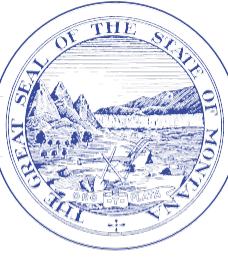


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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

Initial Proposal Foothills Restoration Project April 4, 2023

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Kalispell Unit is proposing a restoration project and timber harvest activities on the following state-owned parcels:

[Sections 21, 27, 28, Township 28N, Range 19W]

The Foothills Restoration Project is located approximately 8 miles northeast of Bigfork, Montana in Flathead County.

DNRC has applied for a Western States WUI (wildland urban interface) Grant. If DNRC is awarded a grant, money would be used to remove low value diseased and dying trees. High standard slash clean-up would occur, helping to reduce fire danger in the area. The treated areas would be site prepped for planting with western white pine and western larch. Some forested stands would be pre-commercially thinned. If a grant is awarded to DNRC, money would not likely become available until the spring of 2024.

The primary objectives of the proposed project are:

- Promote a healthy, productive forest by removing decadent, diseased trees
- Salvage dead and dying trees
- Reduce fuel loading and increase the stand's fire resiliency
- Manage outbreaks of insects and disease in the stands
- Promote future revenue generating opportunities for the Deaf and Blind Trust
- To move the treated forested stands towards a more historic stand condition

The proposed project would treat approximately 120 acres with most of the material being non-merchantable. An estimated 250 thousand board feet of merchantable timber would be harvested. Prescriptions could include, but are not limited to, shelterwood and individual tree selection. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Existing road systems would be improved as needed to provide surface drainage, meet Best Management Practices (BMP's), and to ensure public safety. High standard slash clean-up, noxious weed management, site preparation, and pile burning all may occur once harvesting has been completed.

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 **May 5, 2023** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Pete Seigmund
Kalispell Unit
655 Timberwolf Parkway, Kalispell MT 59901
pseigmund@mt.gov
406 751-2266

