

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

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## STATE OF MONTANA

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### **Initial Proposal Spencer to Beaver Forest Management Project January 14, 2025**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Kalispell and the Stillwater Unit are proposing a forest management project, located about 4 miles west of Whitefish, MT on the following state-owned parcels:

**Section 4, 5, 9, 15, 16 Township 30N, Range 22W (Spencer, Kalispell Unit)**  
**Section 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 33 Township 31N, Range 22W (Beaver Lake, Stillwater Unit)**

#### Primary Objective:

The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222 to sell approximately 60 MMbf of timber annually and continue to produce revenue over time. The revenue generated from this proposal would benefit Common Schools, State Normal School, Public Buildings, Montana Tech, Montana State University Eastern, University of Montana Western, Deaf and Blind School and MSU 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant trusts.

- Other Objectives: Promote a healthy, productive forest while providing opportunity for natural regeneration in stands and return the area to more historic forest conditions
- Reduce fuel loading and increase the stand's fire resiliency
- Manage disease and insects in the stands
- Promote biodiversity on State ownership by managing for appropriate or desired stand structures and species composition based on ecological characteristics such as topography, habitat type, disturbance regimes, and unique characteristics.
- Address forest insect and disease issues while capturing the economic value of dead and dying trees while promoting healthier and more resilient trees through regeneration.
- Incorporate strategies from the Montana Forest Action Plan to sustain and prioritize landscape-scale cross-boundary forest management and restoration projects around the project area with our partners and neighbors.
- Reduce recreational induced impacts to soil, water, and timber resources. As well as reducing fire hazard and risk of loss to the State of Montana and privately owned land in the area.
- Identify and repair potential sediment sources which may be impacting streams.
- Design, implement, and coordinate a forest management project to maintain existing recreational uses and include provisions for any proposed future recreational uses that have been identified in the Beaver Lakes Area Public Recreation Use Easement (Recreation Use Easement) within the Stillwater Unit's jurisdiction. As well as develop solutions (mitigations) to minimize conflicts with these uses previous to, while ongoing, and post management operations within the aforementioned Recreation use Easement Area.

The proposed projects would harvest approximately 3 million board feet of timber from 1700 acres (Kalispell Unit) and 2800 acres (Stillwater Unit) acres using a combination of commercial thinning, overstory removal, individual tree selection, seed tree and single tree selection prescriptions. The proposed harvest would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Maintenance of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and improvements would occur on approximately 10 miles (Kalispell Unit) and 23 miles (Stillwater Unit) miles of existing road to better the function and drainage of the haul route. Noxious weed management, pile burning, tree planting and site preparation activities may occur after the harvest operations are completed.

