

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**

Trust Land Management Division

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STATE OF MONTANA

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**Scoping Notice
Land Exchange: SRI River Holdings, LLC
September 14, 2016**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Dillon Unit is seeking comments on a proposed land exchange involving state owned trust land and private lands owned by SRI River Holdings, LLC (SRI) formerly known as Hamilton Ranch. These lands are located in Madison and Butte-Silver Bow Counties, west and south of Twin Bridges, Montana.

Approximately **611 acres** of state owned trust lands described as:

State Trust Land (DNRC)					
Legal Description	Section	T	R	# of Acres	Trust
W1/2, W1/2E1/2, NE1/4NE1/4, Madison County	20	3S	6W	523	MSU 2 nd Grant
Portion of the NW1/4 (north of the Melrose-Twin Bridges Road to be determined by survey) Madison County	29	3S	6W	8±	Eastern College-MSU/ Western College-UM
E1/2NE1/4 (less Jefferson River bed) Madison County *Located on the Jefferson River	16	3S	6W	80±	Common Schools
Total:				611 ±	

The above state trust land is proposed to be exchanged for approximately **861.48 acres** of private land described below as:

SRI River Holdings, LLC Land				
Legal Description	Section	T	R	# of Acres
W1/2, SW1/4SE1/4, NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4, NW1/4SE1/4 (two described parcels) Madison County	30	1S	7W	630±
To be described by survey Madison County *Located on the Big Hole River near Pennington Bridge	11	4S	7W	111±
SE1/4NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4 Butte-Silver Bow County	25	1S	8W	120.48±
Total:				861.48±

(See attached map **Exhibit A**)

Land Exchange Information

The purpose of the proposed land exchange is to provide greater management flexibility for both the private landowner and state owned land, improve hunting safety zones near ranch residences, and provide additional access for the public to currently inaccessible federal lands.

SRI proposes the following conditions for the exchange of the lands on the Jefferson River that the State will transfer to SRI:

Restrictions will be placed on the 80 acres on the Jefferson River when conveyed to SRI, to prevent subdivision or development of the 80 acre property so it will forever remain as open space along the river;

- SRI will place a Lewis and Clark interpretive sign on SRI Ranch lands near the confluence of the Jefferson and Big Hole Rivers (current day confluence), which was an important juncture for the Lewis and Clark Expedition;
- SRI will contribute \$50,000 to the Jefferson River Canoe Trail as a matching grant for projects that improve public access, habitat, water quality and/or other public resource values on the Jefferson River;
- SRI has offered a suitable public camp site (less than 5 acres in size) to be established along the river frontage of the 80 acre state parcel, the details of which to be agreed upon prior to closing.

In addition, the state will receive a permanent public easement to the lands they will acquire in the Rochester Basin, Section 30, T1S, R7W, Section 25, T1S, R8W.

Correction from Previous Scoping Notice

The July 13, 2016 scoping notice contained an error:

- Correction: The legal descriptions in the charts above have been corrected and updated to the most accurate descriptions available.

In accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), public concerns about the project and potential environmental impacts will be considered and analyzed before a decision is made regarding project implementation. **All comments previously received will be considered in the MEPA process.** We will be using your comments to help us identify issues early on in the process so we may reasonably address them in the environmental assessment.

DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archaeologists will be consulted.



Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by October 14, 2016 to:

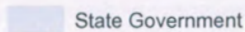
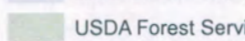
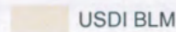
Mail to: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Tim Egan
DNRC- Dillon Unit Office
840 North Montana Street
Dillon, MT 59725

Email: tegan@mt.gov



Proposed Exchange Parcels

-  SRI Holdings to Transfer to DNRC
-  MT DNRC Trust Lands to Transfer to SRI Holdings

-  State Government
-  USDA Forest Service
-  USDI BLM

