

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**
Central Land Office



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**Initial Proposal
Middle Fork Dearborn Salvage Harvest**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) Helena Unit is proposing the Middle Fork Dearborn Salvage Harvest. The proposed timber harvest is located on Trust Land administered by DNRC Helena Unit in Lewis and Clark County, approximately 23 miles South of Augusta, MT. Please see the attached maps. The harvest is proposed on the following state owned parcels.

Township 16 North Range 6 West
Sections 16, and 36: Common Schools
26, 34, and 35: Pine Hills School
Approximately 2760 acres

The purpose of the proposed project is to manage the forest to improve health, productivity, biodiversity, and to generate revenue for the trust beneficiaries. This includes capturing the value of live as well as dead and dying trees prior to the resource becoming no longer merchantable for lumber. A transportation road system will be constructed to satisfy long-term management needs, address water quality concerns and ensure Best Management Practice compliance. Under the proposed action, road maintenance and improvement would be needed on existing access roads which includes noxious weed management, prescribed burning, and may include property line surveys and tree planting.

The proposed salvage harvest is in accordance with State Statute 77-5-207, the DNRC's intent is to salvage timber before substantial value loss occurs. Additionally, the proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222. Due to the scattered nature of the state lands included in the project area, the salvage harvest may incorporate several sales or permits in order to complete the harvest.

The proposal is in the general vicinity of Green Creek, Sunset Mountain, the Middle Fork of the Dearborn River, Rogers Pass, and MT Highway 200. DNRC strives to balance its fiduciary responsibilities with its stewardship responsibilities that are intended to promote biodiversity and subsequently protect the future income-generating capacity of the forest. All forested lands involved in the proposed action would thus be managed in accordance with DNRC's State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP) and Forest Management Rules.

The proposal would harvest approximately two million board feet from approximately 350 acres. The proposed action would likely be implemented late summer of 2017 and be completed by 2020.

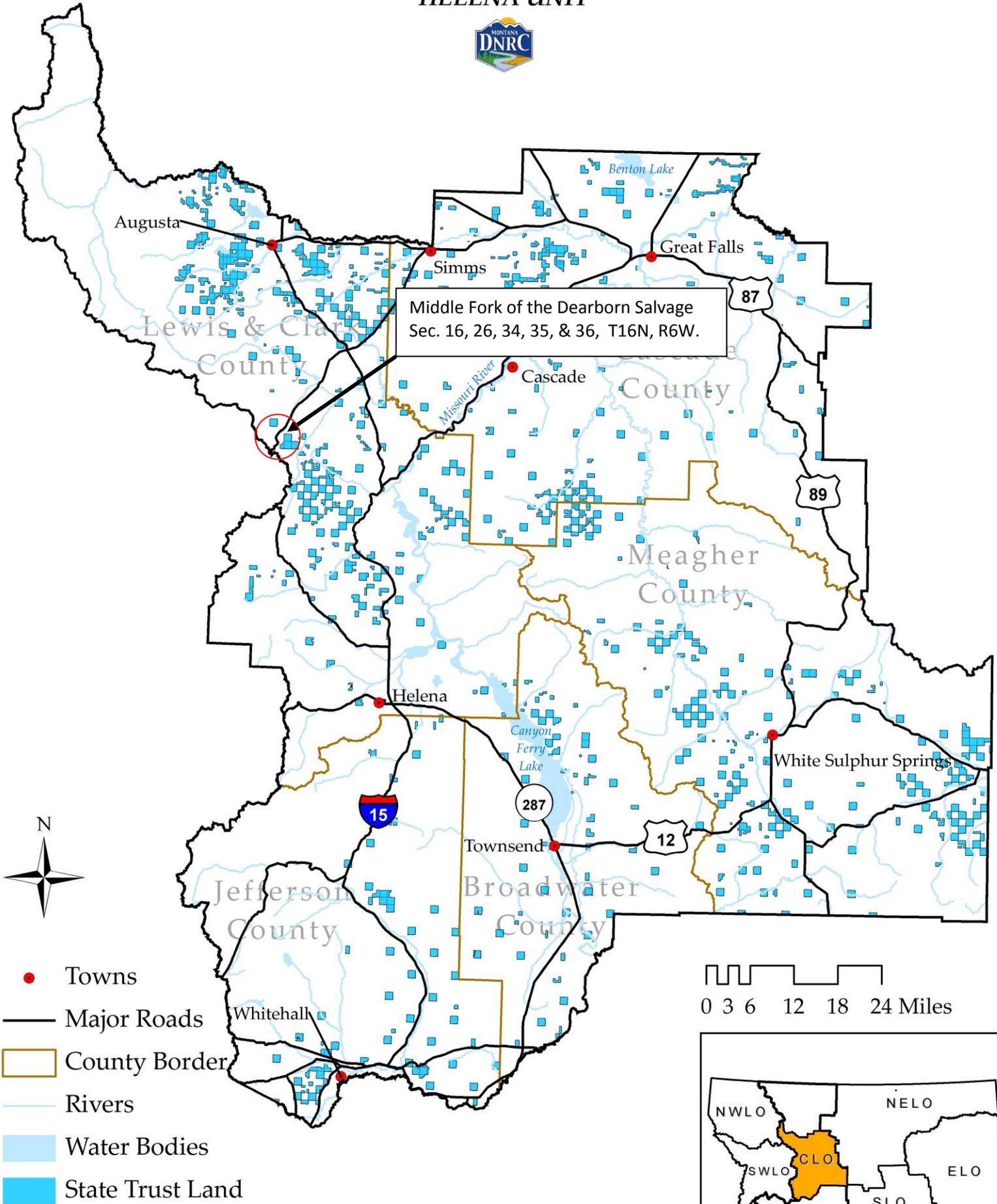
The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes and acreages are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted. Neighboring landowners will also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

The Montana DNRC invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by end of business February 19th, 2016 to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
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MIDDLE FORK DEARBORN SALVAGE VICINITY MAP HELENA UNIT



Middle Fork of the Dearborn Salvage
Sec. 16, 26, 34, 35, & 36, T16N, R6W.

- Towns
- Major Roads
- ▭ County Border
- Rivers
- ▭ Water Bodies
- ▭ State Trust Land

