

Missoula County Media Release

Contact: Kylie Paul

Natural Resource Specialist

kpaul@missoulacounty.us

406-258-4869

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Missoula County Seeking Nominations for Land Stewardship Award

Missoula County Community and Planning Services is now accepting nominations for the annual Land Stewardship Award. The 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.

Community members and organizations are invited to nominate landowners and residents who are restoring, protecting or enhancing land and natural resources to ensure natural systems are maintained and strengthened. The nomination form is due Friday, May 1, and is available on the Community and Planning Services Open Lands website at <http://missoula.co/stewardshipaward>.

The award program, through the leadership of the county's Open Lands Advisory Committee, recognizes the critical role private landowners and residents play in resource conservation through their stewardship activities.

"In addition to thanking these tireless, voluntary stewards for the work they do to protect our lands, the Land Stewardship Award allows us to capture the stories of the successes and challenges they've met along the way," said Kylie Paul, natural resource specialist with the CAPS Parks, Trails & Open Lands division. "Staff can then identify key elements that helped achieve project outcomes, and we use these stories to highlight tools and programs landowners and residents can take advantage of to restore, enhance and protect land and water resources."

The Land Stewardship Award has recognized previous recipients for their innovative and cooperative land management of forests, ranches and properties in the Swan, Blackfoot, Ninemile, Bonner and Gold Creek regions. An interactive map highlighting past recipients is online at <http://missoula.co/stewardshipmap>.

For more information about the program, call Paul at 406-258-4869 or email kpaul@missoulacounty.us.

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The Community and Planning Services Open Lands Program focuses on connecting communities, private landowners, local organizations and agencies with resources and opportunities to conserve the diverse mix of forests, grass lands, agricultural lands and water resources throughout Missoula County. More information about the Open Lands Program is online at <http://missoula.co/openlandsprogram>.