

**Considerations for discussion of 15 Climate Change Advisory Committee  
Recommendations  
Environmental Quality Council  
Draft April 2008**

The information below is a summary of key points from the Montana Climate Change Action Plan and the associated appendices. The legislative and administrative options prepared by staff and participating agencies do not include an economic analysis.

**AFW-8**

**Afforestation/Reforestation Programs -- Restocking**

**(62% of participating EQC members voting 4 or 5 and 59% of the public voting 4 or 5)**

✓ Ensure restocking on 20% of accessible forest lands impacted by high severity (stand replacement) wildfire since 2000 to restocking rates of 200/400 trees/acre. For future fires, restock 30% within 5 years of wildfire. Plant 42,250 new trees in Montana communities by 2020.

**\*Note:** Much of the information below was prepared and offered by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

*Note provided by DNRC on AFW-8:*

Since 2000, it is estimated that over 1 million forested acres have been burned in Montana, with about 1/3 of those being high severity burns that require some level of restocking. Some of these areas have been replanted; however, there are an estimated 70,000 acres still requiring replanting. In addition, each year there are an estimated 20,000 acres/year of forests burned with high severity. Together, there is a need for restocking on about 25,000 acres/year on federal, state, and private lands in Montana between 2008 and 2020 to meet the goals of this policy.

**Conservation Considerations:**

- Reforestation
- Pages I-43 through I-49 Appendices

**What's Being Done:**

- Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery, Urban and Community Forestry, and reforestation programs are managed by the DNRC at traditional levels. Includes Forestry Assistance Program.
- DNRC Trust Lands Division manages a replanting program that plans 1,000-1,500 acres/year.
- DNRC's Forestry Best Management Practices encourage rapid reforestation post-harvest, but Montana does not have regulations that direct landowners to replant post-harvest.
- Long-term maintenance. General rules for maintaining long-term productivity of forestlands on state trust lands, but not specific rules for reforestation.

**Potential Actions:**

\* Legislative or EQC options: (not complete, intended to be starting point for discussion):

- Expand or review existing programs.

- The 2007 Legislature contemplated House Bill No. 227, which created a terrestrial carbon sequestration loan account. The bill would have established a revolving loan account administered by the DNRC. It required outcome measures and provided funding for the program. The bill died in committee.
- Market-based incentives. Support and engage in private sector markets for terrestrial carbon sequestration (e.g., Chicago Climate Exchange).
- Provide state funding to support and staff DNRC Forest Stewardship and Pest Management Programs. These programs provide education and incentives to non-industrial forest landowners, encouraging the importance and practice of stand regeneration, post-fire reforestation, restocking, and identifying and managing forest insects and diseases. These programs are currently federally funded but are at risk of losing those funds.

\* Resolution or recommendation of intent

\* No action

\* Administrative options:

- Technical assistance. Develop interagency partnerships with the NRCS, USFS, conservation districts, and the Montana DNRC to deliver comprehensive private forest landowner assistance and cost-share programs for forest management and post-fire rehabilitation. Develop interagency site-specific reforestation plans post-burn with planting targeted for stand replacement fires.