

Lexi Smith
Forest Stewardship Coordinator

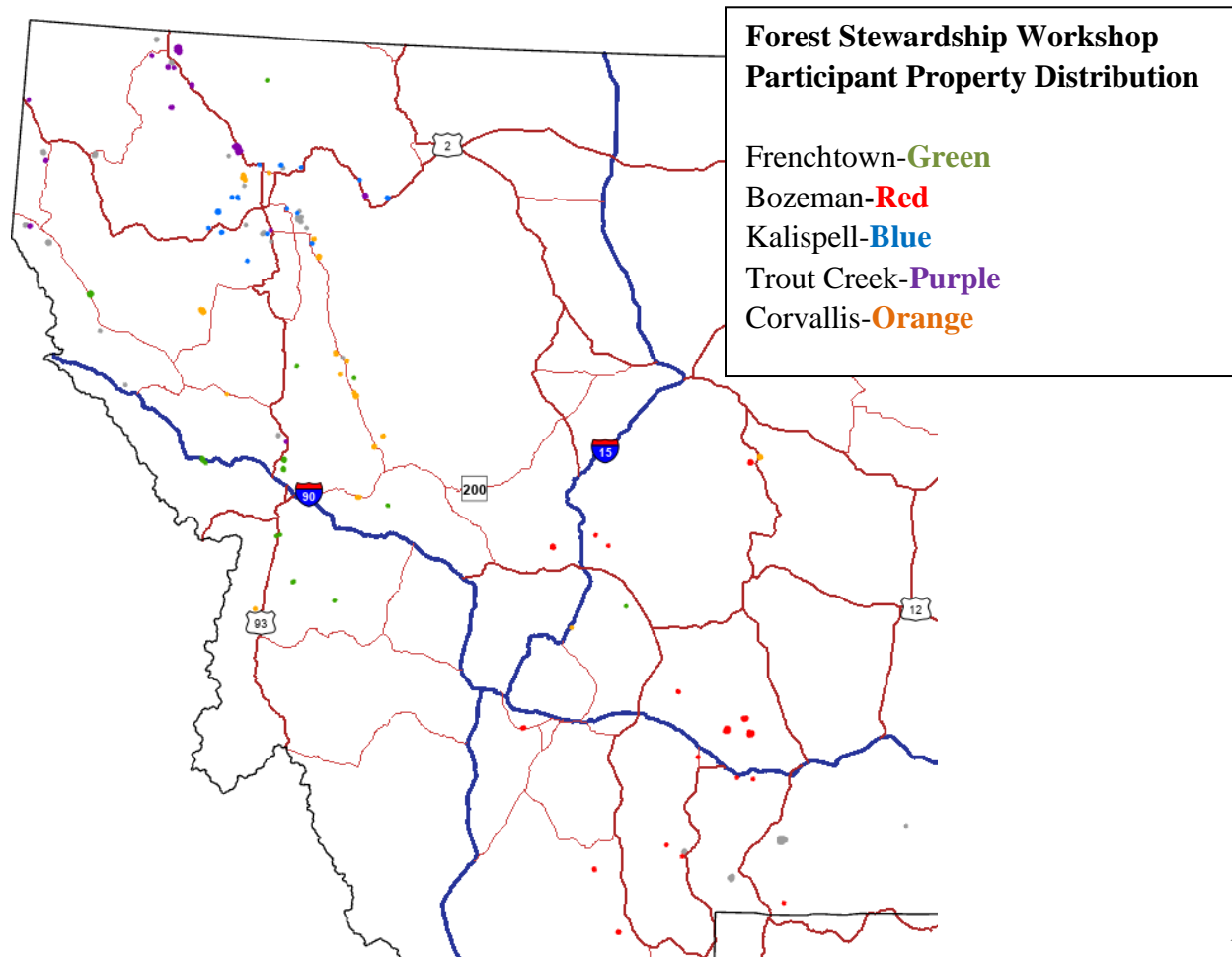


Workshop Coordinator Evaluation

Five workshops were facilitated in 2024: Frenchtown, Bozeman, Kalispell, Eureka, and Condon. A Forest Stewardship Workshop for Loggers was offered at the Montana Logging Association in Kalispell April 23-25 (14 professionals 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, Industry Foresters, RC & D's, and Fire Departments. The information was also readily available on the MSU Extension Forestry website.

Those who completed the interest survey for 2024 workshop locations, were on the 2023 waitlist, and those that had to drop out from a 2023 workshop, were notified for early registration one week prior to the brochure mailing. The Bozeman and Kalispell workshops were both half-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: Bozeman 25 and Kalispell 21. Participants dropped out of the class the week of the workshop and those spots could not be filled at such short notice.



