

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Trust Lands Management Division • Northwestern Land Office • Stillwater
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Initial Proposal Lincoln County Forest Management Project January 21, 2025

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

Section 16 T37N R28W, Section 16 T37N R27W, Sections 16 & 36 T36N R27W, Section 36 T36N R28W and Section 16 T35N R26W

The proposed Lincoln County Forest Management Project is located on six isolated parcels of state land around the towns of Rexford, West Kootenai and Eureka, Montana.

The primary objectives of the proposed project are:

- Generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust by contributing to DNRC's sustained yield.
- Promote biodiversity on State ownership by managing for appropriate or desired stand structures and species composition based on topography, habitat type, disturbance regime and other unique characteristics.
- Create fuel breaks and reduce forest fuel loads within the Wildland Urban Interface and near adjacent private lands.
- Where perennial grasses out compete young trees, DNRC will consider using herbicide and mechanical site preparation to create planting sites for new trees on all parcels.
- Promote winter range for ungulate populations by reducing conifer encroachment in native meadows as well as managing invasive weed and grass populations on the Sophie Lake parcel (section 16, T37N R27W).
- Address invasive weed infestations on the Black Lake parcel (section 16, T36N R27W) through the use of aerial and ground-based herbicide treatment.
- Limit resource damage from larger vehicles on unauthorized ORV trails on the Alkali parcel (section 36 T36N R27W) by blocking unauthorized access and focusing public use on existing open roads.

The proposal would harvest approximately 5 to 7 million board feet within a 3,275 acre project area. Harvest prescriptions would vary by unit and could include, but are not limited to; commercial thinning, individual tree selection, old growth recruitment, and regeneration harvests such as seed-tree, clear-cut and shelterwood treatments.

Road maintenance, improvements and reconstruction may be needed on existing roads to improve function and drainage of the haul routes. Approximately 1.5 miles of temporary road construction may also be necessary. No permanent roads would be built as part of this project.

Noxious weed management, perennial grass control, pre-commercial thinning, tree planting, prescribed burning, mechanical site-prep and road obliteration may also occur under the proposed action.

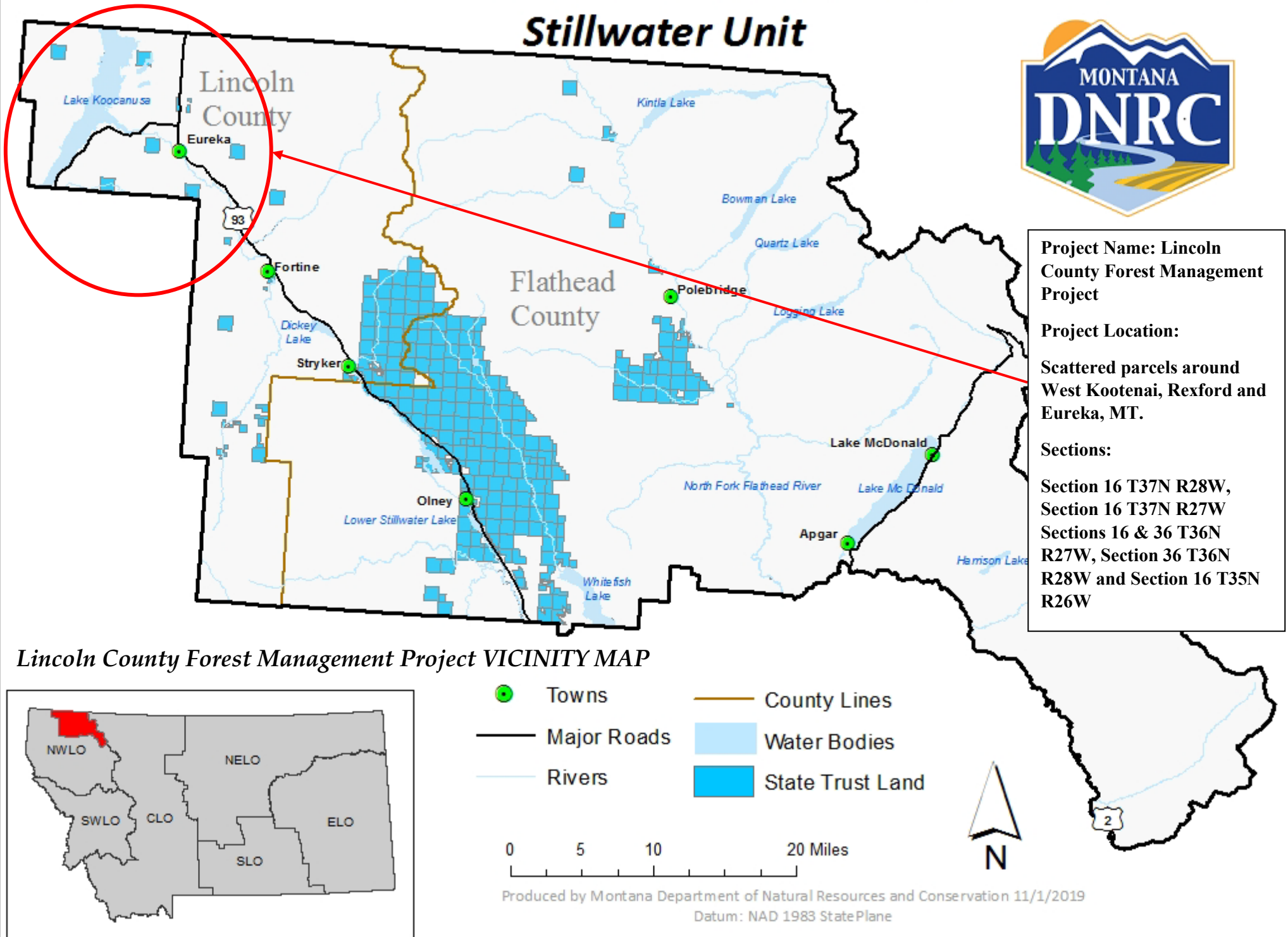
The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project's environmental assessment, so all volumes, acreages and road distances are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists and archeologists are consulted.

