



**Initial Proposal
Bear Canyon Fuels Reduction Project
9/17/2025**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Bozeman Unit, is proposing to perform a fuels reduction project on the following state-owned parcels:

Section 35, Township 2S, Range 6E; Section 01, Township 3S, Range 6E; Section 06, Township 3S, Range 7E

The Bear Canyon Fuels Reduction Project will be located on DNRC State Trust Land in the vicinity of Bear Canyon Road. The proposed project is located approximately 6-7 air miles south east from Bozeman, MT.

The primary objective of the proposed project is to reduce fuel loading on State Trust Land located within the wildland urban interface (WUI) near Bear Canyon Road. This project will only treat acres located on State Trust Land. Overstocked vegetation of young trees and shrubs create conditions that can result in extreme wildfire behavior. Reducing overstocked vegetation near homes, structures, or other highly trafficked locations in the Bear Canyon area will reduce the chances of a wildfire starting or growing at an accelerated rate due to excessive fuel loading. Heavy fuel loading can contribute to dangerous working conditions for emergency responders in the event of a wildfire incident. Reducing fuel loading allows emergency responders to have additional options and safer working conditions during an initial attack period of a wildfire.

The proposed project may treat approximately 50 acres. All fuels reduction work associated with this project would be performed by Gallatin County Wildfire Mitigation hand crews. Project units may be anywhere from approximately 50-300' wide to create a buffer zone on State Trust Land located within the WUI. Trees that are 8" or less in diameter would be thinned to a crown spacing of 15'. Trees over 8" diameter would not be cut. Other dense brush or shrubs located within the treatment units will be thinned or removed. All slash generated from this project would be hand piled and burned during appropriate, snow covered conditions.

No new road building, reconstruction, or road improvements will be required to complete the objectives of this project. Hand crews completing the work will be able to enter treatment units from public access points. Some treatment units will require hand crews to walk into the project area.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment, so all proposed treatment units and 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. Please respond by **October 10th** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Attn: **Brian Krott**

Bozeman Unit

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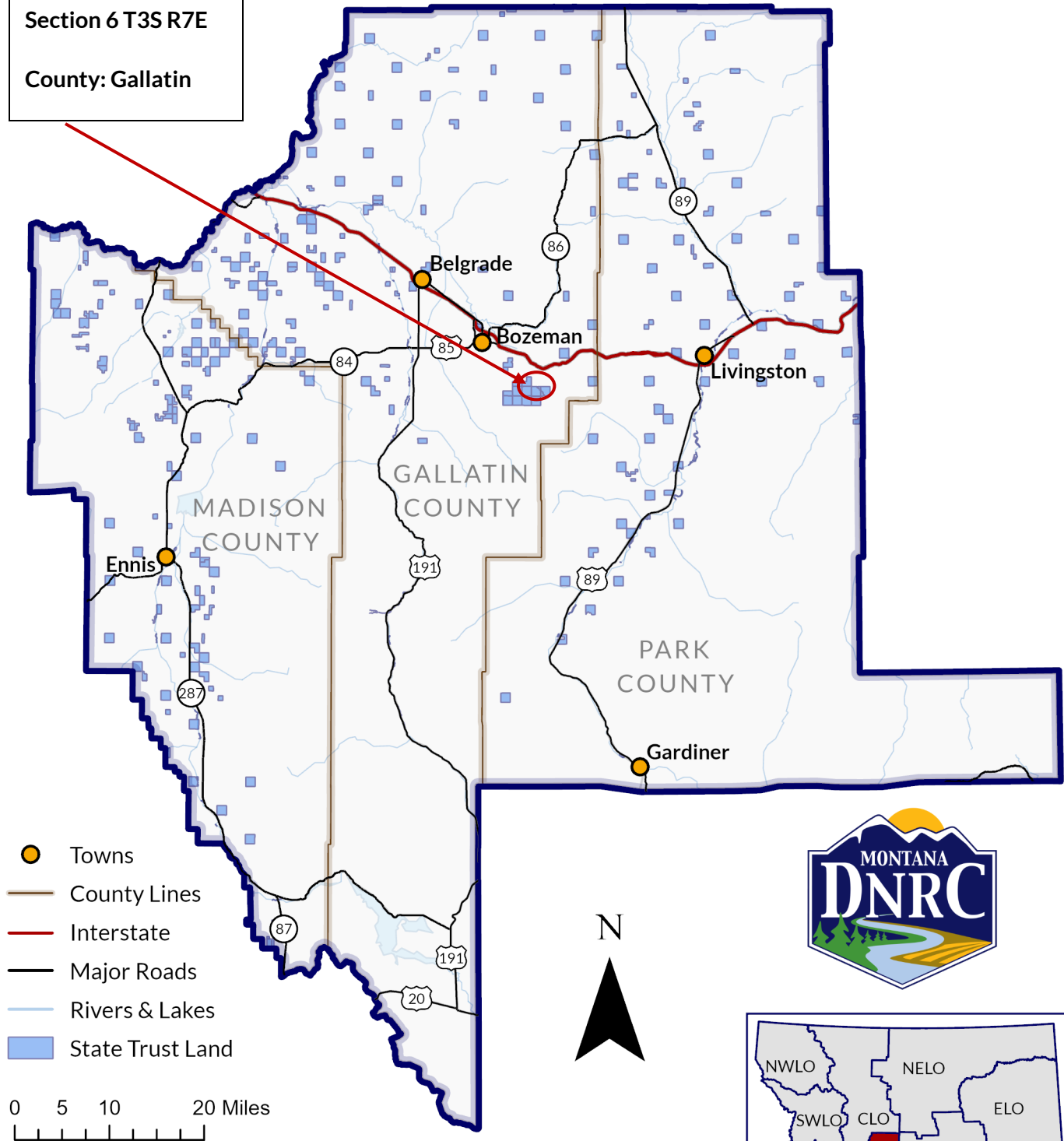
State Trust Land Vicinity Map

Bozeman Unit

Bear Canyon Fuels Reduction Project

Section 35 T2S R6E
Section 1 T3S R6E
Section 6 T3S R7E

County: Gallatin



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Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – 2025
NAD 1983 State Plane