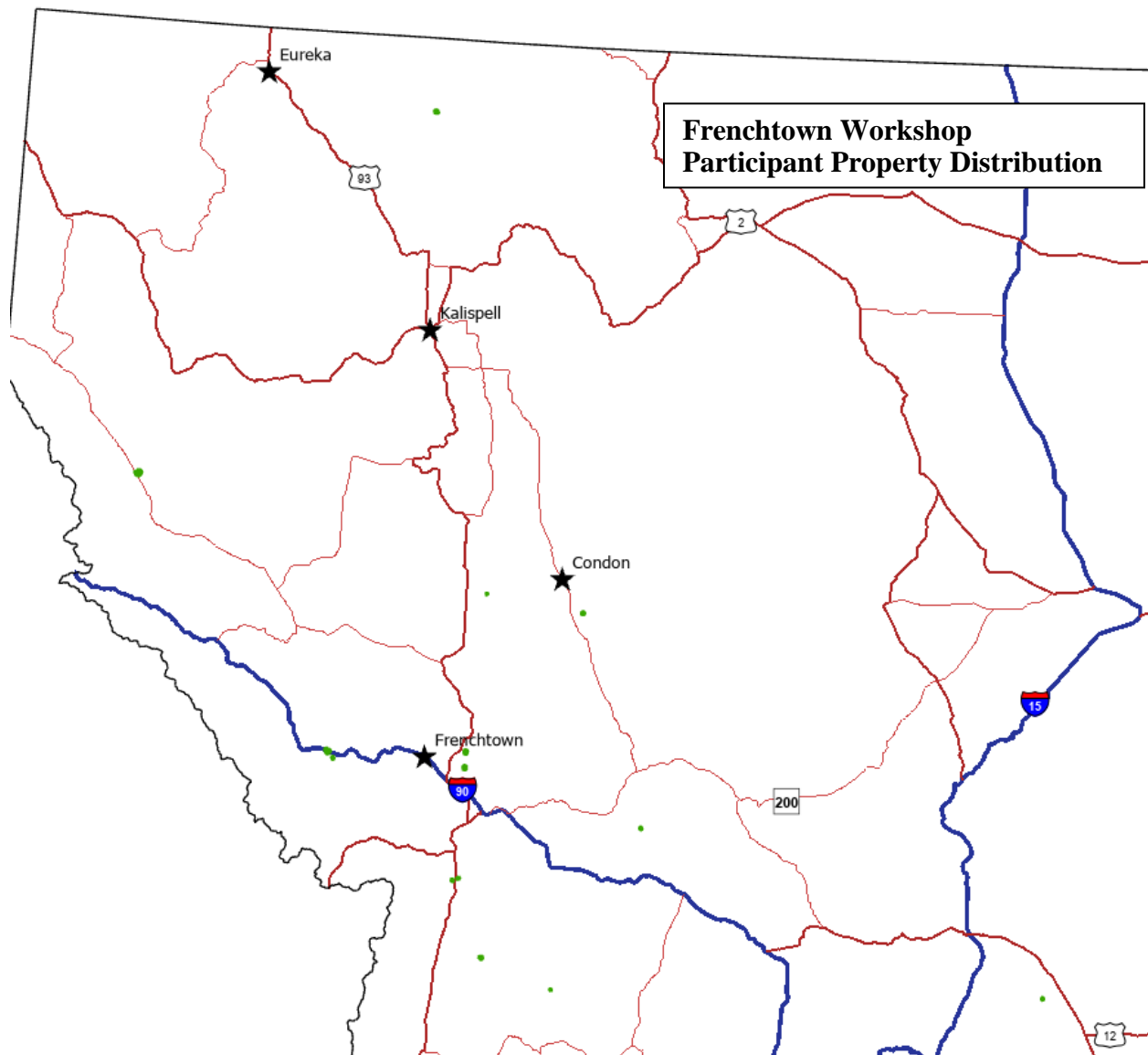
Frenchtown May 2-3 & 10

Fourteen ownerships, 25 individuals, attended the workshop. These ownerships came from 8 counties: Missoula, Ravalli, Lake, Mineral, Flathead, Broadwater, Sanders, and Granite.

The workshop was held at the Frenchtown Fire Station. This facility was free of charge, allowing for program savings. Advisors included: Cindy Peterson, Patrick Mangan, and Lexi Smith (MSU) Kyle Carpenter (DNRC) last two days only, and Jason Glenn (NRCS).

The field site was located up Roman Creek Road on USFS Echo Valley Disc Golf Course. The forest is mixed conifer with Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine dominating the overstory. The understory is comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs.

