



Central Land Office
8001 North Montana
Helena, MT 59602
(406) 458-3500

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR CLOSURE OF STATE LANDS

June 5, 2025

On April 1, 2025, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation ("Department") received a petition ("Petition"), filed pursuant to Mont. Admin. R. 36.25.152(3), for closure of the following described state lands ("Subject Lands"):

Township 1 North, Range 2 East

Section 1: All
Section 2: All
Section 12: All

Township 2 North, Range 2 East

Section 36: Part of the S½ lying south of Interstate 90, and less MS403
Gallatin County, Montana

The Petition was filed by Stephen McDonnell, John McDonnell and Kelsey Valley Ranch, LP, ("Petitioners") and requests a decision from the Department, to permanently close the Subject Lands to recreational use. A copy of the Petition can be obtained by visiting <https://dnrc.mt.gov/News/public-notices>. The Petition requests closure of the Subject Lands based on the contention, by the Petitioners, that recreational shooting on the Subject Lands causes a threat to public safety; an imminent threat of immediate, irreparable property damage and bodily injury; and because closure is necessary to preserve the income-generating potential of the Subject Lands.



Pursuant to Mont. Admin. R. 36.25.152(5), the Department received a timely, written request for a public hearing on the Petition. The public hearing request states that a hearing on the Petition should be held because the Subject Lands have been historically used for recreational use, including shooting; because efforts with Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks are currently underway to formalize development of a shooting range on the Subject Lands; and because granting the Petition would put the interests of a few individuals ahead of those of Montanan's as a whole.

The Department will therefore hold a public hearing ("Hearing") on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the conference room of the Sacajawea Hotel, 5 North Main Street, Three Forks, Montana 59752. You may also attend the hearing online by joining on your computer at <https://mt.gov.zoom.us/j/85037370290> or by phone by calling (1 206) 337-9723 and entering the following Webinar ID, when prompted:

Webinar ID: 850 3737 0290

The Hearing will be for the purpose of providing the public an opportunity to provide comment and submit information on the relief requested in the Petition. The Department will receive public comment until conclusion of the Hearing, at which point the opportunity to provide public comment on the Petition will close. You may provide comment on the Petition by appearing, in person, at the Hearing or by submission, in writing, either via email, at dnrcclosurepetition@mt.gov, or by submission to DNRC's Central Land Office or the Bozeman Unit Office at the following addresses:

Central Land Office
8001 North Montana
Helena, MT 59602

Bozeman Unit Office
2273 Boot Hill Court, Ste 110
Bozeman, MT 59715

To be considered by the Department, comment must be submitted by one of the methods described above; must state the reasons why the Petition should or should not be granted; must provide any applicable supporting documentation; and must be received by the Department prior to close of the Hearing. Comments which do not satisfy the foregoing criteria will not be considered. Based on public comment received as of the



date of this Notice, the Department anticipates significant public interest and attendance at the Hearing. In an effort to make an opportunity for oral comment available for each person who chooses to do so, the Department may place a uniform time limit on all comments based on the number of individuals in attendance and in light of the total time set for the Hearing. To ensure that each individual comment is heard, the Department strongly encourages submission of written comments in advance of the Hearing. For individuals who wish to provide oral comment, the Department encourages commentators to prepare their comments in advance, to succinctly summarize their main points, and to limit comment solely to the reasons why the Petition should be granted, denied, or granted with modification. The Department reserves the right to limit or redirect comments which are outside the scope of the relief requested in the Petition.

Following conclusion of the Hearing, but no later than July 1, 2025, the Department will issue a written decision to grant, grant with modifications, or deny the Petition. Pursuant to Mont. Admin. R. 36.25.152(8), in reaching its decision, the Department may consider, the Petition, public comment, and any additional independent investigation it considers necessary or appropriate.

The Department will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the Hearing or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 11, 2025, to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Jess Hoag, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 1539 11th Ave., Helena, Montana 59601; 406-444-5760; or jhoag@mt.gov.

