



# Scout Lake Multiple Timber Sale Project Newsletter

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Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

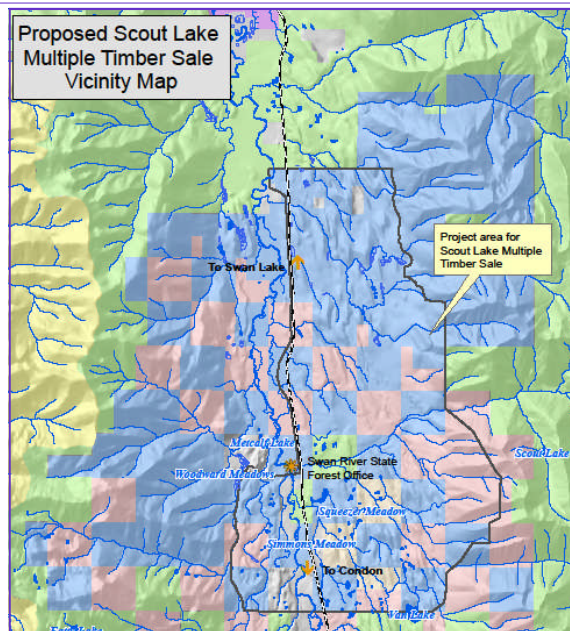
## PURPOSE OF NEWSLETTER

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The purpose of this newsletter is to:

- update you on the project development (see *PROJECT DEVELOPMENT*) on page 1;
- summarize the alternatives that were developed by the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) (see *PROJECT ALTERNATIVES*) on page 2; and
- provide further opportunities for comments on the project and to inform you of public meetings and on-site field tours of the proposed project area (see



*OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT*) on page 6.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

### Project Objectives

As stated in the scoping notice and the first newsletter, the Scout Lake Multiple Timber Sale Project Objectives are to:

- Restore/maintain biodiversity by moving forest stands towards historic covertime conditions and species composition.
- Improve forest health and productivity by addressing insect and disease issues.
- Meet the sustainable yield for the Swan River State Forest in order to accomplish the long-term ecological objectives.
- Maximize long-term revenue for the Common School Trust and to support sustainable local communities.
- Develop and improve the transportation system and infrastructure for long-term management, fire suppression, and public access.
- Improve water quality by removing and rehabilitating sediment point sources, and meet Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all project roads, including haul routes to Highway 83.
- Reduce fuel loads and wildfire hazards by decreasing ground and ladder fuel loads.

## ALTERNATIVES

Each alternative must comply with the State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP) and Administrative Rules for Forest Management. Each alternative, including No-Action Alternative A, must be a viable option for the Decisionmaker. After carefully reviewing the concerns and issues that were received during the scoping of the project and the October 20, 2010 public field tour, the ID Team developed 3 alternatives. Each description highlights the major differences between the alternatives.

### ◆ *No-Action Alternative A*

Timber harvesting and other activities associated with the proposed project would not occur.

### ◆ *Action Alternative B*

This alternative would treat more old-growth stands which, includes harvesting through maintenance/restoration and removal/regeneration treatments.

