#### **BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS MEETING: AGENDA**

#### November 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

# Supreme Court Chambers, Mazurek Justice Building Helena, MT

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

1123-1 Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks: Wildcat Bend Purchase APPROVED 4-1

Benefits: N/A (non-trust land) Location: Rosebud County

1123-2 Timber Sales APPROVED 5-0

A. North Soup Canyon

Benefits: Common Schools Location: Lake County

**B. Potomac Flats** 

Benefits: Common Schools Location: Missoula County

1123-3 Cabin and Home Sites: Set Minimum Bid for Sale APPROVED 4-1

Benefits: Public Buildings Location: Sanders County

1123-4 Cabin and Home Sites: Final Approval for Sale APPROVED 4-1

A. Judith Basin County

Benefits: Montana Tech
Location: Judith Basin County

B. Powder River County
Benefits: Common Schools

Location: Powder River County

1123-5 Easements APPROVED 5-0

Benefits: Common Schools, University of Montana Location: Silver Bow, Liberty, Petroleum, Teton Counties

1123-6 Informational Item: Trust Lands Management FY 2023 Review

Benefits: N/A Location: Statewide

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

# 1123-1

# DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS:

Wildcat Bend Purchase

1123-1 Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks: Wildcat Bend Purchase

**Location:** Rosebud County

**Trust Benefits:** NA (non-trust land)

Trust Revenue: N/A

**Item Summary:** Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to purchase approximately 328 acres of land in fee near the town of Rosebud to provide public access for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and related recreation and to maintain the associated restored wetland and riparian habitat on the property.

**Background**: In 2019, a group of Eastern Montana residents formed the Lower Yellowstone Coalition (Coalition) to expand outdoor recreation opportunities along the lower Yellowstone River, with the goal of boosting tourism for communities along the river from Hysham to Fairview. In support of the Coalition's mission, the 2021 Legislature authorized FWP to spend up to \$4 million to acquire, develop, and improve recreation access sites on the lower Yellowstone River. That year Governor Gianforte authorized FWP to convene a 12-member citizen advisory committee (CAC) to develop recommendations for access and habitat protection.

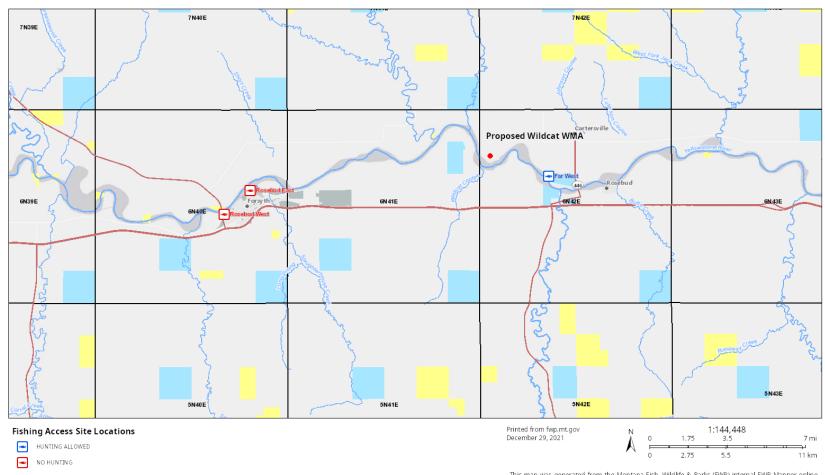
Among the CAC's recommendations was the acquisition of the Wildcat Bend property in Rosebud County. The 328-acre property is located approximately two miles upstream of the Far West Fishing Access Site and primarily consists of riparian habitat. This property was identified by the CAC as a high priority for habitat conservation. A large suite of wildlife species uses this property including mule and white-tailed deer, wild turkey, pheasants, sharp-tailed grouse, waterfowl, and songbirds. The property would provide boat-in and walk-in access to anglers, hunters, hikers, and other recreationists. The property is host to a US Army Corps of Engineers wetland and streamside mitigation program bank site. FWP would be responsible for maintaining the site under a management plan.

**Appraised Value, Budget:** The purchase price of the proposed Wildcat Bend acquisition is the appraised value of \$1,185,000. Pheasants Forever has spearheaded efforts to raise funds to assist FWP in acquiring this property. These efforts have resulted in commitments of \$486,622 to date. Contributors include the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust, National Wild Turkey Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, the MeatEater organization, OnX Maps, SITKA Gear, Indian Valley (CA) Pheasants Forever Chapter, and the Yellowstone Valley Pheasants Forever Chapter. The remainder of purchase price will come from the \$4 million the Legislature authorized.

Annual operation and maintenance for the site is estimated at approximately \$6,500.00. Initial development would be minimal; a gravel parking area would be installed at an estimated \$12,000. There are no immediate plans to install an outhouse, but if one were to be added it would cost \$23,000 (at current price). Though we do not have the current figure, if acquired, FWP would pay the equivalent of all property taxes and assessments.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** FWP concluded due diligence for Wildcat Bend in April 2023. On May 30, 2023, the Rosebud County Commissioners sent a letter of support for the acquisition to members of the Land Board. A draft environmental assessment (EA) for the acquisition of Wildcat Bend was made available for public comment Aug. 1-30. A Decision Notice, with FWPs responses to comments, recommending proceeding with the acquisition was signed on Sept. 8, 2023. The Fish and Wildlife Commission received 99 comments in advance of its October meeting. The Commission approved the proposed Wildcat Bend acquisition on October 19, 2023.