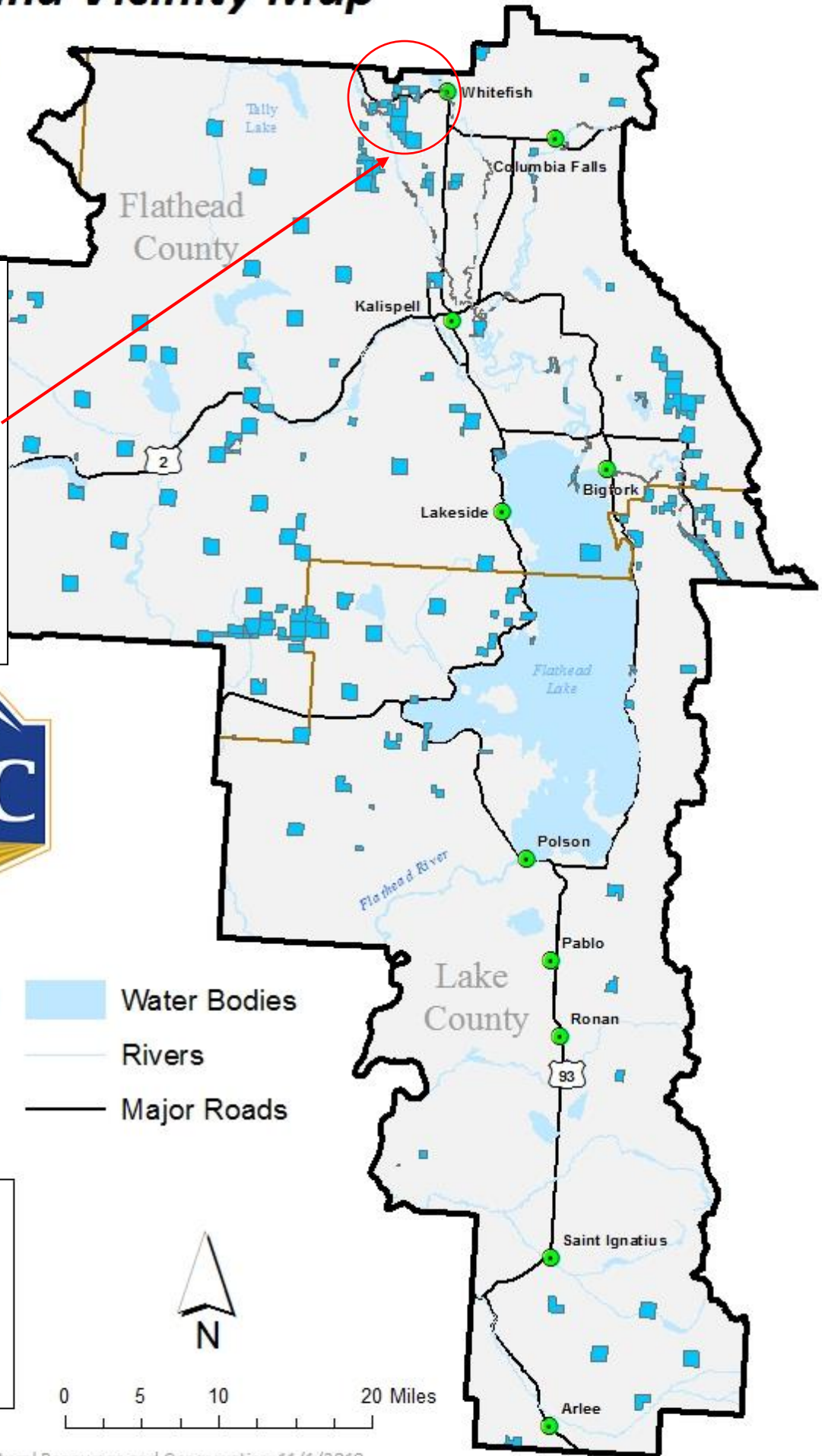
The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment, so all volumes, acreages and road distances are preliminary estimates. The analysis and project development will reflect the terms of the Beaver Lakes Area Public Recreation Use Easement. In preparation for this project, specialists 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 **February 14, 2025** to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Attn: **Alex Golden**  
Kalispell Unit  
655 Timberwolf Pkwy  
Alexander.golden@mt.gov  
406-751-2265

# State Trust Land Vicinity Map

## Kalispell Unit



**Project Name:**  
 Spencer to Beaver Timber Sale

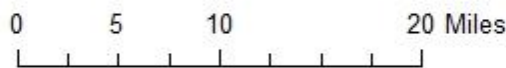
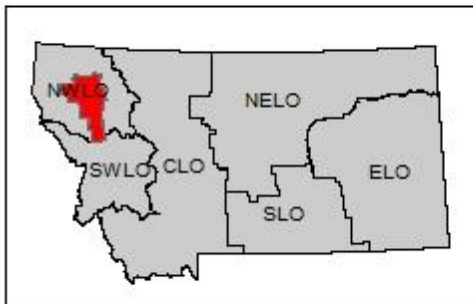
**Project Location:** Whitefish, MT

**Section: Township: Range:**  
 Section 4,5,9,15, 16 Township 30N, Range 22W  
 Section 8,17,18,19,20,33 Township 31N, Range 22W

