

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

## Northwestern Land Office - Libby Unit

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# STATE OF MONTANA

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177 STATE LANDS OFFICE ROAD  
LIBBY, MT 59923

### Initial Proposal Pipe Creek Timber Sale March 28, 2018

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Libby Unit is proposing to harvest timber on the following state owned parcel: Sec. 16, T31N, R31W, located approximately 3 miles north of Libby, MT. A brief description of the proposed Pipe Creek Timber Sale action is listed below:

- 1) Sell approximately 3-4 million board feet of timber to generate revenue for the Common School trust and to meet annual timber harvest levels mandated by state law.
- 2) Use silvicultural treatments to promote the development of historic stand conditions emphasizing retention and/or regeneration of ponderosa pine and western larch.
- 3) Manage these lands in a way that would reduce fuels and the potential for a wildfire to become a stand replacing fire, putting at risk the timber asset that currently exists, and capture the value of that asset before tree mortality erodes additional value.

Preliminary field observations indicate that approximately 3.5 miles of new road construction would be required to access timber. Approximately 470 Acres would be harvested. Ground based logging systems would be utilized on approximately 235 acres, cable based logging systems would be utilized on the remainder of acres.

Proposed silvicultural harvest treatments would include, overstory removal with reserves, seed tree, and shelter-wood. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Follow-up treatments could include machine piling and scarification, slash burning, noxious weed spraying, hand planting tree seedlings, and pre-commercial thinning. Road construction and harvest activities could begin during 2019.

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 5:00 PM on April 30, 2018 to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Dave Marsh  
Libby Unit  
177 State Lands Office Road  
Libby, MT 59923

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# PIPE CREEK TIMBER SALE VICINITY MAP LIBBY UNIT



**Pipe Creek Timber Sale**  
Section 16, T31N, R31W