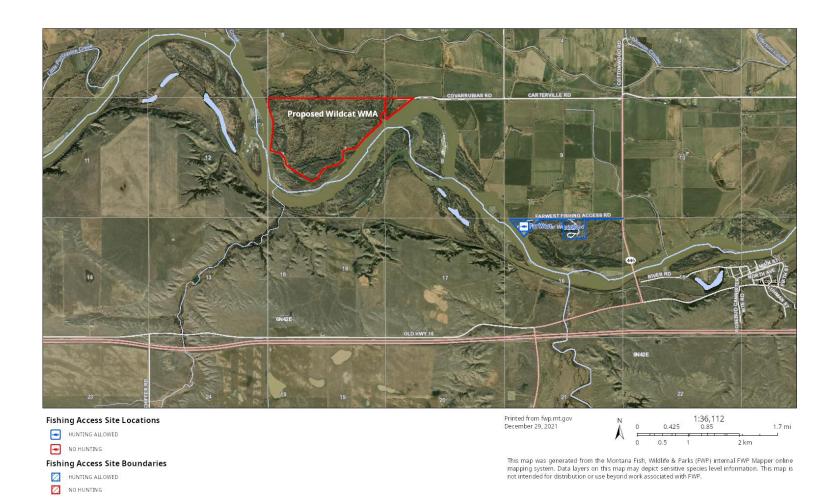
**Recommendation:** FWP recommends the Land Board approve FWP's fee simple acquisition of the Wildcat Bend property in Rosebud County.



This map was generated from the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) internal FWP Mapper online mapping system. Data layers on this map may depict sensitive species level information. This map is not intended for distribution or use beyond work associated with FWP.

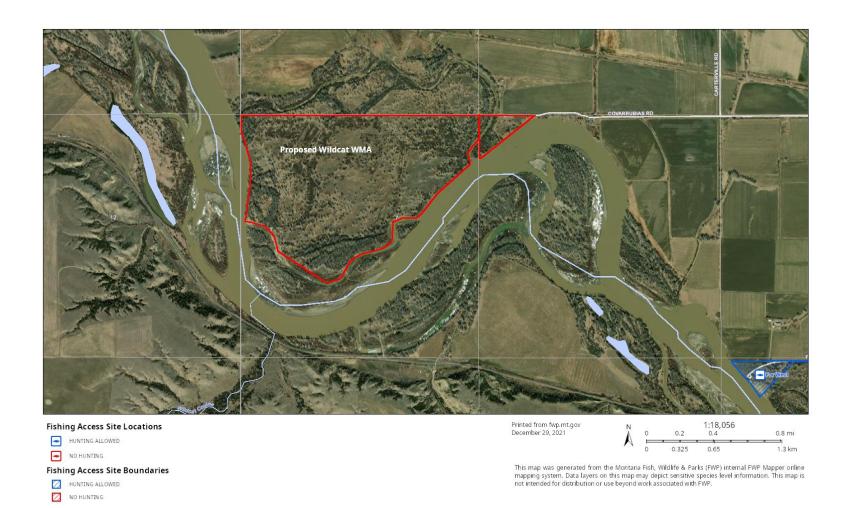
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Image 1:



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Image 2:



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Image 3:

# 1123-2

## **TIMBER SALES**

- A. North Soup Canyon
- B. Potomac Flats

1123-2A Timber Sale: North Soup Canyon

**Location:** Lake County

Sections 22, 25, 26, and 27, T24N, R17W

**Trust Beneficiaries:** Common Schools

**Trust Revenue:** \$104,047 (estimated, minimum bid)

#### **Item Summary**

**Location:** The North Soup Canyon Timber Sale is located approximately 7 air miles southeast of Swan Lake, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes 7 harvest units (232 acres) of cable and tractor logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 9,982 tons (1.5 MMBF) of sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$10.43 per ton, which would generate approximately \$104,047 for the Common School Trust and approximately \$40,352 in Forest Improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize seed tree, commercial thin, and overstory removal harvest prescriptions designed to reduce insect and disease issues and to promote forest health.

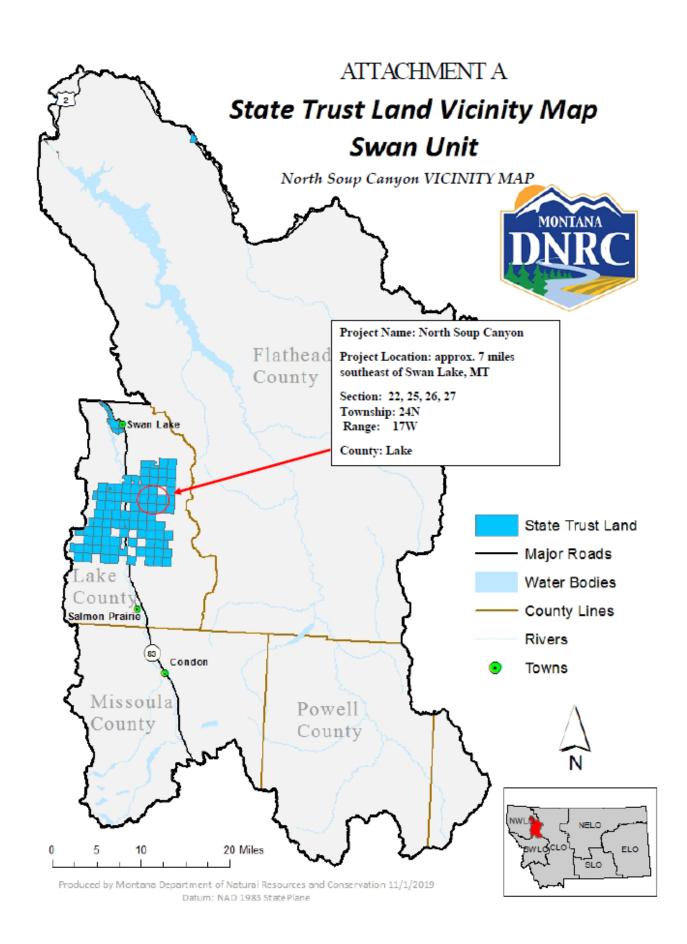
**Road Construction/Maintenance:** The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 2 miles of new permanent road construction, 0.7 miles of temporary road construction, and 13.5 miles of road maintenance.

