

## NOTICE OF SALE

### **Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Timber Sale**

The Chopax Timber Sale is located within Sections 29,31,32, and 33 of T35N-R24W and Section 5 of T34N-R24W on the State's Stillwater Unit. Approximately 14,646 tons, consisting of mixed conifer sawlogs, are offered for sale.

Sealed bids will be opened at the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, 2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana on **June 3, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.** Bids may be hand delivered or mailed and will be accepted any time prior to the bid opening. DNRC recommends that bidders contact the Trust Land Management Division (406-542-4300) prior to the bid opening to ensure that your bid has been received. **Bids must be accompanied by a deposit of \$4,137.50**, representing 5% of the minimum bid value of the sale in cashier's check, certified check, bank money order or bank draft to be applied to the first sale invoice for the successful bidder. Bid bonds will be accepted and, for the successful bidder, will be closed upon execution of the Timber Sale Contract and Timber Sale Bond.

The sale will be awarded to the highest responsible bidder. Award of the timber sale is conditional upon approval of the timber sale by the State Board of Land Commissioners at their May 19, 2025 meeting. If the successful bidder is unable to execute the contract within **30** calendar days from the date the sale is awarded, the bid deposit will be retained by the Department as liquidated damages. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Prospective bidders can obtain the sale prospectus, sale contract and bid forms from the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, Trust Land Management Division, in Missoula (406-542-4300).

Visit our website at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/trust/forest-management/timber-sale-information> for upcoming sales and bid results.

**TIMBER SALE PROSPECTUS**  
**STATE OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION**

<b>Timber Sale Name:</b> Chopax Timber Sale			
<b>For specific sale information, contact:</b> Les Thomas			
Phone	406-881-2371	Unit Office: Stillwater	
<b>For copies of the Timber Sale Contract and bid forms, contact:</b>			
Phone	406-542-4300	Forest Management Bureau	DNRC Missoula Office
Phone	406-751-2240	Northwestern	Land Office

**General Bidding Information**

1. Bids must be submitted on Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (State) bid forms.
2. Timber will be sold to the highest responsible bidder; however, the State reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
3. The State recommends that bidders contact the Forest Management Bureau, Trust Land Management Division (406-542-4300) prior to the bid opening to ensure that your bid has been received.
4. A **Bid Deposit** must accompany all bids and must be in the form of cash, cashiers check, certified check, money order, bank draft, surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit.
5. The Purchaser must submit a **Performance Bond** to the State within 30 days of notification of sale award. The bond amount will be, at a minimum, 20% of the total bid value of the sale. The performance bond may be cash, irrevocable letter of credit, surety bond or certificate of deposit. The performance bond must be maintained separately from other payments for the duration of the Timber Sale Contract. See the Timber Sale Contract for additional information.
6. The purchaser must submit an **Advance Stumpage Payment** prior to cutting any timber. The amount of the advance stumpage payment will cover six weeks of harvesting and be based on the expected harvest rate and the bid value of the stumpage. The advance stumpage payment may be cash, irrevocable letter of credit, payment bond or certificate of deposit.
7. At rates specified in the Contract, the purchaser will pay **Forest Improvement Fees** on all sawlog volume. All applicable **Road Use and/or Maintenance fees** will also be paid by the Purchaser in addition to stumpage payments.
8. This sale is being sold based on the gross weight of all species. Minimum price and bid price are on a per ton basis. Unless otherwise specified, the price applies to all species, green and dead. Price may vary by product. Billing will be based on gross weight. A weight ticket from a certified scale is required for each load hauled, regardless of product type.
9. The State has estimated the net scale merchantable sawlog volume to be sold under this Contract. Other products may be part of this sale. All delivered wood will be weighed and billed at per ton bid rates. The State recognizes that a percentage of delivered wood may not meet the log manufacturing and recovery standards of the Timber Sale Contract. The actual percentage will vary based on the log manufacturing and recovery specifications of the purchaser and tree conditions in the sale area. The actual delivered weight may vary, resulting in an overrun or under-run of the estimated tonnage. The State strongly recommends that bidders evaluate these effects before bidding.
10. The State does not conduct detailed road appraisals. All appraised costs are gross estimates or averages, provided only to show the relative amount of work required, and not the true market value. The State strongly recommends that bidders make their own estimates based on Contract requirements. Cost estimates provided are not guaranteed.
11. Bidders are encouraged to examine the complete Timber Sale Package and Sale Area prior to bidding. Additional information is available at the phone numbers shown above.
12. Estimates for sale volume, species percents, defect, product class, etc. provided in this prospectus and volume estimates listed in the Timber Sale Contract are not guaranteed.
13. This prospectus is provided for information purposes only. If the prospectus is in error or contradicts the Timber Sale Contract, the Contract governs.

**Additional Sale Information:**

1. Access to sale area is from Highway 93 North of Olney, MT. At MM158.2 turn east onto Stillwater River Road (NFS 900). Stillwater River Road continues for 6.8 miles to the intersection of the Fitzsimmons Road, then becomes the Mt. Marston Road. Just past MM 8, Mt. Marston Road intersects the Russky Creek Road, which is gated and has a Spring Closure (April 1-June 30). Combination for that lock is 2-3-7-1
2. There is a goshawk **Nest Timing Restriction Zone** with a ¼ mile radius (see Chopax Timber Sale Project Map) that prohibits logging, hauling, road construction and maintenance, chemical treatment, and prescribed burning from April 1-August 15 each year.
  - All trees within 100 feet of the nest site must be left, except portions of the area where temporary road construction is allowed.
  - The northern edge of the zone is in the western portion of Unit 1 and results in a timing restriction for portions of Units 1-4, 7 and 8, and impacts access to Units 5-9. Equipment operation in most of the sale area and the Main Artery Temp Road – Section 1 is also restricted.
  - The Nest Timing Restriction Zone and high elevation results in an operating period that is limited to August 16 until winter conditions become problematic.
  - If the goshawk nest is found by DNRC biologists to be unoccupied the Nest Timing Restriction Zone **MAY** be lifted.
3. Sale has **Mandatory** and **Optional** harvest units and road building. See the Timber Sale Contract and Attachment B for more details.
  - **Mandatory Harvest Units:** 1, 3, 7. Entire units must be harvested, including SMZ and RMZ areas.
  - **Optional Harvest Units:** 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9. If harvested, Unit 2 must be harvested in its entirety, including SMZ and RMZ. Units 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 are not required to be harvested in their entirety: acreage harvested must be agreed upon with Forest Officer, and some areas with blind leads may be deleted.
    - Mandatory Harvest acres: 147 (including SMZ and RMZ)
    - Optional Harvest acres: 271 (including SMZ and RMZ)
    - Mandatory Road construction miles: 2.41
    - Optional Temporary Road construction miles: 3.13
  - Road Maintenance miles: 9.65 (Level 1 – 9.17 miles and Level 3 – 0.48 miles)
4. Other Road Maintenance (See Attachment B for more details):
  - 7 CMPs are required to be furnished and installed by the Purchaser. See Attachment B for location, size, and length.
  - 7 conveyor-belt water diverters are required to be furnished and installed by Purchaser. See Attachment B for size, length, and installation location.
5. Harvest Details:
  - Harvest Area (Mandatory): 147 acres
  - Approximately 8 acres of Post and Pole size timber is available in units 2 and 3 not cruised (Estimated 300-400 TPA from 3" to 6.5" DBH avg 35 feet tall). Removal of this timber is optional.
6. Mandatory and Optional Shovel/Cable Combination, Tractor, and Cable Yarding Details:
  - Mandatory Tractor or Ground-Based Skidding: 36 Acres (Most of Unit 7, small part of Unit 3)
  - Mandatory Cable Skidding: 13 acres (small part of units 3 and 7)
  - Mandatory Shovel/Cable Combination Skidding: approximately 94 acres (Unit 1, Most of Unit 3)
  - Optional Harvest Area: 271 acres
  - Optional Shovel/Cable Combination Skidding: about 213 acres (Units 2, 4, 5, 6, part of Unit 8, Unit 9)
  - Optional Cable Only Skidding: 57 acres (Most of Unit 8)
  - Alternate yarding methods may be utilized in some areas with permission of Forest Officer.
7. SMZ Harvest: will be required on some streams as determined by Forest Officer (See Chopax Timber Sale Project Map and contract Unit Designation tables).
  - Mandatory Units -
    - Unit 1 - three SMZ harvest areas approximately 2 acres

