

# The Forest Steward's Journal

Winter 2014 Volume 21

## Journal of the Forest Stewardship Foundation

*The MISSION of the Forest Stewardship Foundation is to “educate and inform landowners, natural resource professionals and the general public about the science and ecology of forest lands, the many values derived from forested lands and the principles of sustainable forest land development.”*

*DISCLAIMER: As in the past, we again advise that this information is submitted for your interest only. The Foundation's mission, as indicated above, is to “educate and inform”, not to advocate or persuade. The Foundation takes no position either endorsing or opposing, approving or disapproving, any of the assertions or arguments in the contributed information.*



## Forest Landowner Conference Set for April 24

The 2015 Forest Landowner Conference has been scheduled for Friday, April 24 in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Inn and the intriguing theme for this year's conference is “*Things that Live in the Forest.*” You've probably heard the saying “can't see the forest for the trees.” In reality there is a lot of truth to that statement. Recognizing and appreciating all of the flora and fauna present in the forest environment is part of the fun we experience when out in the woods. It can take a lifetime to develop the skills and knowledge to truly “see the forest.” Developing a better understanding how various species interact with the forest environment and each other also helps us to manage the forest in a way that benefits a diversity of plants and animals.

Expert speakers at the conference this year will include botanists, wildlife biologists, and other natural resource specialists who will speak about the diverse array of wildlife, plants, and animals that inhabit Montana forest landscapes. You'll develop a heightened awareness of things that you may not be currently seeing in the woods. Have you ever wondered where bats live in your forest? What lichens live in the trees? What critters come out at night or live below the ground and under logs? How birds respond to aspen stand enhancement treatments? These are a few of the topics we hope to explore. In addition we plan to cover some of the long-time favorite subjects such as timber markets and preparing for a timber sale. Look forward to seeing you in April!

The intriguing theme for this year's conference is “*Things that Live in the Forest.*”

## Bud Moore “Listened to the Land”

### *Recognition for a Legendary Forest Manager*

By Kevin Rhoades

Having a land ethic analogous to the great conservationist Aldo Leopold, through his writing and inspirational talks, the late Bud Moore helped advance the discussion of conservation ethics, land health, and ecosystem management.

On a local scale, Bud practiced what he preached; he managed 80 acres he called “Coyote Forest” with experience gained from 55 years working as a professional forester with the U.S. Forest Service. Before his death in 2010, Bud prepared an “ecosystem management plan” for Coyote Forest and the surrounding community. He wasn't sure such a thing was feasible for a small tract until he realized he could plan for each type of habitat on his land—the ponds, riparian areas, wooded uplands, the cabin, and mill sites.

“I'm trying to make a plan that will focus on that interdependence so we can come closer to doing no damage,” Bud said. “A place-based plan that tries to recognize the interdependence of all these things puts you in a whole different world. It's amazing what you see when you shift your mindset.”

See “*Bud Moore*” on page 2



Bud Moore (right) often provided tours of his Swan Valley Coyote Forest. He enjoyed discussing forest management.

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## **“Bud Moore”... continued from page 1**

Bud's Coyote Forest is in Missoula County west of Condon. The cabin, today sometimes used as an environmental-learning center, sits on a ridge overlooking a pond edged with alder and willow surrounded by coniferous woodlands, three ponds, seasonal streams, and a channel of the Swan River.

When this 80 acres and surrounding properties were homesteaded during the early part of the 20th century, much clear-cutting and pond drainage occurred. Since Bud made his first footprints on Coyote Forest in 1974, clearings have mostly become lodgepole pine with a mix of other conifers. On the uplands, western larch and Douglas-fir mix with lodgepole pine and intermittent ponderosa pine. Spruce, alpine fir, and cottonwood grow in wetter spots, along with willow and alder at water's edge.

Bud cared for the land in a manner that provides both for sustainable timber harvest while considering the needs of wildlife; all the while he milled wood products from the timber on his property.

“We run a light-on-the-land logging show,” he told Montana Outdoors. “For sustainability, we have to have some income from the land. You'd need to be sitting on a pile of money to be able to just own land without working it.”

Bud always left a portion of his land untouched for natural amenities. Whitetail deer find abundant cover at Coyote Forest. The ponds are home to myriad ducks. Black bears, coyotes, and mountain lions cruise through, and grizzlies find safe harbor here.