**Under this action alternative, DNRC would be expected to:**

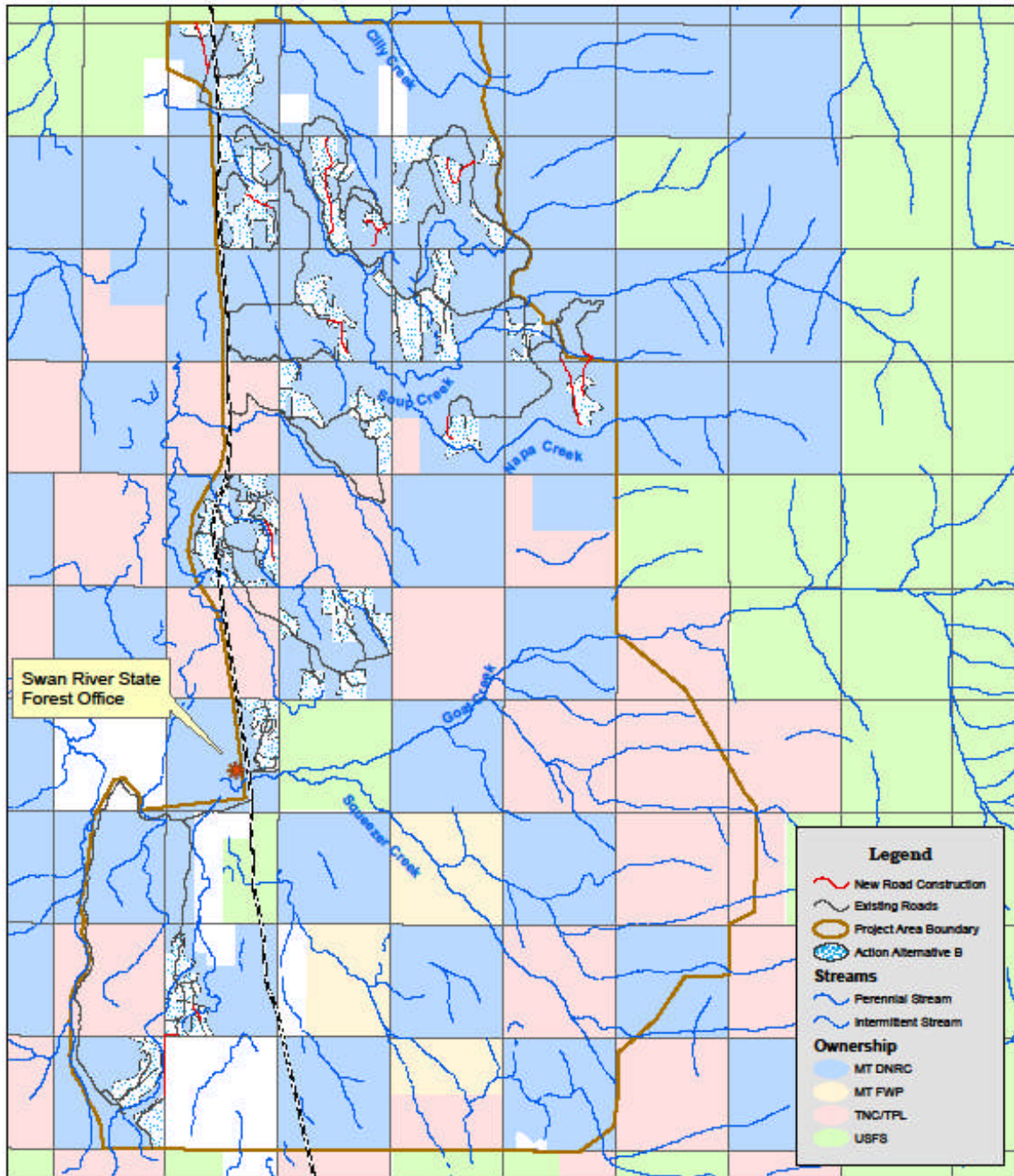
- Address insect and disease issues by focusing on infected trees or groups of trees within stands throughout the project area.
- Reduce effects to big game winter range in particularly important wintering areas that occur in the southeast portion of Swan River State Forest.
- Treat limited areas of the Porcupine-Woodward and Goat Creek grizzly bear subunit. Effects within the South Fork Lost Soup grizzly bear subunit would be located in the valley bottom.
- Reduce road maintenance costs associated with timber harvest by limiting the roads necessary to access the project area.
- Treat stands adjacent to private residences in the Shay Lake area. Harvest activity would include reduction of fuels, lower tree density, and remove active insect/disease patches causing mortality.
- Harvest approximately 20.2 MMbf on an estimated 2,010 acres. The proposed stands highlighted on the attached map may change as project development continues.

#### DID YOU KNOW.....

**A board foot (bf)** is a board of lumber that measures 12 inches wide by 12 inches long by 1 inch thick?

**Mbf** is an acronym for one thousand board feet; the 'M' relates to the Roman numeral 1,000. A truck load of logs carries about 4.5 Mbf. In the same token, **MMbf** is an acronym for 1,000,000 board feet.

