

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

Initial Proposal HB 883 Precommercial Thinning Projects – Phase 2 December 13, 2024

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing precommercial thinning (PCT) of state-owned forested land in the following counties:

County	Proposed Treatment Acres
Flathead	3,749
Lake	350
Lincoln	939
Total	5,038

The non-commercial forest management treatments will occur across three counties within the Kalispell, Stillwater, Swan, and Libby DNRC Administrative Units. Projects would be implemented as early as Spring 2025 and continue through 2026.

The Trust Lands Forest Management Program would utilize funding from the House Bill 883 (HB 883) account to implement these projects. The intent of HB 883 is to increase the pace and scale of forest management actions that would improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk in Montana. HB 883 allows for funds from the fire suppression account to be used for fuels reduction and mitigation activities ([HB 883](#)).

The primary objectives of the proposed projects would be to utilize available HB 883 funds to treat forested State Trust Lands at risk of wildfire that are present within or in proximity to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas or Forest Action Plan (FAP) [priority areas](#). The proposal would manage approximately 5,038 acres. The DNRC would utilize precommercial thinning to decrease stand density, increase stand vigor, and in some instances, promote desired species compositions. PCT treatments would be largely accomplished using hand thinning methods, with minor mechanical thinning (<5% of the project acreage).

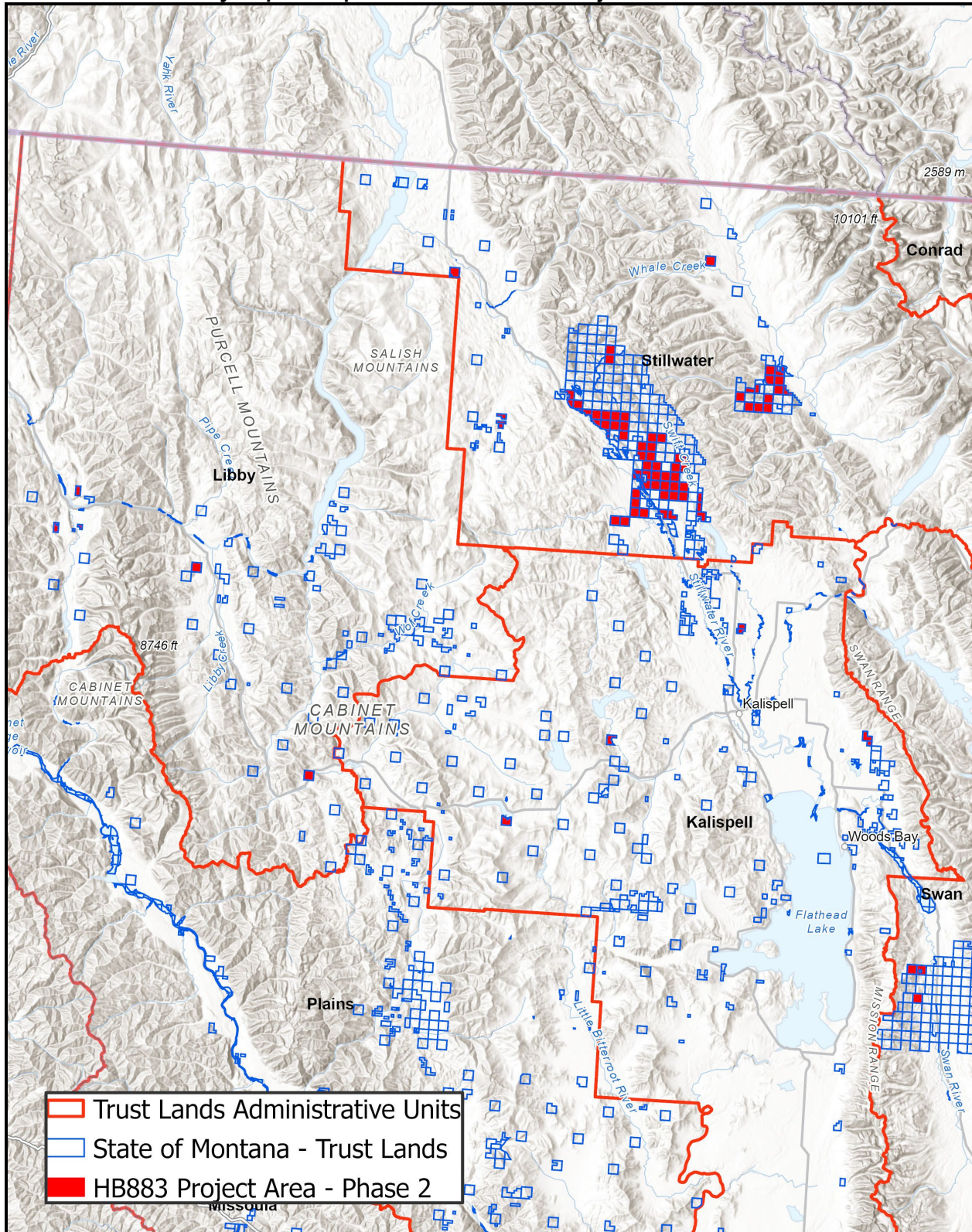
No new roads would be constructed as a part of this proposal. All treatment areas would be accessed by existing roads. All applicable [Administrative Rules for Forest Management](#) and [Habitat Conservation Plan](#) conservation strategies will be applied.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment, so all acreages 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 for a 45-day period. Please respond by January 27, 2025, to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attn: Emilia Grzesik
Forest Management Bureau
2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula MT 59804
emilia.grzesik@mt.gov
406-542-4314

Attachment 1 – Vicinity Map of Proposed HB883 Phase 2 Projects



HB 883 Phase 2 Project Area
Initial Scoping - December 2024
Phase 2 Implementation - 2025 and 2026

Basemap Credits:
Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Montana State Library, Esri,
TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS,
Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS