

Conservation Lands Management Plan Development Working Group Roles, Timeline, Criteria and Selection

Thank you for taking the time to review this process and consider applying to the City of Missoula Conservation Lands Working Group. The dedicated and committed involvement of scientists, ecologists, social experts and citizens will contribute towards important decisions affecting all citizens' quality of life as it relates to Missoula Area Conservation Lands. Please read the following information carefully. Consider what you can bring to this process. Confirm your ability to attend all meetings and complete all homework assignments. This truly is an opportunity to make a difference, to protect our precious environmental assets, and improve the quality of life for citizens.

*Applications are due by **5pm, Wednesday, February 11** and should be submitted by mail to Missoula Parks and Recreation, 100 Hickory St., Missoula, MT 59801, by email to bwillett@ci.missoula.mt.us, or by fax to 327-2140.*

Role and Products of the Conservation Lands Working Group (CLWG)

The CLWG will be composed of up to 20 members with selection based on criteria determined by the Steering Committee (Parks and Recreation staff and consultants.) The CLWG will gather and synthesize information on various factors pertaining to the successful management of conservation lands. Parks and Recreation staff will use this information to write a draft plan for recommendation to the City Park Board, City Administration and City Council. The final adopted plan will guide staff work plans and budget expenditures for management and maintenance of all conservation lands under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Planning Process will occur with projected goals outlined below:

- A.** Written and graphic assessment of the current system including: condition and types of lands within the system; strengths/weaknesses of the conservation lands system; important natural, cultural, and recreational resources; potential conflicts in use and or management approaches; and present/potential users and adequacy of existing facilities or improvements as it relates to demand.
- B.** Review of existing policies, procedures, rules, successes and areas for improvement.
- C.** Complete review and research of scientific findings in areas of ecology, recreation and natural resource management and education/public outreach.
- D.** Determination of appropriate levels of change versus desired levels of service, including written evidence to support methodology in determining Acceptable Levels of Change and acceptable Level of Service and stewardship.
- E.** Written recommendations for the Parks and Recreation Conservation Lands Management Plan including supporting documentation and action plan implementation.
- F.** Recommendation for best practices as it relates to the tools and methods for meeting Level of Service standards, on-going and dynamic maintenance and management of conservation lands, monitoring and research, and education and outreach
- G.** Involvement and Compilation of public input process
- H.** Process for adoption of plan as well as adapting plan as necessary.

Time Commitment

The CLWG will meet at least once each month, March through July. Each meeting will last approximately three hours. The first two meeting times and dates will be **Monday, March 2 and Monday, April 27, 2009**, from 5:30pm to 9pm. A light meal will be provided. There also will be opportunities for public input at various points throughout the process. Each CLWG meeting will have required homework, such as interviewing others, research and analysis, site visits, reviewing documents, maps and plans, etc.

Composition of the CLWG

The CLWG will be representative of the groups, organizations or interests listed below. At least one person from each of these groups will be selected. The CLWG also will include at-large members who do not represent any of these particular groups or interests.

- Natural Sciences: botany, ecology, biology, forestry, restoration, and/or conservation.
- Expertise in management of different topographies, land types and habitats similar to those in the Missoula area
- Social Sciences and recreation user groups, particularly those with interest and experience with dogs, bicyclists, hikers, gliders and para-sailers, equestrian, hunting, fishing, and/or river use.
- Open Space/City Park/ Advisory Boards
- Representatives from varying age groups and socio-economic demographics
- Fundraising, financial, business, tourism, development, real estate
- Cultural and historical interests particularly as those interests relate to the potential for Missoula's conservation lands
- Outdoor and environmental recreation and education interests and groups
- At large or Other _____

Criteria for each member of the CLWG

Meeting the following criteria is necessary for the development of a successful Conservation Lands Management Plan that benefits the natural environment and all it supports, the citizens of Missoula, as well as potential users and inhabitants the greater Missoula Valley and Missoula County.

- A strong background (including education and/or in-field experiences) with conservation lands in a similar topography, climate or region.
- A strong interest in providing comprehensive and inclusive recreation and educational services to all citizens through the conservation of natural areas.
- Ability to understand and represent a broad cross-section of residents, interests, natural sciences and land management experiences.
- Ability to convey information to the CLWG from outside interviews, studies of existing research, site visits, and review of pertinent materials.
- Willing and able to dedicate the necessary time to be successful.
- Committed to attending all CLWG meetings in their entirety.
- Able to approach the planning process with an open mind.
- Willingness to compromise and collaborate as displayed by past experiences.
- Willing to take a broad ecological and community perspective.
- A practical problem solver who can work toward enabling adaptive management, legislation, funding sources, etc.



Conservation Lands Management Plan Development Working Group Application

Applications due by 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 to Missoula Parks and Recreation, 100 Hickory St, Missoula MT 59801 or fax 327-2140. Applications may be sent via email to bwillett@ci.missoula.mt.us. For more information contact Morgan Valliant, Parks and Recreation Conservation Lands Manager, at 552-6263.

Name _____

Address (street, city, zip) _____

Phone (eve) _____ (day) _____

Email _____

Please address each of the following questions, based on how or why you are an asset to the Conservation Lands Working Group and the Development of a Conservation Lands Management Plan. You may answer the questions on this form or type your response on a separate sheet. Please be brief and concise, keeping your application to no more than one page. In addition to this form you may also attach a brief professional resume. Thank you!

1. Why do you want to be part of this process?

2. What particular qualifications, involvement, knowledge, ability or interests do you possess that would be beneficial to the CLWG and the Planning Process?

3. How do you or are you able to meet the criteria as outlined above?

4a. What groups/organizations/interests do you represent or are you affiliated with?

- Natural Sciences – ecology, biology, botany, silviculture, wildlife biology, ornithology, wetlands, forestry, Please list: _____
- Expertise in management of native habitats on different land types and topographies similar to those in the Missoula area
- Social Sciences and Recreation User groups, particularly those with interest and experience in public outreach, dogs, bicyclists, hikers, gliders/para-sailers, equestrian, hunting, fishing, river use, and other. Please list: _____
- Open Space/City Park/Citizen Advisory Boards. Please list: _____
- Representatives from varying age groups and socio-economic demographics
- Fundraising, financial, business, tourism, development, real estate
- Cultural and historical interests particularly as those interests relate to the potential for Missoula's conservation lands
- Outdoor and environmental recreation and education interests and groups
- At large or Other _____

4b. Please explain how you represent the larger groups you marked above.

5. Will you attend all meetings as outlined in the proposed calendar and have the time and commitment to complete all homework as assigned by the CLWG Facilitator?

6. Is it okay to include your name in press releases if you become part of the CLWG?

7. Other information you feel is important to share:

Signature _____ Date _____

Office staff:

Date application received _____ Staff initials _____