



Missoula County LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

Seeking Outstanding Land Stewards!
Call for Nominations 2025

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

Landowners and residents in Missoula County take stewardship of land and water seriously and embark on projects and practices that make a difference — for the land, water, fish, wildlife, and our communities.

Missoula County would like to thank those outstanding stewards and, more importantly, learn from them. We are looking for exemplary stewards to be recognized in our annual award program. Do you know a neighbor who is doing great work restoring, protecting, or enhancing the land and natural resources? Do you know a neighbor whose stewardship efforts make a difference in the quality and quantity of our county's water resources, or are improving the forest, grassland or soils? Could other landowners, residents, organizations, and agencies learn from their work?

Let our Stewardship Award Committee know! We annually showcase great stewardship projects and practices in Missoula County, and are **seeking nominations for the 2025 Missoula County Land Stewardship Award.**

WHY A LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD PROGRAM?

Through this annual award program, Missoula County:

- Recognizes the critical role that private landowners and residents play in resource conservation through their stewardship activities.
- Captures the stories of the successes and challenges met along the way and identifies key elements that helped achieve project outcomes.
- Showcases the successful, voluntary stewardship efforts happening in Missoula County. Over time, the county will use these stories to highlight tools and programs that are being employed by landowners and residents for restoration, enhancement, and protection of land and water resources.

Stewardship is the practice of carefully managing the way we live on the land in order to ensure that natural systems are maintained or enhanced— not only for ourselves but for those who come after us.

The Missoula County Land Stewardship Award Program is guided and endorsed by the Missoula County Open Lands Advisory Committee.



HOW DO I NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING STEWARD?

You can nominate a land steward by simply emailing or mailing Jenny Zaso (addresses below) **by June 9, 2024** with:

- The name of the person or persons you'd like to nominate, and
- a brief description explaining why you are nominating them, using the general format of the [attached nomination instructions](#).



Past nominations will be kept on file for up to 3 years and may be considered for the Award during that time. Previous nominations older than 3 years can be updated and resubmitted by a nominator. *Prior to submitting your nomination, please make sure to notify the person or persons you are nominating.*

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD?

Private land owners or managers conducting outstanding stewardship practices, activities, or projects on private lands can be nominated for the award. Land must be within Missoula County. We are looking for stewardship practices that provide lasting benefits to the landscape and natural resources. We are interested in how these stewardship efforts provide community benefits such as open space, clean water, flourishing riparian areas, healthy soils, preservation of historic agricultural structures, or improved wildlife habitat. There are many ways to practice outstanding stewardship. We'd like to see creative and beneficial practices from which others can learn. *Please note that current Open Lands Advisory Committee members are not eligible to receive this award.*

HOW ARE POTENTIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS EVALUATED?

The Land Stewardship Award Selection Committee uses the following *criteria* to guide their evaluation of nominations:

- Overall conservation achievements and benefits to natural resources (water, soil, vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, riparian areas, etc.) resulting from the land steward's efforts
- Specific stewardship techniques or practices from which others can learn
- How the steward has addressed land stewardship-related challenges
- How the land steward has involved and engaged others in stewardship activities

WHO SELECTS THE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS?

Nominations go to our Land Stewardship Award Selection Committee of rural landowners and resource professionals in Missoula County. The committee's selections are reviewed by the Open Lands Advisory Committee and then go to the Missoula County Commissioners for final review and selection of award winners.

HOW ARE THE OUTSTANDING STEWARDS RECOGNIZED?

Award recipients are asked to share their stewardship stories with others through photos, media, field tour, or other venues, depending upon what works for the recipient. Selected stewards are presented with an award plaque and have their names engraved on the publicly displayed land stewardship award plaque, which records years of exemplary land stewards in Missoula County.

For more information, contact:

Jenny Zaso at Missoula County Lands, Culture and Recreation Department:

406-258-4869 jzaso@missoulacounty.us

Mailing address: 200 West Broadway Street, Missoula MT 59802

Head to our website pages to view past [awardees](#) and learn more about the [award](#).

<https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/community-development/lands-culture-recreation/open-lands/land-stewardship-award>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/10728d976f504c68967a6e2031e869f3>



Missoula County

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Nominations Instructions 2025

PLEASE CREATE A DOCUMENT THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

NOMINATOR

Name:

Email address:

Phone number:

NOMINEE

Name:

General location of nominee:

Tell us about the property and the nominee's overall conservation achievements and benefits to natural resources (water, soil, vegetation, wildlife, fisheries, riparian areas, etc.) resulting from their efforts on their lands. *(300 words or fewer)*

Tell us about stewardship techniques or practices they are using from which others can learn. *(200 words or fewer)*

How has the nominee addressed any land stewardship-related challenges? *(200 words or fewer)*

How has this nominee involved and engaged others in stewardship activities? *(200 words or fewer)*

A brief summary: why should the nominee be considered for the Land Stewardship Award? *(100 words or fewer)*

Send to Jenny Zaso at Missoula County Lands, Culture and Recreation by June 9, 2024

jzaso@missoulacounty.us or mail to: 200 W Broadway, Missoula MT 59802.

Questions? 406-258-4869