TIN CUP FIRE SALVAGE TIMBER SALE

November 19, 2007 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Hamilton Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 3 air miles west of Darby, Montana.
- Ravalli County – W1/2, NW1/4, SW1/4, Section 16, T3N, R21W.
- Trust Distribution - 100% Common School.
- This fire salvage sale is within the Tin Cup Fire perimeter and the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated sawlog volume is 2,344 tons (381 mbf) with an estimated minimum value of $28,128.00 or $12.00/ton.
- There is also an estimated 400 tons of pulpwood that is required to be removed with a minimum bid value of $400.00 or $1.00/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of $3.70/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.15 tons/mbf is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- This sale consists of 2 harvest units totaling 83 acres
- A fire salvage harvest is proposed in unit 1 totaling 29 acres of severe to moderately burned state trust lands within the Tin Cup Fire Area. All merchantable fire killed and high risk scorched trees would be harvested. Snags and snag recruits would be retained as well as green or lightly fire damaged trees. Leave trees would favor ponderosa pine. This 29-acre unit would be monitored for possible regeneration needs. Unit 2 is 54 acres of understory burned to unburned land immediately adjacent to the fire perimeter and to private home sites. The area within the unit is overstocked with smaller diameter Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Unit 2 would be commercially thinned to reduce insect and disease, improve stand health and vigor of remaining trees, and reduce forest fuels within the WUI. Healthy ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir would be retained. Post-harvest, unit 2 would have a residual stocking of approximately 60 -70 square feet of basal area or about 30 larger trees per acre.
- Throughout the project area, a minimum of two snags and two snag recruits per acre would be retained.
- This sale contains no old growth.

Harvest Systems:

- 100% Tractor

Road Construction:

- Approximately 946 feet of new road construction is required to access the harvest units.
- Maintenance on approximately 1.0 mile of existing private road would be required to meet current BMP's.
- The new road construction associated with this sale would be reclaimed after use to reduce potential motorized vehicle activities from adjacent private property.

Public Involvement:

- Public involvement was solicited through a legal notice published in the *Ravalli Republic*. Letters were sent to adjacent landowners and also to special interest groups. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies helped identify issues. The identified issues were wildlife, forest fuels, aesthetics (visuals), and noxious weeds.

Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

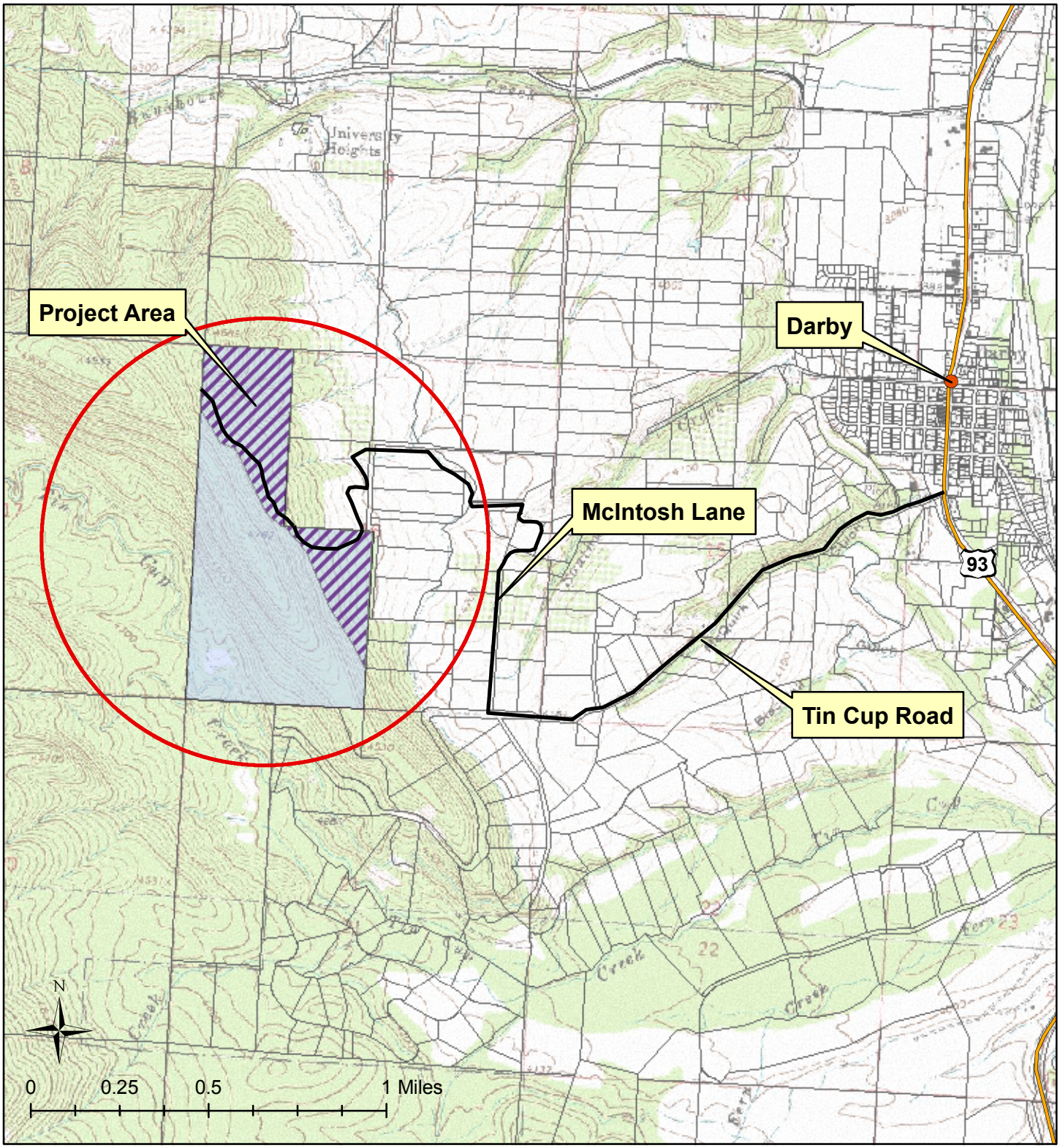
- **Fuels Reduction** – This area has rural homes adjacent to the Tin Cup sale area and is within a wildland urban interface (WUI). This project would reduce dense fuels within all harvest units and more specifically on 54 acres of lightly burned or unburned land that border private property.

- **Noxious Weeds** – An integrated weed-management plan to limit the spread of noxious weeds would be applied as follows:
  - Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities would be washed and inspected prior to being brought on site.
  - All disturbed areas would be grass seeded.
  - The project area would be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment.

- **Aesthetics** – The commercially thinned area would have approximately 100 merchantable and un-merchantable trees per acre after treatment which would provide a visual barrier. In addition a majority of the non-sawlog material is required to be removed. This would significantly reduce slash piles and the amount of scattered debris in the woods.

- **Wildlife** – The project area is not within big game winter range although it is along a big game migration corridor. Retention of shrubs and trees along the roads, broken topography, and pockets of untreated areas would maintain limited sight distances. All current road restrictions would remain unchanged, thereby maintaining security for wildlife. Access for hunters would not change.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Tin Cup Fire Salvage Timber Sale Project.



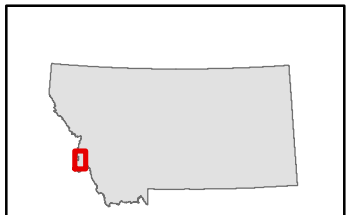
Tin Cup Timber Sale Vicinity Map

NAD 1983 StatePlane Montana

Prepared by
Montana Department
of Natural Resources and Conservation
October 2007

