

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**

Trust Land Management Division



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**Scoping Letter
2016 Stillwater Commercial Christmas Tree and Bough Harvest
October 18, 2016**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Stillwater Unit is proposing to harvest approximately 360 bales of saplings and 3 tons of boughs on the following State owned parcels:

Christmas Tree Harvest: T 35N R 24W section 34, T 34N R 24W sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20, T 33N R 24W section 24, T 34N R 23W sections 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, T 33N R 23W sections 3, 10, 11, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28, 29, 32, 33, T 32N R 23W sections 5, 6, 7, T 34N R 21W sections 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 34, 35

Bough Harvest: T 33N R 26W section 13, T 32N R 23W sections 17, 20, 21, 27, 28, 34, 35

Tree harvest would total approximately 1,600 trees and bough harvest would total approximately three tons- primarily from 44 miles of roadside area and 1,640 acres amongst three different permits. Contractors would only be permitted to use existing roads and skid trails. Operators would target subalpine fir, grand fir, and Douglas-fir ranging from 2-24 feet tall. Boughs would be collected from Douglas-fir, grand fir, and red cedar. Due to the scattered harvest of trees across the permit area, negligible changes in canopy cover, species composition, or tree stocking would be anticipated. All activities would occur from October to early November.

According to ARM 36.11.447 (l), the project meets the criteria necessary to be nominated as a Categorically Excluded project.

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 have been consulted.

Details pertaining to this particular project may be obtained at the contact listed below.

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