

## Glenda Wiles

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**From:** MACO <MACO@mtcounties.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018 2:12 PM  
**To:** MACO  
**Subject:** Funding opportunity - Community Forest and Open Space Conservation program

**From:** Hagengruber, John -FS [<mailto:jhagengruber@fs.fed.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:01 PM  
**Subject:** Funding opportunity - Community Forest and Open Space Conservation program

Here's a [link to the Federal Register posting for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#) (posted today). This is a neat program that has already been utilized in Montana, most recently in establishing (and locally managing) the [Alvord Lake Community Forest](#) in Lincoln County. **Please forward this along to any potentially interested party.**

**The purpose of the program, in partnership with the Montana Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation, is to establish community-owned forests by protecting forest land from conversation to non-forest uses and provide:**

- community benefits such as sustainable forest management, by providing models of effective forest stewardship;
- environmental benefits including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat;
- educational benefits from forest-based educational and interpretive programs;
- recreational benefits as a result of secured public access.

There's no strict template on what the project must look like. This program has been used to fund an array of different projects, from community forests that provide a sustainable source of wood fiber, preserve recreational access and secure wildlife habitat , and even for "[food forests.](#)"

Eligible lands for grants funded under this program (up to \$600,000 per project) are private forest owned by a willing seller, at least five acres in size, suitable to sustain natural vegetation and is at least 75% forested. The lands must also be threatened by conversion to non-forest uses (i.e. subdivision and development), must not be held in trust by the United States on behalf of any Indian Tribe, must not be Tribal allotment lands and must be offered for sale by a willing seller.

Eligible applicants are local governments, Indian Tribes, as well as nonprofit entities that are qualified to acquire and manage land. There is a cost-share match of 50% of the total cost. Individual grant applications may not exceed \$600,000.

Interested local government and nonprofit applicants must submit applications to the Montana state forester / forestry division administrator of MT DNRC. Tribal applicants must submit applications to the appropriate Tribal government officials. All Montana-based applications, either hardcopy or electronic, must be received by the MT DNRC forestry division or Tribal governments by June 29, 2018, who will forward the applications to US Forest Service Region One State and Private Forestry (Janet Valle, USFS 324 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden UT 84401 / 801-625-5258 / [jvalle@fs.fed.us](mailto:jvalle@fs.fed.us)) by July 27, 2018.

More information is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/04/18/2018-08051/request-for-applications-the-community-forest-and-open-space-conservation-program>



**John Hagenruber**  
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