

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

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Initial Proposal Potomac Flats Sale March 6, 2023

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Missoula Unit is proposing to harvest on the following state-owned parcel:

S ½ of Section 16, T13N, R16W

This section is located approximately 2 miles west of Potomac, Montana in the drainage of the Blackfoot River located in Missoula County.

The primary objectives of the proposed project are:

- Generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust
- Reduce fuel loading and the likelihood of a stand replacing fire
- Improve stand health and vigor by reducing basal area, promoting natural regeneration, increasing uneven-aged stand dynamics, and favoring trees with poor overall health for removal

The proposal would harvest approximately 1.5 million board feet from approximately 286 acres using an individual tree selection (ITS) harvest prescription to accomplish the objectives stated above. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Road maintenance and improvement may be needed on existing access roads to improve function and drainage of the haul route. Up to 0.75 miles of permanent new road construction may also be necessary. Noxious weed management, pre-commercial thinning and tree planting may also occur under the proposed action.

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

The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by April 6, 2023 to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

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State Trust Land Vicinity Map

Missoula Unit

Potomac Flats Vicinity Map

