

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

## Northwestern Land Office - Libby Unit

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# STATE OF MONTANA

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### Initial Proposal Lightning Peak Timber Sale August 17, 2020

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Libby Unit is proposing to harvest timber on the following state owned parcels: Sec.30, T29N, R28W, Sec. 36, T29N, R29W, and Sec. 6, T28N, R28W within the Wolf Creek drainage, located approximately 17 miles South East of Libby, MT. A brief description of the proposed Lightning Peak Timber Sale action is listed below:

- 1) Sell approximately 6.5 -8.5 million board feet of timber to generate revenue, split between the Common Schools and the Public Buildings trusts, 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 of 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 7.6 - 8 miles of new road construction and approximately 1.2 miles of road re-construction would be required to access timber. Approximately 1,118 acres would be harvested. Ground based logging systems would be utilized on approximately 651 acres, cable based logging systems would be utilized on the remainder of acres.

Proposed silvicultural harvest treatments would include seed tree, shelter-wood and commercial thin. 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 2021.

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 September 21, 2020 to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
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# LIBBY UNIT



## Lightning Peak Timber Sale Vicinity

