

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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## STATE OF MONTANA

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### Initial Proposal for the 8% Timber Sale

April 18, 2024  
Sec. 36, T31N, R31W

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Libby Unit is proposing to harvest timber on approximately 318 acres on State Trust Land located in Sec. 36, T31N, R31W within the Kootenai River drainage located approximately 2 miles Northeast of Libby, MT. A brief description of the proposed action is listed below:

1. Sell approximately 1.5 - 2.5 million board feet of timber to generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust and to meet annual timber harvest levels mandated by State Law.
2. Use silvicultural treatments to promote the development of historic stand conditions, emphasizing retention and/or regeneration of Ponderosa Pine and Western Larch, while improving stand health and vigor.
3. Manage these lands in a way that would reduce fuels and the potential for a wildfire to become a stand replacing fire, putting at risk the timber asset that currently exists, and capture the value of that asset before tree mortality erodes additional value.

Preliminary field observations indicate that approximately 318 acres would be harvested. Ground based tractor logging systems would be utilized on approximately 151 acres and cable based logging systems would be utilized on remaining acres.

Proposed silvicultural harvest treatments would include seed tree, shelterwood or commercial thinning. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

To access timber, approximately 2.5 - 3 miles of new road would be constructed, approximately 4 miles of existing road would be maintained.

Follow-up treatments could include machine piling and scarification, slash burning, weed spraying, hand planting tree seedlings, and pre-commercial thinning. Harvest activities could begin during 2025.

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 5:00 PM on May 24, 2024, to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Libby Unit  
Attn: Dave Marsh  
177 State Lands Office Rd.  
Libby, MT 59923

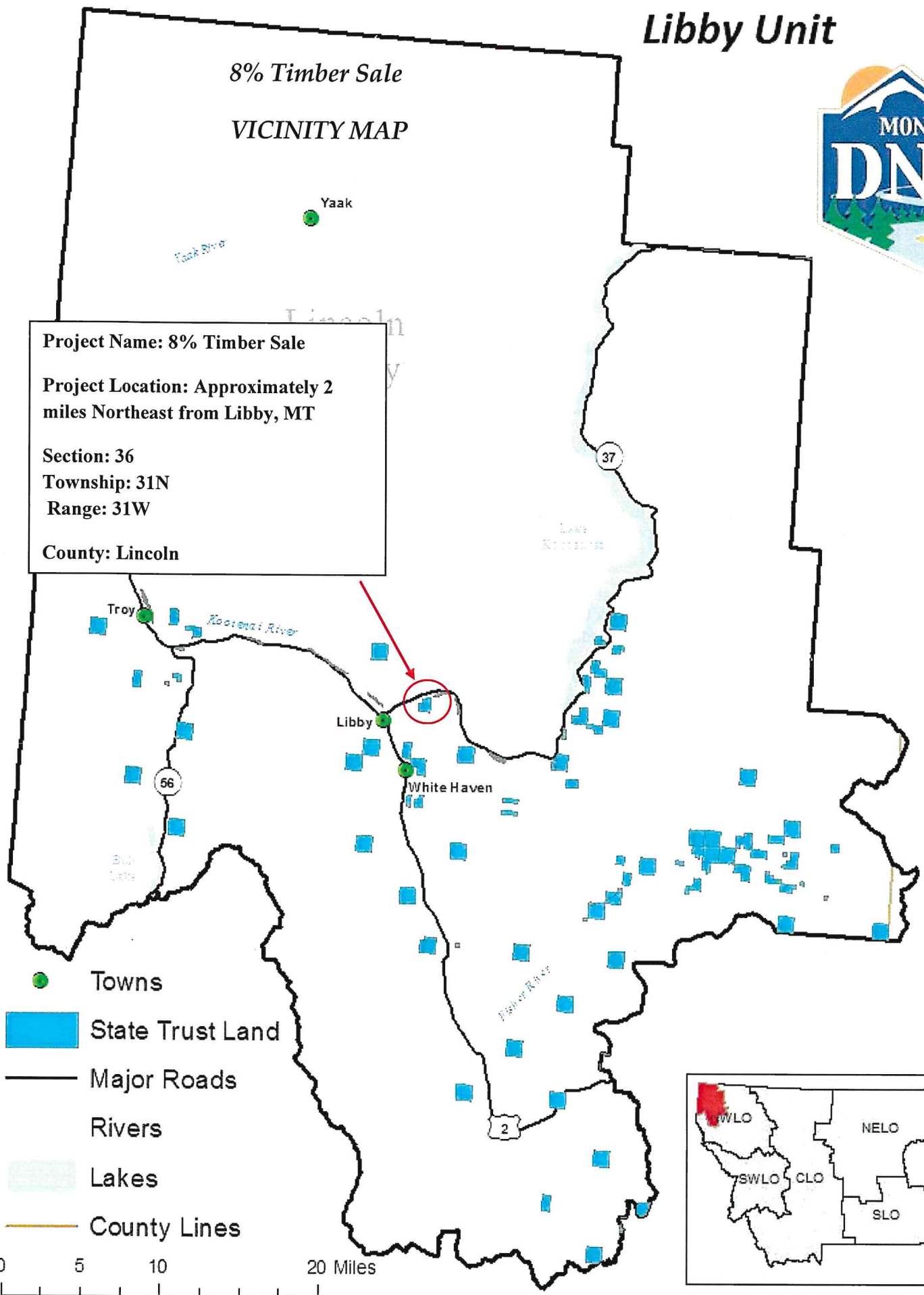
E-Mail: [dmarsh@mt.gov](mailto:dmarsh@mt.gov) Phone: (406) 283-3535

# Libby Unit



8% Timber Sale  
VICINITY MAP

**Project Name:** 8% Timber Sale  
**Project Location:** Approximately 2 miles Northeast from Libby, MT  
**Section:** 36  
**Township:** 31N  
**Range:** 31W  
**County:** Lincoln



- Towns
- State Trust Land
- Major Roads
- Rivers
- Lakes
- County Lines

