

April 4, 2017

Dear Montana Landowner:

Last month we mailed you a survey about natural resource management on your property. You are one of a few Montana private landowners selected to participate in this study and your response will help natural resource management agencies across the state better design outreach programs for private landowners in Montana.

If you have already completed and returned this survey to us, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please take some time to complete the survey and return it to us in the postage-paid envelope provided.

This survey asks about land management decisions relating to wildfire risk reduction, weed control and human-bear conflict reduction on private lands. In Montana, these three issues cross property boundaries and affect multiple landowners. Because these issues are widespread your input is valuable.

Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you may stop at any time or skip any question you do not wish to answer. All your answers will be anonymous – we will only report summaries of our findings. The identification number on the survey is there so we can check your name off the mailing list and save postage on future mailings.

It should take about 15-20 minutes to complete the survey. By completing and returning the questionnaire, you imply your consent to participate in this study. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

To complete the survey online! Go to:

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Natural Resource Stewardship Survey

A survey to support Montana's private landowners

This survey has 4 sections with questions about your property, your interactions with people in your area, and your approach to three natural resource issues: wildfire, weeds, and human-bear conflict. We'd like to start by asking about your property and your reasons for owning.

1. Do you own more than 0.5 acres anywhere in the state of Montana? Yes No
If no, please check the box and return the survey to us in the postage-paid envelope provided.

2. About how many total acres do you own in Montana? _____ (acres)

3. The following are some reasons why people own land. When you think about why you own your land, how important is each of the following reasons? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is "Very Unimportant" and 5 is "Very Important."
(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Very Unimportant	Unimportant	Neither	Important	Very Important
Land investment (I hope to sell all or part of my land for a profit)	1	2	3	4	5
Personal use or recreation	1	2	3	4	5
General income (e.g., sale of timber, crops, cattle, leasing)	1	2	3	4	5
Solitude	1	2	3	4	5
Primary residence	1	2	3	4	5
To pass on to family members	1	2	3	4	5
Rural lifestyle	1	2	3	4	5

4. In your own words, please describe why you own your property. _____

SECTION II – INVASIVE WEEDS

Weeds are any non-native, undesirable plant species. The following questions ask about weeds on your property and the actions that some landowners take to control weeds.



Weed Control on Your Property

12. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree.” (For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
Weeds decrease my enjoyment of my property	1	2	3	4	5
Weeds decrease the economic value of my property	1	2	3	4	5
Weeds decrease the productivity of my property	1	2	3	4	5
Weeds negatively impact the appearance of my property	1	2	3	4	5
Weeds limit my ability to use my property in the ways I want	1	2	3	4	5

13. In your own words, please describe how weeds affect your ability to use your property in the ways you want, if applicable. _____

Weed Control Activities

14. How often do you take the following actions?

(For each row, please check only one box.)

	Never	Sometimes	Always
Wash your personal gear/clothing after being in an area with weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wash your vehicle after being in an area with weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Buy weed-free alternatives (weed free forage, weed free gravel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check your property for weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree.”
(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I have enough <u>money</u> to control weeds on my property	1	2	3	4	5
I have enough <u>time</u> to control weeds on my property	1	2	3	4	5
I am <u>confident</u> in my ability to identify weeds	1	2	3	4	5
I am <u>confident</u> I know how to effectively control weeds on my property	1	2	3	4	5
My personal actions can help control weeds on my property	1	2	3	4	5

16. Have you ever spoken with a weed professional (commercial applicator, MSU extension agent) or received educational material about controlling weeds? Yes No
 If yes, who or what was most helpful? _____

Weed Control in Your Area

17. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree.”
(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree

If you take actions to control weeds, neighboring property owners will notice or hear about it	1	2	3	4	5
If you take actions to reduce the spread of weeds, it will motivate neighboring property owners to take similar actions	1	2	3	4	5
If neighboring property owners take actions to reduce the spread of weeds, it will reduce the amount of weeds on my property as well	1	2	3	4	5
Together, neighboring property owners and I can effectively control weeds in our area	1	2	3	4	5

18. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current efforts to control weeds in your area?
(Please circle only one response.)

