

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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## STATE OF MONTANA

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### **Initial Proposal Loose Horse Timber Sale February 7, 2025**

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

#### **Section 19, 20, 29, 30 Township 15 North, Range 14 West**

The Loose Horse Timber Sale is being proposed in the state-owned parcels listed above, which are located approximately 11 miles southeast of Seeley Lake, Montana and approximately 3 miles northwest of Clearwater Junction. The project area lies west of the Clearwater River near Elbow Lake in Missoula County.

The primary objective of the proposed project is to fulfill the State statutory obligation to generate revenue for the Trust Beneficiaries, in this case the Pine Hills Permanent Trust and Common Schools Trust. Other objectives include improving forest health and reducing risk of catastrophic wildfire.

The proposed harvest would occur under a single timber sale. The project would remove an estimated 1.5 million board feet of sawlog volume from 500 acres. Silvicultural harvest prescriptions may include seed tree, shelterwood, and individual / group selection. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222. The timber sale would likely be implemented summer 2025 and other activities may begin within the next five years.

Road maintenance and improvements may be implemented on approximately 10 miles of existing road to improve function and drainage of the haul route. Resource damage from open recreation abuse would be addressed and resource protection features would be added to the existing road system. Temporary spur roads and / or minor amounts of new road construction may be necessary to access proposed harvest units.

Noxious weed management, pre-commercial thinning, timber permits, prescribed pile or broadcast burning, 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 wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists will be consulted.

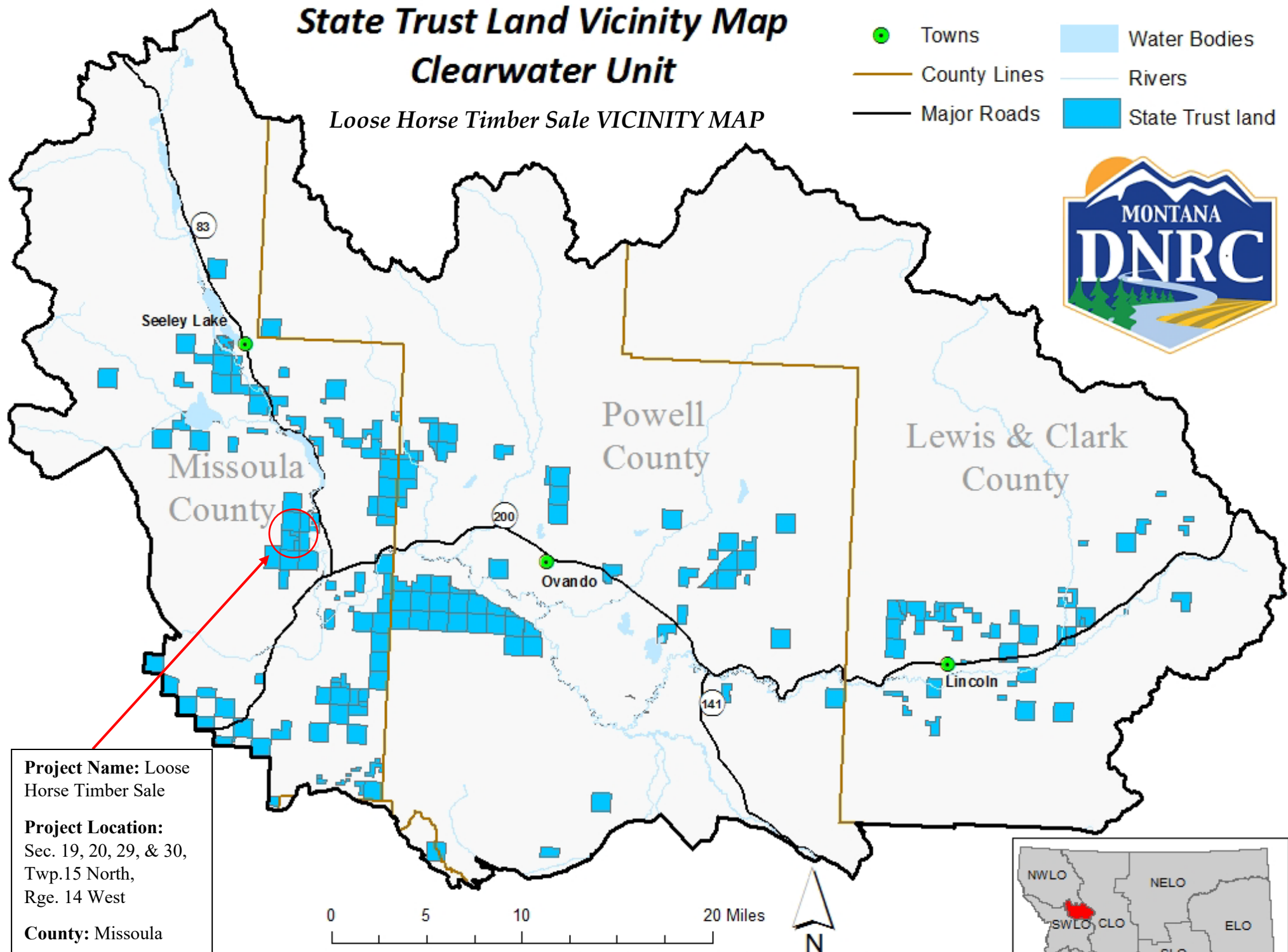
The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by **March 9, 2025** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Attn: **Travis M. Serdar**  
**Clearwater Unit**  
**48455 Sperry Grade Road**  
**Greenough, MT 59823**  
**travis.serdar@mt.gov**  
**(406) 244-2387**