After retiring in 1974, Bud and his wife Janet purchased the Swan Valley property bordered by national forest and Plum Creek Timber Company lands. The first thing he and Janet did was select a home site. Good friend Norman Maclean, author of *A River Runs Through It* and *Other Stories*, advised Bud to build his cabin on the ridge, but the woodsman land manager was reluctant because of the logistical nightmare building on a knoll might create, particularly since he planned to build alone and with light equipment.

Maclean and Janet convinced him to build on the ridge, where years later the front porch was occasionally used as a lectern to teach neighbors, conservation partners, and students about sustainable land use and wild places. “You can have little pieces of wilderness even around your home,” he said.

The couple built their cabin and began working a small sawmill for special-order timbers, boards, and mantel pieces. Through years of nurturing timberlands – thoughtfully selecting trees for harvest while also managing for wildlife – Coyote Forest and surrounding plant communities logged over during homesteader days had largely grown back into an even-aged timber stand with light woody debris.

Bud's timber management consisted of even-flow, sustained yield select logging with consideration for wildlife and soil. He emphasized ecological integrity with light emphasis on timber product harvest, all while providing opportunities for hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing, and wildlife watching.

Bud's brilliance and truckload of land stewardship accomplishments inspired Vital Ground to nominate the legendary forester, conservationist-philosopher for the 2013 Missoula County Land Stewardship Award... He was also an inaugural inductee into the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame on Dec. 6, 2014.

True to his vision, Bud had a holistic approach to harvesting trees on Coyote Forest. Rather than managing only for timber, he managed for the entire ecosystem, for all the land's values.

Bud never stopped teaching about sustainable land use and conservation. When he was 91, he invited a group of Wild Rockies Field Institute students to his cabin, where they would walk around Coyote Forest and sit around the table and listen to Bud tell stories.

Years earlier, Bud gave the keynote speech to a group of foresters at the Forest Service's annual Wilderness Rendezvous. A story in the *Selway-Bitterroot Pioneer* told of some of Bud's defining qualities.

*He had something to say to each person at the Rendezvous ... he'd lived much of the history of the Forest Service in the West.*

*He talked about the Wilderness Act, how Howard Zahniser brought people and concepts together. He told the group, you're not credible unless you exude a love of wildness. After the Rendezvous the wilderness rangers returned to their districts fired up with a little inner glow – a phenomenon someone defined as “The Bud Thing.”*

*Bud always seemed to know what to do, what was right. He loved to connect with people, and his confidence flowed through him and right into whoever he was talking to. He considered people “a part of wild country.” He told Idaho public TV, “Working together works, and that's what I'm trying to represent today in whatever way I can.”*

Bud was always interested in bringing the community together. A team player with little tolerance for divisiveness, he was a principal in the Swan Citizens Ad Hoc Group and helped Swan Valley residents transition into an economy that depends less on timber harvest.

Bud Moore was also a member of Communities for the Great Northwest and the Montana Wilderness Association. More importantly, he was a citizen who had an everlasting footprint on neighboring properties.

**See Bud Moore on page 3**

## *“Bud Moore”... continued from page 2*

When The Vital Ground Foundation moved from Utah to Missoula in 2005, Bud called Executive Director Gary Wolfe and asked about a conservation easement to protect Coyote Forest. “Since then, because of the deep respect many folks in the Swan Valley had for Bud, we have worked with Bud’s friends and neighbors to secure 10 additional conservation easements in the Swan Valley,” Wolfe said.

Bud’s property was Vital Ground’s very first conservation easement. The land trust arranged a bargain sale in which Bud donated a portion of the easement value while the organization purchased the balance.

The easement agreement achieved Bud’s goal of permanently protecting Coyote Forest from future development while allowing traditional land uses specifically designed to support suitable wildlife habitat.

Several partners were involved, including Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Montana Land Reliance, the Wildlife Land Trust, the Cinnabar Foundation, Montana Coffee Traders, and friends of Vital Ground.

Three years after Bud’s death, his son, Bill, and wife, Jean, Vital Ground, and five neighbors followed suit and placed their properties – more than 300 acres combined – into conservation easements. All these families have come together to expand on previous work done by the wildlife habitat conservation organization on Bud Moore’s beloved “Coyote Forest.”

