



## **Resolution 25-03**

*Resolution type: Policy Statement*

### **Stabilize and build capacity for Montana's Forest Products Industry**

Submitted by: Green Mountain Conservation District

*Passed at Convention 11/20/2025*

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#### **BACKGROUND DESCRIBING ISSUE \***

The decline of the forest products industry from 41 major log processing mills in 1990 to Today there are 6. We have lost 35 mills since 1990. This has caused great harm to Montana's economy. Most importantly, the state has almost lost the ability to wisely manage our private, state and federal forest resources which covers 25% of the state.

The health of our national forests has declined to the point where 9 of the 10 national forests in Montana experience more mortality than growth each year.

Wildlife managers, hydrologists and foresters have virtually lost the ability to manage our Montana forest resource.

The buildup of understory trees and dead trees on federal lands has created an explosive wildfire condition, something that we see almost every year when smoke fills our Montana valleys.

Wild land firefighters have significantly few loggers and their equipment available to aid in controlling wildfires.

#### **SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE \***

At the federal level, ongoing discussions and negotiations are occurring that may begin to improve the ability for federal agencies to manage Montana Forests.

At the state level in 2025, HB 70 and HB 876 have provided beginning steps aimed at the stabilizing of Montana log processing mills.

**ACTUAL POLICY STATEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN MACD POLICY BOOK IF ADOPTED \***

MACD policy is to collaboratively work with agencies and partners to work towards a healthy forestry and timber products industry.

**ARE THERE ANY EXISTING MACD POLICIES THAT THIS WOULD IMPACT OR INTERACT WITH? \***

None currently identified. This resolution reinforces the importance of the existing MACD resolution process but does not conflict with or amend any known existing MACD policies.

**HOW WILL YOUR DISTRICT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND BE INVOLVED WITH THIS POLICY STATEMENT/STANCE? \***

The Green Mountain Conservation District will be available to support the author of the resolution in testimony and provide expert witnesses in support of legislation that supports Montana's forest products industry.

**HOW WOULD THIS POLICY IMPACT MACD? \***

MACD will need to form new partnerships with the forest Industry, the Montana Logging Association, national and Montana based forest management advocacy associations, federal and state forest management agencies and other entities that are supporting the wise use and proactive management of our national forests.

**WOULD THIS POLICY STATEMENT IMPACT THE STATE OF MONTANA BUDGET? IF SO, HOW? \***

The Montana budget would be positively impacted. Some of the positive impacts are reduced firefighting costs, new jobs and an expanded tax base.

**MEETING AND DATE ADOPTED BY SPONSORING ENTITY**

To be determined.

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S) \***

Green Mountain Conservation District

July 30, 2025