



**Initial Proposal
Wild Rice Timber Sale
04 November 2025**

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

Section 16, Township 17 North, Range 15 West

The Wild Rice Timber Sale is proposed on DNRC-managed land approximately four miles north of the town of Seeley Lake, Montana. The project is located immediately east of State Route 83 near Rice Creek.

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 Common Schools Trust. Other objectives include improving forest stand health and vigor, reducing fuel loading, and capturing economic value of dead/dying trees before it is lost.

The proposed harvest would take place under a single timber sale. The project would remove approximately one and a half million board feet (approximately 9,000 tons) from 640 acres. Silvicultural prescriptions would include individual tree selection, seed tree, shelterwood, overstory removal, and salvage harvest of beetle-killed and infested trees. The proposed harvest is in accordance with State Statute 77-1-202 and would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by State Statute 77-5-222. The timber sale would likely be implemented in September 2026 and conclude by 2028.

Road maintenance and improvements would be implemented on approximately 5.8 miles of existing road to improve function and drainage of the haul route. Approximately one mile of new permanent road construction, and one-half mile of new temporary road construction may be necessary to access proposed harvest units.

Noxious weed management, pre-commercial thinning, possible timber permits, prescribed burning, and tree planting may also occur under the proposed plan.

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 **04 December 2025** to:

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



State Trust Land Vicinity Map

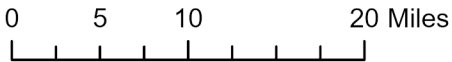
Clearwater Unit

Wild Rice Timber Sale

Section: 16
Township: 17 North
Range: 15 West
County: Missoula



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



Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – 2025
NAD 1983 State Plane