“Bud acted as a local outreach ambassador for Vital Ground, which inspired nine conservation easements and one fee-title acquisition to protect important wildlife habitat, riparian resources, and productive forest lands throughout the valley,” said Ryan Lutey, Vital Ground’s director of lands.

Bud’s brilliance and truckload of land stewardship accomplishments inspired Vital Ground to nominate the legendary forester, conservationist-philosopher for the 2013 Missoula County Land Stewardship Award. The award recognizes landowners and residents who take stewardship of the land seriously and embark on projects and practices that benefit land, water, forests, wildlife, and communities.

Subsequently, last year Bud became Missoula County’s 2013 posthumous recipient. He and his family were recognized last summer.

There are not many like Bud Moore left in the world, those men molded by long years of intimate daily connection with wildlife and wilderness. Bud has some simple advice to understand how best to care for wildlife and wild places.

“Listen to the land.”

Folks interested in supporting a documentary about Bud Moore’s life are encouraged to contact Vital Ground Director of Development Mark Brennan at 406-549-8650, or email: [mbrennan@vitalground.org](mailto:mbrennan@vitalground.org).

**Bud Moore was an inaugural inductee in the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2014.**



## **Ties to the Land Workshops Set For Montana April 2015**

After the successful workshops in 2014 we realized that we had a subject that is much bigger than just forest landowners. Succession planning or “who ends up with the property” affects families regardless of if they are potato farmers or forest landowners or just a homeowner. Realizing that we do have limitations on how many of these workshops we can handle both physically and financially we have elected to keep the number of workshops at two for 2015. Thankfully the Montana Association of Land Trusts has once again stepped forward to help sponsor the workshops.

The first workshop is tentatively scheduled for Bozeman on April 23 and the second is scheduled for April 25 in Helena (the Montana Forest Landowner Conference will be held April 24 in Helena). Kirk and Madeline David have once again agreed to facilitate these nationally acclaimed workshops. Exact times and locations will be announced soon. Stay tuned for more information.

## 2014: Conference, Workshops, Stewardship Support and More

### *A Report from Foundation Chairman Ed Levert*

It is hard to believe that we are looking at the end of another year. For our Foundation it has been an interesting and challenging year, but one where we realized all of the successes that we had hoped for.

May of 2014 saw our group busy helping Northwest Management, Inc. prepare for the annual Helena Landowner Conference. In addition to this we launched the first of two Ties To The Land Workshops on succession planning. Here we are today preparing for another landowner conference and two more Ties To The Land Workshops.

The 2015 landowner conference on April 24 in Helena is entitled "What Lives In The Forest". From mushrooms to salamanders and beyond we believe this conference will open the eyes of our forest landowners. Besides subjects related to the theme we will also have many of the standby areas of interest including forest product markets and timber sale preparation.

The Ties To The Land workshops were highly successful last year and we are fortunate to have the same instructors back this year, Kirk and Madeline David. Landowners attending the landowner conference will once again have an opportunity to hang around one more day and attend.

These are not the only activities we have going on. Our board recently made the decision that we will make a donation of \$2,500 to help support the 2015 forest stewardship workshop program in light of their tightening budget.

If you are not already a member of our Foundation I would hope that you would consider joining. We believe we provide much needed natural resource education to landowners and your help is crucial to our efforts.

# Montana Log Market Update

by Gary Ellingson, Forester, Northwest Management, Inc., Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation Board Member

Forest landowners should be pleased to know that the log market in Montana has improved dramatically over the past year and both prices and demand for all types of logs are high. A slow but steady rise in domestic housing starts and strong export market are helping to support log prices in Montana. The demand for timber is high as mills have excess capacity available to process the limited log supply.

Log prices hit bottom during the recession in 2009-2012. Since that time they have steadily increased to price point that equals or exceeds the pre-recession period. The bottom line is that now is a good time to consider a timber sale if you have been waiting for improved market conditions. Landowners interested in tracking log markets have two excellent sources for more information: First is the Northwest Management, Inc. (NMI) *Northwest Market Report* available on-line at [www.consulting-foresters.com](http://www.consulting-foresters.com) or by calling NMI's Helena office at 406-442-7555 to receive a quarterly newsletter. Second is The University of Montana, Bureau of Business and Economic Research Forest Industry Research Program, *Montana Quarterly Log Price Report* available on-line at [www.bber.umt.edu/forest/](http://www.bber.umt.edu/forest/).