**Access:** Access is obtained through State and County roads.

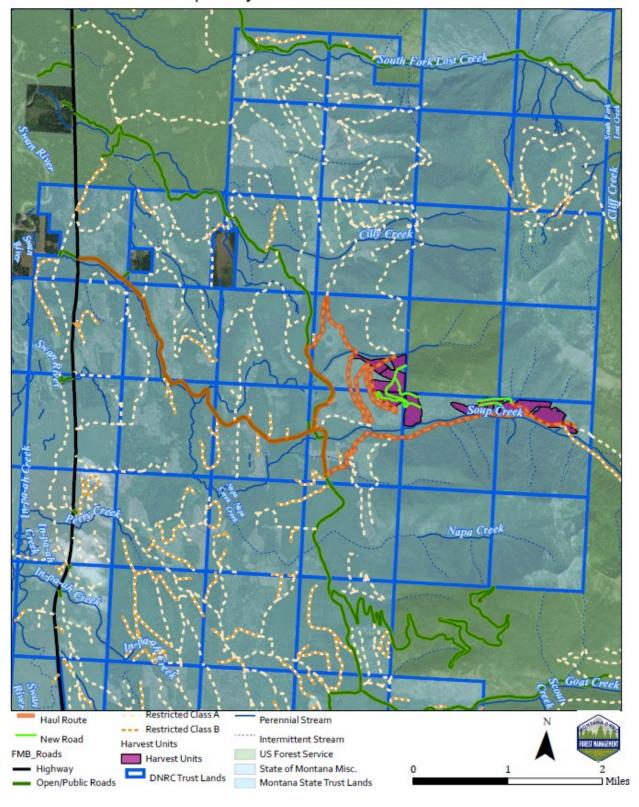
**Public Comments:** Five public comments were received in response to the Lost Napa Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). All public concerns were taken into consideration during project development and are presented in the Final EIS document.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the North Soup Canyon Timber Sale.



## North Soup Canyon Timber Sale Haul Route



North Soup Canyon Timber Sale Harvest Units SOUP CANYON RD - Haul Route - Open/Public Roads Harvest Units ..... Intermittent Stream US Forest Service FMB\_Roads --- Restricted Class B -- DNRC Trust Lands --- Montana State Trust Lands - Highway — Perennial Stream 0.25 0.5 0.75

1123-2B Timber Sale: Potomac Flats

**Location:** Missoula **Section** 16, T13N, R16W

**Trust Beneficiaries:** Common Schools

**Trust Revenue:** \$190,895 (estimated, minimum bid)

#### **Item Summary**

**Location:** The Potomac Flats Timber Sale is located approximately 2 miles west of Potomac, Montana.

Size and Scope: The sale includes 2 harvest units (290 acres) of tractor logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 10,613 tons (1.5 MMBF) of sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$17.99 per ton, which would generate approximately \$190,895 for the Common Schools Trust and approximately \$32,986 in Forest Improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize a harvest prescription of individual tree selection designed to generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust, reduce fuel loading and the likelihood of stand replacing fire, and improve stand health and vigor.

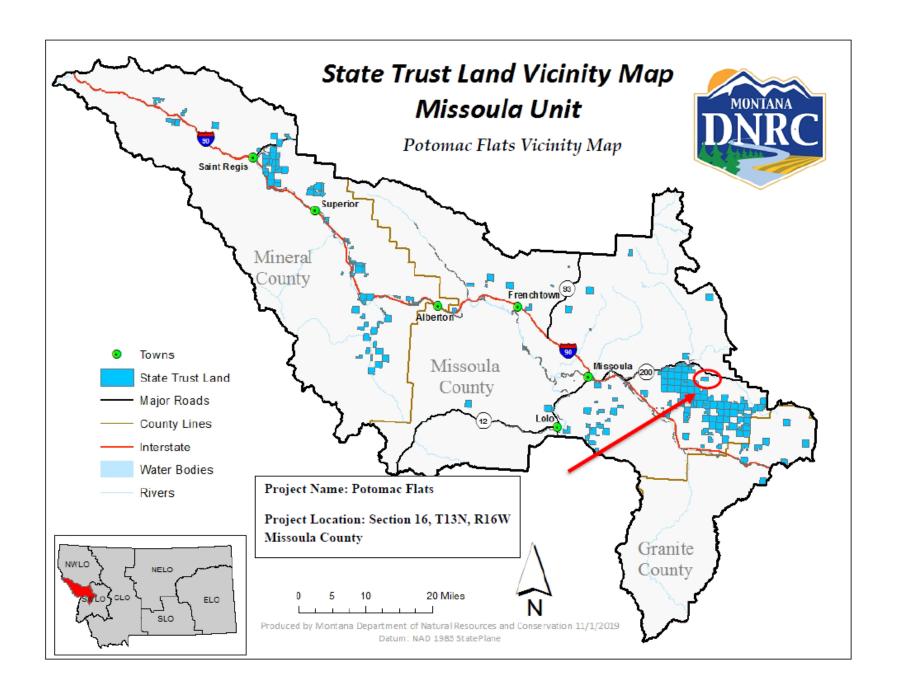
**Road Construction/Maintenance:** Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 0.9 miles of new permanent road construction and 2.7 miles of road maintenance.

