

News Release



State of Montana
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Northwestern Land Office – Kalispell Unit
655 Timberwolf Parkway, Suite 2
Kalispell, Montana 59901

For Immediate Release
July 31, 2015

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Request for Public Comment on Pleasant Valley Road Project

KALISPELL, Mont. - The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) requests comments on a proposed road project located on State Trust Land adjacent to the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge near the town of Marion in Flathead County, Montana. The project is being carried out in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Highways Administration, Flathead County, and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The proposed work under the Action Alternative involves decommissioning 0.1 miles of Pleasant Valley Road, and constructing 0.7 miles of new Pleasant Valley Road on State Trust Land located in Section 16, T28N, R26W. The purpose and need for the work is to improve road conditions and public access to State Trust Land. The existing road currently bisects wetlands and is constructed of unsuitable road base material that results in substandard driving surface conditions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is implementing actions to restore wetlands at Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge. Road decommissioning and construction would likely be implemented between June 2016 and October 2016.

The lands involved in this proposed project are held in trust by the State of Montana (Enabling Act of February 22, 1889; 1972 Montana Constitution, Article X, Section 11). The Board of Land Commissioners and the DNRC are required by law to administer these trust lands to produce the largest measure of reasonable legitimate return over the long run for the beneficiary institutions (Section 77-1-202, MCA).

The DNRC invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by **August 14, 2015** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attention: Dave Poukish, Kalispell Unit Manager
Northwestern Lane Office
655 Timberwolf Parkways, Suite 2
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