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Missoula County

Media Release

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Missoula County Commissioners Announce 2017 Land Stewardship Award Recipient

The Missoula County Commissioners are pleased to announce Mark Vander Meer as the recipient of the 2017 Land Stewardship Award. He will receive the award at a ceremony on Thursday, July 6 at 1:30 p.m. at one of his forest management project sites in the Gold Creek area. The ceremony will include a short tour led by the Mr. Vander Meer.

“Historically, I thought of Mark as somewhat of an enigma, a logger, a forester and yet an environmentalist,” Tom DeLuca, Dean W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation, said. “Now looking back I see him as less of an enigma and more of a glimpse into the future. Forestry is about to turn the corner from being cast as part of the extraction industry to leaders in the environmental field, Mark will be there leading the way.”

Vander Meer has been an integral part of land restoration for many projects on federal, state, county, city, and private land.

He is a champion of natural resource restoration and soil health. Mark not only practices stewardship through helping others with their land and his job but also utilizes his skills on his own land. Additionally, he has been committed to stewardship on a larger scale, through volunteering his time for workshops, lectures, and assisting in planting riparian species along Pattee Creek. He is always willing to take on the next project or challenge.

The Land Stewardship Award recognizes landowners and residents who are taking stewardship of land and water seriously and embarking on projects and practices that make a difference for land, water, forests, wildlife, and communities. Missoula County, with the leadership of the County’s Open Lands Citizen Advisory Committee, would like to thank these outstanding stewards and learn from them through the annual Land Stewardship Award program.

For more information about previous award recipients, check out the new [online story map](#).



2017 Missoula County Land Steward, Mark Vander Meer