**Access:** Access is obtained through a permanent easement on Shaw Lane.

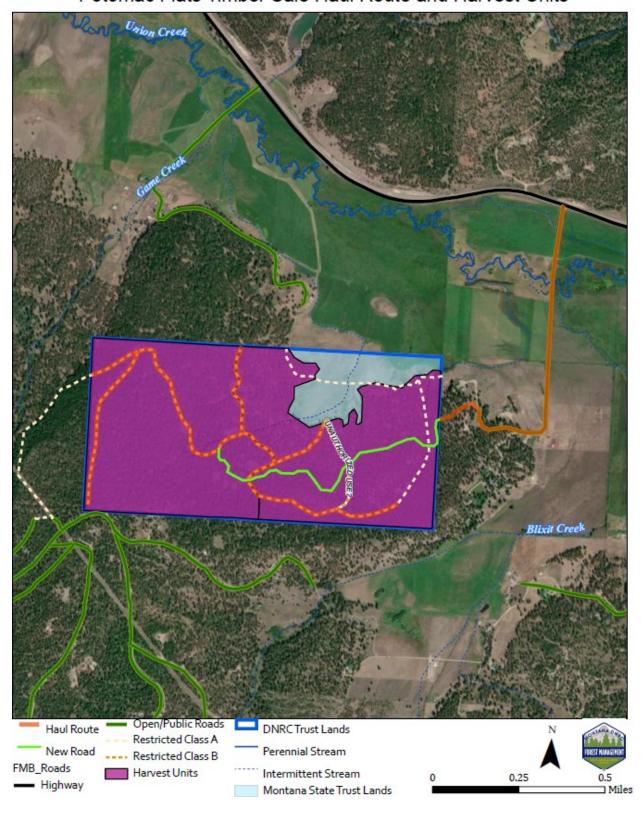
**Public Comments:** Five comments were received during the scoping period. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) expressed support for the project and stressed the importance of maintaining the area as habitat for wildlife. Three nearby landowners expressed various concerns about silviculture, wildfire, roads, wildlife, noxious weeds, vegetation, soil resources, slash piles, and hunting/recreation. One comment from the agricultural and grazing lessee of the parcel expressed concern about potential impacts to their agricultural and grazing operations and about the property lines. DNRC representatives met with the lessee of the parcel and discussed project details and its potential impacts. All scoping comments were taken into consideration during project development and are presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) document.

#### **DNRC** Recommendation

The DNRC recommends the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Potomac Flats Timber Sale.



### Potomac Flats Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units



# 1123-3

## **CABIN AND HOME SITES:**

Set Minimum Bid for Sale

1123-3 Cabin and Home Sites: Set Minimum Bid for Sale

Location: Sanders County
Trust Benefits: Public Buildings

**Trust Revenue: \$199,000** 

#### **Item Summary**

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is requesting to set the minimum bid for three (3) cabin sites nominated for sale in Sanders County. These sales were nominated by the lessees in conjunction with the 2022-2023 Cabin and Home Site Sale Program.

Sale No.	Acres	Legal Description	Nominator	Trust
2049	1.1 <u>+</u>	Tract 2 of Sanders County COS 3820 Richard, Walter, & Greg Largent		Public Buildings
2050	1.13 <u>+</u>	Tract 4 of Sanders County COS 3821 Section 8, T22N – R26W	Wilfred & Carolyn Ovitt	Public Buildings
2055	1.56 <u>+</u>	Tract 1 of Sanders County COS 3821 Section 4, T22N – R26W	Brad & Tina Forman	Public Buildings

These parcels are currently leased as cabin sites and produce below average incomes for residential leases statewide.

#### Background:

Preliminary Land Board approval was granted in December of 2022 (Approved 4-1).

#### **Cultural/Paleontological Resources:**

A Class I level of cultural resource inventory was conducted for these proposed sales. Cabin sites typically contain numerous structures and the ground surfaces within most cabin sites have been variously disturbed over the course of many years of occupation and development. These sales will have no effect to state-owned heritage properties.

#### Access/Recreational Use:

As part of the cabin site sale process, the State will convey any access that it has and can be conveyed to the purchaser of the cabin or home site property. Current cabin/home site access is limited to the lessee and does not provide access or recreational use to the general public. State lands classified as cabin or home sites are closed to general recreational use by the public in accordance with ARM 36.25.150(1)(a). Therefore, the State is not selling land under the cabin site sale program that the public is permitted to use for recreation. Rather, the funds generated by these sales will go towards purchasing new lands that will have dedicated public access and recreational opportunities.

#### **Economic Analysis:**

Short term – The average rate of return on these sale parcels is shown in Figure 1. The parcels will continue to receive these returns if they remain in state ownership. The income rates of return will likely grow smaller over the next 20 years, as average annual value appreciation is greater than the annual rent increase, as shown in Figures 2 through 4 below.

Figure 1: Rates of Return at Current Appraised Values

Sale No.	Rate of Return
2049	0.971%
2050	0.753%
2055	0.626%

Figure 2: Sale 2049 - Review of Past Income & Values; Forecast Income & Values

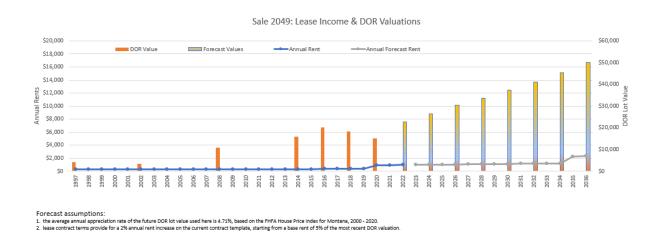


Figure 3: Sale 2050 - Review of Past Income & Values; Forecast Income & Values



Forecast assumptions:

1. the average annual appreciation rate of the future DOR lot value used here is 4.71%, based on the FHFA House Price Index for Montana, 2000 - 2020.