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



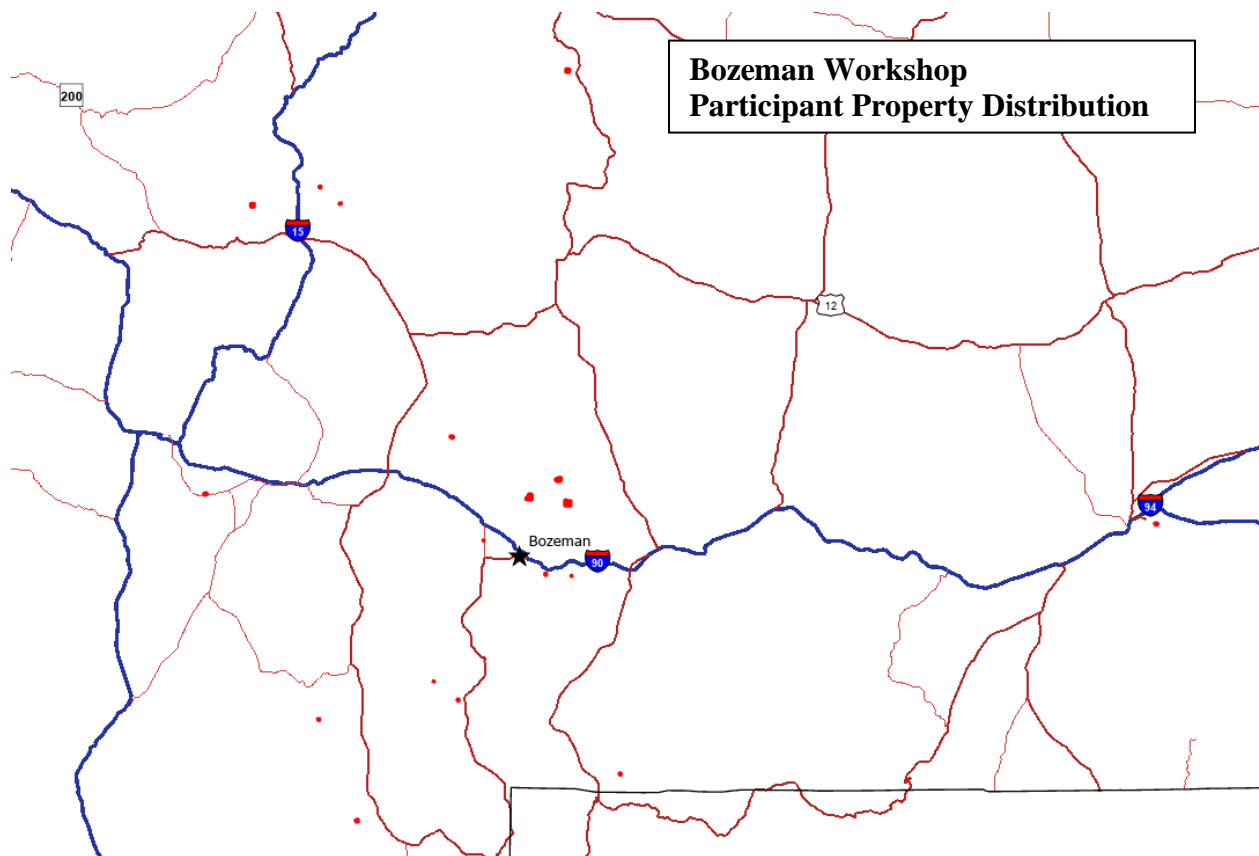
Bozeman May 24-24 & 31

Eighteen ownerships, 30 individuals, attended the workshop. These ownerships came from 7 counties: Gallatin, Madison, Cascade, Park, Yellowstone, Lewis & Clark, and Jefferson. There were also 2 professional sit-ins: John Moffat, DNRC Grants Program Specialist and Jay Pape, Gallatin County Preparedness & Mitigation Manager. Madison Nixon (NRCS) came on Day 3 to talk about NRCS cost-sharing programs.

The workshop was held at the MSU-Bozeman Campus in the Animal Biosciences Building. This facility was free of charge, however, the program covered parking costs which equates to average facility rental. Advisors included: Lexi Smith and Jared Beaver (MSU), Matt Ricketts (Private Consultant), and Sam Gilbert (Private Consultant).

The field site was located at past participant, Franklin Coles, forest on Jackson Creek Road. The forest is multi-story comprising of primarily Douglas-fir. The understory is comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs.

