

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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Initial Proposal
Niarada Fire Salvage
September 28, 2023

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

Section 36, T25N, R23W
Section 16, T23N, R22W

These lands were burned in the Niarada Fire in August of 2023. The Cromwell Creek parcel (s. 36) is located approximately 8 air miles northwest of Elmo, Montana and the White Earth parcel (s. 16) is located approximately 6 air miles southwest of Big Arm, Montana.

Approximately 1,190 acres of State land burned in the fire. Based on initial estimates, approximately 1.5 to 2 million board feet of timber would be harvested from the 2 parcels. Sale activity would most likely start this winter and finish by the end of December 2024, to minimize the loss of value in the burnt timber. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222 and generate revenue for Trust beneficiaries by salvaging burned timber before it loses economic value as directed in MCA 77-5-207.

Approximately 8.5 miles of existing roads would be used and maintained 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 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 October 13, 2023, to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Pete Seigmund
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State Trust Land Vicinity Map

Kalispell Unit

NIARADA FIRE
SALVAGE VICINITY
MAP



Project Location:

Section 36, T25N, R23W

Section 16, T23N, R22W

County: Flathead and Lake



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