# Action Alternative B Proposed Harvest Units



## ALTERNATIVES continued

### ◆ *Action Alternative C*

This alternative would treat stands over a large project area and those treatments in old growth would primarily focus on old-growth maintenance or restoration. A lesser amount of removal/regeneration type treatments would occur in old-growth stands.

**Under this action alternative, DNRC would be expected to:**

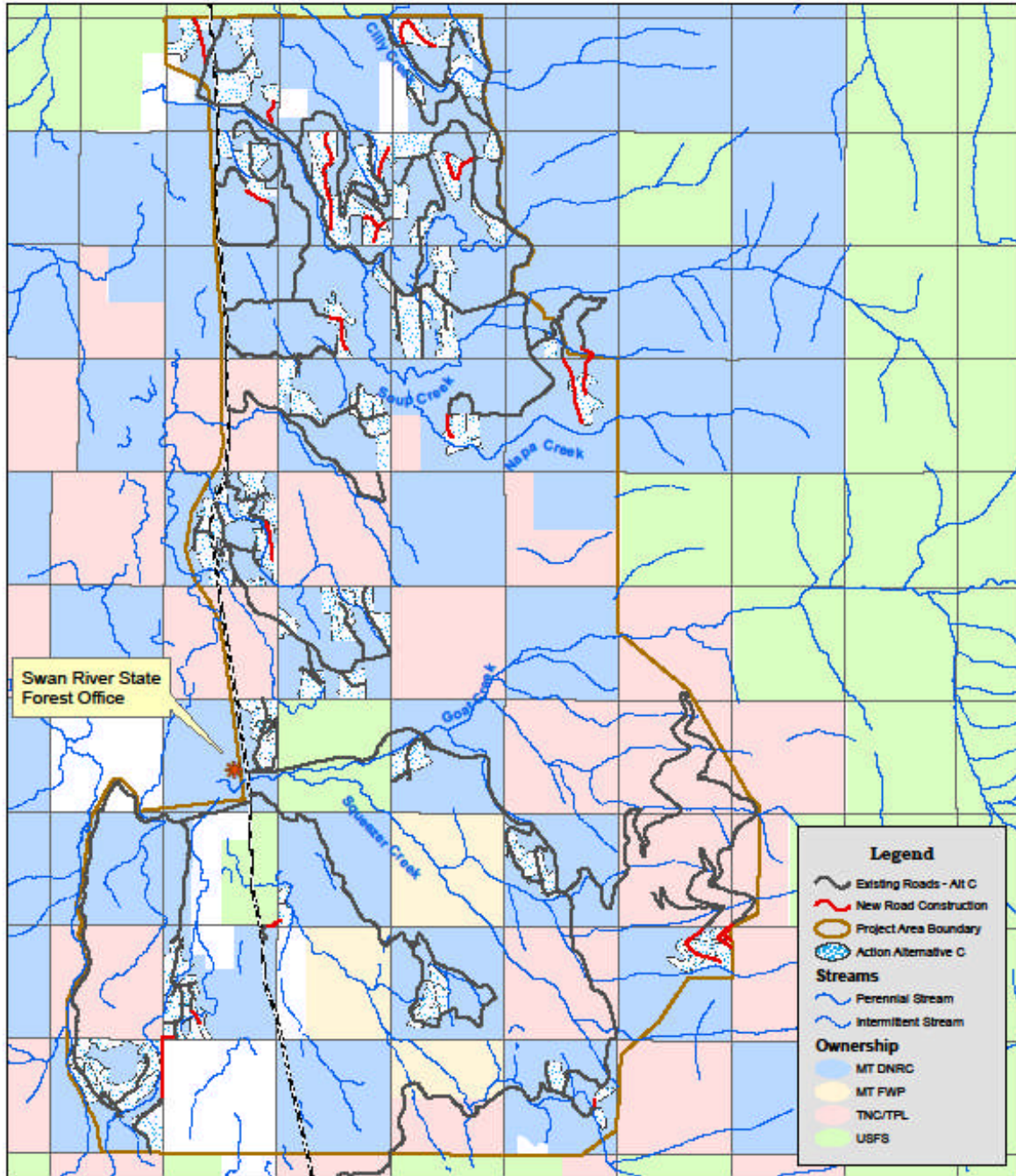
- Address insect and disease issues by focusing on infected trees or groups of trees within stands throughout the project area.
- Disperse potential effects to big game winter range, water quality, water quantity, and fisheries habitat over a broad area that includes Cilly, Soup, Napa, Squeezer, Goat, and Cedar creeks.
- Harvest fewer acres of old growth and incorporate maintenance/restoration type treatments to maintain old growth near current levels.
- Address road maintenance issues for long-term infrastructure and fire-suppression access needs over a larger road system.
- Manage and treat a larger area to return and/or maintain stand covertypes to a desired future condition.
- Harvest approximately 22.4 MMbf on an estimated 2,636 acres. The proposed stands highlighted on the attached map may change as project development continues.