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



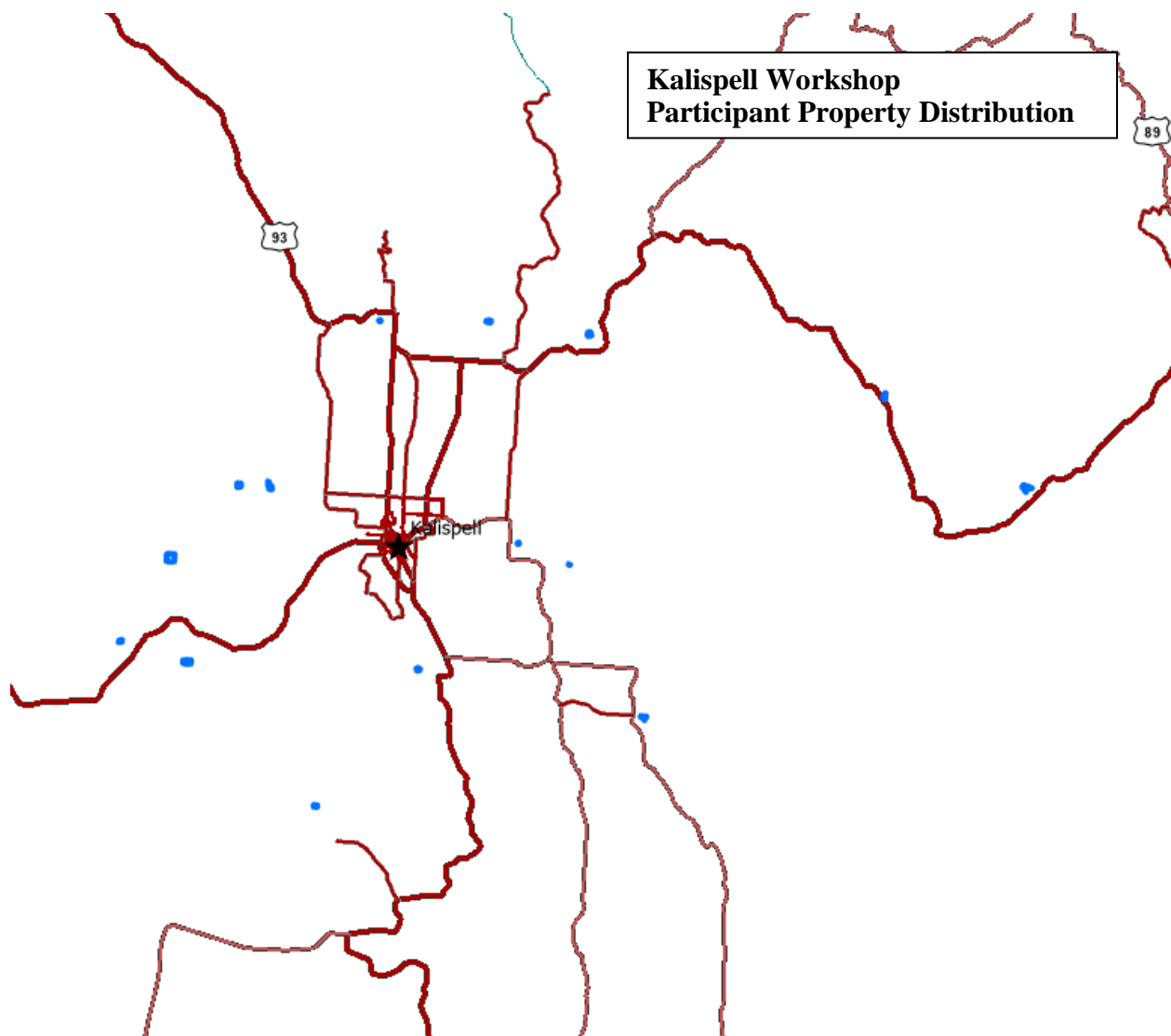
Kalispell July 11-12 & 19

Sixteen ownerships, 29 individuals, attended the workshop. These ownerships came from 2 counties: Flathead and Lake.

The workshop was held at the Flathead County Fairgrounds in the Grandstand Building. Advisors included: Lexi Smith (MSU), Lorrie Woods (Private Consultant), Jack White and Holly McKenzie (DNRC). Parker Olson (NRCS) came on Day 3 to talk about NRCS cost-sharing programs.

The field site was located at Lone Pine State Park. The forest is mixed conifer with Douglas-fir, western larch, and ponderosa pine dominating the overstory. The understory is comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs. There were also lots of examples of insects and disease throughout the forest.

Twelve of the site visits are completed with 10 plans submitted to date. One participant is not interested in submitting a plan, but did get a site visit.



Eureka July 25-26 & August 2

Fifteen ownerships, 33 individuals, attended the workshop. These ownerships came from 4 counties: Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, and Missoula.

The workshop was held at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. This facility was free of charge, allowing for program savings. Advisors included: Lexi Smith (MSU), Holly McKenzie and Jeremy Rank (DNRC), and Betty Kuropat (Private Consultant). There was also 1 professional sit-in: Emma Merdovic, DNRC Forestry Assistance Specialist.

The field site was located at Rexford Bench Park. The forest is mixed conifer with Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine dominating the overstory. The understory is comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs.

Six of the site visits are completed with 5 plans submitted to date.