Legend

- City
- Haul Route
- Harvest Units
- State Parcel



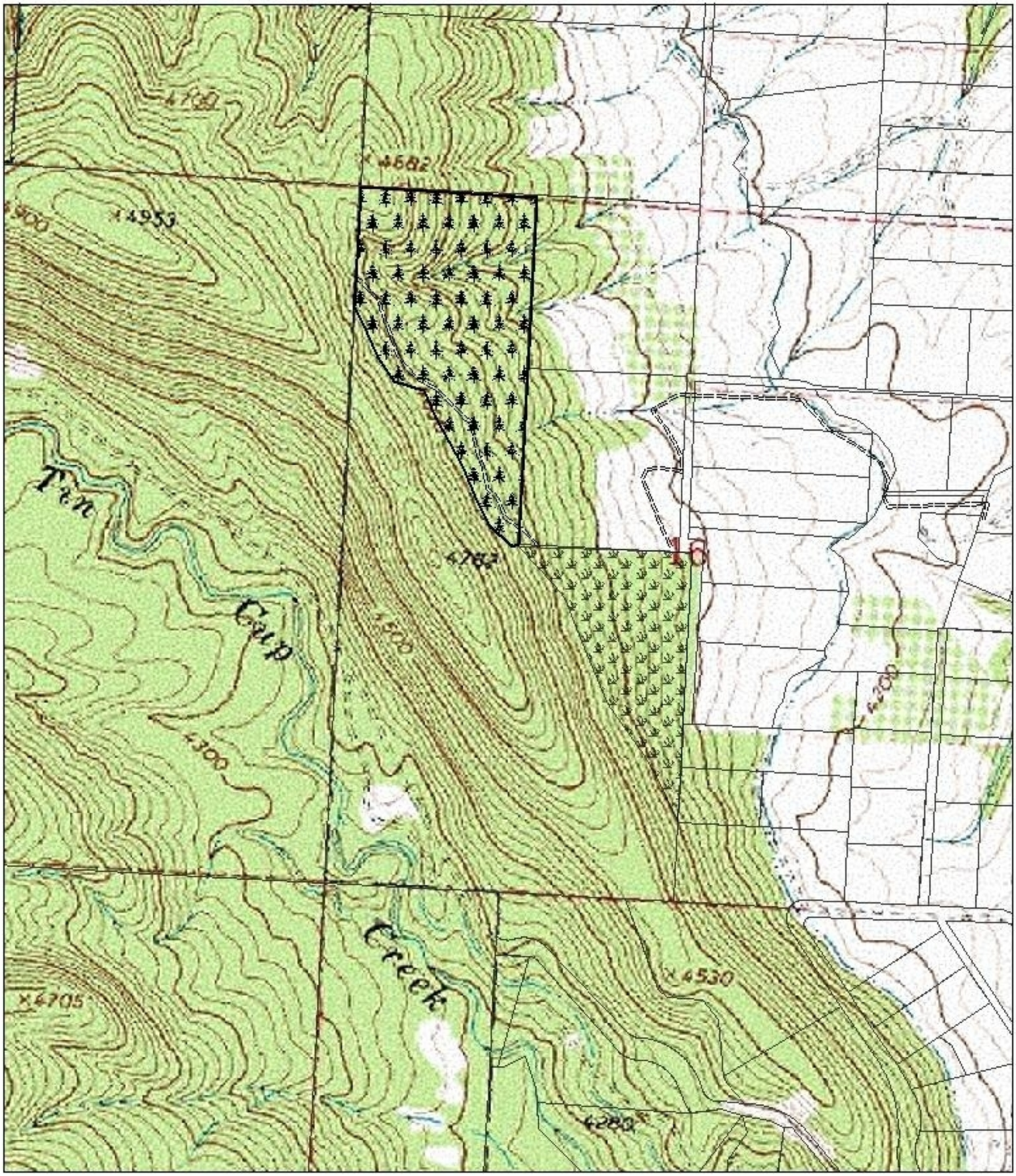
AREA OF INTEREST

Attachment A

Legend

Unit2, 55 Acres

Unit1, 28 Acres

Tin Cup Timber Sale

Section 16, T3N,R21W