

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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STATE OF MONTANA

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Initial Proposal Airgun Timber Sale May 29, 2024 (updated since March 4, 2024)

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

Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 15 West

The proposed Airgun Timber Sale is located approximately 1 mile east of Seeley Lake, Montana and approximately 1.2 miles east of the junction of HWY 83 and Morrell Creek Rd. in Powell County. The Airgun Timber Sale was initially scoped on March 4, 2024 for a 30-day period. The proposed project is being rescoped due to identification of additional forest stands that are in need of treatment due to insect infestations.

The primary objectives of this proposal are to capture the value of dead and dying trees, prevent future value loss, reduce fuels, and to improve forest stand health and vigor. Preliminary surveys indicate high levels of Douglas-fir decline and mortality. Salvage harvest and individual tree selection would be the primary harvest methods employed.

The proposed harvest would occur under a single timber sale. The project would remove an estimated 800-900 thousand board feet (Mbf) of sawlog volume from up to 500 acres. Silvicultural harvest prescriptions may include salvage, commercial thin, individual tree / group selection. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222. The timber sale would likely be implemented summer 2024 and completed by 2026.

Road maintenance and improvements may be implemented on approximately 3 miles of existing road to improve function and drainage of the haul route. Resource damage from open recreation abuse would be addressed and resource protection features may be added to the existing road system. Temporary spur roads and / or minor amounts of new road construction may be necessary to access proposed harvest units. Noxious weed management, pre-commercial thinning, additional timber permits, prescribed burning, and tree planting may also occur under the proposed action.

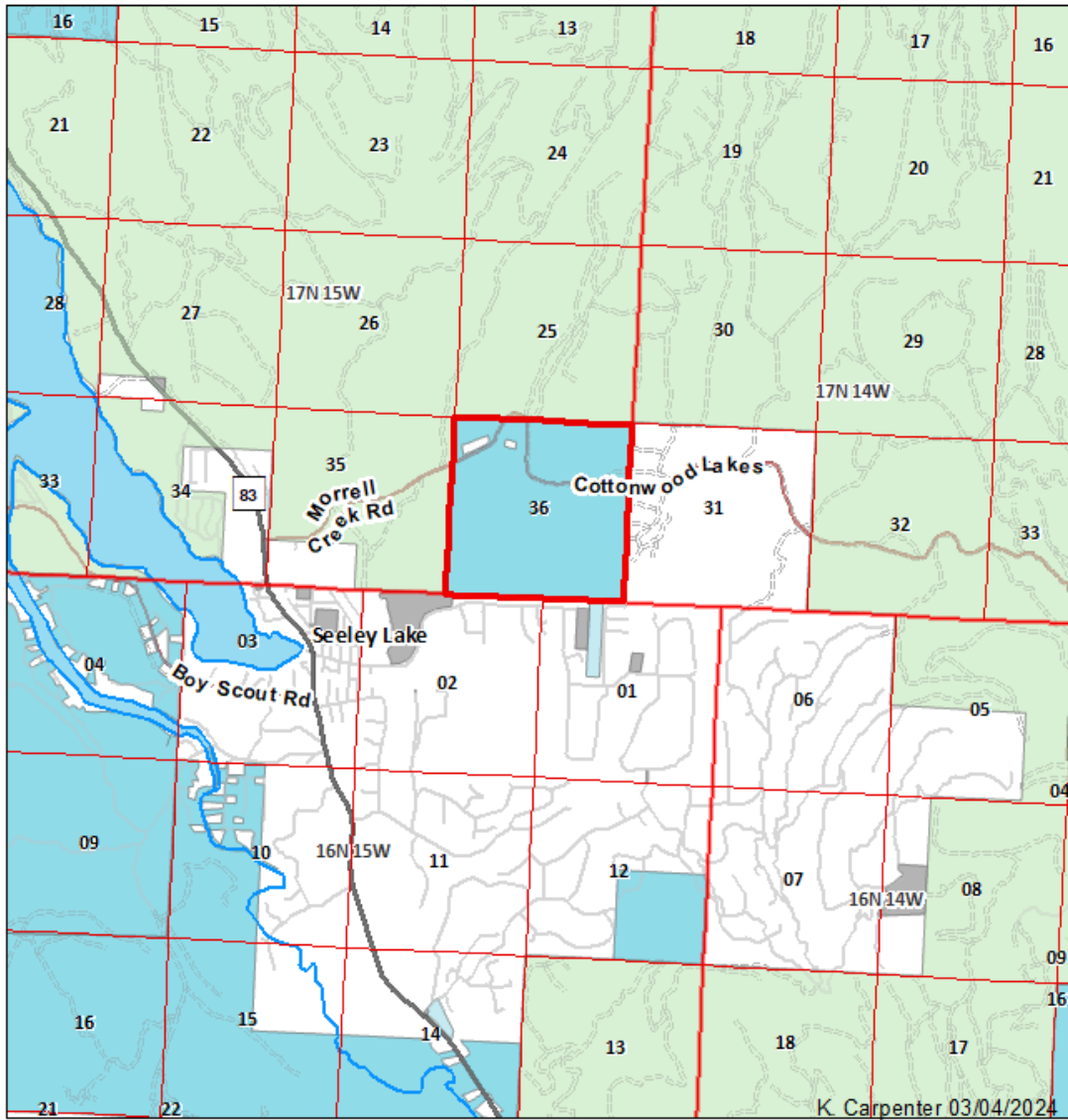
The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment so all volumes, acreages and road distances are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted.

