire risk to better protect values at risk.*

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READINESS: (500 words)

Describe the readiness to launch this project including capacity, resources available, status of NEPA or MEPA analysis, and other preparatory work completed for this project. When would this project start, what is the operating plan, and proposed schedule of work? If the project involves multiple ownerships, indicate whether written consent has been obtained from landowners for actions proposed on their lands.

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OPPORUNITIES FOR COST REDUCTION: (250 words)

Please discuss any commercial aspects of this project. For example, if this project includes tree removal, is there a potential to offset the costs? Is there a commercial component? Where possible, please emphasize opportunities for commercially viable wood products. .

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GRANT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITY: (250 words)

Describe recent experience managing large or complex grants or finances, emphasizing the management of federal grant funds.

PARTNER ENGAGEMENT AND ASSOCIATED CONTRIBUTIONS: (500 words)

Describe partnership engagement, including collaboration and coordination efforts. List all actively engaged partners and financial contributions provided to date or committed for the future. *(All match expenditures, both cash and non-cash contributions, must be substantiated with documentation to be applied to the 15 % match requirement. Federal funds may not be used as match (no federal cash, donated and/or in-kind contributions).*

EFFICIENCY AND INNOVATION: (500 words)

Describe how this project finds efficiency and would accelerate the pace and scale of work to improve conditions on forest landscapes. Additionally, describe how the project uses the best available science to establish objectives or accomplish this work.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION: (500 words)

Describe how the project will be internally monitored and evaluated. How will information from monitoring be used to adjust this project, measure success, or inform future projects?

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH: (500 words)

How will the project be shared with the public and interested parties? What activities are planned for education and outreach?

DELIVERABLES: (250 words)

Describe in narrative the activities to be completed and how this work will be accomplished.

In the table below list the expected annual accomplishments and outcomes for this project (e.g. number of acres treated, number of homes protected, estimated MMBF of wood for forest products, jobs created, etc.)

Year	Deliverable
1	
2	
3	

Expand as necessary with separate attachment

PROJECT BUDGET: (complete tables)

Budget Table 1: Funding for Activities

Activity	Ownership	Unites (e.g. acres)	Cost/Unit	Total Cost

Budget Table 2: Expenses

	Funds Requested	Match	Total
Employee Salary/Wages/Benefits			
Supplies			
Travel			
Payments to Landowners (Beneficiaries)			
Contractual Costs (incl. contract labor)			
Other Costs (Specify)			
Indirect Costs (rate: xx.xx%) (up to 10% unless NICRA)			
Total			
Total Request:	\$		

Please briefly describe the details of how the grant funds will be spent for each budget category. (500 words)

CERTIFICATION

I warrant and certify this Application is approved and supported by the entity/organization I represent, and all entities/organizations listed as active participants and/or landowners identified in this project. I am authorized to execute this application. I further understand that any false, missing or misleading information, statements, or claims in any part of the application may result in immediate removal of the application from consideration.

Organization:	
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Application prepared by:	
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Signature:	Date:	
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SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS: (no more than 4 pages)

Please attach maps or other supplementary documents that show project area, activity boundaries, land ownerships, treatment types and intensities, and other pertinent information. Letters of Support from natural resources agencies, collaboratives, landowners, and other organizations are not required but will strengthen an application.