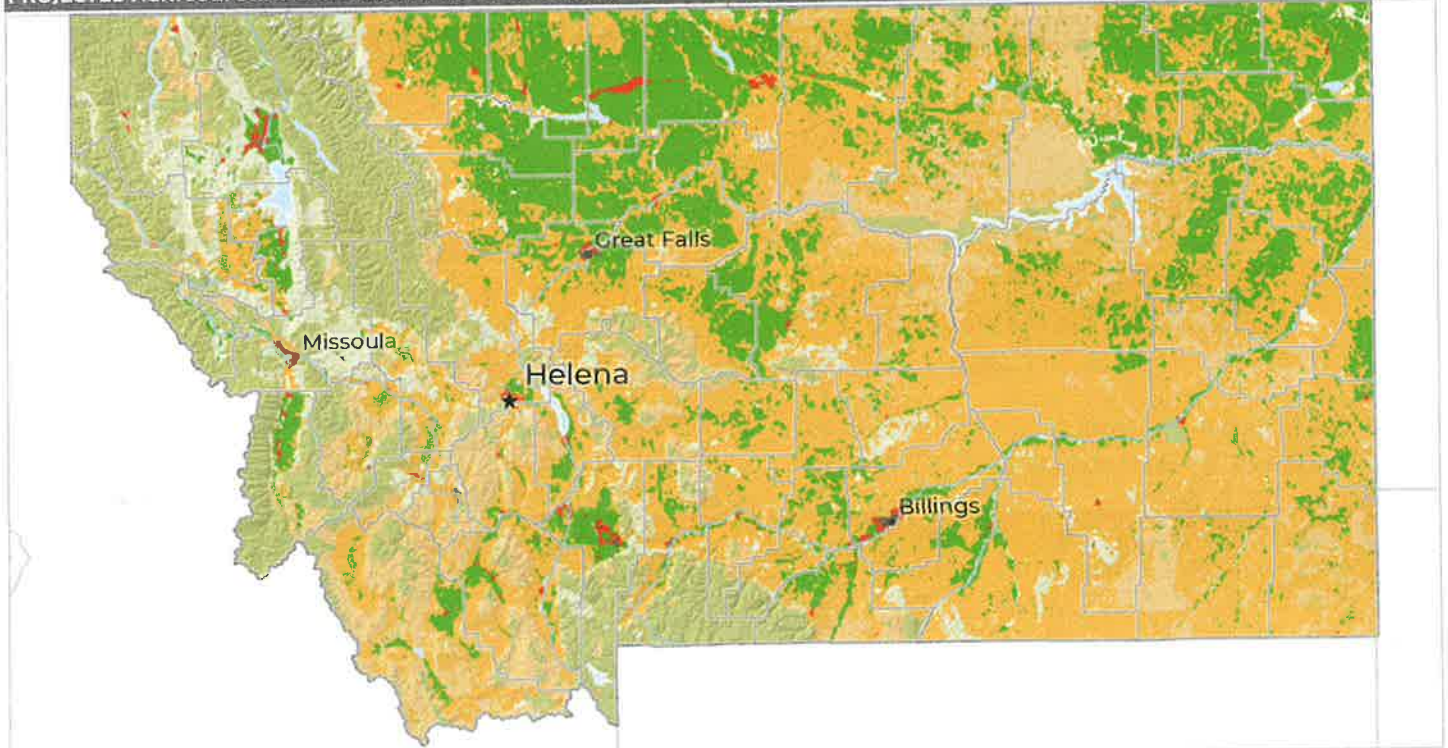




# 2040 Future Scenarios Montana

**Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future** mapped three scenarios of development between 2016 and 2040. If recent trends continue, **171,700 acres** of Montana's farmland and rangeland will be paved over, fragmented, or converted to uses that jeopardize agriculture. Montanans can slash conversion, save farmland, and safeguard the future of agriculture and the environment by choosing compact development.

## PROJECTED AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION 2016-2040



**Projected agricultural land conversion from 2016-2040 in the *Business as Usual* scenario.**

### Projected Conversion (2040)

- Urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR)

### Land Cover (2016)

- Farmland\*
- Rangeland
- Forestland
- Federal (no grazing)
- Federal (grazing)
- Other lands
- Urban areas
- Water

\*Farmland is composed of cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.

## On recent trends, from 2016 to 2040:

Montanans will pave over, fragment, or compromise  
**171,700 acres**  
of farmland and rangeland.

**84%** of the conversion  
will occur on Montana's  
best land.<sup>1</sup>

That's the equivalent of losing

**300 farms,**

**\$17 million**

in farm output, and

**600 jobs**

based on county averages.<sup>2</sup>

Hardest-hit counties:

- ▶ **Liberty**
- ▶ **Gallatin**
- ▶ **Flathead**

<sup>1</sup> Freedgood et al. 2020

<sup>2</sup> Census of Agriculture 2017