Initial Proposal
West Jim Timber Sale Project
July 5, 2022

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

Sections 23, 25, 36 T33N R26W

The proposed West Jim Timber Sale is located approximately seven miles southwest of Trego, Montana, in Lincoln County.

The primary objectives of the proposed project are:
- Generate revenue for the Common Schools and Public Buildings Trusts.
- Contribute to the DNRC’s Sustainable Yield.
- Promote biodiversity on State ownership by managing for appropriate or desired stand structures and species compositions based on ecological characteristics such as topography, habitat type, disturbance regime, and unique characteristics.
- Improve overall health, vigor, and productivity of stands by emphasizing mostly uneven-aged management.

The proposal would harvest approximately 1 to 2 million board feet (MMbf) from within a 1,000-acre project area. Harvest prescriptions would vary by unit, and could include, but are not limited to commercial thinning, old-growth maintenance, group selection, overstory removal, seed-tree, clear-cut with reserves, and shelterwood treatments. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC’s sustainable yield, as mandated by state statute. DNRC is required by state law (MCA 77-5-221 through 223) to sell approximately 60 MMbf of timber annually and continue to produce revenue over time.

Road maintenance, improvements, and reconstruction may be needed on existing roads to improve function and drainage of the haul route. Approximately 0.5 miles of temporary road construction may be built as part of this project, as per DNRC’s transportation plan in the HCP.

Noxious weed management, tree planting, mechanical site preparation, and pre-commercial thinning may also occur as part of the proposed action.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment, so all volumes, acres 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 August 5, 2022, to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Les Thomas, Management Forester
Stillwater Unit
P.O. Box 164, Olney, MT 59927
lesthomas@mt.gov
(406) 881-2665