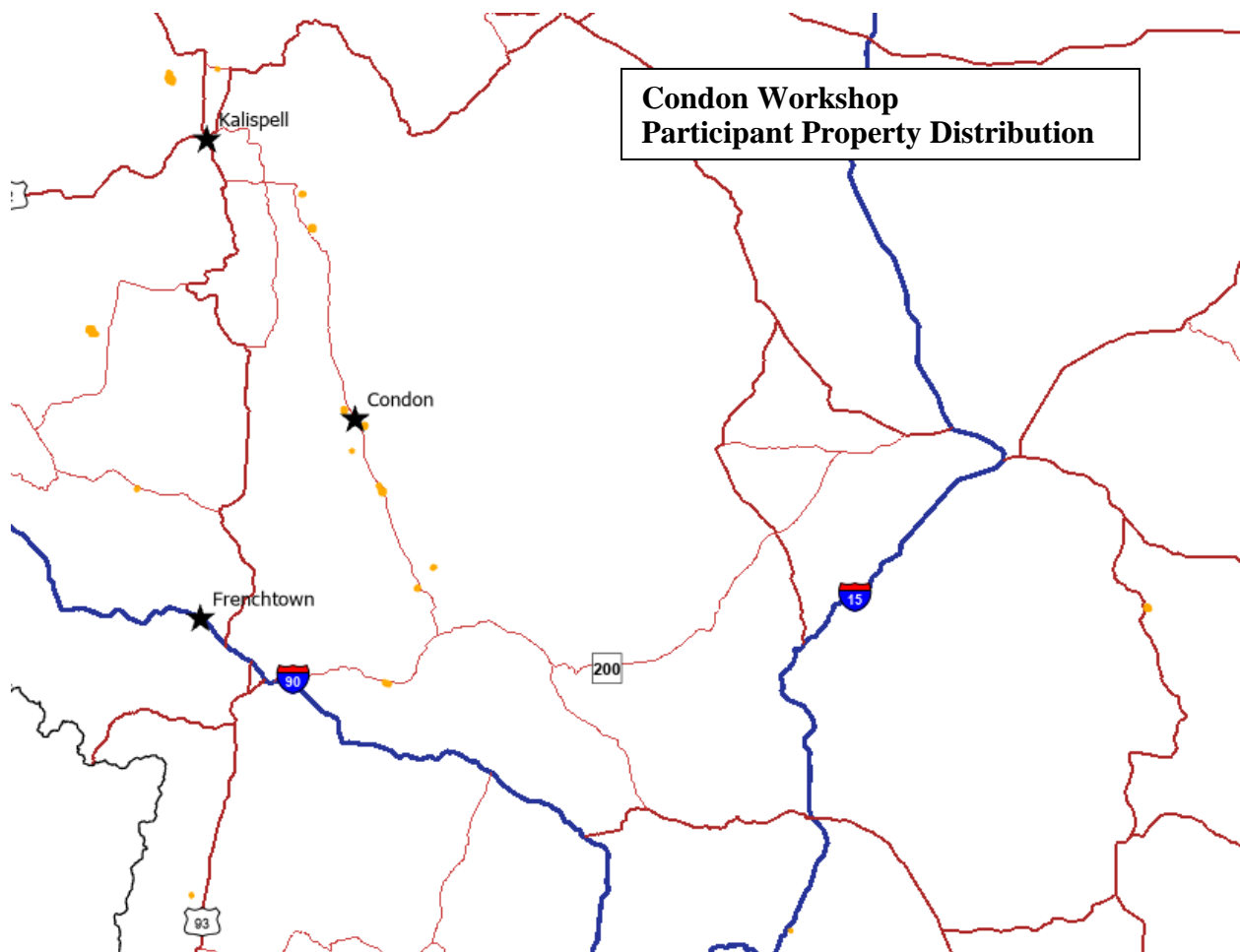
Condon September 5-6 & 13

Seventeen ownerships, 30 individuals, attended the workshop. These ownerships came from 7 counties: Flathead, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders, Jefferson, Cascade, and Lake.

The workshop was held at the Swan Valley Community Hall. This facility was free of charge, allowing for program savings. Advisors included: Lexi Smith (MSU), Jack White and Kyle Carpenter (DNRC), and Mike Mayernik (Swan Valley Connections). Jason Glenn (NRCS) came on Day 3 to talk about NRCS cost-sharing programs.

The field site was located on Swan Valley Connections property. The forest is mixed conifer with Douglas-fir, western larch, and ponderosa pine dominating the overstory. The understory is comprised of native grasses, shrubs, and forbs.

None of the site visits are completed with 0 plans submitted to date.



Participant Evaluation Summary

149 individuals, representing 80 ownerships participated in the 2024 workshop season. Of those ownerships, 70 submitted an evaluation survey, reflecting an 88% return.