2. lease contract terms provide for a 2% annual rent increase on the current contract template, starting from a base rent of 5% of the most recent DOR valuation.

Figure 4: Sale 2055 - Review of Past Income & Values; Forecast Income & Values



Forecast assumptions:

the average annual appreciation rate of the future DOR lot value used here is 4.71%, based on the FHFA House Price Index for Montana, 2000 - 2020.
 lease contract terms provide for a 2% annual rent increase on the current contract template, starting from a base rent of 5% of the most recent DOR valuation

Long term – The funds from the sale of these parcels will be combined with other sale funds to purchase replacement lands through DNRC's Land Banking program. Lands purchased are required to have an equal or greater rate of return than the combined lands that generated the sale funds used for the purchase. To date, the average annual rate of return on acquisitions has been 3.33% on acquisitions with income generated from annual lease payments. However, the rates of return on land acquired more recently have been higher, ranging from 3.58% on acquisitions purchased within the last five years to 3.89% for lands acquired within the last ten years. Figure 5 shows hypothetical lot values derived from the 3-year average net revenue of the current lease, at a sample range of income rates of return that could be anticipated when the sale proceeds are used for a land banking acquisition.

Figure 5: Lot Values derived from 3-year Average Net Income at Sample Rate of Return

		Data of Datum	Average	Average Rate of	Average Rate of
Sale Number		Rate of Return at Current Appraised Value for Land	Rate of Return on all Land Banking Acquisitions	Return on Land Banking Acquisitions within the last 5 years	Return on Land Banking Acquisitions within the last 10 years
	Income Rate of Return	Varied	3.33%	3.58%	3.89%
2049	Derived Lot Value	\$67,000	\$19,539	\$18,175	\$16,726
2050	Derived Lot Value	\$65,000	\$14,691	\$13,665	\$12,576
2055	Derived Lot Value	\$67,000	\$12,589	\$11,709	\$10,776

#### **Appraised Values of Land and Improvements:**

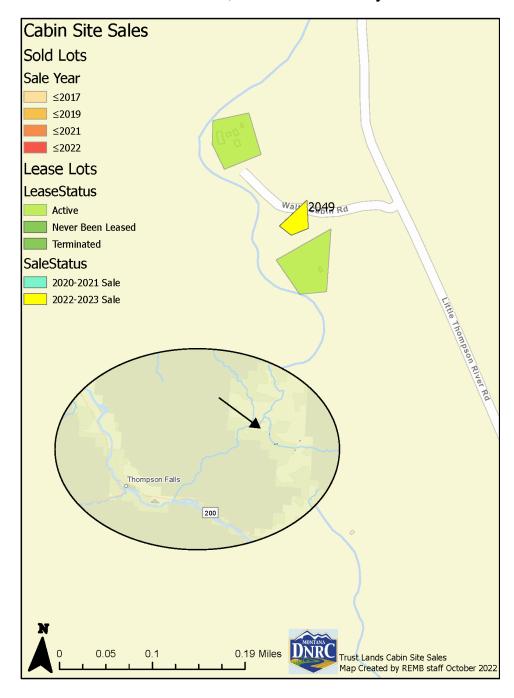
The appraisal of these cabin sites was prepared by Montana General Certified Appraiser Elliott M. Clark, MAI of Clark Real Estate Appraisal of Seeley Lake, Montana.

Sale No.	Appraised Land Value	Appraised Improvements Value \$74,000	
2049	\$67,000	\$74,000	
2050	\$65,000	\$91,000	
2055	\$67,000	\$204,000	

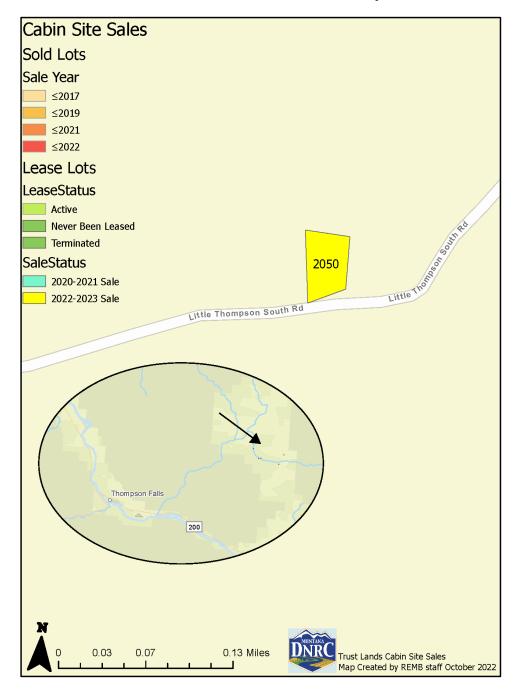
#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board set the minimum bid for these cabin sites at the appraised land values and the maximum value of compensation for the improvements shown above.

