



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

Managing state trust lands and the intricate relationship between forestry and fire

FORESTRY AND TRUST LANDS DIVISION

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Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) plays a crucial role in managing the state's natural resources and protecting lands from wildfire. The department oversees nearly 5.2 million surface acres and 6.2 million mineral acres of state trust lands generating revenue for K-12 public schools, universities, and other public institutions in Montana. The agency also provides wildland fire protection on approximately 60 million acres of state, private, and federal lands to protect property and communities. By actively addressing forest health through projects and programs throughout the state, DNRC helps mitigate wildfire risks and promotes healthier forest ecosystems.



FIRE PROTECTION

The DNRC provides safe and aggressive wildland fire response for approximately 60 million acres of land in the state and collaborates with local, state, and federal agencies to train, fight fire and mitigate fire hazards. The department builds and maintains firefighting equipment, offers fire engines to communities throughout the state, and implements education programs to mitigate fire risk in communities.

FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

DNRC supports landscape-scale projects to treat and manage Montana's forests. Through grant funding, education and technical expertise, the agency reaches more than 50 percent of Montana's population every year with services to improve forest health. The nursery program provides trees and native plants for conservation projects to help maintain riparian areas and enhance shade in urban communities.



GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

DNRC works with federal agencies to address forest health and wildfire risk on federal lands, accelerating forest management efforts regardless of ownership.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

DNRC manages 793,000 acres of forested trust lands to produce revenue for K-12 public schools, universities, and other public institutions mainly from the sale of forest products. Forest management on trust lands accounts for 10 percent of the total revenue and all projects are reviewed and approved through the Board of Land Commissioners.



AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT

DNRC manages and leases 4.7 million acres under almost 9,000 agreements for crop and range land throughout Montana. The program generates approximately \$20 to \$30 million annually to help benefit K-12 public schools, universities, and other public institutions.



MINERALS MANAGEMENT

DNRC leases, permits, and manages the responsible development of oil and gas, coal, and sand and gravel agreements on more than 520,000 acres of trust land and 11,885 acres of other state-owned land. While DNRC manages the lease, all required permitting and regulation is required by the operators through applicable state, federal and local authorities. Revenue from the leases helps to benefit K-12 public schools, universities and other public institutions.



REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT

DNRC manages commercial, residential and renewable energy leasing, licensing, granting and or sharing of access easements and recreational use easements as well as land and cabin homes site sales. Revenue from real estate contributes to K-12 public schools, universities, and other public institutions.

RECREATIONAL USE

State trust lands offer recreational opportunities throughout the state. Recreating such as birdwatching, hunting, hiking, fishing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, or camping on state trust lands requires a conservation license that can be purchased through Fish, Wildlife and Parks. A portion of the sale helps to fund trust beneficiaries such as public schools.



To learn more about The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Forestry and Trust Lands, visit:

DNRC.MT.GOV



Forestry &
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