State Trust Land Vicinity Map

Kalispell Unit

FOOTHILLS RESTORATION
PROJECT VICINITY MAP

Project Name: Foothills
Restoration




Project Location: northeast
of Bigfork, MT

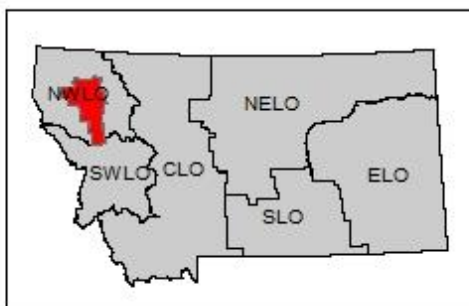
Sections: 21, 27, 28

Township: 28N

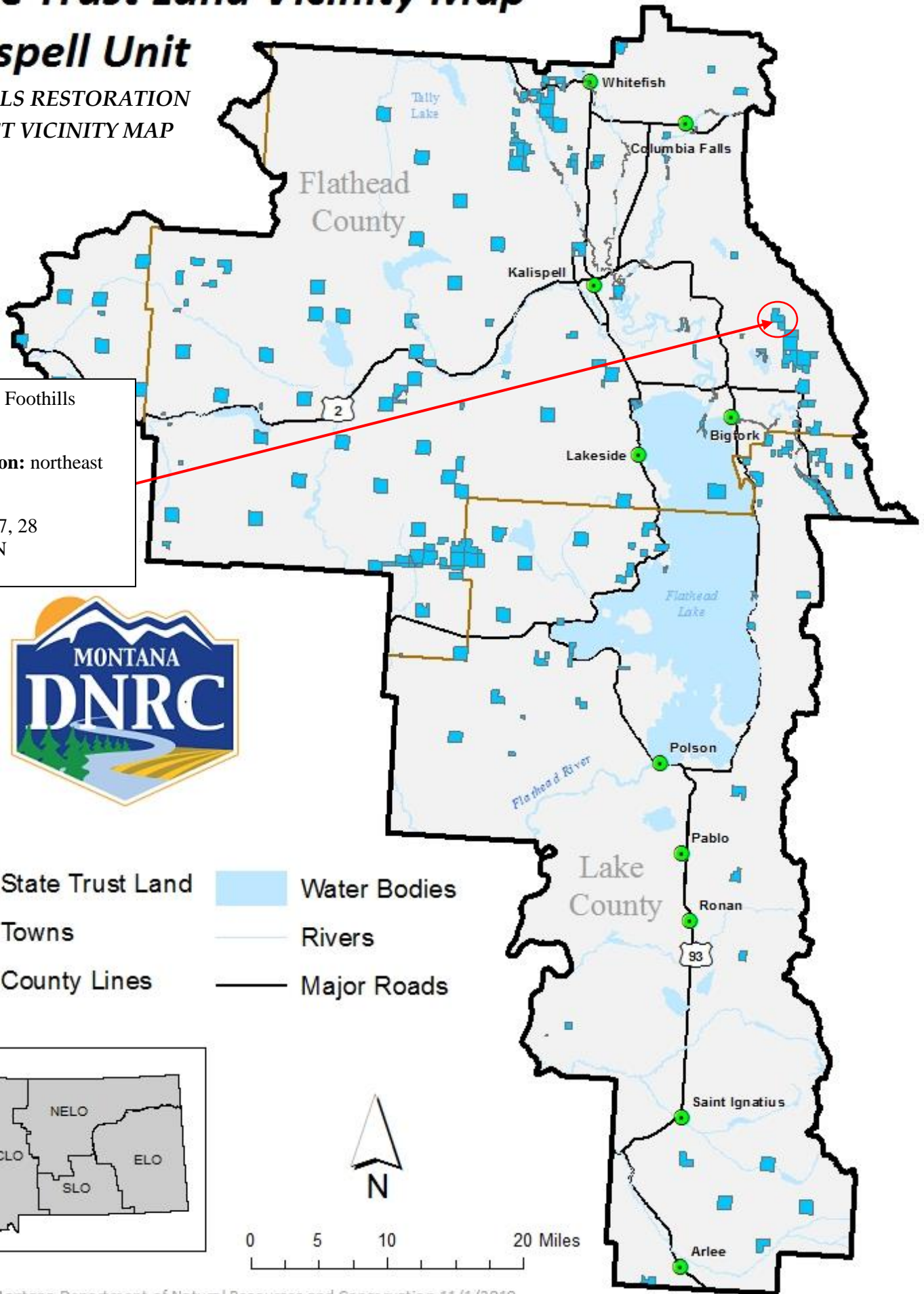
Range: 19W



- | | |
|--|--|
|  State Trust Land |  Water Bodies |
|  Towns |  Rivers |
|  County Lines |  Major Roads |



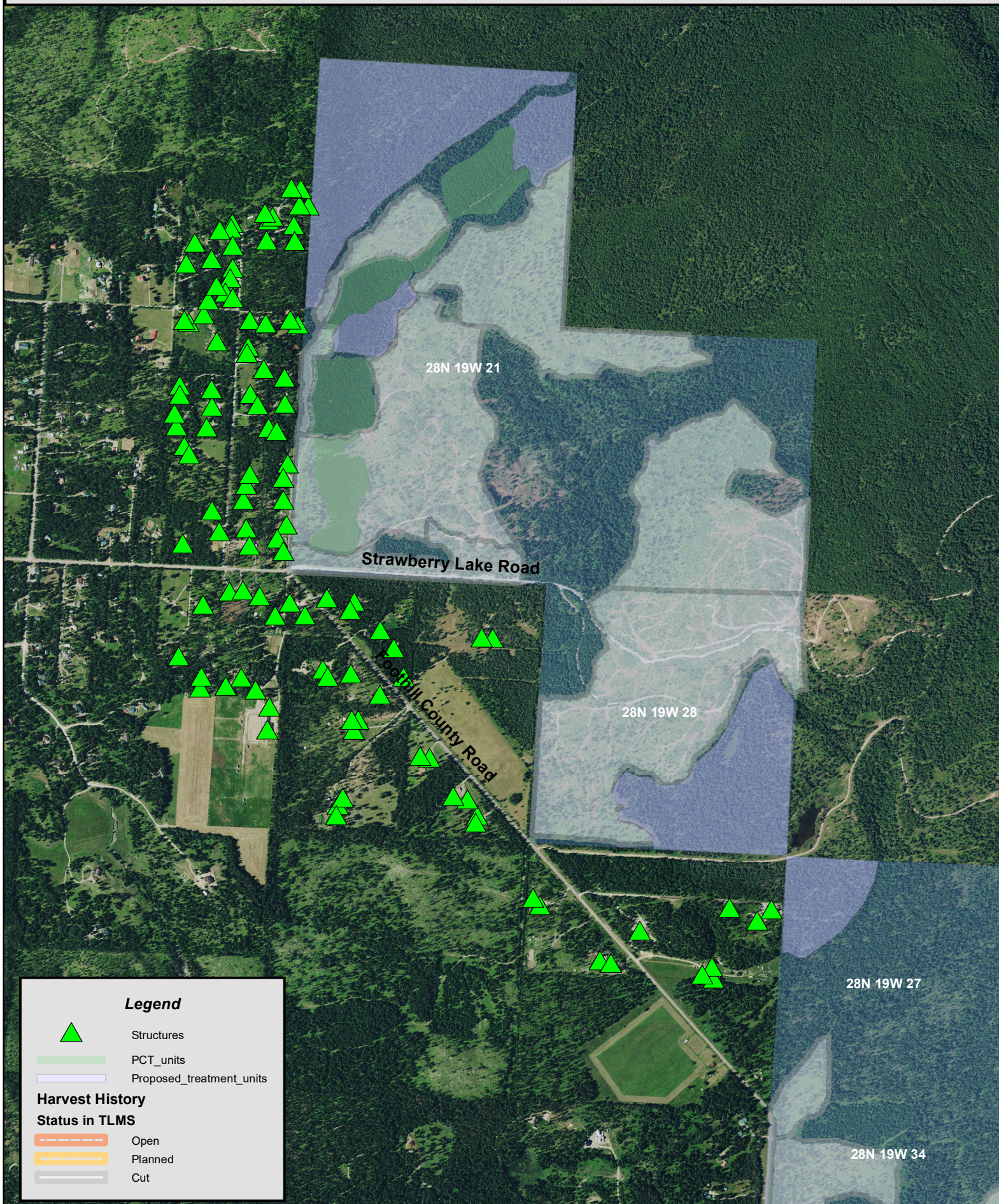
0 5 10 20 Miles



Foothills Restoration Project
MT DNRC Trust lands
sections 21, 27, 28; T28N, R19W



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



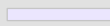
Legend



Structures



PCT_units



Proposed_treatment_units

Harvest History

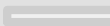
Status in TLMS



Open



Planned



Cut