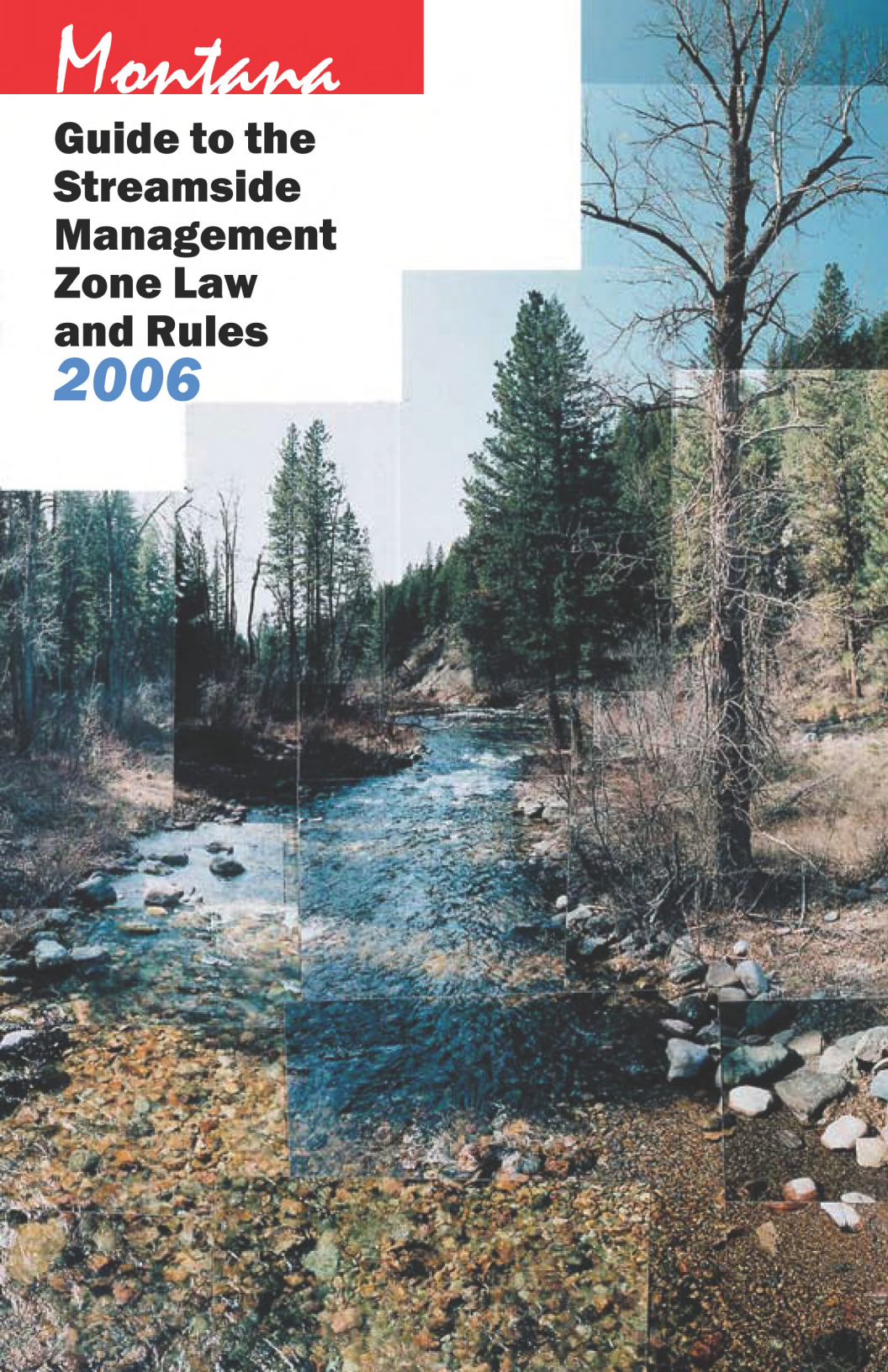


Montana

**Guide to the
Streamside
Management
Zone Law
and Rules
2006**



Contents


















Montana is a state blessed with an abundance of natural resources.

Its forest lands supply the state with beauty and act as a collector, filter, and distributor of clean water on which plants, animals, and humans depend.

A streamside management zone, or “SMZ,” is a buffer strip that provides necessary water quality protection, critical fish and wildlife habitat, and actively regulates high flood flows.

Improper timber harvesting in the SMZ can cause erosion and water quality problems and degrade its integrity.

With this in mind, the 1991 Montana Legislature passed the Streamside Management Zone Law. This law also mandated the development of administrative rules, which became effective March 15, 1993.*

	Introduction	1
	Definitions	2
	Stream Classification	3
	SMZ Widths	4
	Broadcast (Slash) Burning	8
	Operation of Equipment	9
	Log Removal in the SMZ	12
	Clearcutting and Retention Trees in the SMZ	13
	Road Construction	17
	Hazardous or Toxic Materials	19
	Side-Casting of Road Material	19
	Depositing Slash	20
	Alternative Practices	20
	Irrigation Ditches	21
	Voluntary Wildlife Guidelines	22
	SMZ Field Guide	23
	SMZ Rules	25

Symbols used in this booklet

< means less than

≤ means less than or equal to

> means greater than

≥ means greater than or equal to

* This booklet addresses only the Montana SMZ law and rules. Other federal, state, or local laws may apply to your operation.

About this publication

Developed in cooperation with

Montana Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation, Forestry Assistance Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Logging Association
Montana Wood Products Association
Plum Creek Timber Company, LP
USDA Forest Service
USDA Bureau of Land Management

2006 Revision by

Dan Rogers, Forest Stewardship Specialist,
Montana Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation

Originally compiled and edited by

Norman Fortunate, then Forest Practices Specialist,
Montana Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation

Illustrated by

Kirk Johnson Design, Missoula

Special thanks to

Gordon Sanders, Montana Wood Products
Association

Cooperative funding provided by

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Montana Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation
Montana Logging Association
Plum Creek Timber, LP
USDA Forest Service
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

For more information, contact

Montana Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula, Montana 59804-3199
(406) 542-4300

... or your local Montana Department
of Natural Resources and Conservation
field office.

You may reproduce or copy any portion
of this booklet by notifying the Montana
Department of Natural Resources and
Conservation. Please acknowledge this
publication as the source.

Persons with disabilities who need an alternative,
accessible format of this document should contact
DNRC at the address and phone number on this
page.

7,500 copies of this public document were
published with private and public funds at an
estimated cost of \$.74 per copy, for a total cost of
\$5,352.00 which includes \$5,352.00 for printing
and \$00 for distribution.

Reprinted November 2006