

November 12, 2025

MFC

Participants: Marc Vessar - DNRC, Zack Miller - WY, Lexi Brown – MSU Extension Forestry and PLT, Cameron Wohlschegel – FH Stoltze, Coleen Michael and Justin Doble - MLA, Brian Hobday – Green Diamond Resource, Tom Agens - PCA, Nicole Porter – American Forest Management, Roger Ziesak and Erin Clark – Montana Forest Consultants, David Nikonow – Wild Turkey Federation, Ashley Machus - DNRC, Peter Kolb – MSU Extension Forestry

MFC Administrator: Julia Altemus

Welcome and Introductions: Cameron

Anti-trust Statement: Cameron

June 2025 notes: no edits or comments

Educational Brochure: Marc said the committee has not had a chance to work on the educational brochure, but he did send out a link to a different brochure entitled “Wildfire Recovery” that the council may want to take a look at. Cameron asked if maybe we shrink down the brochure option that Marc sent out since the committee has not had a chance to work on the educational brochure the council agreed to last meeting. Marc, maybe with budget constraints, the option he sent out might be a good way to go this time and just print 100 copies. Cameron reminded the group of the topics that were discussed in June. Wildfire Recovery. Zack, we live in a digital world. He did look through the brochure link that Marc sent out and think this is a good way to go since the links in the brochure will work digitally which won’t work if printed. Roger suggested printing some. Nicole suggested adding a qr code so people can go to the linked information. Cameron, does the council want to stick with the Wildfire Recovery topic with a trifold and hyperlinks. Everyone agreed. Cameron said Peter is willing to help as well. Erin wanted to know if the information presented can be shared? Ashley said it can be shared because it is already online. MTforestinfo.org.

Project Learning Tree/SFI: Lexi, Project Learning Tree has had a few workshops across the state and facilitator refresher at Lubrecht in September. There are some national leadership changes coming soon. She will share once the leadership changes are confirmed. She attended the 2025 PLT conference. The 2026 conference was supposed to happen in Nebraska, but with the leadership changes, it is unclear if the conference will be in Nebraska. There traditionally are scholarships available, but this has now changed, so the 2026 national conference in 2026 may not happen. There will be 2 workshops in Montana next year, Missoula and Bozeman. Zack wanted to know if Lexi could share who participated in the workshops. Lexi will share the names.

Recruitment Committee Update: Zack talked to Caleb D and wanted to keep it simple. They looked at increasing dues but decided to try to increase members to offset costs. Additional supporting member category would be good at a reduced rate. Cameron looked at the dues structure of other SICs across the country. Other SICs have various dues levels, more than what MFC does. One priority of the SIC is to increase awareness of the SFI program. Cameron said it is important to keep moving forward with recruitment and member structure because the MFC is operating on a shoestring. Peter agreed that a small dues category would help bring other organizations and businesses, etc in to participating in the MFC. Cameron volunteered to join the committee. He is not sure of Caleb's involvement moving forward. Peter suggested counties with a large timber base might be interested in joining as well. Tom said Oregon and Washington are collaborating together to work on bringing in the breweries. He wanted to know if MFC has done any outreach to the breweries. Cameron will reach out to Gordy Mouw. Coleen said she can help with brainstorming other potential members but cannot ask the current MLA members to add more costs to their businesses. Zack, what is the MFC offering potential members. What are the benefits of the MFC. Why would they want to sign up. Cameron said other SICs specify why it's important to support the SIC. Peter said we have the MT DNRC and Extension Forestry that belongs to the MFC. The council is not just made-up industry people. Ashley suggested she will help with the graphic design if the committee decides the MFC would like to have a one-page pitch brochure.

