

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**

Trust Land Management Division



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684

P.O. BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

**Initial Proposal
909 Pre-Commercial Thinning Project
June 15, 2016**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Stillwater Unit is proposing to thin saplings on the following State owned parcel:

Sections 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35 and 36, Township 36N, Range 21W

The 909 Pre-Commercial Thinning Project is located approximately 6 miles southwest of the town of Polebridge, Montana in the Coal Creek State Forest.

The purpose of the thinning is to reduce stand density in order to increase growth, vigor, and health of the remaining trees. Healthy vigorous trees would be more resistant to potential attack by mountain pine beetle and mortality from wildfire. The proposed activity would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222 based on the above mentioned benefits.

The proposed project encompasses 703 acres. The proposed thinning units are composed predominately of over-stocked lodgepole pine, western larch, and Douglas-fir with a current density of 800-3,000 trees per acre. The thinning treatment would reduce the density to approximately 540 trees per acre (9-foot by 9-foot average spacing) with species preference targeting the desired future condition of the stand. Thinning units will be selected by priority and as funding becomes available.

Slash produced through treatment would be cut down to within 18 inches of the ground throughout the units. Additionally, treatment of the slash produced from the project will meet State laws for hazard reduction standards.

No new roads will be constructed or reopened as a result of this proposed project.

Post and pole operations will be analyzed for along with the commercial removal of woody material either mechanically or by hand.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes, acreages and road distances are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted.

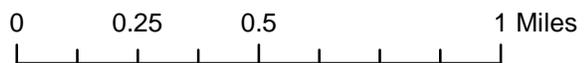
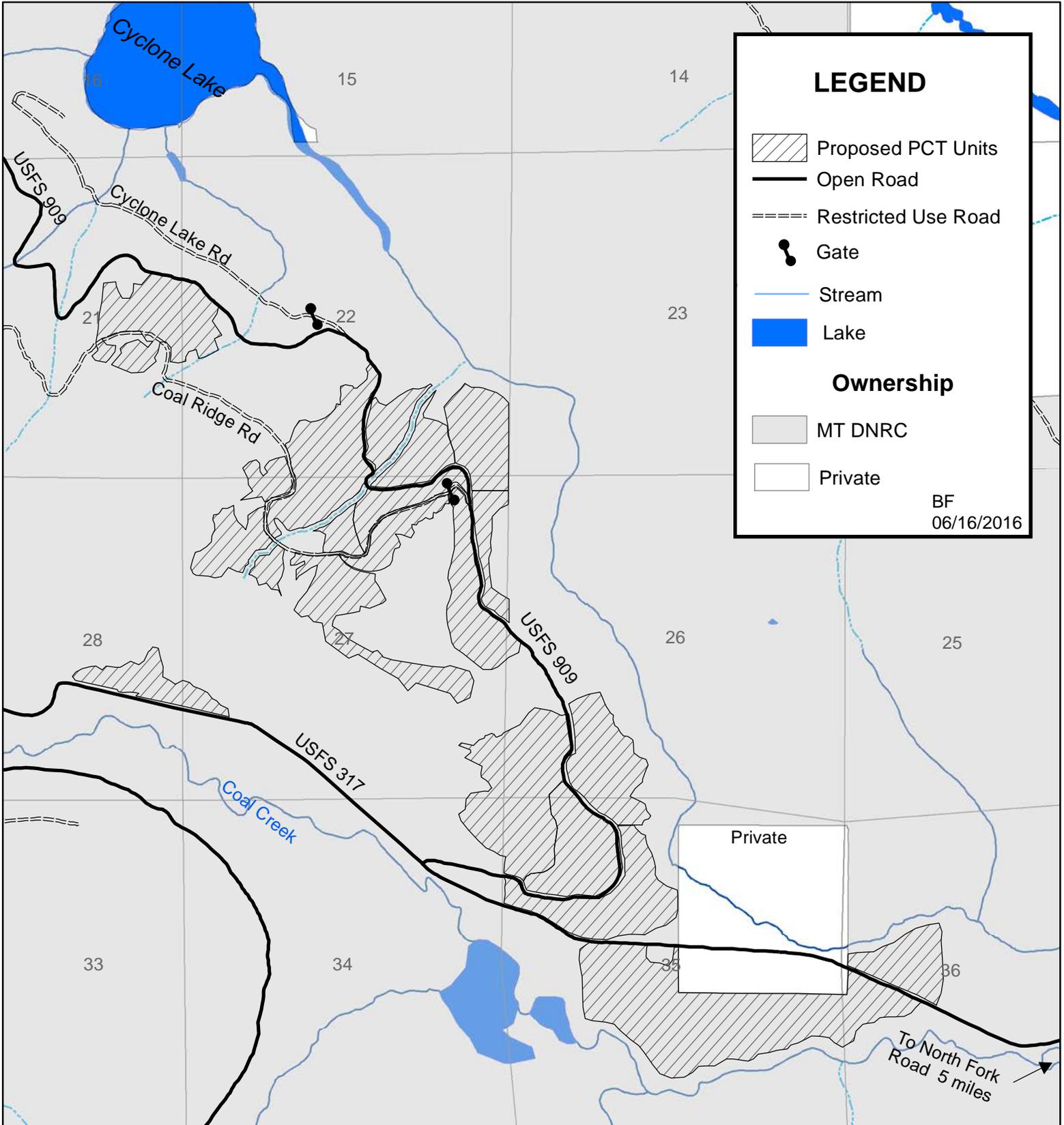
The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by July 19, 2016 to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Brad French
Stillwater Unit
PO Box 164
Olney, MT 59927
bfrench@mt.gov
(406) 881-2668

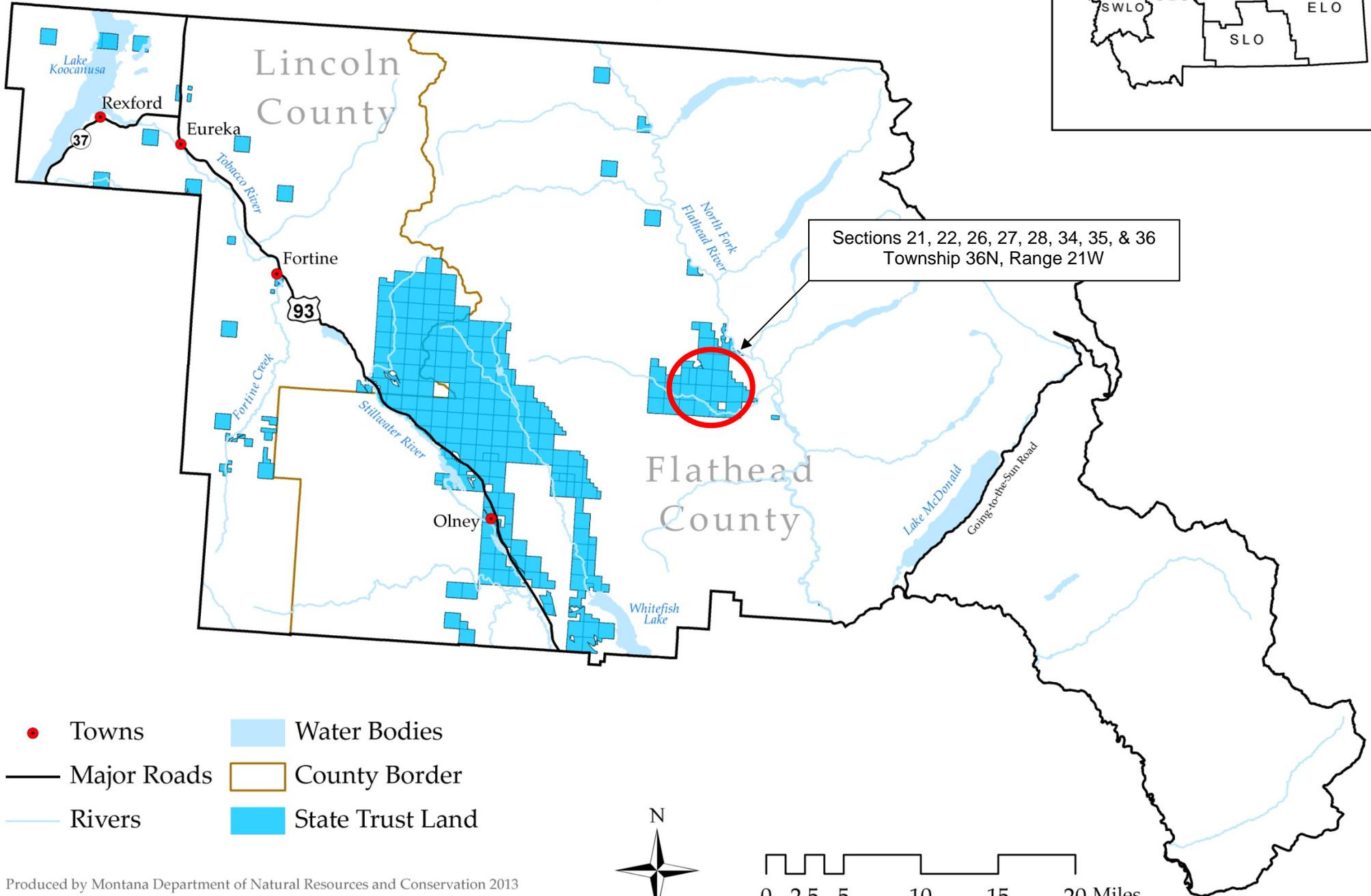
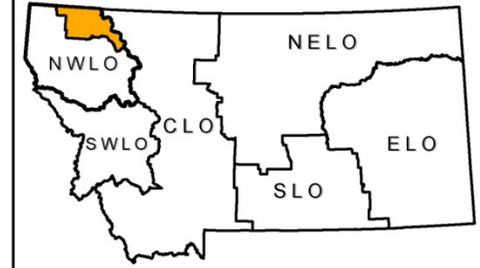
909 Pre-Commerical Thinning Initial Proposal

Sections 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, and 36

Township 36N, Range 21W



909 PCT VICINITY MAP STILLWATER UNIT



- Towns
- Major Roads
- Rivers
- Water Bodies
- County Border
- State Trust Land

