



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in REAL Montana. This is an exciting opportunity to be a part of a program that will have positive, long-term impacts on the future of natural resources in our state.

All application materials must be submitted by **March 31, 2022**. Carefully review the following application instructions. To be eligible for selection, each applicant must earn a substantial percentage of his/her livelihood from a natural resource sector in Montana. Selection is competitive and all decisions will be made by members of the REAL Montana Advisory Board. All applications must include two letters of recommendation and an employer authorization form if not self-employed (submitted separately).

Your application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated leadership qualities and potential for increased leadership roles upon graduation.
- Probable future contribution to Montana natural resources and your local community through growth experiences gained from the program.
- Evidence that the nature and scope of your concerns range beyond self-interest and/or narrow perspectives.
- Ability to participate meaningfully in each seminar by actively engaging in dialogue and deliberations.
- Ability to be away from your home and business for the required amount of time. The program entails approximately 40 days of seminars and travel over a twenty-month period.
- Ability to adhere to the **Participant Commitment Statement**

Reasonable representation within each class will be sought from the standpoint of geographical location and diversity of employment/experience within Montana agriculture, natural resources, or related areas. Candidates will not be evaluated based on age, education level, or any discriminatory factors as outlined by Montana State University Extension.

All applicants will be notified of selection results in July 2022. The first seminar is scheduled for September 2022 in Bozeman.

If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Tara Becken  
Program Director, REAL Montana



## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Application materials are available on the REAL Montana website at [www.realmontana.org](http://www.realmontana.org). Please review all program information and guidelines before submitting your application.

To submit your application:

1. **Fill out the candidate application form online.** We suggest that you compose your answers in a word processing program, then copy and paste the text into the online form. You will not be able to save the online form and return later to finish the application. If you are unable to send your application via the website, contact the Program Director at 406-930-4205.
2. **Distribute the recommendation forms to TWO references.** All recommendation forms must be submitted individually by the references by the **March 31** deadline. Recommenders will need to mail or email the form directly to the REAL Montana office (address below).
3. **If not self-employed, distribute the Employer Authorization form to your employer** and follow submission guidelines outlined in #2.
4. You will receive confirmation from the REAL Montana office within one business day when your application is received.

## SELECTION PROCESS

1. Up to 20 candidates will be selected as members of Class V of REAL Montana. **APPLICATIONS FROM SPOUSES OR SIBLINGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE SAME CLASS.**
2. All persons are considered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability.
3. Applications are initially screened by program staff for completeness. Final decisions on program acceptance are made by consensus of the REAL Montana Advisory Board.
4. Semi-finalists may receive a personal interview in person or via phone. References may be contacted for more information.
5. To officially become a participant, each invitee must provide both verbal and written acceptance by a designated date.
6. Candidates not selected for Class V are strongly encouraged to reapply for Class VI in 2024.

Please send recommendations and employer authorization forms to:

REAL Montana, C/O Tara Becken  
Montana State University Extension  
PO Box 170535  
Bozeman, MT 59717-0535  
Email: REALMontana@montana.edu