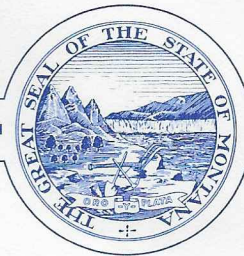


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January 10, 2017

Robert Logar
MT Urban & Community Forestry Association
PO Box 780
Manhattan, MT 59741

RE: Response to State of the State Urban Forest 2016 Letter

Dear Mr. Logar;

Thank you for your letter summarizing 2016 activities from the Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association. As with all volunteer-based groups, it is encouraging to see so much commitment for urban forestry in Montana and the work that you all do. The recognition and awards coming into Montana over the past year is indicative of an energetic, growing program.

The DNRC's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is indeed an integral part of delivering urban forestry services to Montana's communities, and relies on your input to provide direction for the program. However some clarification is necessary in regard to the "termination of urban and community forestry help for communities in the southcentral and eastern side of Montana." This assertion is incorrect, as there have been no staff or support positions eliminated. In fact, communities in this region of Montana have an area forester that coincides with DNRC's Area Office boundaries, which may improve the level of assistance by being in closer vicinity.

In your letter you also identified limited funding and the number of urban forest professionals as the biggest challenges facing communities in Montana. These are valid concerns, shared by the UCF Program. With the Association's help, these issues should remain a top priority to address in 2017.

Thanks to the leadership and dedication of your organization, Montana is taking proactive steps in urban forestry. The Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association should take great pride in these accomplishments. Please pass along our appreciation and gratitude for the efforts put forth for Montana's communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Harrington".

Bob Harrington
State Forester
Montana DNRC