- Unit 3 - one SMZ harvest area approximately 2 acres
  - Unit 7 - two SMZ harvest areas approximately 1 acre
  - Optional Unit -
    - Unit 2 - one SMZ harvest area approximately 0.3 acres
    - SMZ harvest areas are not yet marked to cut/leave and must be marked by Forest Officer before harvest begins in these areas.
8. RMZ harvest: RMZ harvest is allowed on some Class 1 stream areas as determined by Forest Officer (See Chopax Timber Sale Project Map and contract Unit Designation tables).
- RMZ harvest is mandatory in the following units:
- Unit 3 - approximately 0.75- acre RMZ harvest
  - Unit 7 – approximately 1- acre RMZ harvest
- RMZ harvest is mandatory if purchaser elects to harvest the following units:
- Unit 2 – approximately 0.5- acre RMZ harvest
  - Unit 8 – about 10 acres RMZ harvest
- Unit 9 – 10 acres RMZ harvest RMZ harvest areas are not yet marked and must be marked to cut by Forest Officer before harvest begins in these areas.
9. End Haul required: estimated 3,120 cubic yards of material to be end hauled from Main Artery Temporary Road (Section 1) to 156 Pit (estimated 10.5 miles)
10. A 20-foot steel bridge is required to access Optional Unit 9. Bridge must be moved from its current location to the crossing site on Chepat Creek. This bridge will be transported and installed as part of this sale by the Purchaser (See Attachment B for more details).
- Distance from its current location to the crossing site on Chepat Creek is 7.2 miles. This will likely take multiple trips and may require multiple pieces of equipment to load and unload bridge sections.
11. Areas of rocky ledges and areas that present deflection problems for cable logging systems are scattered throughout the sale. On-the-ground reconnaissance by bidders is strongly encouraged. Contact Les Thomas for more information.

**Timber Sale Information Sheet**  
 Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Chopax (Required)												
Timber Sale Cruise Data (Scribner 5.6" top DIB, Filter: All   All   Cut)												
SPECIES	PP	DF	WL	LP	ES	GF	RC	AF	WP	WH	Dead	TOTAL or AVE
Minimum Bid per ton												\$5.65
Pounds per cubic foot		61.7	58.3	56.0	57.0			55.0			40.0	
Estimated tons of sawlogs		2398	1277	4197	3331			3443			0	<b>14,646 tons</b>
Estimated tons of non-sawlog material		42	40	267	115			101			0	565 tons
Gross MBF		371	208	601	576			682			0	2,438 MBF
% Cull and Breakage		11.7	11.1	6.4	11.1			20.5			0.0	12.7%
Net MBF		328	185	563	511			542			0	2,129 MBF
Average logs per MBF		27.5	30.5	38.8	25.0			28.3			0.0	30.4 logs/MBF
Average DBH		11.6	10.3	8.9	10.1			10.8			0.0	10.0 in.
Average tons to cut per acre												99 tons/ac
Average MBF to cut per acre												14.4 MBF/ac
Total Average TPA Cut												300
Calculated Sampling Error: Total cruised volume will fall between	1,896 and 2,362 Net MBF in 9 out of 10 cruises											10.9%
Tons Per Thousand Board Feet												
Conversion Factor - Estimated tons hauled per thousand Scribner board feet	14,646 estimated tons / 2,129 Net MBF											6.88 tons/MBF

Contract Information	
Contract Termination Date:	11/1/2030
Operating Period:	IF Goshawk Nest is occupied operating period is August 16 - March 31; IF Goshawk Nest is unoccupied operating period is July 1 - March 31

