

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Trust Lands Management Division • Southwestern Land Office • Clearwater  
48455 S Sperry Grade Road, Greenough, MT 59823 Phone: (406) 244-5857 Fax: (406) 244-5950



GREGGIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

## STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074  
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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

### Initial Scoping West and Pieces Timber Sale

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

Section 36 T16N R16W --Common Schools  
(4 miles southwest of Seeley Lake, MT.)

The primary objective of this proposal is to produce funds for the above-mentioned Trust. This project will contribute to the DNRC's planned sustained yield. Planned timber harvest prescriptions would be shelterwood, seed tree, and overstory removal. The State would also use this as an opportunity to remove dying, stagnant, diseased, and overstocked trees. Many of the stands in the area are in a condition resulting from fire suppression. Often, the existing stands of Douglas-fir sawlogs are dying at a large rate. Currently, Douglas-fir bark beetle, spruce budworm, Douglas-fir tussock moth, and Douglas-fir mistletoe, and root rots (*Armillaria ostoyae*, etc.) have caused many of the older Douglas-fir to decline at an elevated rate. Traditionally the area was primarily dominated by Douglas-fir, western larch, and ponderosa pine stands. The proposed treatments will favor seral tree species and quality younger Douglas-fir.

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.

The proposed harvest would take place under a timber sale and small timber permits if needed. The proposal may harvest approximately 1 million board feet from approximately 400 acres. Additional management activities including noxious weed management, pre-commercial thinning, planting, and prescribed burning (pile burning) may occur. This project may require 0.5 miles of new road construction. 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. The proposed action would likely be implemented in the early summer of 2023 and possibly be completed by 2026.

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 **September 23, 2022**, to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Attn: Craig V. Nelson  
Clearwater State Forest  
48455 S. Sperry Grade Rd.  
Greenough, MT 59823

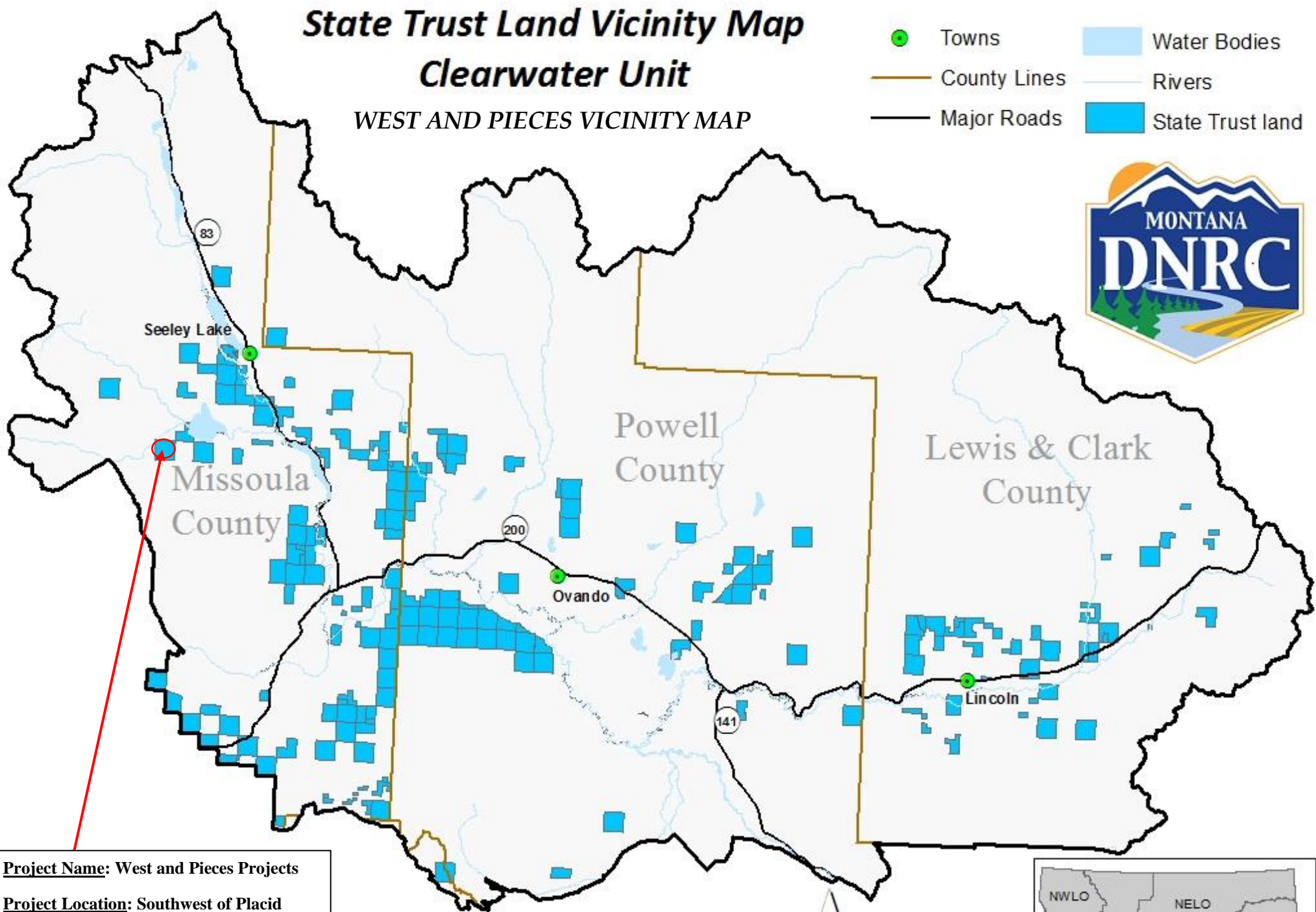
or: email: [crnelson@mt.gov](mailto:crnelson@mt.gov)

or: (406) 244-2386 |

# State Trust Land Vicinity Map Clearwater Unit

## WEST AND PIECES VICINITY MAP

- Towns
- County Lines
- Major Roads
- Water Bodies
- Rivers
- State Trust land



**Project Name:** West and Pieces Projects

**Project Location:** Southwest of Placid Lake

Section: 36 Township:16N Range:16W

**County:** Missoula

0 5 10 20 Miles



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