#### **DID YOU KNOW.....**

**Shade-tolerant tree species** can reproduce and grow under the canopy in poor sunlight conditions and often replace less shade-tolerant tree species during succession.

**Shade-intolerant tree species** reproduce and grow in the open or where the overstory is broken and allows sufficient sunlight to penetrate.

# Action Alternative C Proposed Harvest Units



### **Where Are We Now?**

The ID Team will continue to perform analyses and begin the process of producing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The purpose of producing the document is to provide as much information as possible about the potential impacts of the proposal and better quantify the cumulative effects for the project's Decisionmaker, Dan Roberson. This will enable him to make an informed decision on which alternative would best address the objectives for this project.

### **Opportunities For Public Input**

The ID Team will strive to provide the public ample opportunity to comment during the development stages of this project. If you wish to participate, consider the following opportunities:

- If you did not comment during the initial scoping period and have issues or concerns regarding the Scout Lake Multiple Timber Sale Project, direct your comments to Karen Goode in Contact Information.
- If you would like future mailings regarding this project and have not previously requested to be placed on our mailing list, please fill out and return the form on page 7 of this newsletter.
- The ID Team and the decisionmaker will host an on-site field trip of the project area during the month of September.

If you wish to attend a field tour, please contact Karen with possible dates of availability. Once a firm date has been established, you will receive an invitation via e-mail or telephone. Please contact Karen with your phone number or e-mail address.



The objectives of this project are to promote biodiversity, improve forest health, generate revenue for the school trust, contribute volume toward DNRC's annual sustainable yield, reduce fuel loads and wildfire hazards, and improve water.

### Updated Project Timeline

The dates below display the updated Scout Lake Multiple Timber Sale Project Time Line. Although the ID Team has specified particular times and methods for public input, input is not limited to these times; comments will be accepted throughout the development of the project.

Public Scoping	April 16 through May 16, 2010
ID Team Development	May 2010
Issue Development	June through October 2010 (ongoing)
Public Field Tour	October 20, 2010
Newsletter 1	November 22, 2010
Alternative Development	Winter 2010/2011 through Spring 2011
Analysis	Fall/Winter 2010 through Winter/Spring 2011
Newsletter 2	Summer 2011
Public Field Tour	September 2011
DEIS Internal Review	September 2011
DEIS Public Review	December 2011
Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)	March 2012
Record of Decision	March 2012

If you would like a copy of this environmental document or its summary, please let us know by November 25, 2011, by checking the appropriate item below:

- Send me a paper copy of the environmental document
- Send me an electronic copy of the environmental document
- Send me a copy of the summary
- Let me know when the documents are available
- Remove my name from the mailing list

Name

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Address

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City, State, Zip

Please send this form to: Swan River State Forest, 34925 MT Hwy 83, Swan Lake, Montana 59911 or call this information to Karen Goode at 406-754-2301.

Department of Natural  
Resources and Conservation

Swan River State Forest  
34925 MT Hwy 83  
Swan Lake Montana 59911

We're on the Web!  
[www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov)



### **Request for Information**

The environmental document and summary for The Scout Lake Multiple Timber Sale Project should be ready for review during the winter of 2011/2012. While we would like to make these documents available to everyone, the cost of publishing is expensive. Copies will be available to read at the Swan River State Forest office. Another option would be to share a copy with a neighbor or friend. The environmental document will also be available on-line at: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/default.asp> then by clicking on the “Timber Sale Information” tab along the left hand side of the web page.