

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION**

**Forestry and Trust Lands Division**

1539 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., Helena, MT 59620 Phone: (406) 444-2074



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

**STATE OF MONTANA**

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074  
FAX: (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

September 4, 2024

To whom it may concern:

**Initial Proposal McCone County Land Exchange**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Eastern Land Office is seeking comments on a proposed land exchange involving state owned trust land and private lands located in McCone County approximately 22 miles north of Circle Montana.

Approximately 600 acres of state-owned Common Schools Trust land described as N2NW4, SE4NW4, E2, SW4 of Section 16 Township 23N Range 47E is proposed to be exchanged for approximately 480 acres of private land described as W2SW4, SE4SW4, SW4SE4, of Section 27, Township 23 N, Range 47E, and the NW4 of Section 34, Township 23N Range 47E and the NW4 of Section 3 Township 23N, Range 49E.

The purpose of the proposed land exchange is to provide greater management flexibility for both the private landowner and state-owned land, provide for greater revenue generation for the Common Schools Trust as well as provide additional access for the public to state trust land. If completed the proposed land exchange is anticipated to generate additional income to the Common School Trust. This exchange would trade 600 acres of inaccessible lower productivity grazing land for approximately 368 acres of dryland farming and approximately 112 acres of grazing land. This exchange would remove a 600 acre land locked parcel without legal or administrative access from state-ownership. The state would acquire 320 acres with legal access and potential recreational opportunities as well as an additional 160 acres with administrative access.

Please review the proposed land exchange and provide comments on any issues or concerns by October 4, 2024.

For more information and to submit written comment or direct comments contact:

DNRC  
Attn: Scott Aye; Land Program Manager  
P.O. Box 1794  
Miles City MT 59301  
406-232-2034  
saye@mt.gov

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.  
DNRC Eastern Land Office