**County:** Flathead

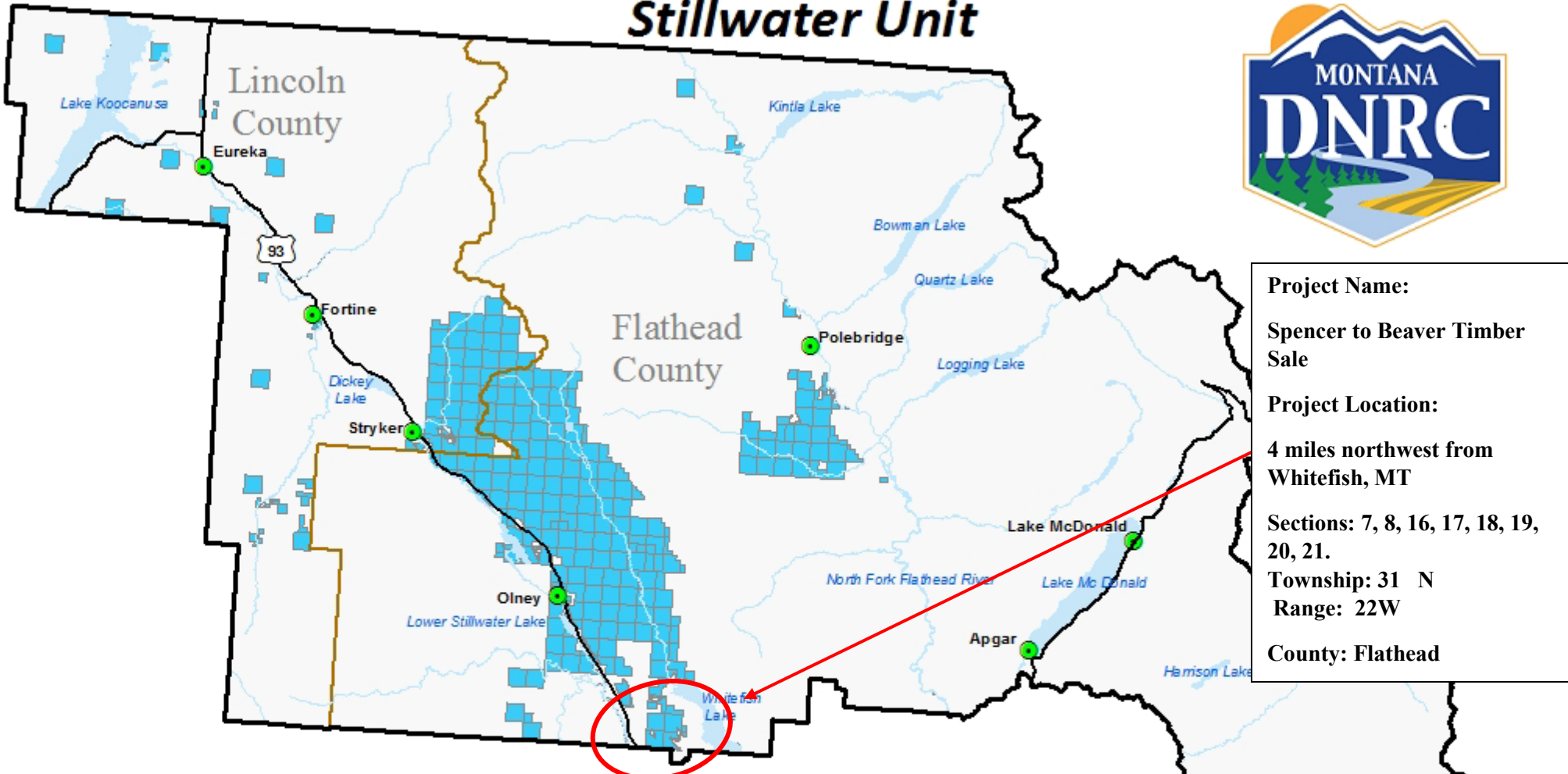


- State Trust Land
- Water Bodies
- Towns
- Rivers
- County Lines
- Major Roads



# State Trust Land Vicinity Map

## Stillwater Unit



**Project Name:**  
Spencer to Beaver Timber Sale

**Project Location:**  
4 miles northwest from Whitefish, MT

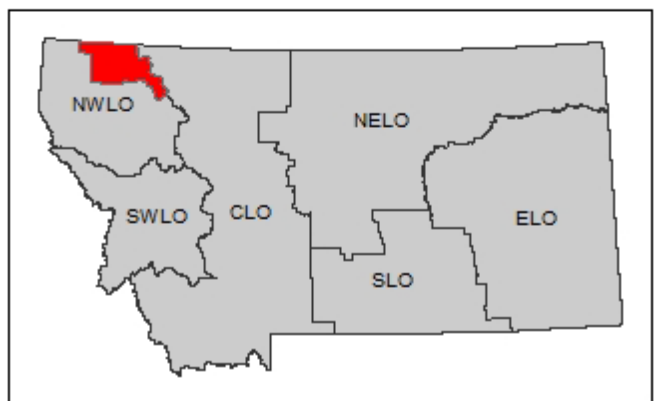
**Sections:** 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21.

**Township:** 31 N

**Range:** 22W

**County:** Flathead

*Spencer to Beaver Timber Sale VICINITY MAP*



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

