

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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STATE OF MONTANA

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Initial Proposal Upper Stillwater Forest Management Project April 17, 2023

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Stillwater Unit is proposing forest management treatments on the following state-owned parcel:

T33N R24W S 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 35, 36
T33N R23W S 29, 30, 31, 32
T34N R24W S31
T34N R25W S36

The Upper Stillwater forest management project is located approximately two miles north of Olney, Montana and around the communities of Stryker and Radnor, Montana in Flathead and Lincoln County.

The primary objectives of the Upper Stillwater forest management project include:

- The proposed harvest of 5-7 million board feet (MMbf) would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222 to sell approximately 60 MMbf of timber annually and continue to produce revenue over time. The revenue generated from this proposal would benefit Common Schools, School for the Deaf and Blind, State Industrial School, Public Buildings, and MSU 2nd Grant trusts.
- Promote biodiversity on State ownership by managing for appropriate or desired stand structures and species composition based on ecological characteristics such as topography, habitat type, disturbance regimes, and unique characteristics.
- Address forest insect and disease issues while capturing the economic value of dead and dying trees while promoting healthier and more resilient trees through regeneration.
- Incorporate strategies from the Montana Forest Action Plan to sustain and prioritize landscape-scale cross boundary forest management and restoration projects around the project area with our partners and neighbors.
- Reduce recreational induced impacts to soil, water, and timber resources.
- Identify and repair potential sediment sources which may be impacting streams.
- Reduce fire hazard and associated risks of loss to the State of Montana and privately-owned land in the area.

Within a 3,288 acre project area harvest prescriptions would vary unit by unit, but are not limited to; clear cut, seed tree, shelterwood, group selection, old growth maintenance, overstory removal, commercial thin, and sanitation.

Other management activities such as noxious weed management, pre-commercial thinning, tree planting, mechanical scarification, slash pile burning, and prescribed burning may also occur.

Road maintenance, improvements, and reconstruction may be needed on existing roads to improve function and drainage of the haul route. Approximately 1 to 3 miles of temporary road construction may also be necessary. No permanent roads would be built as part of this project.

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.

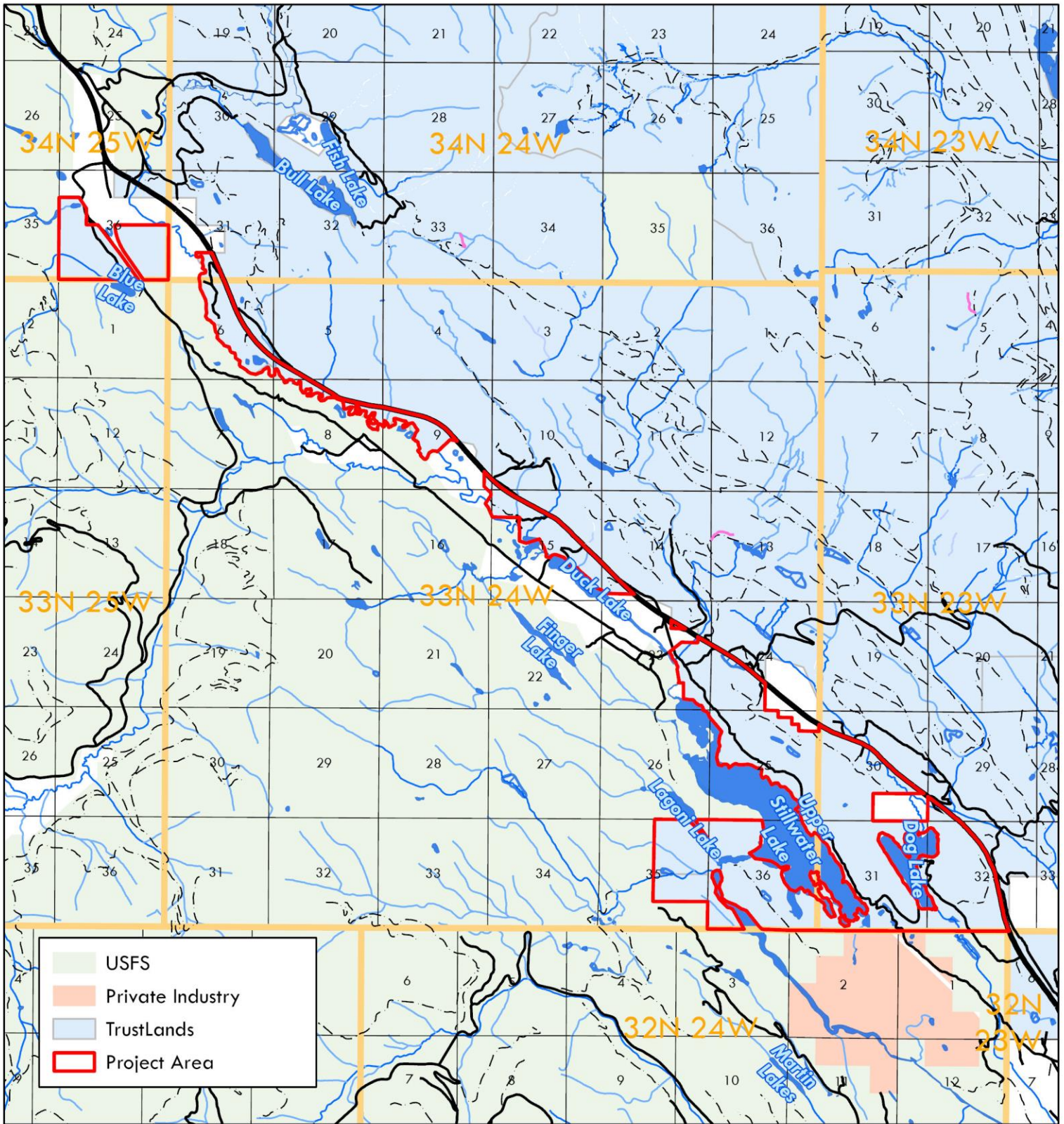
Please respond by **May 17, 2023** to:
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: **Joe Rizzi**
Stillwater Unit
PO Box 164 Olney, MT 59927
Joseph.Rizzi@mt.gov
406-881-2675

