

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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### **Initial Proposal Easements for Blackfoot Communication's Buried Fiber Optic Line**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), has received applications from Blackfoot communications for easements across State Trust Lands to install underground fiber optic cable.

#### **Sections 8,9,16,26,34,35 Township 2N Range 19W**

Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative has been granted funds from the Rural Digital Opportunity fund to provide broadband service in locations that are currently underserved. One of these locations is within the French Basin area of the Bitterroot valley.

Blackfoot Communications is requesting a 30-foot easement for a utility right-of-way within the footprint of existing roads. A vicinity map of the utility line location is included with this notice.

The fiber optic line would provide broadband service to local landowners.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment. 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 **March 31, 2023** to:

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