1. How did you find out about the Stewardship Workshop? (No response – 10)
 - a. Mailed Brochure: 44% (last year 58%)
 - b. MSU-EF (website, waitlist/drop list): 16% (last year 12%)
 - c. Family/Friend/Neighbor: 17% (last year 21%)
 - d. Professional: 7% (last year 9%)

2. Acres of *forest land* owned/managed? (No response – 8)
Minimum: 1 Maximum: 1,200 Total: 6,078
 - a. 1-20: 28
 - b. 21-50: 17
 - c. 51-100: 9
 - d. 101-500: 11
 - e. 501-100: 3
 - f. >1000: 1

3. Age Demographics (No response – 5)

<40	40-60	>60
6	24	35

4. Years owned property? (No response – 6)
 - a. <5 years: 21
 - b. 5-10 years: 18
 - c. 11-20 years: 12
 - d. 20-50 years: 9
 - e. 51-100 years: 3
 - f. 100+ years: 1

5. Purchased property? (No response – 6)
 - a. Yes: 53 (last year 64)

6. Reside on property? (No response – 0)
 - a. Yes: 42 (last year 47)
 - b.

7. Commercial harvest? (No response – 33)
 - a. 7 ownerships across 210 total acres (last year 12 ownerships across 227 total acres)

8. Intermediate forest treatment? (No response – 23)

- a. 45 ownerships across 1,451 total acres (last year 5 ownerships across 1,649 total acres)
 - i. Precommercial thinning: 45 (last year 38 ownerships)
 - ii. Planting: 21 (last year 20 ownerships)
 - iii. Pruning: 37 (last year 35 ownerships)

9. Number of acres participants plan to implement management practices that conserve or improve the following: (No response – 4)

- a. Wildlife Habitat: 4,887 acres
- b. Water Quality: 1,312 acres
- c. Forest Health: 4,303 acres
- d. Wildfire Hazard Reduction/Resilience: 4,294 acres

10. Workshop rating? (No response – 0)

Rating Question	Strongly Agree/Agree	Neutral	Excellent/Good
Advisors were well prepared	98%	2%	--
Advisors were knowledgeable	100%	--	--
Will recommend the workshop to others	100%	--	--
Overall workshop experience	--	--	100%

11. Topics of Stewardship training of interest? (No response – 5)

- a. Timber management/Silviculture: 36
- b. Tree selection, Harvesting options, and Slash treatments: 16
- c. Marketing forest products from your forest land: 7
- d. Forest understory plant/range identification & management: 19
- e. Slash pile burning practicum: 15
- f. Forest debris management – wildfire hazard mitigation: 25
- g. Forest wildlife habitat identification & management: 20
- h. Forest roads assessment & design; 7
- i. Forest insect and disease identification & management: 18
- j. Forest riparian area assessment: 12
- k. Forest noxious weed management: 21
- l. Forest financial planning: 11
- m. Forest soils evaluation: 13

	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	3.5	3.3	4.1	3.9	4.3	3.9	3.9	4.1	2.9	4.2	2.7	4.2	3.5	3.4
Std Dev	1.53	1.45	1.76	1.76	1.90	1.75	1.68	1.84	1.41	1.85	1.21	1.83	1.54	1.53
Std Error	0.22	0.27	0.25	0.32	0.25	0.28	0.29	0.31	0.37	0.28	0.27	0.22	0.26	0.27
	I understand how my forest functions and changes over time	I understand the structures and species in my forest.	I have the knowledge necessary to make informed management decisions for my forest.	I feel confident in making management decisions for my forest.	I have the knowledge to write a management plan for my forest.	I know of resources to find additional information about forest management.	I feel confident in talking to other forest owners about the management of my forest and theirs.	I plan to sell timber for forest products from my forest.	I plan to use timber from my forest for my own projects and purposes.	I plan to graze livestock in my forest.	I plan to implement specific management for wildlife use.	I plan to create alternative income (not mentioned above) from my forest.	I plan to apply for cost share funds to thin my forest.	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	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.8	3.8	2.3	4.1	1.7	3.6	2.3	2.2
Std Dev	0.73	0.84	0.80	0.90	1.10	0.87	0.83	1.70	1.14	1.82	0.80	1.64	1.18	1.17
Std Error	0.13	0.27	0.17	0.15	0.33	0.32	0.20	0.31	0.36	0.32	0.22	0.36	0.40	0.40

Comments

Frenchtown

Great program. Thanks!
I would have liked more “free” time to talk to the advisors about my MU’s. The help I received was fantastic though! Thank you!
This is an excellent resource for folks, thanks so much for all the effort that goes into putting it on.
Field work exercise was excellent-pulling all the concepts together.
4 years of school in 3 days!
Exceptional class-Exhausting compilation of information-very good speakers, very knowledgeable and user friendly. I was hoping to learn more about pests and diseases, but it looks like I will get information needed during site visit. Other information I would be interested in learning is how to enhance our property for elk and tree farms.
Newer presenters could have been more prepared/familiar with material. Suggestions: print plot sheet on white paper so easier to copy. Introduce organization of workshop notebook at beginning of workshop, I felt like I spent a lot of time looking for the current presentation. Provide a couple of sheets of blank paper for notes. Great workshop! Thanks!
Use of stewardship kits for a longer period without having to pay up front 6-8 weeks, then turn it in at property visit by advisor.