**Timber Sale Information Sheet**  
**Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**

Logging Information	
% of volume logged by clearcut or seed tree cut	100%
% of volume logged with tractors	32%
% of volume logged by skyline	NA
% of volume logged by Shovel/Cable Combo	68%
Yarding distance tractor (average)	400 ft.
Yarding distance skyline (average)	NA
Yarding distance Shovel/Cable Combo	650 ft.
Estimated haul distance (paved)	37.0 miles
Estimated haul distance (unpaved)	10.8 miles

Purchaser fees and estimated costs	
Forest Improvement fee perMBF	\$26.60/MBF
Forest Improvement fee per ton	\$3.87/ton
Forest Improvement fee estimated total	\$56,680.02
Forest Improvement fee quarterly installment	\$9,446.67
Estimated Purchaser-do FI total \$	\$0
Estimated Purchaser-do FI per ton	\$0.00/ton
Estimated Purchaser-do slash disposal work total	\$0.00
Estimated Purchaser-do slash disposal work per ton	\$0.00/ton

Road development and maintenance fees and estimates	
Estimated road development cost total	\$174,016
Estimated road development cost per ton	\$11.88/ton
Estimated road development cost perMBF	\$81.73/MBF
Estimated Purchaser-do road maintenance cost total	\$8,901
Estimated Purchaser-do road maintenance cost per ton	\$0.61/ton
Private road maintenance charges per ton	\$0.00/ton
USFS road maintenance charges per ton	\$0.03/ton
Miles of road construction	2.4 miles
Miles of road reconstruction	0.5 miles
Miles of road with site improvements	0.0 miles
Miles of road reclamation or abandonment	0.5 miles
Miles of road maintenance and blading	9.2 miles

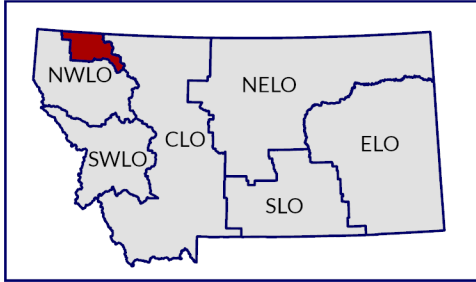
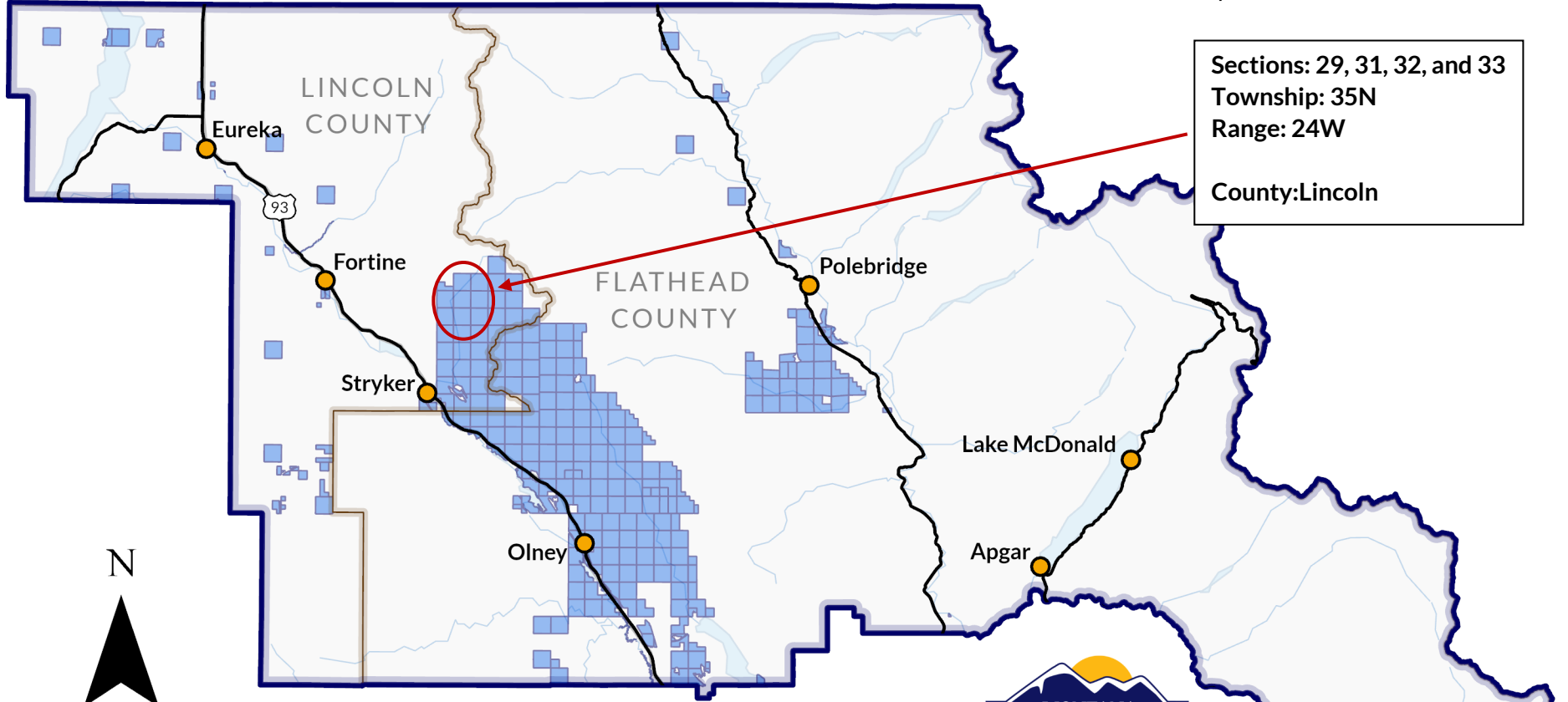
Unit harvest volume				
Unit #	Acres	Est Tons	Est MBF	Harvest Deadline
1	25.4	1936	281	3/31/2030
3	80.3	8081	1175	3/31/2030
7	41.7	4630	673	3/31/2030
	147.5	14,646 tons	2,129 MBF	






