



**City of Missoula, Montana
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

Committee: Climate, Conservation and Parks

Item: Mt. Jumbo Marshall Canyon - DNRC MT Forest Action Plan Grant Agreement

Date: June 12, 2024

Sponsor(s): Jeff Gicklhorn

Department or function: Parks & Recreation

Prepared by: Jeff Gicklhorn

Ward(s) Affected:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Action Required:

Approve the Mayor to accept and sign the MT Forest Action Plan grant agreement with the MT DNRC for a total award of \$150,000.00.

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council: approve the Mayor to accept and sign the MT Forest Action Plan grant agreement with the MT DNRC for forestry work to be implemented on City Conservation Lands with a total award of \$150,000.00.

Timeline:

Committee discussion: 6/12/24

Council action (or sets hearing): 6/17/24

Public Hearing (if required): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Deadline: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Background and Alternatives Explored:

Parks & Recreation’s Conservation Lands Management Program staff is looking to reduce hazardous fuels and restore forest health and stand structure on an approximately 240-acre area of City Conservation Lands on Mt. Jumbo and in Marshall Canyon. This area has various history prior to acquisition, but much of the area was treated between 2011-2013 with DNRC funding. Due to only using thinning, the retreatment interval for these areas is 10-15 years and we are approaching that now. However, in 2021, the City entered into a cooperative agreement with the USFS and MT FWP to utilize prescribed fire on Mt. Jumbo and Marshall Canyon to improve forest health, implement habitat restoration, and increase retreatment intervals to approximately 30 years. With this in mind, the City partnered with Missoula County Office of Emergency Management to apply for a MT Forest Action Plan grant to effectively treat this area. The City was awarded \$150,000.00 which will effectively treat approximately 134 acres of the overall project area. Work will begin in fall 2024 and be completed by spring 2026. 73 acres will be completed by Parks staff, utilizing grant funds to extend seasonal staff, and 61 acres will be contracted to a local forestry contractor. The treatments will tie in with adjacent USFS and FWP thinning

prescriptions and then cross-boundary prescribed fire will be utilized to further reduce fuels and restore forest health once thinning is completed.

Financial Implications:

This grant will supply up to \$150,000.00 towards the planned forestry project on City Conservation Lands on Mt. Jumbo and in Marshall Canyon. There is a required 4:1 match (min \$37,500 City funds), however the majority of that match would be provided in terms of staff salary, with approximately \$10,000.00 estimated in contracted services funding.

Links to external websites:

[Montana Forest Action Plan \(mt.gov\)](#)