Upper Stillwater Forest Management Project

T33N R24W S 5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 35, 36
T34N R25W S36

T33N R23W S 29, 30, 31, 32
T34N R 24W S31

Scoping Map



April 17, 2023



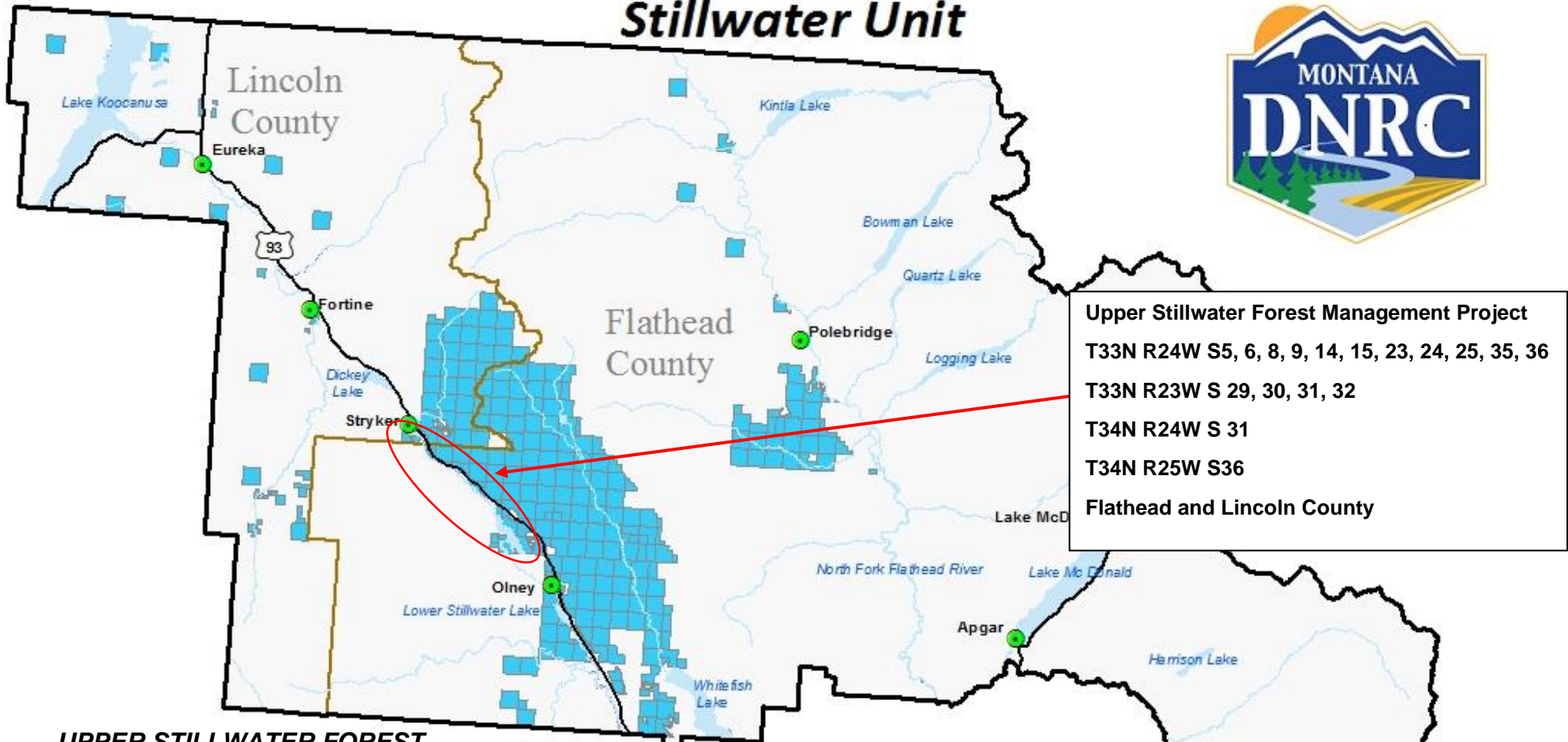
0 1 2 3 Miles

Joe Rizzi



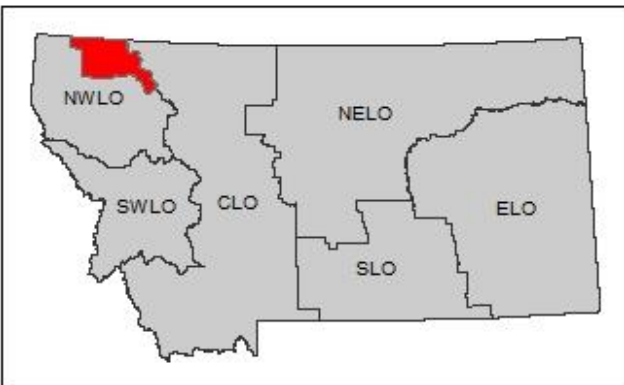
State Trust Land Vicinity Map

Stillwater Unit



Upper Stillwater Forest Management Project
 T33N R24W S5, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 35, 36
 T33N R23W S 29, 30, 31, 32
 T34N R24W S 31
 T34N R25W S36
 Flathead and Lincoln County

**UPPER STILLWATER FOREST
 MANAGEMENT PROJECT VICINITY MAP**



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