# State Trust Land Vicinity Map

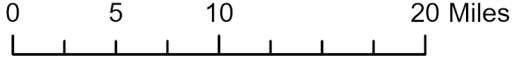
## Stillwater Unit

Chopax Timber Sale

Sections: 29, 31, 32, and 33  
Township: 35N  
Range: 24W  
County: Lincoln



-  Towns
-  County Lines
-  Major Roads
-  Rivers & Lakes
-  State Trust Land



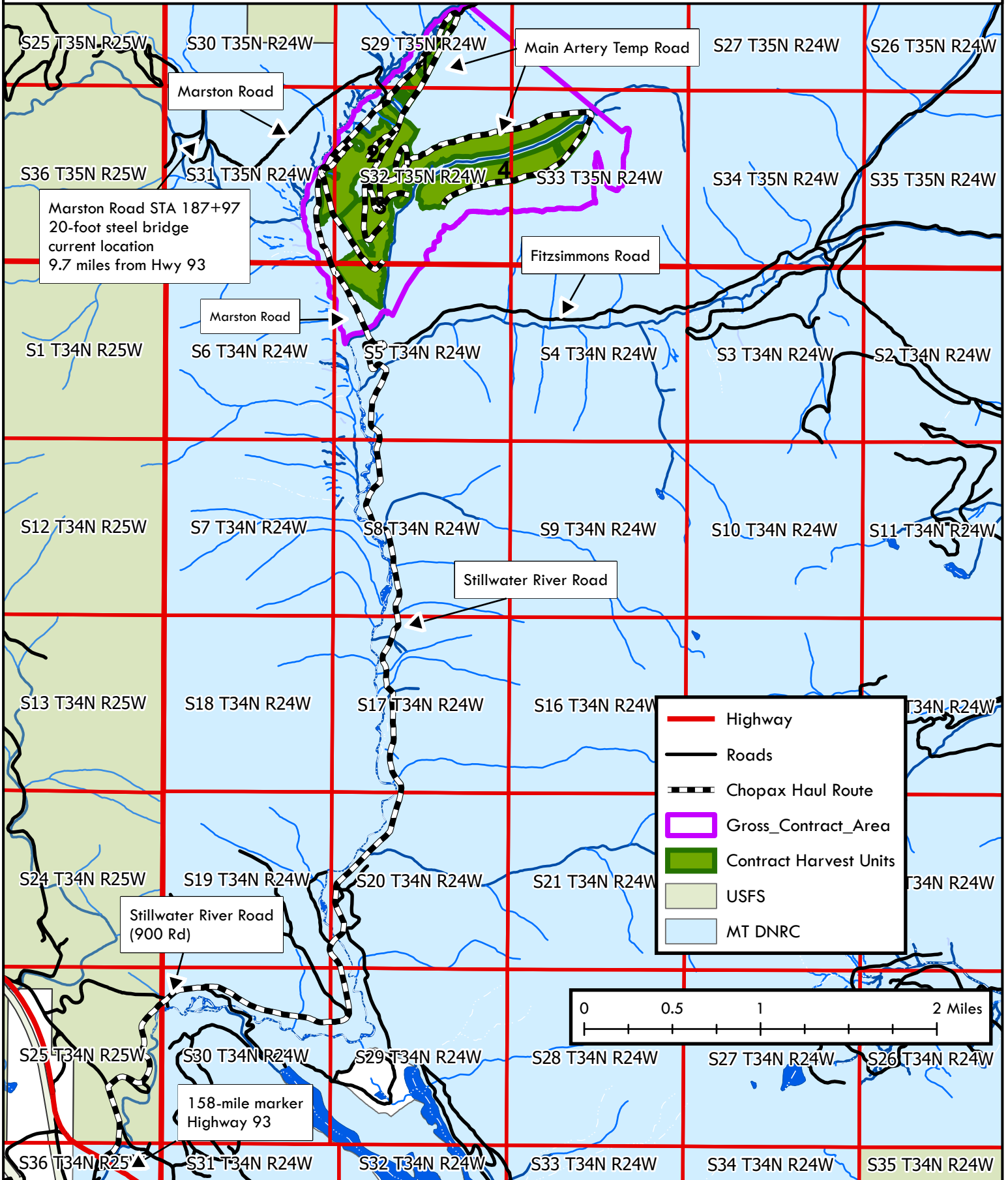


# Chopax Haul Route & Contract Area Map



Sections 29, 31, 32, 33 of T35N R24W and 5 of T34N R24W

LHT 1/24/2025







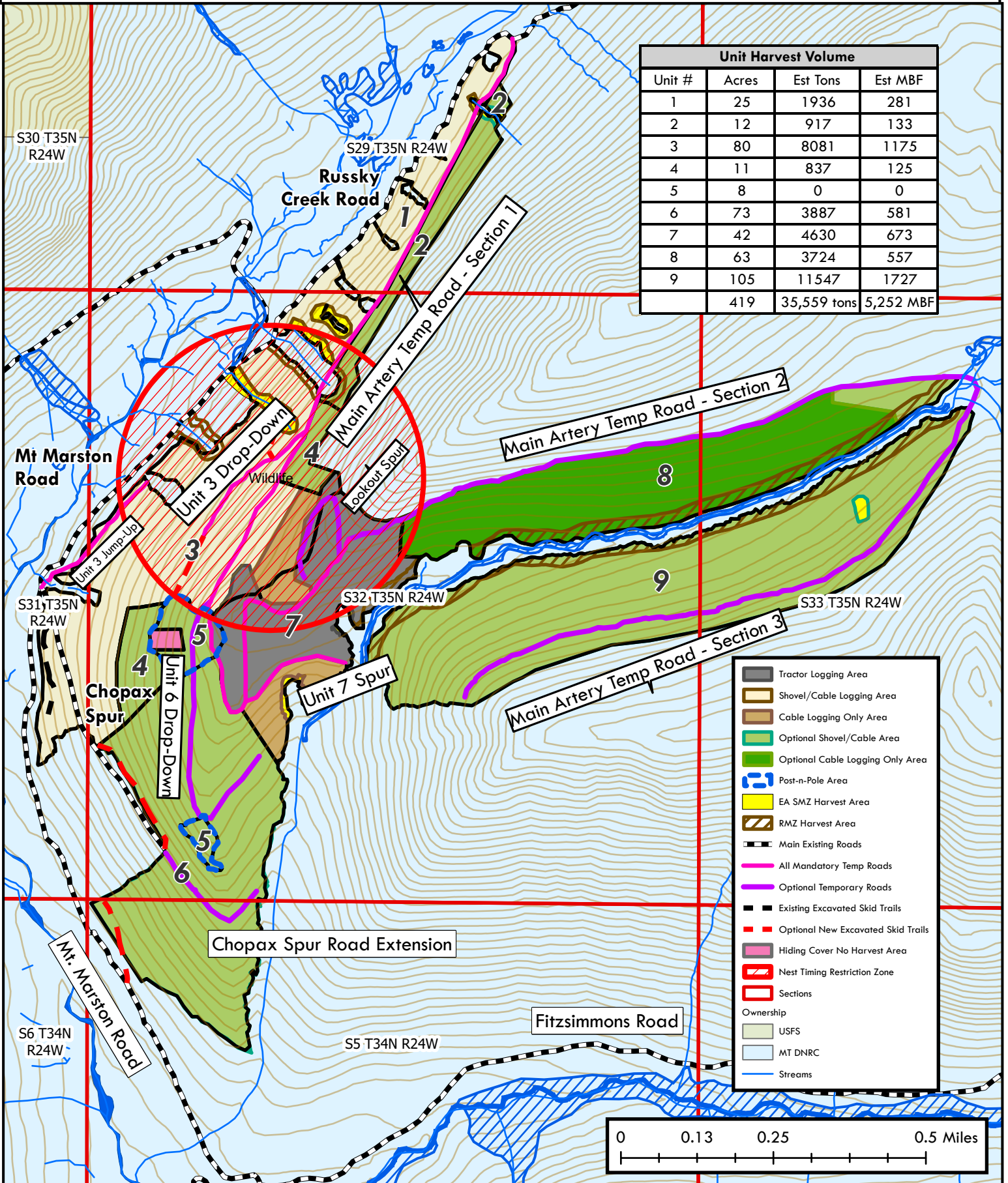
# Chopax Harvest Method & Roads Map

Sections 29, 31, 32, 33 of T35N R24W and 5 of T34N R24W



LHT 1/23/2025

Unit Harvest Volume			
Unit #	Acres	Est Tons	Est MBF
1	25	1936	281
2	12	917	133
3	80	8081	1175
4	11	837	125
5	8	0	0
6	73	3887	581
7	42	4630	673
8	63	3724	557
9	105	11547	1727
	419	35,559 tons	5,252 MBF



- Tractor Logging Area
- Shovel/Cable Logging Area
- Cable Logging Only Area
- Optional Shovel/Cable Area
- Optional Cable Logging Only Area
- Post-n-Pole Area
- EA SMZ Harvest Area
- RMZ Harvest Area
- Main Existing Roads
- All Mandatory Temp Roads
- Optional Temporary Roads
- Existing Excavated Skid Trails
- Optional New Excavated Skid Trails
- Hiding Cover No Harvest Area
- Nest Timing Restriction Zone
- Sections
- Ownership
- USFS
- MT DNRC
- Streams

