

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 North Spencer Beetle Salvage Timber Permit 8/23/2023

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

Sections 4 and 5, Township 30 North, Range 22 West

The North Spencer Beetle Salvage is located approximately 5 air miles west of Whitefish, MT.

The primary objective of this timber permit is to salvage dead and dying timber, mainly Douglas-fir, that is severely impacted by Douglas-fir bark beetles. Bark beetle activity in the area has significantly increased since the blowdown event of 2021. Blown down Douglas-fir is prime habitat and feeding grounds for these bark beetles. Increases in beetle populations often follow blow down events, making green Douglas-fir more susceptible to mortality.

The proposed harvest prescription for this permit would be to salvage dead and dying timber, as is required by state statute MCA 77-5-207. The harvest would also contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222 and contribute revenue to the Montana Tech, Western/Eastern, and MSU School Trusts.

The DNRC proposes to harvest approximately 930 tons (150 thousand board feet) of sawlogs from the project area. Most of the area impacted is located in Section 5, referred to as the 'Fish House', where pockets of dead and dying timber are scattered across approximately 300 acres. There are also several small pockets in the Twin Bridges area, which are scattered across approximately 87 acres. Most of the Twin Bridges pockets are located in the eastern portion of the area.

Harvest operations are proposed to take place in late fall 2023/ the winter of 2023-2024. Existing roads and landing locations would be used for this project. Post harvest road maintenance, pile burning and noxious weed spraying (if necessary) would occur after the salvage is completed.

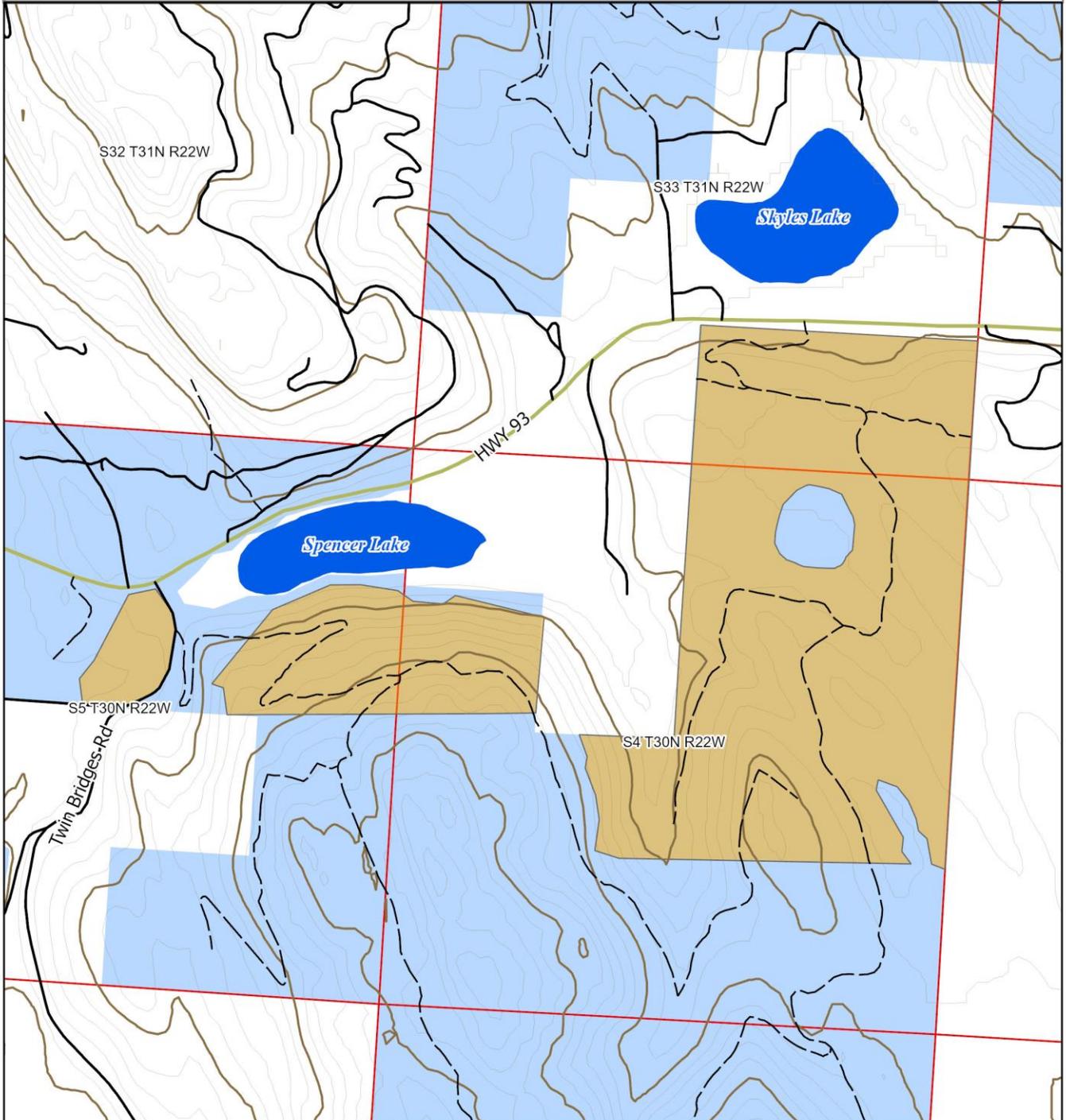
The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes, acreages and road details are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted.

The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by **September 22, 2023** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: **Kara Neal**
Kalispell Unit
655 Timberwolf Pkwy
Kalispell, MT 59901

kara.neal@mt.gov
406-751-2265

North Spencer Beetle Salvage S. 4 & 5 T30N R22W



Legend

- Roads
 - Highway
 - Open
 - Restricted Closure
- Proposed Harvest Units
- Sections
- Ownership Trust Lands



State Trust Land Vicinity Map

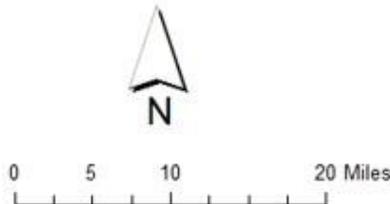
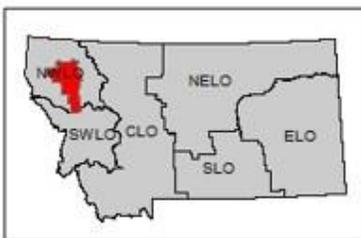
Kalispell Unit

VICINITY MAP

Project Name: North Spencer Beetle Salvage
Project Location: Sections 4 & 5, Township 30 North, Range 22 West
County: Flathead



- 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 StatePlane

