

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Central Land Office • Helena Unit

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## STATE OF MONTANA

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### Scoping Notice Helena N. Hills – Capital 360 Project

February 12, 2021

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing to award grant funds to Tri-County FireSafe Working Group and implement hazardous fuels reduction treatments on Trust Lands in the Helena North Hills area. The funds for Tri-County FireSafe Working Group and for the hazardous fuels reduction treatments are offered through the FY20 Western States Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grant Program.

The proposed Trust Land hazardous fuels reduction treatments are in Lewis and Clark County, approximately 12 miles north of Helena, Montana. The treatments being proposed are on parcels located in Township 12N Range 3W Section 36.

The purpose of the proposed project is to increase resident, public, first responder and community safety from wildfires. The FY20 Western States WUI Grant Program supports wildfire risk reduction actions, assist in establishing fire adapted communities and strives to restore fire-adapted ecosystems. The proposed grant funds to Tri-County FireSafe Working Group will be used to educate and provide financial assistance to private landowners for implementing hazardous fuels reduction treatments on their land and along roadsides in the Helena North Hills area. Tri-County FireSafe Working Group will administer grant funds directly to landowner recipients through project agreements, as part of a cost-share incentive for reducing wildfire risk.

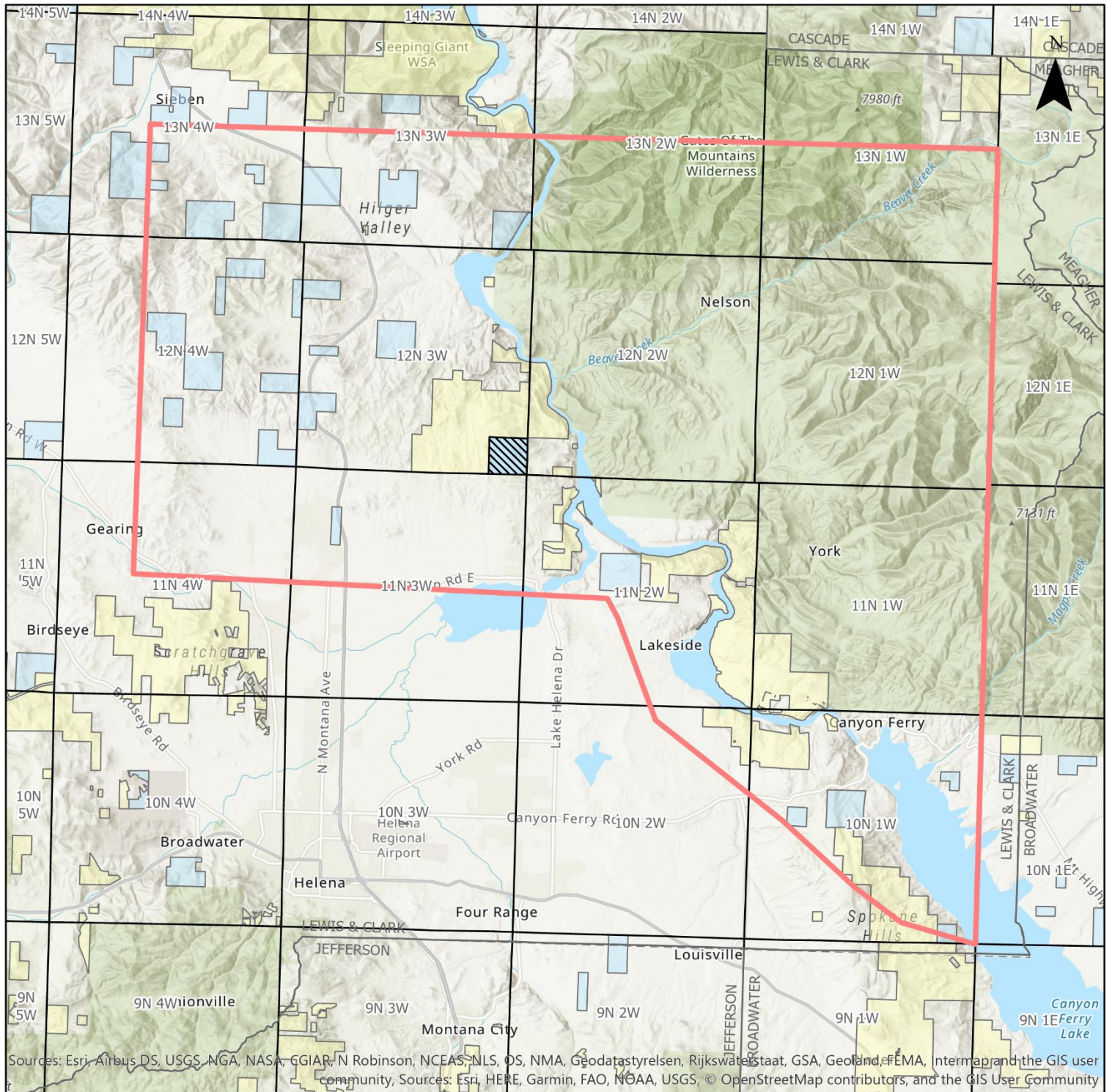
The goal of hazardous fuels reduction treatments is to reduce the intensity and severity of wildland fires. By doing this we can increase life safety and decrease the probability of a stand replacement crown fire. Treatment methods include tree thinning and pruning and chipping and or burning the slash (cut trees and branches). Treatment outcomes will result in forest conditions more likely to support lower severity surface fires. If forest products opportunities arise, they will be utilized, and the revenue will go towards reducing project cost. This proposed project also contributes meeting the goals and objectives identified in the Montana Forest Action Plan.