The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by 2/21/2025 to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Stillwater Unit
Attn: Sam Bracken
PO Box 164, Olney MT 59927
Sam.bracken@mt.gov

State Trust Land Vicinity Map

Stillwater Unit

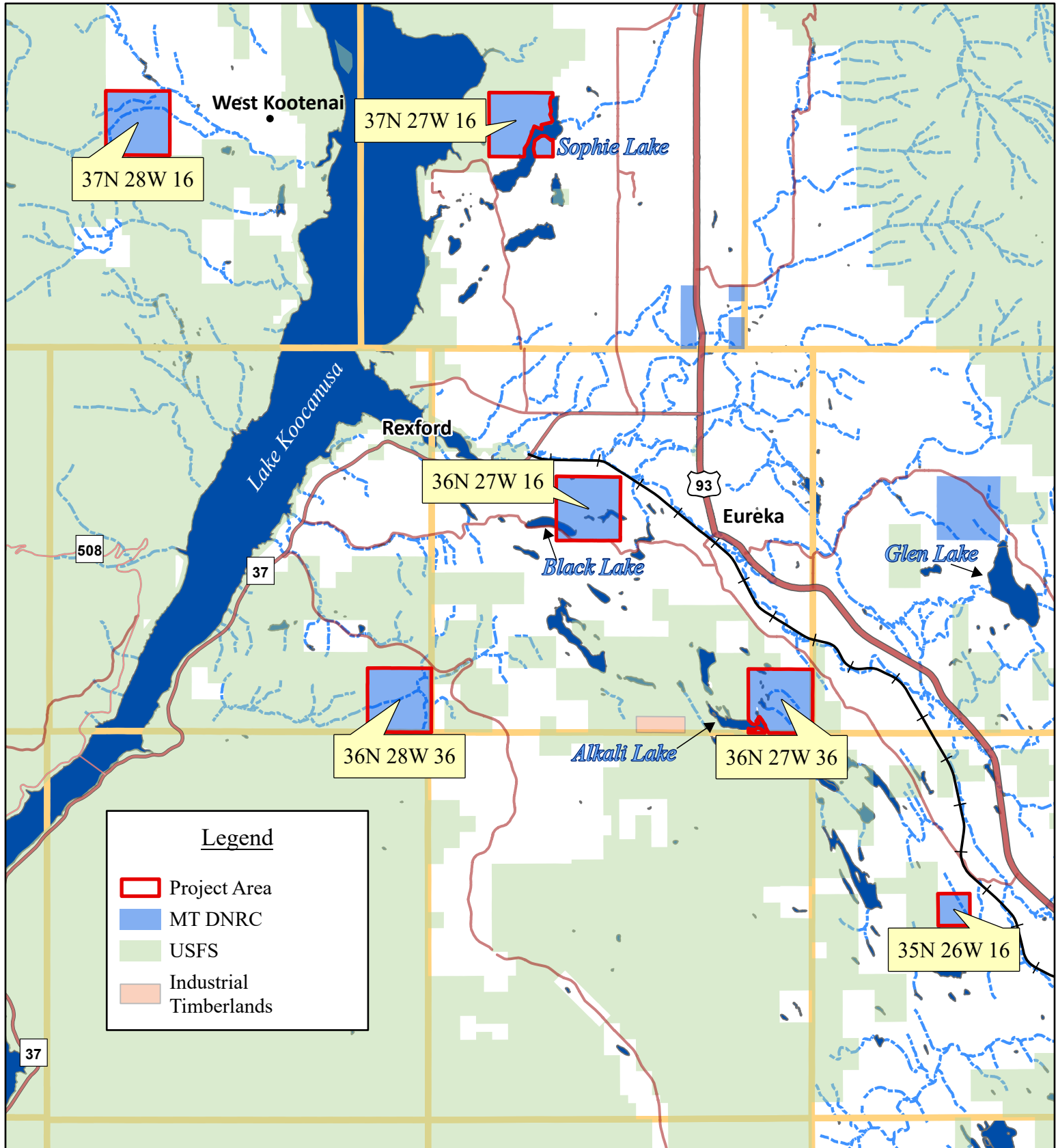


Lincoln County Forest Management Project

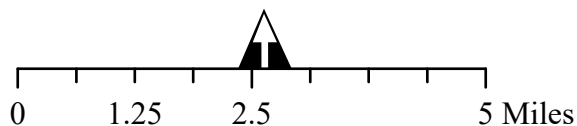
Section 16 T37N R28W, Section 16 T37N R27W Sections 16 & 36 T36N R27W

Section 36 T36N R28W and Section 16 T35N R26W

Initial Proposal Map



January, 2025



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