

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION
MILES CITY



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STATE OF MONTANA

EASTERN LAND OFFICE
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August 8, 2016

Initial Proposal

Blowout Creek Timber Sale and Sheep Mountain Timber Sale

The Montana Department of Natural Resources, Eastern Land Office is proposing to harvest timber on the following state owned parcels:

Blowout Creek Timber Sale
Section 16 T8S R55E

This section is located approximately 9 miles south of Boyes, MT.

Sheep Mountain Timber Sale
Section 16 T4S R61E

This section is located approximately 14 miles west of Camp Crook, SD.

The proposed timber sales are part of a program that manages forested State Trust Land for revenue to support public schools. The purpose of this letter is to identify issues and concerns as they relate to the proposed project. A brief description of the proposed action is listed below.

- Harvest approximately 800,000 thousand to 900,000 thousand board feet of ponderosa pine over approximately 425 acres.
- Preliminary surveys indicate that the silvicultural treatment would be a selective harvest with an effort to reduce stocking levels to a more historic, pre-fire suppression stand density, while maintaining the current multi-age stand structure.
- Approximately 1 to 3 miles of new road construction is anticipated. Approximately 1-3 miles of temporary spur roads would be necessary to accomplish the management objectives. These roads would be obliterated at the completion of use through ripping the road surface and seeding back to native grass species.
- 2-3 miles of existing road on State land would be incorporated as well.
- This proposed action would reduce fire hazards, fuel loading, increase forest health, and improve forage for wildlife and cattle.

Montana DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes and acreages are preliminary estimates. In preparation of this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archaeologists will be consulted. Please review the proposed action and provide comments on any issues or concerns by August 30, 2016. If more information is needed or an on-the-ground review desired please don't hesitate to contact me.

Please submit written comments or direct any questions to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Andy Miller
P.O. Box 1794
Miles City, MT 59301
Andy.Miller@mt.gov

Thank you for your time and effort.

(406) 232-2034

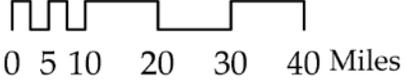
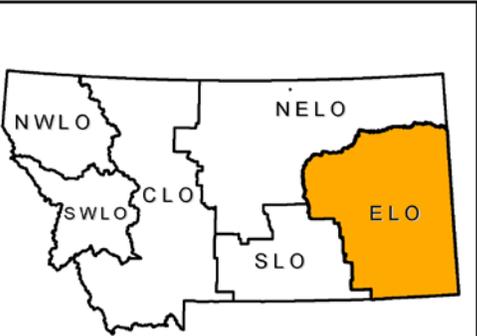
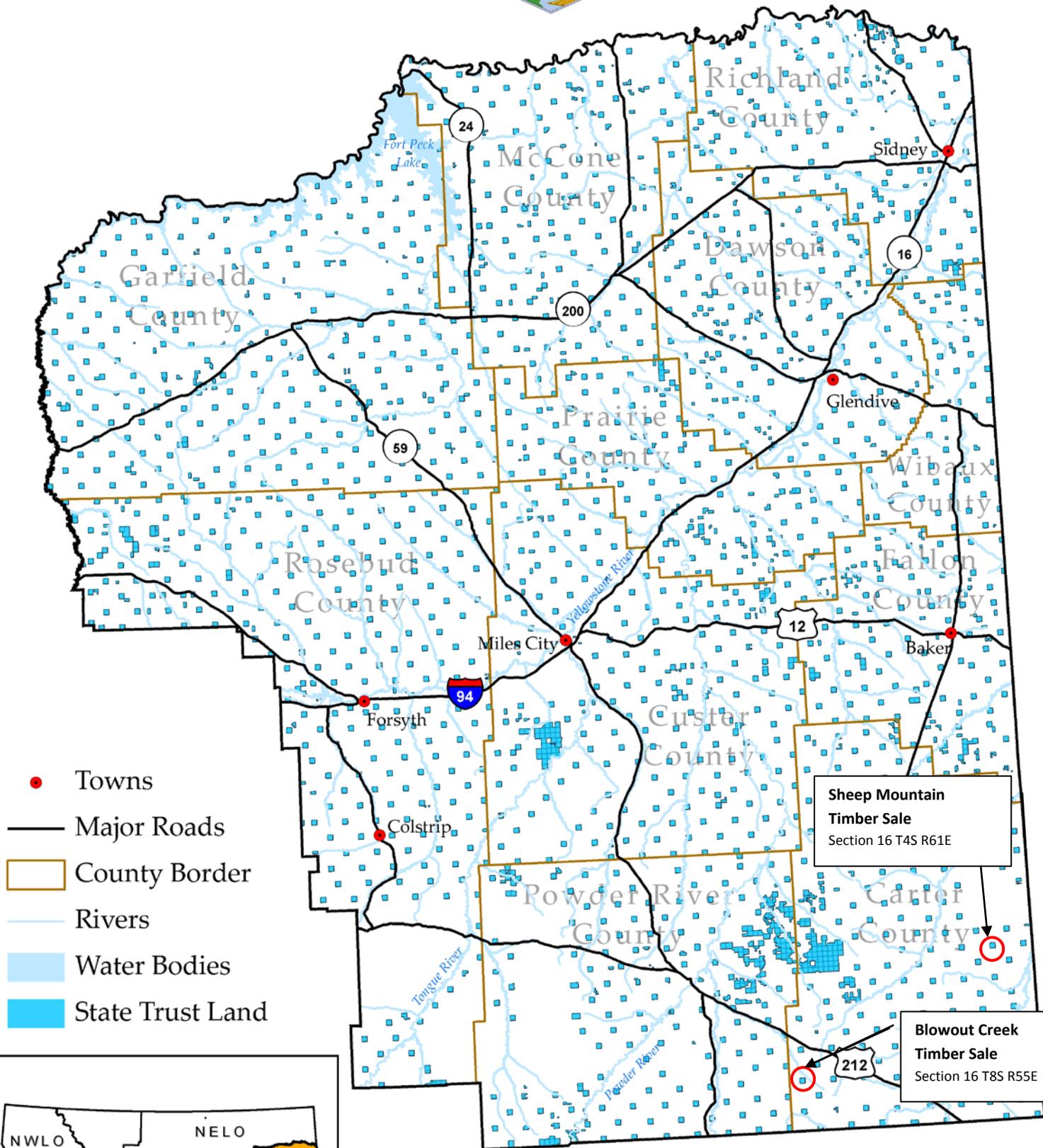
Respectfully yours,

Andy Miller

Forester, ELO

SHEEP MOUNTAIN TIMBER SALE & BLOWOUT CREEK TIMBER SALE VICINITY MAP

EASTERN LAND OFFICE



Sheep Mtn Timbersale

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Sheep Mtn Cutting Units

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