Bozeman

A fillable PDF online.
A lot of info! Best if used as an "intro" class, with multiple follow-up specialty classes.
Appreciate the knowledge of professionals.
My husband and I have benefited from this class. It helped us understand more about our forest land and make good decisions concerning the future of our forest land.
Liked pretty much everything! Very informative! Field trip was especially essential!
The series of videos we watched ahead of time was a waste of time because we went over it on the first day. Wither don't require that or don't recover that in-class. We were constantly running behind, so it would have been good to skip that. We also did not need over an hour on the first day to work on MU's-that was supposed to be mostly done ahead of time, so 20 minutes would have been fine. On the second day, we went over plot summaries before we had even talked about plots and everyone was so confused. I know the weather was tricky to work around, but without context, that session was not as helpful! Many materials could use an update, including how to delineate MUs with more modern efforts like OnX or Google Maps. Crazy idea: what if we did the field day on the FIRST Day, then the two back-to-back classroom days were the 2nd week? So much of this makes so much more sense after being out on our land. Just a thought! Overall, everything was WONDERFUL. Lexi is a strong knowledgeable leader, who is organized, patient, and kind. I know I had a lot of thoughts above, but they're just suggestions! Everyone was AMAZING and I learned so much!
Maybe a little more on forest insect and disease ID and management
Some of the material was repetitive. Reviewing PowerPoints and removing doubled material will help. Lots of information in 3 days. Perhaps spacing the class into 4 days.
Talk more about Aspen :)
Liked tree, plants and weed ID. Liked fire prevention information. Logging was not applicable, no sale of trees.
You need an expert presenter on forest ecology. What is going on below ground and between species.

Kalispell

<p>Thank you for a great experience learning more about how to plan for and manage our forest. Field visit was very helpful along with questions/answers.</p>
<p>I liked the overall knowledge regarding trees, insects, and disease. Maybe could use a little more on disease. Loved the speakers and loved the knowledge. Super enjoyed the field work and how to plan look at a plot. I would have liked more information on identifying trees by its bark as well as types of branches/leaves.</p>
<p>Shorten day 3. Days 1-2 were engaging and day 3 felt less engaging.</p>
<p>Thank you for helping us become more responsible land owners and less of dummies when it comes to trees 😊.</p>
<p>Learned a lot.</p>
<p>Enjoyed the presenters. Could tell they enjoyed being there. Lexi made me laugh everyday - thank you.</p>
<p>The content was excellent and expanded my knowledge quite a lot. I feel better equipped to manage my difficult areas now.</p>
<p>Please make sure everyone can find the material in the books. Many people got discouraged when they couldn't find materials.</p>
<p>I think we should watch a video before the class about the plotting activity so we know how it fits into the big picture/plan.</p>
<p>Inventory and plot evaluation very helpful. Could have done with an overview of that process on Day 1, to provide context for field exercise morning of Day 2: Ex. how many plots to use? What is purpose and final goal? all became clear by midday Day 3. Also found silviculture/forest ecology material very helpful. Same for overview of logging techniques and equipment and plant ID.</p>

Eureka

Group work identifying plants, field work, various experts.
Loved it. Thank you very much.
Excellent job! only rough spot was the non-airconditioned/cool building on last day :) My previous knowledge was pretty decent. My current knowledge has greatly improved. Looking forward to continuing!
I would love more hands-on work, groups, engagement etc.
Great class, not more I could have possibly absorbed.
Class was engaging and fun. Temp on last day was too hot.
The workshop was very complete and organized. Nothing lacking. The presenters are articulate, accessible, and friendly. The only thing that could have been easier for us would be more time between the first two days and the third day. We found it a bit tight for time.
I liked the broad coverage of a lot of topics. This was a great overview and helped me prepare to start management
This was an excellent program. I have learned a lot.
Eye opening and very well organized. Local expertise was a bonus.
Really enjoyed the speakers, the amount of information provided is amazing! The resource materials are wonderful and informative. Lexi was terrific at organization.
Enjoyed the different opinions of staff. Also, that no question was dismissed. Very respectful.