# State Trust Land Vicinity Map Clearwater Unit

*Loose Horse Timber Sale VICINITY MAP*

-  Towns
-  County Lines
-  Major Roads
-  Water Bodies
-  Rivers
-  State Trust land



**Project Name:** Loose Horse Timber Sale

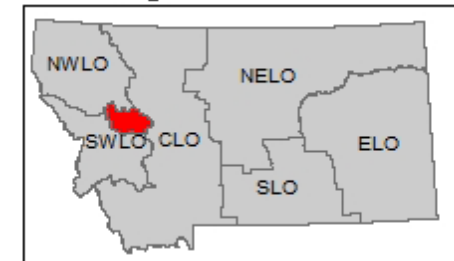
**Project Location:**  
Sec. 19, 20, 29, & 30,  
Twp.15 North,  
Rge. 14 West

**County:** Missoula

0 5 10 20 Miles

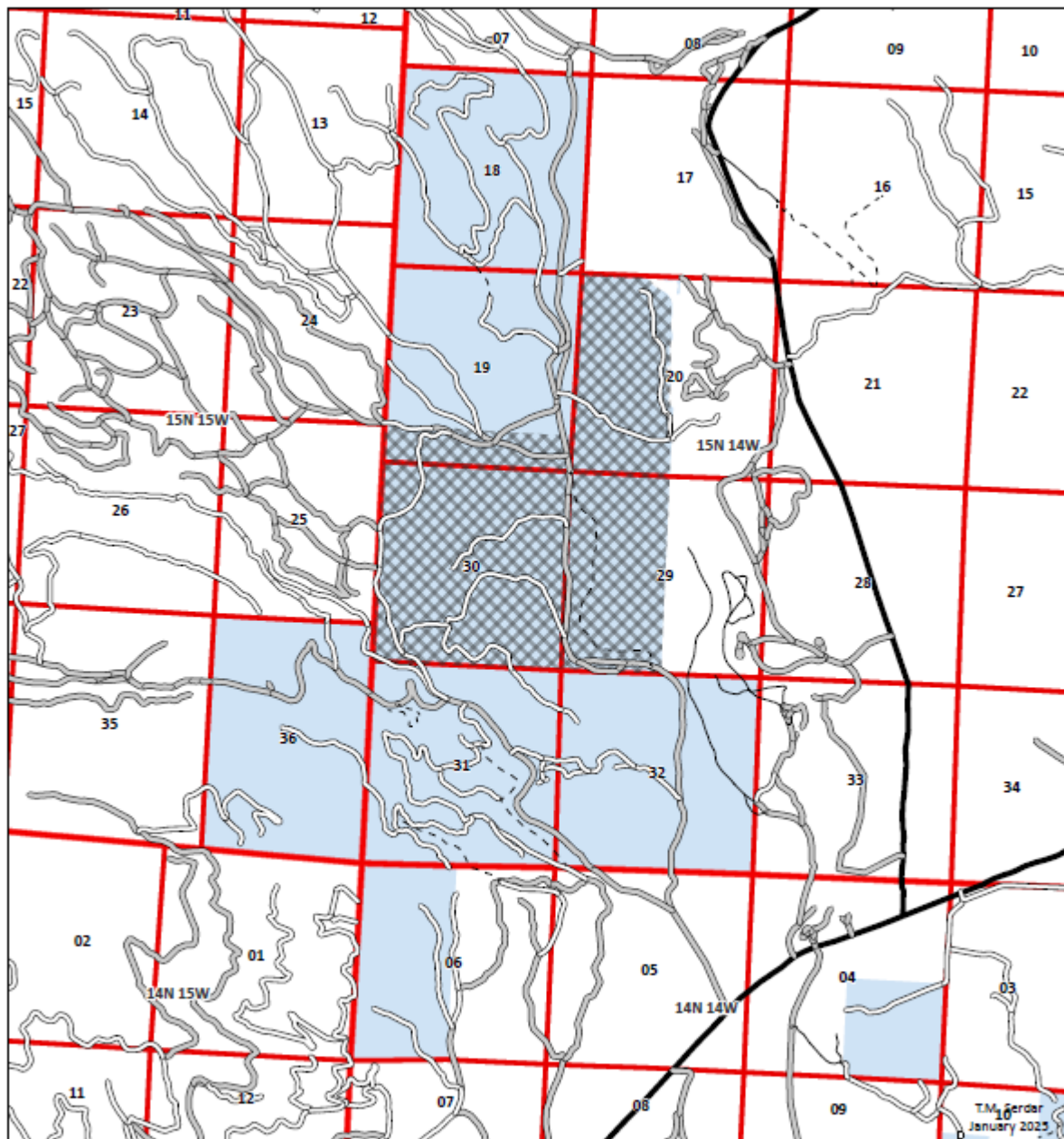


Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation 11/1/2019  
Datum: NAD 1983 StatePlane



# LOOSE HORSE TIMBER SALE

## Project Area Map



- Project Area
- DNRC Trust Lands
- PLSS Township
- PLSS First Division

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

