



# Application for Forestland Classification

MONTANA  
AB-3T  
Rev. 3-03

See instructions printed on back of applicant's copy

This application must be submitted to the local Department of Revenue office by the first Monday in June or within 30 days after receiving a notice of assessment from the Department of Revenue, whichever is later.

Applicant's complete name and mailing address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Geo Code:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assessment Code:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the complete legal description of the parcels in this application. Include the township(s), range(s) and section number(s) in your legal description. (Attach an additional page if the legal description does not fit within the space below.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**I submit the following information in support of this application:**

Please file a separate application for each noncontiguous land parcel in your ownership. Refer to the back of this application for definitions of forestland eligibility. This application is in accordance with section 15-44-102, MCA and ARM 42.20.160-162.

The forested area must be contiguous within the ownership. The forested area must equal or exceed 120 feet in width and equal or exceed 15 acres in size. The land must be capable of producing 25 cubic feet per acre per year of commercial, marketable wood in natural stands, as determined by the Department of Revenue. Only softwoods (conifers) are considered commercial species. Cottonwood, aspen and alder are noncommercial hardwood species.

1.  Yes  No Is this application for a single parcel of land. If yes, list how many contiguous forested acres does the parcel contain \_\_\_\_\_.
2.  Yes  No Is this application for two or more contiguous parcels of land in the same ownership? If yes, how many contiguous forested acres do the parcels contain \_\_\_\_\_.
3.  Yes  No Did you plant trees on non forestland to meet the minimum forestland acreage requirement? If yes, how many nonforest acres did you convert to forestland? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you have nonforest acres, how many acres are devoted to: dryland farming \_\_\_\_\_ cultivated Christmas tree plantation \_\_\_\_\_ hay land \_\_\_\_\_ irrigated crops \_\_\_\_\_ grazing land \_\_\_\_\_ non-agricultural open space \_\_\_\_\_
5.  Yes  No Are there any covenants, deed restrictions, or governmental restrictions associated with the land that preclude the commercial harvest of timber? If yes, please provide a copy of the restrictions.
6.  Yes  No Is there a conventionally constructed home, mobile home, manufactured home, seasonal home or cabin on this land?
7.  Yes  No Is any portion of the acreage used as a commercial or industrial site? If yes, indicate how many acres \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

**For Department of Revenue Office Use Only**

Reason for Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Class 10 (Forestland)  Approved  Disapproved  
 Class 3 (Non-Qual. Agr)  Approved  Disapproved  
 Class 4 (Residential, Commercial, or Industrial)

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_ Date review mailed to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

## **Instructions for Application for Forestland Classification**

**(All sections of this form must be completed and legible)**

### **Name of Applicant:**

List the name of the property owner. Only the property owner of record or the owner's agent is allowed to make application for forestland classification.

### **Mailing Address:**

List the complete mailing address where the property owner of record will receive mail.

### **Legal Description:**

List the complete legal description for each contiguous parcel in this application. The legal description should include the township, range, and section for each parcel. If you are applying for forestland classification on noncontiguous parcels in the same ownership, please fill out separate applications for each noncontiguous parcel.

### **Question 1:**

Contiguous forestland is forested land that is at least 120 feet in width and at least 15 acres in size. The land must be forested and not interrupted by non forestland greater than 120 feet in width and five acres in size. The forested land must be capable of producing at least 25 cubic feet per acre per year at the culmination of mean annual increment. The land must produce commercial softwood tree species. Examples of commercial tree species are ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Hardwood species such as cottonwood and aspen are noncommercial tree species. The land must be physically accessible to harvest timber either now or at some point in the future. Land that has had the standing timber harvested or destroyed due to a natural disaster is still considered forestland if timber regeneration is occurring. If the answer to Question 1 is yes, list how many acres on this application meet the definition of forestland.

### **Question 2:**

Contiguous parcels of land are separately described parcels of land in the same ownership that physically touch one another or would have touched one another were the acreages not separated by deeded roads and highways, navigable rivers and streams, railroad lines, or federal or state land that is leased from the federal or state government by a taxpayer whose land ownership is physically touching the federal or state land.

Same ownership means one party owns two or more parcels of land when the title is solely in that party's name or names; the party has received title to the parcels by a transferring instrument such as a deed, contract for deed, or judgment; and the party has the present right to possess and use the parcels. An example of the same ownership are: John Doe owns parcel A and John Doe also owns parcel B. Examples of different ownerships are: John Doe owns parcel A and his wife Mary Doe owns parcel B or John Doe owns parcel A and John and Mary Doe own parcel B. If the answer to Question 2 is yes, list how many acres on this application meet the definition of forestland. See the instructions for Question 1 for the definition of contiguous forestland.

### **Question 3:**

Answer yes to Question 3 if you have planted seedlings or saplings on non-forestland to increase the forestland acreage listed on this application. The minimum stocking rate to convert non-forestland to forestland is 300 seedlings or saplings per acre (12 feet x 12 feet spacings).

### **Question 4:**

Provide the total acreage in each use category. Your total acreage should equal the entire acreage for the parcel(s) under review, less any residential or commercial building sites.

### **Question 5:**

If the answer to Question 5 is yes, please include a copy of the covenants, deed restrictions or governmental restrictions that preclude the commercial harvest of timber from land in this application.

### **Question 6:**

A residence includes all conventionally constructed homes, all mobile homes, manufactured homes and seasonal homes and cabins that are used for recreational purposes.

### **Question 7:**

There are situations where commercial or industrial operations are surrounded by forestland. Examples include dude ranches, mining operations, and lumber mills. The acreage reasonably necessary for the convenient use of the commercial or industrial operation should be indicated if the response to Question 7 is yes.