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
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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

Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation 11/1/2019

Datum: NAD 1983 State Plane
Foothills Restoration Project
MT DNRC Trust lands
sections 21, 27, 28; T28N, R19W

Legend

Structures
PCT_units
Proposed_treatment_units

Harvest History
Status in TLMS
Open
Planned
Cut