Marketing logs can be a bit of a daunting task. It is important to be familiar with the various mills and wood products facilities interested in your timber. These facilities can be located across a wide geographic area. Logs often travel great distances by both truck and rail to reach the best buyer in Montana.

Each potential log purchaser tends to be looking for specific logs. Needs and prices vary by tree species and the length, diameter and quality of log available for sale. Logs may be described as peelers, stud logs, sawlogs, house logs, pulp logs, and post and poles to name a few. To effectively market your logs you must understand what types of logs will be made available if you decide to harvest. Logs must be manufactured to the specifications of the wood product facility that will purchase them. Professional foresters can help you better understand what you will have available to sell. Consulting foresters can develop a timber sale prospectus for potential log purchasers who may be interested in bidding on your timber or negotiating a purchase price. Consulting foresters can also prepare timber sales and locate qualified logging contractors who own and operate equipment best suited to harvest your timber. Procurement foresters who work for mills and wood product manufacturers can also let you know what types of logs their facilities utilize and the prices they are currently paying for delivered logs. They will also assist by providing qualified logging contractors

on the timber sales they purchase. Local DNRC service foresters can provide general information to help you get started and provide information on Forestry BMPs, the Streamside Management Zone Law, and Hazard Reduction Agreements (slash disposal). All professional foresters should be able to help you determine which permits and laws apply to your particular situation.

It is important to understand how logs are bought and sold. Mills may purchase your timber by the ton or by "the thousand" which is one thousand board feet (MBF). This can make it a challenge to compare bids. Consultant foresters typically complete a bid analysis on behalf of landowner clients. When comparing prices offered by wood product purchasers it is also important to consider hauling rates to the various locations. Mill A may offer a better price but Mill B could be the better deal if log transportation costs are significantly lower and overcome the price differential. Different methods of logging will also impact costs. The least expensive logging method may or may not be the best option once you evaluate additional cost associated with road construction or improvement, slash disposal, and weed control.

Montana private forest landowners are a critical part of the log supply equation in Montana. Our wood products industry is dependent on a log supply from private lands. Your forest management objectives will determine what you wish to harvest and sell. In turn the infrastructure of wood product manufacturing facilities, loggers, and truckers is necessary to harvest, haul and manufacture the logs and wood you sell in order to achieve your objectives. We are mutually dependent on one another to support sustainable forest management for now and into the future.

# Forests In Focus Initiative

## *Q&A with DNRC Director John Tubbs*

Thanks to Montana Department of Natural Resources Director John Tubbs for providing the Forest Steward's Journal information about a state initiative from Governor Steve Bullock named Forests in Focus. Forests in Focus is designed to address challenges and opportunities facing Montana in four key areas - 1) Forest Restoration and Industry Retention, 2) Tribal, State and Private Forests, 3) Federal Forest Management, and 4) Collaboration and Partnerships. Thanks to Director Tubbs for participating in this Q&A with the Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation.

### **Q: What would the Governor and DNRC like to accomplish through the Forests in Focus Initiative?**

A: Montana's forests provide an abundance of benefits to our economy and our environment. However, millions of acres of forestlands in Montana are impacted by forest insects and disease. Active management is an important tool that needs to be used to promote forest and watershed health, improve wildlife habitat and sustain our local economies.

Montana mills are a key component to this initiative. Matching the demand for timber products with forest restoration projects keeps the cost low for the taxpayer, brings profit to main street Montana, and improves watershed and wildlife habitat.

### **Q: What are some of the key program components within the Initiative?**

A: There are four key areas within the initiative. One receiving much attention is our partnership with the US Forest Service with a goal of increasing the pace of forest restoration projects on federal lands. Faced with nearly 6 million acres of beetle-killed and diseased forests, action must be taken now. The Forest in Focus initiative intends to change the current paradigm of plan and litigate to one of collaboration and action. Governor Bullock has authorized \$1 million to be invested in USFS projects to help accelerate restoration on national forests in Montana.

The 2014 Farm Bill identified a specific role for collaborative efforts through authority to use a categorical exclusion for certain restoration projects that are less than 3,000 acres. This will be an important tool for some projects but more importantly it is a recognition that locally driven collaborative efforts are an effective approach to working through conflicting interests to identify forest restoration projects to implement. The Governor's initiative is being coordinated with existing collaboratives and we are in discussions on where new focused efforts may need to be initiated.

