

# Montana's Conservation Measurement Tool

## NIPF-GENERAL

Date:	<input type="text"/>
Prepared By:	<input type="text"/>
Enter Producer Name:	<input type="text"/>
Enter Farm/Tract Number:	<input type="text"/>
Enter County:	<input type="text"/>

Questions	Response
<p><b>1. Do you have unpaved farm roads used by farm vehicles (does not include unpaved county roads or other unpaved public roads) or other unpaved areas such as feedlots or material handling areas that frequently result in significant dust generation, reducing visibility along the road or over the unpaved area for extended periods? If yes, check any of the following methods you regularly use to control dust.</b>  <b>(Montana Note: this question will always be answered No in Montana)</b></p> <p>a) Regularly spraying water to reduce the dust  b) Apply biodegradable oils to reduce the dust  c) Gravel surfacing  d) Apply other environmentally benign dust control chemicals  e) None of the above</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A  <input type="checkbox"/> B  <input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> D  <input type="checkbox"/> E</p>

**2. Identify each energy conservation reduction method used on your forest land:**

**(Montana Note:** These questions apply to the farmstead but not the residence.)

**Have you replaced electric motors or engines on your farm with high efficiency models in the last 3 years? A “yes” answer considers the following**

- **The motors should be labeled as “premium”, which means they are more efficient than the current DOE standard.**
- **Consider only electric motors that are used for major activities on the farm such as pumps to move water or waste, ventilation fans, etc.**

**Refer to the ANSI/ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits for a list of “major activities”**

**(Montana Note:** Answer yes if: 1) the motor was installed on the farm in the last 3 years; 2) if a motor greater than 3 hp was installed with a full load efficiency greater than or equal to 83% as stamped on the name plate of the motor. Do not answer yes for replacement of submersible pumps because the inherent efficiencies and electric loads are relatively insignificant.)

Yes  
 No

**Do you use alternative energy sources (solar, wind, biofuels, green energy) to replace fossil fuel energy uses on your farm? A “yes” answer considers the following:**

- **Wind or solar powered pumps**
- **Solar powered electric fencing**
- **Any biofuel blend**

**(Montana Note:** Does not include E15 Ethanol or B15 or B20 biodiesel.)

**(Montana Note:** Answer ‘Yes’ to solar and wind generated energy for pumps and motors of any size.)

**(Montana Note:** Answer ‘N/A’ for solar electric fences. The power consumption of an electric fence in good condition is relatively insignificant.)

Yes  
 No

**Have you improved the efficiency of heating, cooling or drying operations on your farm in the last 3 years? A “yes” answer considers the following:**

- **Evaluation is conducted on how energy efficient a particular grain drying system is rather than a comparison of one system versus another.**

**Refer to the decision tree to determine if an applicant has an energy efficient grain drying system.**

Yes  
 No

**Have you conducted an energy audit on your farm and are now implementing the energy audit actions? A “yes” answer considers the energy audit complies with ANSI/ASABE S612 Performing On-Farm Energy Audits.**

Yes  
 No

(**Montana Note:** Answer ‘Yes’ for professional energy audits of ag production/irrigation systems conducted by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) or equivalent.)

(**Montana Note:** Answer ‘NO’ for a routine propane/natural gas inspection service, which inspects gas lines and regulators for leaks, appliances for proper burner and venting, etc.)

(**Montana Note:** Answer ‘NA’ for a professional home energy audit which checks appliances and home heating and cooling systems for leaks.)

(**Montana Note:** Irrigation system audits are acceptable for “Yes”)

**Have you performed a pumping plant evaluation during the last 3 years and implemented the recommendations? A “yes” answer considers the following: High efficiency pumping plants installed within the last 3 years or recognized through pumping plant evaluation, including those using solar or other renewable energy sources. Pumping plants should include:**

- **A tier III or tier IV diesel motor**
- **Using a variable frequency drive and/or**
- **Have had a pumping plant evaluation and implemented its recommendations in the last 3 years.**

Yes  
 No

# Montana's Conservation Measurement Tool

## Forest Land Existing Activity Conservation Performance

(Montana Note: in Montana, Forest Land is eligible if:

- 25% canopy cover using dot grid;
- Must be managed as timber production;
- Can include grazed woodlands
- FOR 2012-1 policy has changed and there is no minimum size required (518.52(b)(3))

Questions	Response
<p><b>1.0 Select one of the following descriptions that best represents the majority of your forest land.</b></p> <p>a) A plantation consisting predominantly of one tree species with little or no understory.</p> <p>b) A plantation consisting predominantly of one tree species, but has a variety of shrubs and/or grasses and forbs in the understory.</p> <p>c) A forest consisting of tree species which naturally occur on the site. Trees are mostly even-aged, generally uniform in height, with little understory vegetation.</p> <p>d) A forest consisting of multiple tree species which naturally occur on the site (certain sites may naturally have only one tree species). Trees are uneven-aged (or occur in uneven-aged groups), with an array of tree heights, with little understory vegetation. The forest is actively managed to retain standing dead trees and large downed trees and limbs.</p> <p>e) A forest consisting of multiple tree species which naturally occur on the site (certain sites may naturally have only one tree species). Trees are uneven-aged (or occur in uneven-aged groups) with an array of tree heights, and an understory shrub and or forb layer. The forest is actively managed to retain standing dead trees and downed large trees and limbs are abundant. The dead trees and debris are actively managed for wildlife habitat.</p> <p>f) Other</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> E</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> F</p>

<p><b>2.0 Has a thinning or improvement harvest been completed recently (past 10 years) on your forest land? If "NO", skip to Question 3.</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>2.1 From the choices below (a-c) select the answer that best describes the thinning or improvement harvesting.</b></p> <p>a) Thinning or improvement harvesting completed on &lt;10% of forest land.</p> <p>b) Thinning or improvement harvesting completed on 10-25% of forest land.</p> <p>c) Thinning or improvement harvesting completed on &gt;25% of forest land.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C
<p><b>2.2 For the forest trails, landings (areas where logs are stacked for loading) and roads used during thinning or harvest activities: SELECT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY. (Montana Note: includes slash disposal sites)</b></p> <p>a) Designated skid trails for logging/forest product removal were used to limit disturbance and compaction.</p> <p>b) Water bars, culverts and/or rolling dips have been installed on roads and safely outletted.</p> <p>c) Forest trails, landings and cut- and fill-slopes of roads are seeded following tree harvest.</p> <p>d) During heavy use periods dust was controlled through the use of water, wood chips, rock surfacing or paving.</p> <p>e) None of the above</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E
<p><b>2.3 During the thinning or harvest, did you use practices to protect riparian areas such as riparian setbacks, minimum equipment activity in streams and riparian zones and low impact stream crossings when working near streams or watercourses?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<p><b>3.0 Have you reforested suitable tree growing areas? If "NO", skip to Question 4.</b>  <b>From the choices below (a-c) select the answer that best describes the site preparation activities for tree planting or natural regeneration.</b>  <b>(Montana Note: Includes natural regeneration and/or planting desired tree species.)</b></p> <p>a) Where a timber harvest has occurred, site preparation activities created bare mineral soil and removed slash on less than 10% of the land in the reforested unit. If tree planting took place on abandoned cropland or grassland little or no site preparation was done.</p> <p>b) Where a timber harvest has occurred, site preparation activities created bare mineral soil and removed slash on 10-25% of the land in the reforested unit. If tree planting took place on abandoned cropland or grassland, a moderate level of site preparation was applied (mechanical and/or chemical destruction of existing vegetation).</p> <p>c) Where a timber harvest has occurred, site preparation activities created bare mineral soil and removed slash on more than 25% of the land in the reforested unit. If tree planting took place on abandoned cropland or grassland, heavy site preparation was applied (mechanical and/or chemical destruction of existing vegetation).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> A  <input type="checkbox"/> B  <input type="checkbox"/> C
<p><b>4.0 Do you control the access to your forest by people, vehicles, or livestock?</b>  <b>From the choices below (a-d) select the answer that best describes the majority of your forest land.</b></p> <p>a) I monitor and control who and what comes on to my property.</p> <p>b) I monitor, control and have my property posted.</p> <p>c) I monitor and have my property posted, access points are fenced, gated.</p> <p>d) None of the above</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D

<p><b>5.0 Select any of the following measures (a-f) you have taken to reduce wildfire risks to your forest?</b></p> <p>a) There are access roads to all parts of the property suitable for pumper trucks and other fire vehicles</p> <p>b) There are strategically located firebreaks. (<b>Montana Note:</b> a firebreak is a permanent or temporary strip, 50' to 200' wide, of bare or vegetated land to retard fire.)</p> <p>c) There are strategically located fuelbreaks. (<b>Montana Note:</b> a fuel break is a strip or block of land on which the vegetation, debris, and detritus have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire crossing the strip or block of land. See MT383 for fuelbreak distances in forested areas and for buildings.)</p> <p>d) During the fire season water sources are available, clearly identified and accessible.</p> <p>e) Prescribed burning is conducted as needed or on a recurring schedule</p> <p>f) None of the above</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> E</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> F</p>
<p><b>6.0 Do you have any WATER BODIES (lakes, ponds or wetlands) on or adjacent to your forest land?</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p><b>6.1 What percentage of the total boundary of these areas has at least a 33-foot wide zone of diverse vegetation that is native to the site or introduced species that have become naturalized between the edge of the waterbody and adjacent land?</b></p> <p>a) less than 25%</p> <p>b) 26% but less than 50%</p> <p>c) 50% - 75%</p> <p>d) more than 75%</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D</p>

<p><b>6.2 Does upland runoff (surface or groundwater) empty directly—without filtration through a vegetated buffer—into any of the lakes/ponds/wetlands on your forest land?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>7 Do you have any WATER COURSES (ditches, sinkholes, intermittent or perennial streams, or rivers) on or adjacent to your forest land? If "NO", skip to Question 14.</b>  (Montana Note: Includes irrigation ditches, canals and drains)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>8 Do you pump (directly or indirectly) or divert water from a river or stream? If "Yes", select appropriate choice below.</b></p> <p>a) Water withdrawal completely dewateres stream habitat.</p> <p>b) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are unscreened (for aquatic animals).</p> <p>c) Water withdrawal diminishes streamflow; diversions or pumps are screened (for aquatic animals).</p> <p>d) None of the above</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D

<p><b>9 Do you have instream structures on your property, such as diversion dams, road crossings (bridges or culverts), low-water crossings, and pumping stations. If "Yes", select appropriate choice below.</b>  <b>(Montana note:</b> Includes any dam or irrigation structure on a live stream)</p> <p>a) Structure blocks aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream during all or part of the year.</p> <p>b) Structure could block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream part or all of the year.</p> <p>c) Structure does not block aquatic organisms from passing upstream or downstream at any time of the year.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C
<p><b>10 Consider all streams and rivers on your forest land and select the choice below which best describes your situation. Select the condition that best describes 90% of the total length of the streams/rivers on your forest land.</b>  <b>(Montana Note:</b> Natural vegetation is permanent vegetation along the streams and rivers. If permanent vegetation is present then answer is b or c. If there is non-native vegetation present such as cheat grass, annuals, blue grass species, crested wheatgrass, smooth brome or an abundance of weeds, the answer is a.</p> <p>a) Natural vegetation sparse or absent along waterways.</p> <p>b) Natural vegetation is present along waterway but is not at least 33 feet wide or 2.5 times as wide as the stream channel.</p> <p>c) Natural vegetation is present along all margins of waterways capable of supporting vegetation AND is at least 33 feet wide or 2.5 times as wide as the stream channel.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C

<p><b>11 Consider all streams and rivers on your forest land. Select the choice below which best describes the condition of vegetation along 90% the streams or rivers on your forest land.</b>  <b>(Montana Note:</b> Natural vegetation is permanent vegetation along the streams and rivers. If permanent vegetation is present then the answer is b or c. If there is non-native vegetation present such as cheat grass, annuals, blue grass species, crested wheatgrass, smooth brome or an abundance of weeds, the answer is c.)</p> <p>a) Little or no natural vegetation on the majority of streambanks because of unmanaged livestock grazing, motorized vehicle access or other usage.</p> <p>b) Natural vegetation is present, but species and age distribution is limited on at least 50% of the streambanks because of unmanaged livestock grazing, motorized vehicle access or other usage.</p> <p>c) Natural vegetation is present with good species and age diversity because livestock and motorized vehicle access to all (100%) streambanks are managed and limited according to acceptable guidelines.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> A  <input type="checkbox"/> B  <input type="checkbox"/> C
<p><b>12 Is your forest grazed by livestock?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>12.1 Select the answer below that best describes how grazing is managed?</b></p> <p>a) Livestock usage is heavy and livestock have free access onto forest land with little or no attempt to manage grazing distribution.</p> <p>b) Livestock usage is moderate to heavy but livestock are actively managed to control grazing distribution.</p> <p>c) Grazing does not exceed forage production on any portion of the land. Livestock are managed to rest individual grazing units as needed to maintain optimal forage production.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> A  <input type="checkbox"/> B  <input type="checkbox"/> C
<p><b>13 Are you aware of any invasive or noxious non-native species occurring on your forest land?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<p><b>13.1 From the choices below (a-c) select the answer that best describes your invasive or noxious non-native species management.</b></p> <p>a) Invasive or noxious non-native species have been identified.</p> <p>b) Invasive or noxious non-native species have been identified and are being monitored to check extent and if they are spreading.</p> <p>c) Invasive or noxious non-native species have been identified, control actions have been taken and monitoring continues.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p>
<p><b>14 Select one of the following answers that describes how pests are controlled on your forest land.</b></p> <p>a) Pesticides are applied without using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system.</p> <p>b) A full Integrated Pest Management system is not yet implemented, but one or more IPM management techniques that are appropriate for the site are utilized on a regular basis, such as: avoiding pests by timing of forest harvesting and controlling slash, reducing forest stocking to optimize tree health and pest resistance, favoring pest-resistant forest overstory and understory species, improving habitat for pest predators, using pest-free seeds and transplants, spot spraying, individual plant treatment, banding, directed spraying, hand hoeing, pest scouting, and biological pest controls.</p> <p>c) A basic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system is utilized with scouting and economic thresholds to manage pests and reduce pest management environmental risk, utilizing pest suppression techniques (including pesticide applications) only after monitoring (including pest scouting) verifies that a pest population has reached an economic threshold.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p>