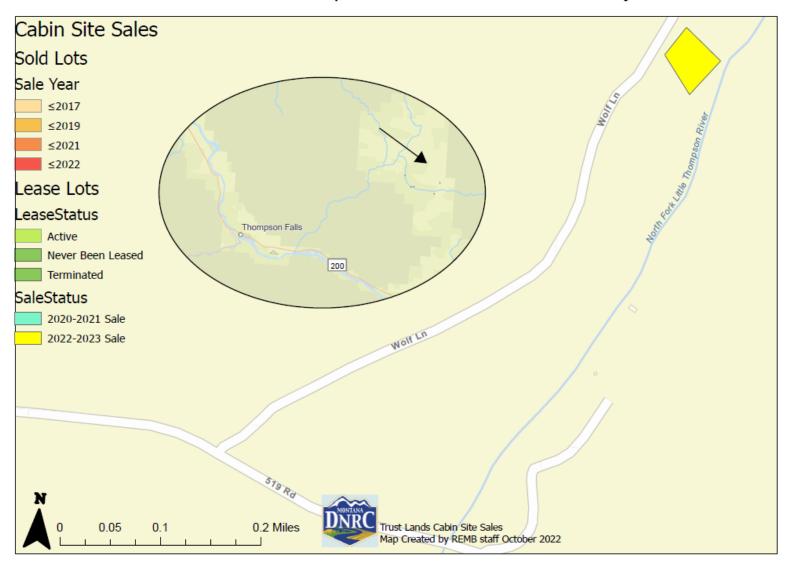
Sale 2049, Sanders County



## Sale 2050, Sanders County



## Sale 2055, Thompson Creek, Sanders County



# 1123-4

## **CABIN AND HOME SITES:**

Final Approval for Sale

- A. Judith Basin County
- B. Powder River County

1123-4A Cabin and Home Sites: Final Approval for Sale

**Location:** Judith Basin County

Trust Benefits: Montana Tech

Trust Revenue: \$42,000

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is requesting final approval for sale of one (1) home site nominated for sale in Judith Basin County. This sale was nominated by the lessee in conjunction with the 2022-2023 Cabin and Home Site Sales Program.

Sale No.	Acres	Legal Description	Nominator	Trust
2036	6.92±	Tract 1 of Judith Basin COS 443 T17N-R10E, Section 22	Kenneth Annala	Montana Tech

#### Background:

Preliminary Land Board approval was granted in December of 2022 (Approved 4-1) for this site to be included as part of the 2022-2023 Cabin and Home Site Sales Program. The Land Board set minimum bid for the home site at the appraised land value and the maximum value of compensation for the improvements in July of 2023 (Approved 4-1).

#### **Cultural/Paleontological Resources:**

A Class I level of cultural resource inventory was conducted for the proposed sale. Home sites typically contain numerous structures and the ground surfaces within most home sites have been disturbed over the course of many years of occupation and development. The sale will have no effect to state-owned heritage properties.

#### Access/Recreational Use:

As part of the cabin site sale process, the State will convey any access that it has and can be conveyed to the purchaser of the cabin or home site property. Current cabin/home site access is limited to the lessee and does not provide access or recreational use to the general public. State lands classified as cabin or home sites are closed to general recreational use by the public in accordance with ARM 36.25.150(1)(a). Therefore, the State is not selling land under the cabin site sale program that the public is permitted to use for recreation. Rather, the funds generated by these sales will go towards purchasing new lands that will have dedicated public access and recreational opportunities.

#### **Economic Analysis:**

Short term – The average rate of return on this sale parcel is 2.503%. The parcel will continue to receive this return if it remains in state ownership. The income rate of return will likely grow smaller, as average annual value appreciation is greater than the annual rent increase.

Long term – The funds from the sale of this parcel would be combined with other sale funds to purchase replacement lands through DNRC's Land Banking program. Lands purchased are required to have an equal or greater rate of return than the combined lands that generated the sale funds used for the purchase. To date, the average annual rate of return on acquisitions has been 3.33% on acquisitions with income generated from annual lease payments. However, the rates of return on land acquired more recently have been higher, ranging from 3.58% on acquisitions purchased within the last five years to 3.89% for lands acquired within the last ten years.

#### **Appraised Values of Land and Improvements:**

The appraisal of this home site was prepared by Montana General Certified Appraisers J. Scott Crosby and Valerie Crosby of Crosby Analytics, LLC from Cowley, Wyoming.

Sale No.	Minimum Bid for the Land	Maximum Value of Compensation for Improvements	Final Sale Price
2036	\$42,000	\$608,000	\$42,000

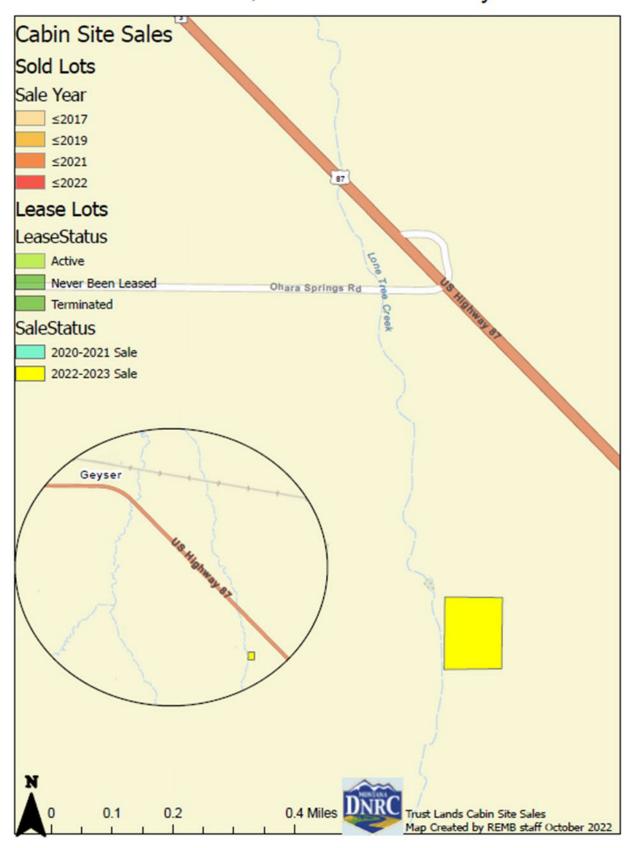
#### Sale Price

The home site sold at public auction on October 23, 2023. There was one qualified bidder for the sale. The site sold for the final sale price listed above.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board grant final approval for the sale of this home site at the value shown above.