MFC Financial Report: Coleen said they are anticipating for 2026 cash commitment of about 25,585K, in kind of 29,250. Expenses of 28,100K and MLA in-kind of 7,500 leaving a projected surplus of approximately 5,000k. There was a typo with the annual commitment from Stimson. Julia asked for an updated financial statement for 2026. Tom gave an update on PCA. Operating at about 80%. Future is a bit unclear. One of their machines has not been operating for a while but will come online at some point in the future. PCA does not have an agreement with BNSF for 2026 yet. PCA is still moving Willis Enterprises material out. PCA is still sourcing wood from Montana and will continue to rely on the MFC and MLA logger training program. Brian said the Intermountain Logging Conference committee had a meeting and are looking for financial support for the conference. He is asking if MFC is interested in helping to sponsor the Intermountain Logging Conference for 2026. Cameron wanted to know what the basic sponsorship level is. Brian said he would get back to Cameron later with the figures. Cameron felt there would be a little bit of money available at a lower sponsorship level. Zack said there is a sponsorship level at \$500.00. Zack suggested supporting at the Friends of the ILC for \$500.00. Coleen wanted to know if this would be an annual commitment. Brian said not necessarily. Cameron made a motion to support at \$500, Nicole offered a second. No one was opposed.

Spring 2026 Training: Justin said he doesn't have a lot organized yet. He has reached out to the mills on scaling workshops and FS virtual boundaries would be good topic. Justin will have more information by the February 2026 meeting. He is hoping to come with

another class by February. Marc wanted to know if they are marking SMZ virtual boundaries? Cameron said there is direction in the handbook on geofencing, but the FS does not usually recognize MT SMZ. The FS uses a risk assessment before they would even use virtual boundaries. Trying to use discernible boundaries which still fall under virtual boundaries. Cameron wanted to know if MLA had given a workshop on designation by prescription? Justin didn't believe so. Peter suggested that this topic is a good one for the landowner workshops. Cameron is going to send information to Peter and Justin.

Member and Partner Updates: Cameron said it's been pretty wet in the Flathead. Running two shifts. Had an audit that went well. Julia gave an MWPA update. Nicole said the SPP had a 5-year audit under the HCP and passed. Hope to harvest next year but she's not sure yet. Erin was at the national SFI conference. Montana Forest Consultants may want to take on moving into the auditor space. They are in the process of hiring. Peter said the national effort to dissolve the State and Private Forestry program will cause a major problem with the Extension Forestry program. They can fund for one year with savings but without changes to the federal budget, the state program may dissolve. Peter also said he testified at a state hearing pertaining to wildfire costs and the recent audit completed by the audit committee. Another major issue a forest inventory on 4.5 million acres of private timberland. Cameron wanted to know if there is anything MFC can do to help support Extension Forestry. Our congressional delegation and state leaders need to hear from individuals regarding the importance of the program. Brian said Green Diamond Resource also had an audit on the HCP and passed. He wanted to thank folks for supporting their Great Outdoors Phase II CE that was before the Land Board in October. Passed 4 to 1. Completed their precommercial thinning program. Marc there has been 4 small violations on Trust Lands. All warnings. These violations go to the contractor. The violations are happening outside the unit. Trust Lands will talk to the contractors. More communication and outreach. Prepping for the 2026 BMP audits. This week's roundtable Rep John Fitzpatrick and Wood Products Revolving Loan fund and the changes the Department of Commerce did through rules. He hopes to have industry representatives attend the meeting. Cameron wanted to know why Friday afternoon? Marc said he will add this to the agenda for discussion. Ashely said there was good participation during Forest Products Week. Coleen said they are getting ready for their Christmas party the first week of December. David hopes the government shutdown ends soon so he can continue with federal projects. He also said that Friday Roundtable is a tough time and day but really feel it's important to have the congressional delegation staff there. Justin is heading to the FFA meeting to teach kids about logging and forestry. Zack said Weyerhaeuser is busy. Had the AFRC meetings last week. WY didn't have an audit this year. Tom PCA went through an recertification audit recently. Suggested that everyone review their procedures and policies and made sure everyone is following through. Roger suggested going forward to list Erin as the primary contact for MT Forest Consultants. Lexi said for 2026 there are 4 workshops planned. Brochures are going out Monday. Frenchtown, Kalispell, Bozeman and Billings May through September of 2026.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2026 zoom.