



NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CLOSURE OF TRACT OF STATE TRUST LAND AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

May 1, 2026

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (“Department”) hereby provides notice that it has received a petition pursuant to Mont. Admin. R. 36.25.1207(7) for closure of the following described tract of state trust land (“Subject Lands”) to recreational use:

Township 3 South, Range 4 East,

Section 6: Gov. Lots 3-7, SE4NW4, SE4, E2SW4
Gallatin County, Montana.
(area located North of Axtell Anceney Road).

The Petition was filed by David and Melissa Hatter (“Petitioners”) and requests a decision from the Department, to permanently close the Subject Lands to recreational use due to Petitioners’ contention that a recent significant increase and highly concentrated use of the Subject Lands for recreational shooting has caused public resource damage, private property damage including damage to livestock, wildfire hazard, trespass, public safety concerns, imminent threat of property damage and bodily injury, and jeopardizes the income-generating potential of the state trust land at that location. A copy of the petition can be obtained by visiting the public notices link on the DNRC website at:

You may object to the petition by submitting an objection online at: <https://forms.office.com/g/5mxXQ5DeeA> or by submitting your objection in writing to DNRC’s Bozeman Unit Office at the following address:

Bozeman Unit Office
2273 Boot Hill Court, Ste 110



Bozeman, MT 59715

To be considered by the Department, an objection must be submitted, in writing, to the address above by midnight on June 3, 2026. The objection must state the reason(s) why the petition should not be granted; and must provide any applicable supporting documentation. Objections which do not satisfy the foregoing criteria will not be considered pursuant to Mont. Admin. R. 36.25.1207(7)(d).

A public hearing ("Hearing") has also been requested for this matter pursuant to Mont. Admin. R. 36.25.1207(7)(e). The Hearing, which is open to the public, will be conducted by the Department on June 3, 2026, at 11:00AM - 1:00PM at the following location:

Gallatin Gateway Community Center
145 Mill Street
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

You may also attend the Hearing online by joining on your computer at: <https://mt.gov.zoom.us/j/88187030620?pwd=ZpiyS9M4ChHct7hLuH52AXyzftAVwf.1> or by phone by calling +1 206 337 9723 US (Seattle) and entering the following Webinar ID, when prompted: Webinar ID: 881 8703 0620
Passcode: 945826.

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 oral public comment until conclusion of the Hearing, at which point the opportunity to provide oral public comment on the Petition will close. You may provide comment on the Petition by commenting orally at the Hearing, mailing written comments to DNRC's Bozeman Unit Office (at the address provided above); or submitting comments online at: <https://forms.office.com/g/5mxXQ5DeeA>. Commenters should describe their personal familiarity with the Subject Lands; describe the reason(s) why the Petition should be granted, denied, or granted with modification; and provide any necessary supporting documentation.



Due to the inherent time constraints involved with the public hearing process, the Department strongly encourages submission of written comments. For individuals who wish to provide oral comment at the public hearing, the Department encourages commentors 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 may place a uniform time limit on all comments based on the number of individuals in attendance. 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. To request an accommodation, please contact Kara Huyser before 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2026 at:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
2273 Boot Hill Court, Ste 110, Bozeman, Montana 59715
406-556-4507
khuyser@mt.gov.

The Department will issue a written decision to grant, grant with modifications, or deny the Petition on or before July 1, 2026.