# Sale 2036, Judith Basin County



1123-4B Cabin and Home Sites: Final Approval for Sale

**Location:** Powder River County

Trust Benefits: Common Schools

Trust Revenue: \$13,000

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is requesting final approval for sale of one (1) home site nominated for sale in Powder River County. This sale was nominated by the lessee in conjunction with the 2022-2023 Cabin and Home Site Sales Program.

Sale No.	Acres	Legal Description	Nominator	Trust
2035	2.72±	Tract A of COS 141023 Section 32, T8S-R48E	Fulton Ranch LLC	Common Schools

#### Background:

Preliminary Land Board approval was granted in December of 2022 (Approved 4-1) for this site to be included as part of the 2022-2023 Cabin and Home Site Sales Program. The Land Board set minimum bid for the home site at the appraised land value and the maximum value of compensation for the improvements in August of 2023 (Approved 5-0).

#### **Cultural/Paleontological Resources:**

A Class I level of cultural resource inventory was conducted for the proposed sale. Home sites typically contain numerous structures and the ground surfaces within most home sites have been disturbed over the course of many years of occupation and development. The sale will have no effect to state-owned heritage properties.

#### Access/Recreational Use:

As part of the cabin site sale process, the State will convey any access that it has and can be conveyed to the purchaser of the cabin or home site property. Current cabin/home site access is limited to the lessee and does not provide access or recreational use to the general public. State lands classified as cabin or home sites are closed to general recreational use by the public in accordance with ARM 36.25.150(1)(a). Therefore, the State is not selling land under the cabin site sale program that the public is permitted to use for recreation. Rather, the funds generated by these sales will go towards purchasing new lands that will have dedicated public access and recreational opportunities.

#### **Economic Analysis:**

Short term – The average rate of return on this sale parcel is 4.988%. The parcel will continue to receive this return if it remains in state ownership. The income rate of return will likely grow smaller, as average annual value appreciation is greater than the annual rent increase.

Long term – The funds from the sale of this parcel would be combined with other sale funds to purchase replacement lands through DNRC's Land Banking program. Lands purchased are required to have an equal or greater rate of return than the combined lands that generated the sale funds used for the purchase. To date, the average annual rate of return on acquisitions has been 3.33% on acquisitions with income generated from annual lease payments. However, the rates of return on land acquired more recently have been higher, ranging from 3.58% on acquisitions purchased within the last five years to 3.89% for lands acquired within the last ten years.

#### **Appraised Values of Land and Improvements:**

The appraisal of this home site was prepared by Montana General Certified Appraisers J. Scott Crosby and Valerie Crosby of Crosby Analytics, LLC from Cowley, Wyoming.

Sale No.	Minimum Bid for the Land	Maximum Value of Compensation for Improvements	Final Sale Price
2035	\$13,000	\$92,000	\$13,000

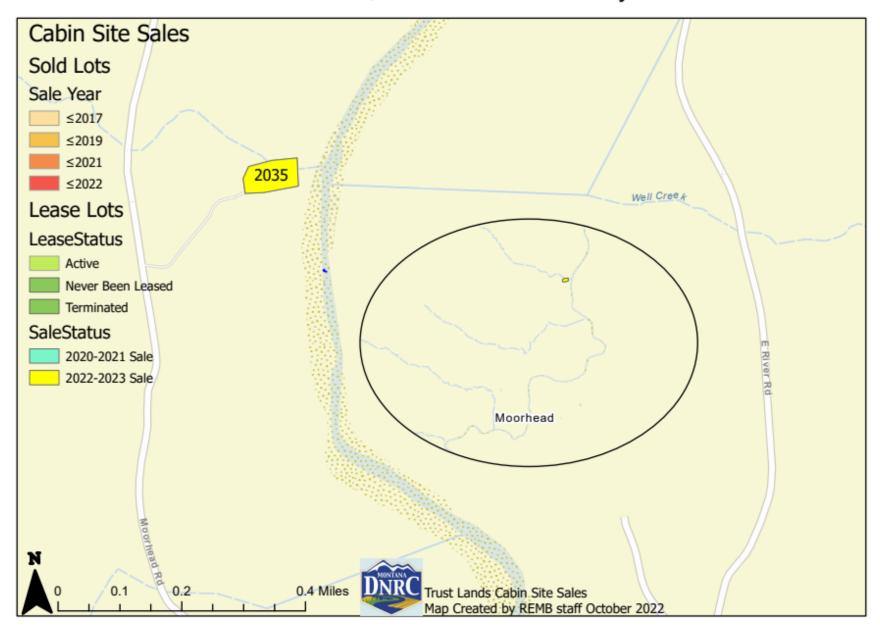
#### Sale Price

The home site sold at public auction on October 19, 2023. There was one qualified bidder for the sale. The site sold for the final sale price listed above.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board grant final approval for the sale of this home site at the value shown above.