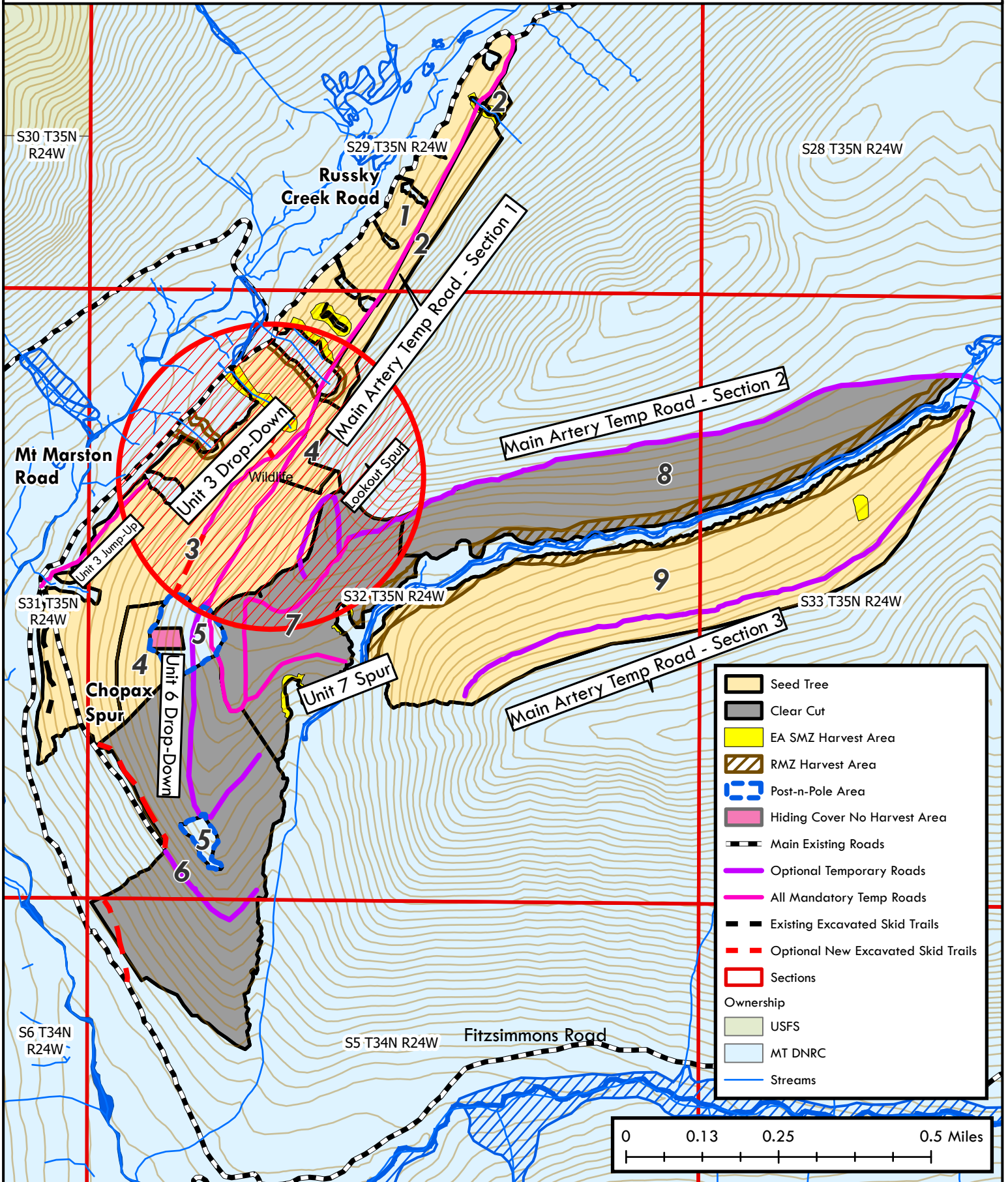


# Chopax Harvest Prescription Map

Sections 29, 31, 32, 33 of T35N R24W and 5 of T34N R24W



LHT 1 / 27 / 2025



S30 T35N R24W

S29 T35N R24W

S28 T35N R24W

Russky Creek Road

Mi Marston Road

S31 T35N R24W

S32 T35N R24W

S33 T35N R24W

Chopax Spur

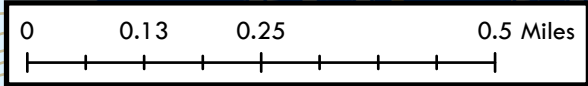
Unit 7 Spur

S6 T34N R24W

S5 T34N R24W

Fitzsimmons Road

- Seed Tree
- Clear Cut
- EA SMZ Harvest Area
- RMZ Harvest Area
- Post-n-Pole Area
- Hiding Cover No Harvest Area
- Main Existing Roads
- Optional Temporary Roads
- All Mandatory Temp Roads
- Existing Excavated Skid Trails
- Optional New Excavated Skid Trails
- Sections
- Ownership
- USFS
- MT DNRC
- Streams





# Chopax Dust Abatement Map

Section 36 of T34N R25W and Section 20 of T34N R24W



LHT 1/24/2025