The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. **Please respond by June 28, 2023** to:


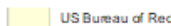
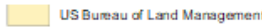
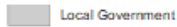
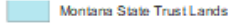
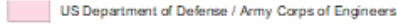
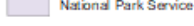
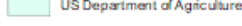
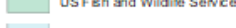
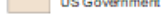
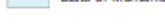


Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Kyle Carpenter
Clearwater Unit
48455 Sperry Grade Road Greenough, MT 59823
kyle.carpenter@mt.gov 406-244-2382

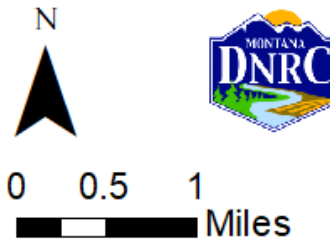
Airgun Proposed Project Area

Section 36, T17N-R15W



K. Carpenter 03/04/2024

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  US Forest Service |  US Bureau of Reclamation |
|  US Bureau of Land Management |  Local Government |
|  Montana State Trust Lands |  US Department of Defense / Army Corps of Engineers |
|  National Park Service |  US Department of Agriculture |
|  US Fish and Wildlife Service |  US Government |
|  State of Montana |  Highways |
| |  Airgun Project Area |

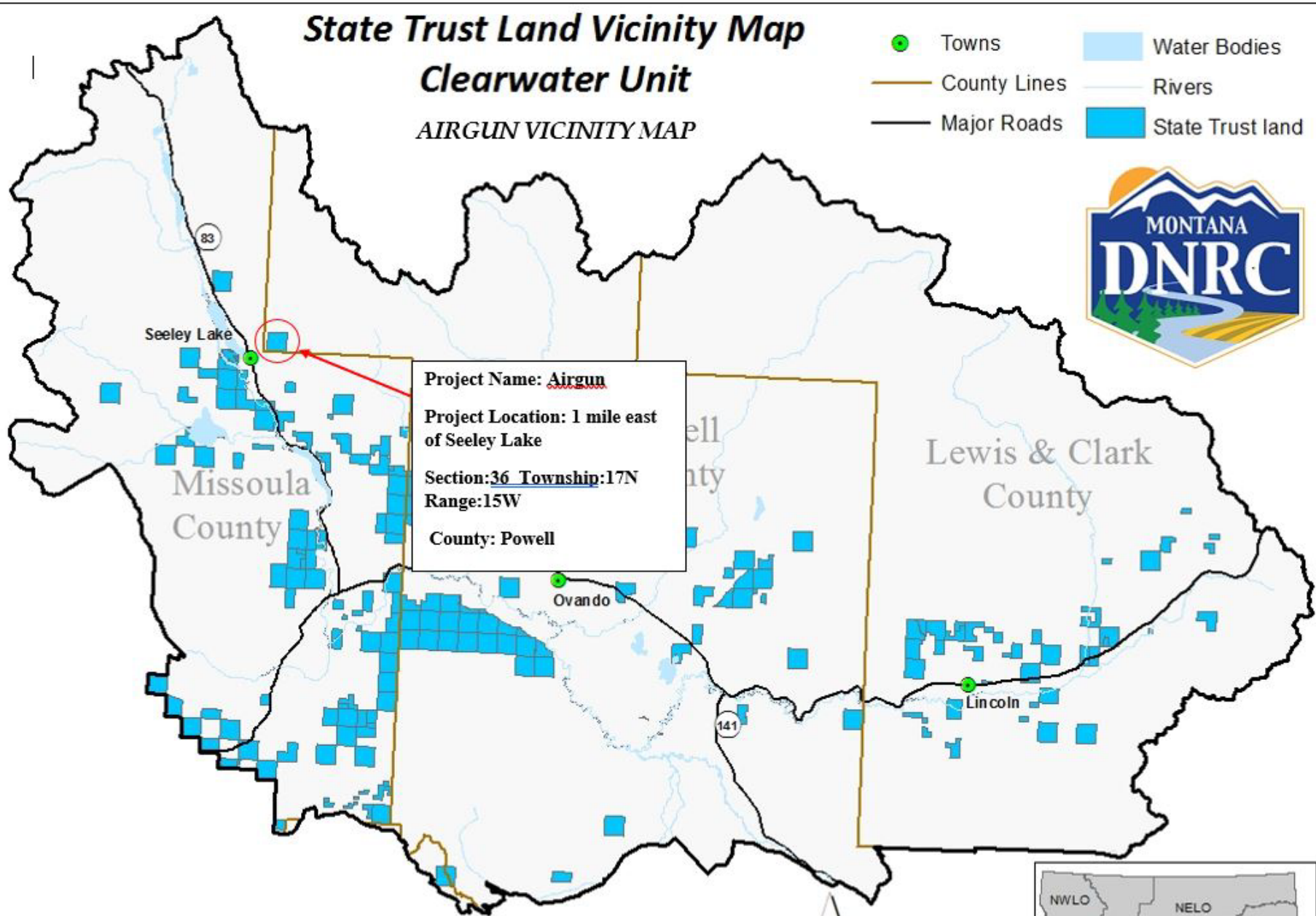


State Trust Land Vicinity Map

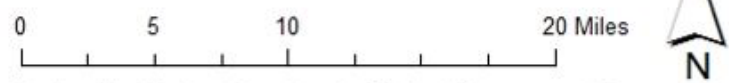
Clearwater Unit

AIRGUN VICINITY MAP

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



Project Name: Airgun
Project Location: 1 mile east of Seeley Lake
Section: 36 **Township:** 17N
Range: 15W
County: Powell



Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation 11/1/2019
Datum: NAD 1983 StatePlane