# Sale 2035, Powder River County



# 1123-5 EASEMENTS

1123-5 Easements

Location: Liberty, Petroleum, Silver Bow, and Teton Counties

Trust Benefits: Common Schools and University of Montana

**Trust Revenue:** Common Schools = \$3,949.00

University of Montana = \$100.00

#### **Item Table of Contents**

Applicant	Right-of-Way Purpose	Term	Page(s)
Southern Montana Telephone Co	Buried Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	33-34
Marias River Electric Cooperative	Overhead power distribution line	Permanent	35-36
3 Rivers Telephone Co-op, Inc.	Buried Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	37-38
Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Overhead power distribution line	Permanent	39-40

Applicant: Southern Montana Telephone Company

PO Box 205

Wisdom, MT 59761-0205

Application No.: 19592

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable

Lessee Agreement: Ok
Acreage: 1.66
Compensation: \$3,320.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through SE4SW4, S2SE4, Sec. 35, Twp. 2N,

Rge. 9W, Silver Bow County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

#### **Item Summary**

Southern Montana Telephone Company is requesting an easement to install a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable. The line will provide reliable telephone and broadband services to unserved and underserved homes and businesses in the Buxton area. The proposed route was determined by field review as the most direct route between terminus locations while also providing access to existing and future network considerations.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Southern Montana Telephone Company.





Applicant: Marias River Electric Cooperative

910 W. Roosevelt Hwy Shelby, MT 59474

Application No.: 19597

R/W Purpose: an overhead power distribution line

Lessee Agreement: Ok Acreage: 0.3 Compensation: \$405.00

Legal Description: tract of land through SE4SE4, Sec. 1, Twp. 29N, Rge. 4E,

Liberty County

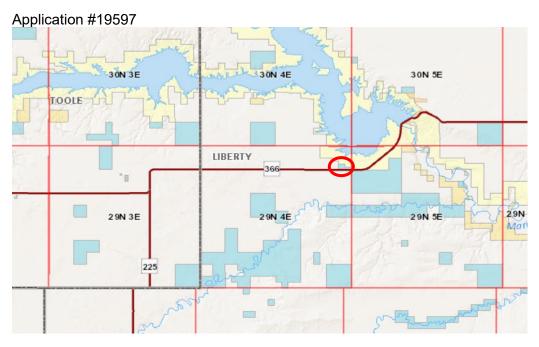
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

#### Item Summary

Marias River Electric Cooperative has requested an easement for an overhead distribution powerline to supply electrical power to local residents in Liberty County. The proposed route was chosen in order to follow Highway 366. Other routes were considered and eliminated for topographical, environmental, and economic reasons.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Marias River Electric Cooperative.





Applicant: 3 Rivers Telephone Co-op, Inc.

PO Box 429

Fairfield, MT 59436

Application No.: 19598

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable

Lessee Agreement: Ok Acreage: 0.224 Compensation: \$224.00

Legal Description: 10-foot strip through W2NW4, Sec. 16, Twp. 27N, Rge. 8W,

**Teton County** 

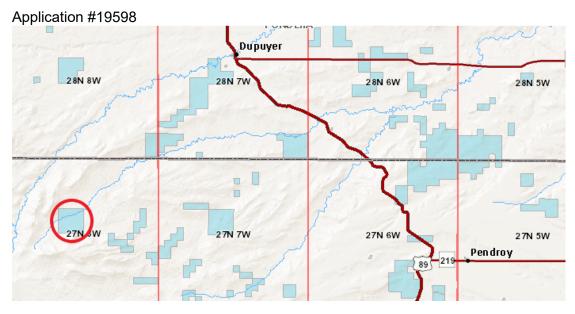
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

#### Item Summary

3 Rivers Telephone Co-op, Inc. is requesting an easement to install a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable. The line will provide reliable telephone, high-speed data, and broadband services to a customer in Teton county. The proposed facilities will be a buried fiber optic cable placed within existing cable corridors along West Pendroy Road. The route chosen was the most direct route to the customer along an existing Teton county road. There is no alternative route that avoids crossing State lands and this is the most direct route between terminus locations.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of 3 Rivers Telephone Co-op, Inc.





Applicant: Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc.

84423 US HWY 87 Lewistown, MT 59457

Application No.: 19599

R/W Purpose: an overhead 7.2kV distribution powerline

Lessee Agreement: Ok
Acreage: 0.155
Compensation: \$100.00

Legal Description: 30-foot strip through SE4NW4, Sec. 27, Twp. 15N, Rge. 25E,

Petroleum County

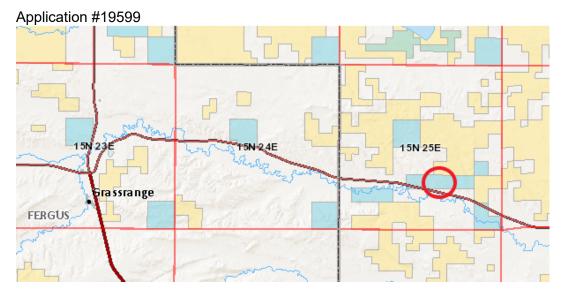
Trust Beneficiary: University of Montana

#### Item Summary

Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. has requested an easement for a guy wire, anchor and an overhead 7.2kV distribution powerline in order to supply power to a landowner's well near Winnett, MT. The new powerline will connect to an existing line and a guy wire and an anchor will be added to the existing pole. A new pole will not be installed on State property; however, the anchor, guy wire and new overhead powerline will fall outside of the existing easement, which necessitates the additional easement area. The proposed route is the most direct route between terminuses and the most cost effective route.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc.





# 1123-6

# **INFORMATIONAL ITEM:**

Trust Lands Management FY 2023 Review