THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GOVERNOR GREG GIANFORTE



DNRC DIRECTOR AMANDA KASTER

Initial Project Proposal Baldy Buzzcut Timber Sale 07/29/2025

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

T11N R15W Sec. 02 T12N R15W Sec. 36

The proposed Baldy Buzzcut project is approximately 13 aerial miles east of Clinton, MT and lies approximately 0.5 aerial miles north from the summit of Mount Baldy.

The primary objectives for the proposed project are to:

- Generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust.
- Improve stand health and vigor by reducing stand density and removing disease/pest damaged trees.
- Improve growth and vigor in naturally regenerated stands by reducing competition and stand density.
- Prefer low vigor and suppressed Douglas-fir for removal before economic value is lost to insect and disease damage.
- Establish new seedling growth in unregenerated stands.
- Reduce fuel loading and the likelihood of a stand replacing fire

The proposed project would include harvest of an estimated 3.2MMBF (million board feet) from within the approximately 972-acre project area using a combination of individual tree selection, sanitation, and overstory removal harvest prescriptions. Revenue generated from timber harvesting would benefit the Common Schools Trust. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Road maintenance and improvement may be needed on existing access roads to improve the function and drainage of the haul route. Approximately 1 mile of new, permanent road construction may also be necessary. Noxious weed management, precommercial thinning, site preparation, and tree planting may also occur under this proposed project. Site preparation methods for establishing new growth may include mechanical/chemical site prep and/or prescribed burning.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment, so all volumes, acreages 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 08/29/2025 to:

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