



**Initial Proposal
Checkerboard Timber Permit
07/02/2025**

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

Section 16, Township 9N, Range 10E

The Checkerboard Timber Permit is located approximately 4 miles east of Checkerboard, MT on State Highway 12. This parcel is a Common Schools Trust Section.

The primary objectives of the proposed project are:

- Generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust.
- Improve forest health and vigor by reducing stocking densities and removal of trees in declining health from drought stress and insect and disease infestations.
- Improve rangeland conditions by reducing stocking levels of existing conifer encroachment.
- Reduce wildfire risk from overstocked stands of timber and conifer encroachment.

The proposed treatment area is approximately 110 acres and an estimated 150-180 MBF of Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine sawlog and firewood material would be harvested. In mature timber stands, leave tree would be spaced 40'-50' and 2-4 snags or snag recruits per acre would be left on-site. In conifer encroachment areas, any tree that is of merchantable size will be targeted for removal. Conifer encroachment exists on the edges of the mature stands of timber and is growing into areas that are historic rangeland/pasture. The northeast portion of the sale area (adjacent to HWY 12) will require cable logging to complete the treatment objectives. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Approximately 1.2 miles of new road construction may be necessary to complete the timber management objectives of this project. New road construction will meet Best Management Practices (BMPs) and be constructed in a manner to minimize the impact to the land and preserve rangeland conditions to the greatest extent possible. Newly constructed roads will be closed to motorized use following harvest.

Other activities that may occur under this proposed action include non-commercial fuels reduction, pre-commercial thinning, and noxious weed management.

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 **August 1st** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
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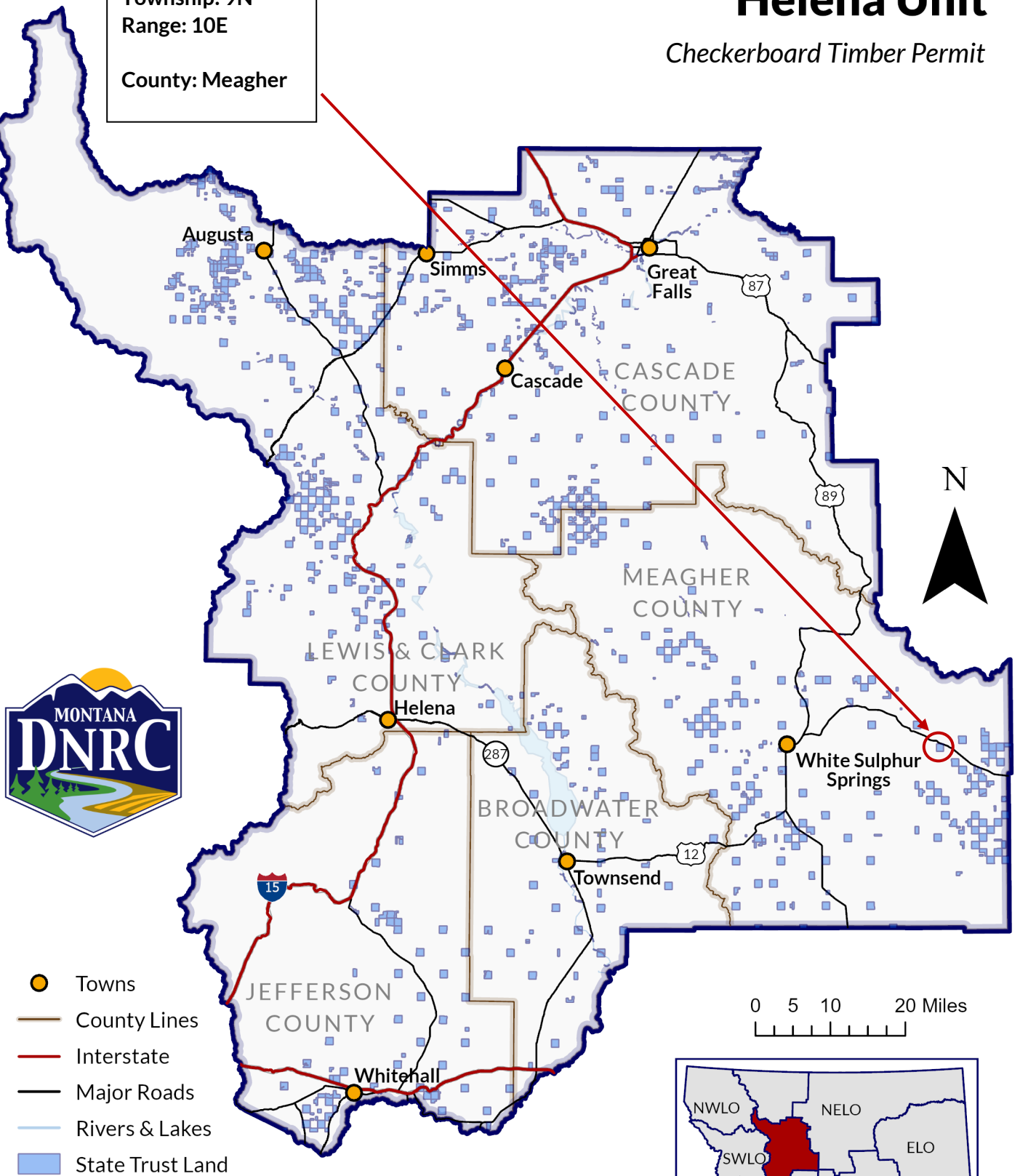
State Trust Land Vicinity Map

Helena Unit

Checkerboard Timber Permit

Section: 16
Township: 9N
Range: 10E

County: Meagher





Proposed Checkerboard Timber Permit - Site Map Section 16-T9N-10E, Meagher County