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Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
1	2	3	4	5

19. Please answer the following “Yes” or “No” questions.
(For each row, please check only one box.)

	Yes	No	Do Not Know
Has anyone ever asked you for your opinion on weed control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has anyone ever tried to influence your opinion on weed control?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do most people in your area believe you should be taking steps to control weeds on your property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you believe most people in your area are taking actions to control weeds on their properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION IV – GENERAL QUESTIONS

The following questions ask about general activities, interactions with people in your area, opinions across several natural resource topics, and a few questions about your household.

27. How willing or unwilling are you to do the following activities? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Very Unwilling” and 5 is “Very Willing.”
(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neither	Willing	Very Willing
Cut trees on your property	1	2	3	4	5
Contact your local fire department or other expert to request a wildfire home assessment	1	2	3	4	5
Work with an extension professional to develop a weed control plan for your property	1	2	3	4	5
Use herbicides to control weeds	1	2	3	4	5
Release bio-control (insects) to control weeds	1	2	3	4	5
Spend time pulling weeds from your property	1	2	3	4	5
Spend time pulling weeds along trails on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Apply for a government grant program to assist with management costs	1	2	3	4	5
Cooperate with your neighbors to conduct management	1	2	3	4	5
Work with a financial professional to establish an estate plan	1	2	3	4	5
Discuss your estate planning with your heirs/family	1	2	3	4	5

28. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree.”
(For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree

I feel a strong sense of community with my neighbors	1	2	3	4	5
If there is a problem in my area, people here get it solved	1	2	3	4	5
I have an influence over what this community is like	1	2	3	4	5
I often take an active role in solving area problems	1	2	3	4	5

29. What groups in your area do you associate with or feel most welcomed by (neighborhood, church group, garden club, rotary, 4H)? _____

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30. How likely or unlikely are you to use the following sources when you need information about how to manage or do something on your property. Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is "Very Unlikely" and 5 is "Very Likely."
 (For each row, please circle only one number.)

	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Neither	Likely	Very Likely
General internet search	1	2	3	4	5
Other landowners	1	2	3	4	5
MSU extension office	1	2	3	4	5
Weed district	1	2	3	4	5
State government (MT DNRC, Fish, Wildlife, & Parks)	1	2	3	4	5
Federal government (Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management)	1	2	3	4	5
Family or friends	1	2	3	4	5
Local businesses	1	2	3	4	5
Professional advisor/consultant	1	2	3	4	5

Neighborhood network	1	2	3	4	5
Community wildfire preparedness group	1	2	3	4	5
Workshops or classes	1	2	3	4	5
Brochures or other printed material	1	2	3	4	5

31. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Please use the 1 to 5 scale, where 1 is “Strongly Disagree” and 5 is “Strongly Agree.”
(For each row, please circle only one number.)

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	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
Economic growth should be given priority, even if the environment suffers	1	2	3	4	5
The balance of nature is delicate and easily upset	1	2	3	4	5
I see my land as self-contained – I don’t think much about the surrounding land	1	2	3	4	5
I trust the government to manage wildfire risk	1	2	3	4	5
I trust the government to control weeds	1	2	3	4	5
I trust the government to reduce human-bear conflict	1	2	3	4	5

32. How many children and/or dependents do you have living at home? _____

33. Do you plan to leave your land to any heirs (e.g., children, dependents, relatives)?
 No Yes If yes, how many? _____ (number of heirs)

34. What is the highest grade of school you completed? *(Please check only one box.)*
 Grade school High school/GED Some college College graduate Post graduate

35. What is your gender? Male Female Prefer not to answer

36. What year were you born? _____ (year)

37. How long have you owned your property in Montana? _____ (years)

38. What is your approximate annual household income before taxes (optional)?

(Please check only one box.)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$9,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10,000 to \$19,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 to \$39,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000 to \$59,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000 to \$79,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80,000 to \$99,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 to \$119,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$120,000 to \$139,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$140,000 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse to disclose or don't know | | |

Thank you for taking this survey. If you have any comments, please include them in the space below:
