

Land Stewardship Series

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - 2024

Soil and Pasture Health: Thursday March 28th

Hayes Goosey, MSU Assistant Professor and Extension Forage Specialist

Patrick Mangan, MSU Extension Agriculture Agent

Soil is the foundation for a healthy ecosystem that often gets overlooked. We will learn how to maintain soil health and fertility and learn how to manage pastures for healthy soils and livestock.

Noxious Weeds: Montana Noxious Weed Identification and Management: Thursday April 4th

Noel Jinings, Noxious Weed Education & Compliance Officer, Flathead County

An introduction to Montana and Flathead County noxious weeds including identification, associated regulations, and management options.

Landowner Fire Preparedness: Thursday April 11th

Kellie Kulseth, Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator, DNRC Kalispell Unit

A conversation about the impacts of wildfire on our rural and urban communities and the tools land/homeowners can use whether they own 40 or .4 acres. We will be discussing landscaping techniques, ember awareness, home ignition zone treatment and ways to help defend your home and land from fire.

Living in the Forest: Insects, Disease and Wildfire: Thursday April 18th

Holly McKenzie, DNRC Service Forester at Flathead Unit, a DNRC Service Forester available to the public for private property visits to assess forest health, wildfire risk, tree thinning needs, and weed recommendations.

This talk is designed to touch on basic forestry information centering around forest health, tree thinning to increase resiliency to wildfire and insect/disease issues we commonly see in our area. We'll also talk about transitions to forest cover which includes planting, scarification, and tree thinning to adjust sunlight and moisture needs. Grants may be available for some project areas, so we will touch on grants being offered in Northwest Montana, including a guest appearance from an NRCS specialist.

Living by Water: Navigating the complex world of best practices and balanced use: Thursday April 25th

Samantha Tappenbeck, Resource Conservationist, Flathead Conservation District

Water is the most valuable natural resource in the Treasure State and connects us as it flows with no regard to property boundaries. This session will cover the basics of the Flathead watershed, describe potential impacts to water quality, and explore best practices for balanced use of this shared resource from the perspective of a private landowner.

Living with Wildlife: Large Carnivore Conflict Mitigation and Resources: Thursday May 2nd

Ryan Wilbur, NW Field Project Manager – People and Carnivores

Grizzly and black bears, mountain lions, and wolves roam western Montana on landscapes with chickens, cows, sheep, garbage, beehives, fruit trees, pet and livestock food, grain, and more. When large carnivores overlap with these attractants, conflicts can happen. We will discuss nonlethal strategies and resources to reduce conflict with large carnivores to keep people and property safe and carnivores wild.