

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Southwestern Land Office - Clearwater Unit

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STATE OF MONTANA

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48455 S SPERRY GRADE ROAD
GREENOUGH, MT 59823

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Initial Proposal Pearson Patches Timber Sales

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

Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 T14N R13W, Common Schools
Sections 7, 17, 18, 19, and 20 T14N R12W, Common Schools

The primary objective of this proposed project is to generate revenue over the long-term from the timber resources and provide a sufficient amount of sawlog volume to contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield. Silvicultural prescriptions would include seed tree, shelterwood, individual tree selection, and salvage harvest.

The objectives of the proposed project are:

- Promote healthy and biologically diverse forests.
- Provide long-term income for the Common Schools Trust.
- Bring stands closer to historic conditions.
- Improve stand growth and vigor.
- Reduce the threat of future losses to fire, insects, and disease.

Road maintenance, improvements, and new road construction may be necessary. Noxious weed management, property line surveys, pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burning (or pile burning), and tree planting may also occur under the proposed action.

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 various timber permits and sales. The proposed project would harvest approximately 5 million board feet from approximately 2,000 acres. Additional management activities including pre-commercial thinning, planting, burning, etc. may occur on a total of 7,300 acres. The proposed action would likely be implemented in the late summer of 2019 and possibly be completed by 2030.

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 archaeologists 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 **February 14, 2018** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
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PEARSON PATCHES TIMBER SALES VICINITY MAP CLEARWATER UNIT

