

MONTANA LOGGER TRAINING UPDATE

Jim Kranz, Chair, Montana Forest Council

The Montana Forest Council (MFC), which serves as the Montana Implementation Committee for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), recently changed the BMP/SMZ renewal requirement for the “Basic and Advanced Training Levels.”

Effective in 2012, Montana loggers will be required to take BMP/SMZ training at least **every three years**. The previous requirement of every five years was simply inadequate to stay compliant with new guidelines and developing trends.

Many Montana loggers elect to take the BMP/SMZ class more frequently on their own initiative—and we commend you for doing so. However, if the last time you attended this class was prior to the spring of 2010, you will need to attend again in the spring of 2012 to remain qualified.

The MLA will soon be mailing registration packets for all ALP training opportunities, including the BMP/SMZ workshops.

Following are the qualifying levels of training to be SFI compliant... and thanks for all you do to make this worthwhile effort successful:

PREFERRED Accredited Logging Professional (ALP): attainment = 56 credits

- Montana Forest Stewardship Workshop
- BMP/SMZ training... renewal every three years
- Federal and state safety criteria: First aid/CPR, OSHA, work comp, etc.
- ALP retention: 32 hours of continuing education credits annually

ADVANCED “Basic” requirement plus eight hours of advanced course instruction, including sustainable forestry, reforestation, invasive species, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, special sites, emerging technologies, ESA and wildlife habitat, public policy and outreach... five year renewal

BASIC BMP/SMZ training, eight hour workshop, 3-year renewal ... Logger Safety/First Aid/CPR must be current.

INTERIM TRAINING A mini BMP/SMZ tailgate training course may be offered by SFI-member company foresters to bridge the gap in workshops and training classes. ***MFC participating entities*** include: Plum Creek Timber Company, Stimson Lumber Company, F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company, Pyramid Mtn. Lumber Company, and The Nature Conservancy ... The MFC is jointly administered by the Montana Wood Products Association and the Montana Logging Association.
