

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

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Initial Proposal Placid Plague Timber Permit

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Clearwater Unit, is proposing to harvest timber on the following state-owned parcels:

Section 32 T16N R15W — Montana State University- Agricultural College Board Trust

The proposed timber permit is approximately 5 miles southwest of Seeley Lake, Montana. The proposed action could begin in early July 2021.

The objectives of this proposed project are:

- * Salvage of trees being infested by Douglas-fir bark beetle (*Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*).
- * Salvage of trees that are infected with dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium douglasii*)
- * Harvest of merchantable trees adjacent (75 feet) to high power line in the north half of the section
- * Removal of overstory trees to promote established understory growth
- * Removal of poor quality overstory trees on areas that will be planted

The proposed treatment would be done on an estimated 85 acres. Estimated harvest volume would be around 300 thousand board feet. The proposed harvest is in accordance with State Statute 77-1-202 and would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Additional management activities including pre-commercial thinning, noxious weed management, planting, and prescribed burning (pile burning) may occur. This project may require 0.3 mile of new road construction that would be needed for harvest of the Douglas-fir bark beetle and mistletoe. Roads used for this sale will be maintained and / or improved to meet Best Management Practices or DNRC guidelines and would exist behind gates or closures. All harvested material would be hauled out Vaughn Creek Road (USFS #4337). The proposed action would likely be implemented in the summer of 2021.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes and acreages are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted. Neighboring landowners will also be asked for their input.

The Montana DNRC invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by **April 16, 2021** to:

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