Condon

Variety of topics, meeting other attendees, outside portion to look at features of property hadn't thought about, it will take me years to absorb all the info but I have new items for planning. Thank you for nice introduction.
The lecture Day 1 followed by field trip on Day 2 was excellent. Day 3 was more difficult to keep focused, however wildlife mitigations and thinning exercise was excellent. Flow was a little scattered throughout handouts.
Breaks in the lecture were helpful to stay focused-the longer we're being lectured to, the harder it is to stay focused. Maybe more smaller group work?
Lexi is a great presenter. The staff was well qualified and were excellent speakers. This is a solid preparatory guide.
The practical application was invaluable, keeping MUs smaller for the 1st one great recommendation.
By the end of the third day, class covered everything I had planned for/thought of and beyond.
Understanding that Lexi is taking over the program, she did pass out updated materials in some cases, but a complete review and update will be good to do so she "owns" it. Some of the presenters "read" the slides sharing stores, examples, etc. versus reading what we can see is best for a good presentation.
All the provided physical information (binder, sheets, etc.) is amazing!! While it was well organized into tabs, it was still challenging to find some sections for the corresponding presentations. All the presenters were great! The work periods were very useful and were times to break-up some of the listening. The material was comprehensive and thorough. The field inventory practice was essential to giving me the tools and confidence to tackle the inventory. Suggestion: is it possible to have access to electronic resources for the presentations? (Not just the binder printouts). Additional content or resources: management of mixed areas such as forest with open range areas and transition zones (woody encroachment) zones.
Writing the history of the property was valuable. Dividing the property into MU really helped me. Doing goals and current status for each MU helped me clarify my overall plans. The inventories were my favorite part.
This workshop was very informative, interesting, and helpful. The presenters were all very good and the topics and overall structure flowed very well. More info about how to make the most of the forester visit would have been helpful, but it was still a productive visit!
Super helpful. Great information.

Logger Workshop

14 participants

Since 1994: 614 individuals have completed the workshop

Active Accredited Logging Professionals: 137

Location: Montana Logging Association, Kalispell

Field Site: Bear Paw Tree Farm, Foothills Area

Advisors: Cindy Peterson (MSU), Zack Miller (Weyerhaeuser), Lorrie Woods (consulting forester), Lexi Smith observing (MSU).

Rating/Evaluation

Question	Strongly Agree/Agree	Neutral	Excellent/Good
My participation in the workshop will help me to improve my communication and work with family forest owners.	100%	-	-
The workshop provided me with useful ecological information I will use in my daily forest work activities.	93%	7%	-
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.	100%	-	-
Would recommend this workshop to other timber harvesting/management professionals.	100%	-	-
Instructors were knowledgeable and organized.	100%	-	-
Overall workshop experience.	100%	-	-

Annual Jobs

(No response – 1)

*The following numbers are totals across all 14 participants. *

Ownership	Annual Jobs	Annual Acres
Private	2,291	2,380
State	1,652	2,100
Federal	1,411	1,900

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

Silviculture, I didn't know much about it.
Silviculture portion and talking through the management plan with the Garners.
I found the silviculture and field portions the most useful. I am an experiential learner.
Visiting the property and talking with the landowner.
Second field day. I enjoyed all the perspectives given from instructors and landowners and students.
I liked the silviculture lectures, putting it all together at the end in the field.
The range land work. How animals such as cattle affect the forest.
Talking with and getting to know foresters and others in the trade.
Field and silviculture discussions.
Walking around with the landowners and watching foresters talk with them.
The field parts and intro to forestry.
The portion on the different levels in forest to show how to lessen fires.
Field work.

Which portion of the workshop was least useful and why?

Basal area, didn't make sense.
Maybe the volume estimation.
N/A. All was applicable.
Portion on birds/plants because in my case, it will not be as used.
It was all useful.
Volume estimation
The plot. I am a tree feller, so I won't use it too much.
For me the basal area presentation. I knew it is useful but hard to grasp in a short amount of time.
Some classroom stuff was repetitive, but forestry tends to be that way. (overlapping).
The lesson on designing an inventory. We just overlay a dot grid of plots; we don't measure transects.
I found some of the repeat wildlife and range PowerPoints less useful. Some of it was redundant.
Basal area. Doesn't really work with natural stand types.

Do you have any suggestions for improvement of the workshop?

Maybe more content about the actual writing of management plans.
I think spending more time on prescription writing (tree spacing specifics) would be useful.
More time to write out management plan.
Maybe introducing open source GIS/Map making tools that landowners and professionals could utilize. Ex: QGIS.
It's a lot of information and you guys did a great job of trying to present it all.
No, you guys did great.
I feel the workshop was lined out perfect.
More time in forest.
Multi-part so more info!
More pre-work so more time can be spent in field.

Comments

*Participants had the opportunity to put comments after each question above, these comments are a combination of those and general comments at the end of the evaluation. *

I think it is important to recognize that in MT in particular, timber value is not the primary focus--it's forest health.
I love expanding what I know...more breaks in between lessons.
Great job, thank you!
Thanks for expanding outdoor time.
A lot of the info pertaining to communicating with landowners was new to me.
Very good intro to writing with private landowners.
Communication with landowners was emphasized and clearly important.
It was great having landowners on site.
Peter is very interesting and intelligent.
Very good baseline of forestry knowledge.
I learned a lot. Nothing is static and you need to be aware of what to do in any circumstance.
I learned more in this class than I have in a long time.
I think writing a full management plan would be very interesting.
I'll be able to assess things from a complex perspective instead of treating things informally.
[Recommending this workshop] mostly to new professionals.
I think [this workshop] should be required for all industry professionals.
I think it is really important to get several opinions together and argue.
Very professional.
I appreciated all the different perspectives.
Thank you for the opportunity.
Glad we went outside twice.