State, tribal and private forestlands is the third area of focus for the initiative. DNRC maintains a strong forestry assistance program providing technical and financial assistance. At the direction of Governor Bullock the Forest in Focus Initiative is able to offer \$2 million in new funding for fuels reduction and fire mitigation projects in eastern and western Montana. Projects which include harvest of commercial timber, forest restoration, habitat enhancement and wildfire risk reduction will be given priority for these funds.

The final area of focus is on timber industry retention and development. Montana greatly benefits for the seven large mills in operation in the state as well as the small mills servicing local areas. The commercial value of Montana's timber is dependent upon these mills remaining open and operating. It is the commercial value of the timber that will allow us to keep taxpayer costs low as we implement restoration projects that protect watersheds, reduce fire hazards and protect habitat. Without the mills this would not be possible at the scale that is required. The initiative goes beyond retention and is also focused on identifying new markets and products. New companies like Blue Marble in Missoula and SmartLam in Columbia Falls represent value added industry that is essential to maintaining existing mills and to grow the industry in Montana.

### **Q: Do the program goals vary with land ownership type... state, federal, private?**

***"The initiative goes beyond retention and is also focused on identifying new markets and products. New companies like Blue Marble in Missoula and SmartLam in Columbia Falls represent value added industry that is essential to maintaining existing mills and to grow the industry in Montana."***

A: The program goals remain the same but the tools we use vary by ownership as well as with the specific projects. Each private landowner has their own individual priorities and goals. Through development of conservation plans the Department works with landowners to match their priorities with the priorities of the initiative.

DNRC's Trust Lands division manages over 700,000 acres of forested land with an annual sustainable yield of 53.2 million board feet. Recognized for their effectiveness, Trust Land foresters plan and implement dozens of timber projects per year generating an average of \$8 million per year to trust beneficiaries. In the last several years the timber harvest from Trust Lands has been an important part of the supply for Montana mills. Trust Lands represent five percent of the forested land but produces over 15 percent of the total harvest. DFWP is actively managing 57,000 acres of timberlands with a goal of habitat protection and enhancement.

DNRC works with Tribal Natural Resources Offices on forest restoration projects. For example the Northern Cheyenne annually purchases over five hundred thousand saplings from the state nursery for restoration projects on the reservation.

### **Q: How can private forest owners participate in the Initiative?**

A: DNRC maintains six Area Offices in Kalispell, Missoula, Helena, Lewistown, Billings and Miles City. I would encourage landowners in these areas to contact DNRC's offices to discuss their needs and ideas for their forested lands. DNRC also works with local providers such as the Bitterroot RC&D to distribute private land forestry assistance grants and our Area Offices can get a landowner in touch with any local provider we are partnering with to provide assistance. Also, DNRC works closely with MSU-Extension on forest landowner education and assistance.



### **Q: Is there a good source of information on the initiative for private forest owners?**

A: The Forests in Focus website, <http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/forestsinfocus.asp>, is the best source of up-to-date information on the initiative. The Forest Assistance Bureau located in Missoula is staffing the initiative and they would be an excellent point of contact for anyone interested in the initiative (Forestry Assistance Bureau, 2075 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59804 Phone: 406-542-4300).

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## Join the Forest Management Discussion on Facebook

The Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation has established a Facebook group page to help private forest landowners obtain and exchange information about forest management trends, issues, and more.

We're just getting started in the social media world of Facebook, but the Foundation board established the Facebook group specifically to post and exchange information about the importance of private land forestry. The group address on Facebook is <https://www.facebook.com/montanaforeststewardshipfoundation> and it's easy to get signed up:

- 1) Join Facebook (if you haven't already done so).
- 2) Type in "Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation" into the top "Search" box.
- 3) Once you find the Foundation's group page, click the "Like" box.

Once you "Like" the group page you'll automatically receive all Foundation posts and comments, and will be able to post and comment on the information posted on the page. Please contact Glenn Marx at 406-490-1659 or at [montanamalt@q.com](mailto:montanamalt@q.com) for more information.



Interested in Private Forest Management?

Interested in Forest Sustainability?

Interested in Wood Products Markets?

**JOIN THE MONTANA FOREST  
STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION**