

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**

Northwestern Land Office - Libby Unit

STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR



STATE OF MONTANA

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177 STATE LANDS OFFICE ROAD
LIBBY, MT 59923

October 2, 2017

Dear Interested Party;

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is soliciting input regarding a proposed land exchange in Lincoln County near Libby, Montana. Our research indicates you may have an interest in commenting on this proposal.

Under the proposal, the DNRC would exchange to W.R. Grace and Co., 640 acres of trust land in Section 16, T31N, R30W. The subject trust land parcel is located within the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund site referred to as Operable Unit 3 (OU3), and adjacent to W.R. Grace's former vermiculite mine. W.R. Grace and Co. is interested in consolidating ownership of the lands within OU3 as they proceed with remediation through the EPA.

Under the proposal, DNRC Libby Unit would receive private forest land of equal or greater value within the Libby Unit jurisdiction. Due to concerns associated with management of forest lands within the EPA Superfund site, DNRC is interested in acquiring lands elsewhere in the Libby Unit, but outside of the Superfund site.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding the proposal, please contact:

Doug Turman, Unit Manager
DNRC Libby Unit
406-293-2711
Dturman@mt.gov

Please submit comments by October 27, 2017.

Sincerely,

Doug Turman