Hazardous fuels reduction treatments are proposed on approximately 162 acres within the project areas; up to 80 acres on Trust Lands, 50 acres on private property and 32 acres along roadways. The proposed projects would begin implementation late spring of 2021 and project completion will be no later than 2023.

The proposed actions: (1) award grant funding to Tri-County FireSafe Working Group and (2) reduce hazardous fuels on 80 acres of Trust Lands.

The Montana DNRC invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by end of business March 15, 2021 to Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Attn: Cody Nelson, 8001 N Montana Avenue, Helena, MT 59602 or [cody.nelson@mt.gov](mailto:cody.nelson@mt.gov)

# Proposed North Hills WUI Grant Implementation Area Lewis & Clark

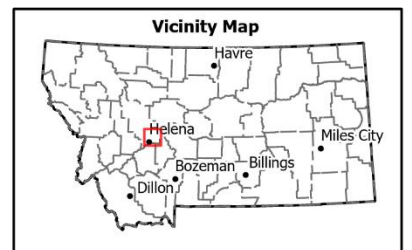


0 2.5 5 10 mi



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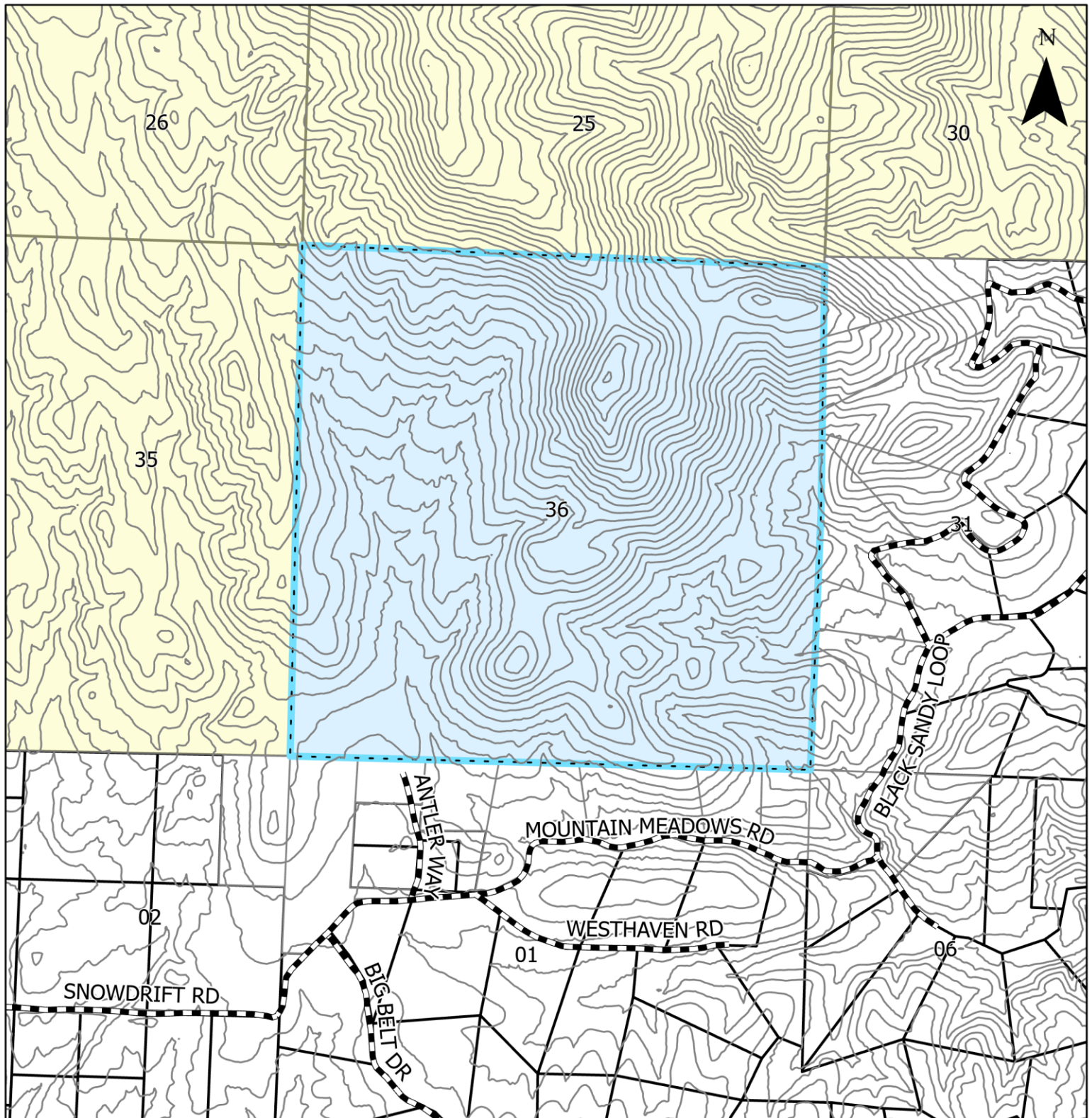
- Implementation Area
- BLM Land
- State Trust Land
- Proposed Treatment Unit









# Proposed North Hills WUI Grant State Trust Land Project Area

## Township 12N Range 3W Section 36



-  Project Area
-  Private Parcel
-  BLM
-  State Trust Land

0 0.5 1 mi

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