

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Trust Lands Management Division • Southwestern Land Office • Anaconda Unit
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Initial Proposal Upper Willow Timber Permit and Bridge Repair and Removal November 20, 2024

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

Sections 5, 8, and 17 Township 8N, Range 15W

The project area is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Philipsburg, and west of Upper Willow Creek in Granite County, Montana.

The primary objectives of the proposed project are:

- Generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust
- Replace a bridge at Bear Creek to reduce risk of failure and provide improved fire suppression access.
- Remove a bridge at Beaver Creek to reduce risk of failure.

The proposed harvest of up to 500 thousand board feet from approximately 200 acres using a clearcut prescription of the mature lodgepole stands. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Road maintenance and improvement may be needed on existing access roads to improve function and drainage of the haul route. Up to 2 miles of temporary road construction may also be necessary. No new permanent road construction is proposed. Two existing bridge crossings that are in need of repair will be addressed with one bridge replacement (at Bear Creek) and the removal of the other bridge (at Beaver Creek).

Noxious weed management, site preparation, 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 foresters, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, fish biologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted.

The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by December 5, 2024, to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Attn: Craig Hansen, Anaconda Unit Manager

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406-691-7311

State Trust Land Vicinity Map Anaconda Unit

UPPER WILLOW VICINITY MAP

Upper Willow Timber Permit
Sections: 5, 8, and 17
Township: 8N Range: 15W
County: Granite

