



February 10, 2026

Initial Proposal Bear Creek Riparian Restoration

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has received a request from the Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership (SMSP) to perform riparian restoration on approximately 8 acres on state land in the Bear Creek area of Beaverhead County.

The project would be contained within the DNRC managed lands located in:

Section 26, T10S R15W

The overarching goal of the Bear Creek Riparian Restoration Project is to improve riparian condition in an 8-acre portion of the creek's floodplain where conifer encroachment and channel incision have led to decreased woody riparian cover and lowered water tables over the last 70+ years. The project proposes a combination of conifer removal and the installation of instream structures to address current stream degradation by elevating water tables, encouraging the expansion of riparian vegetation, and ultimately allowing beaver to naturally recolonize the project area.

The DNRC is soliciting public input on whether to authorize this proposal as part of their Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) analysis.

The DNRC invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from interested parties. For further information on this proposed project, you may contact the Dillon Unit Forest Action Plan Forester, Michaela Kalinowski at michaela.kalinowski@mt.gov. We will be accepting comments until **March 16, 2026, at 5 pm**. Please respond to:

Montana DNRC
Attn: Michaela Kalinowski
840 North Montana
Dillon, MT 59725

Sincerely,

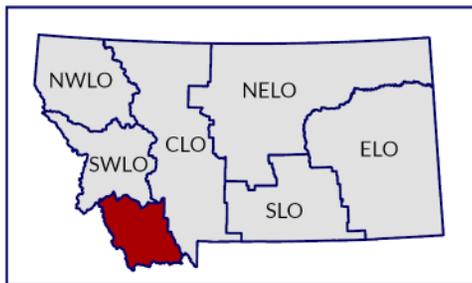
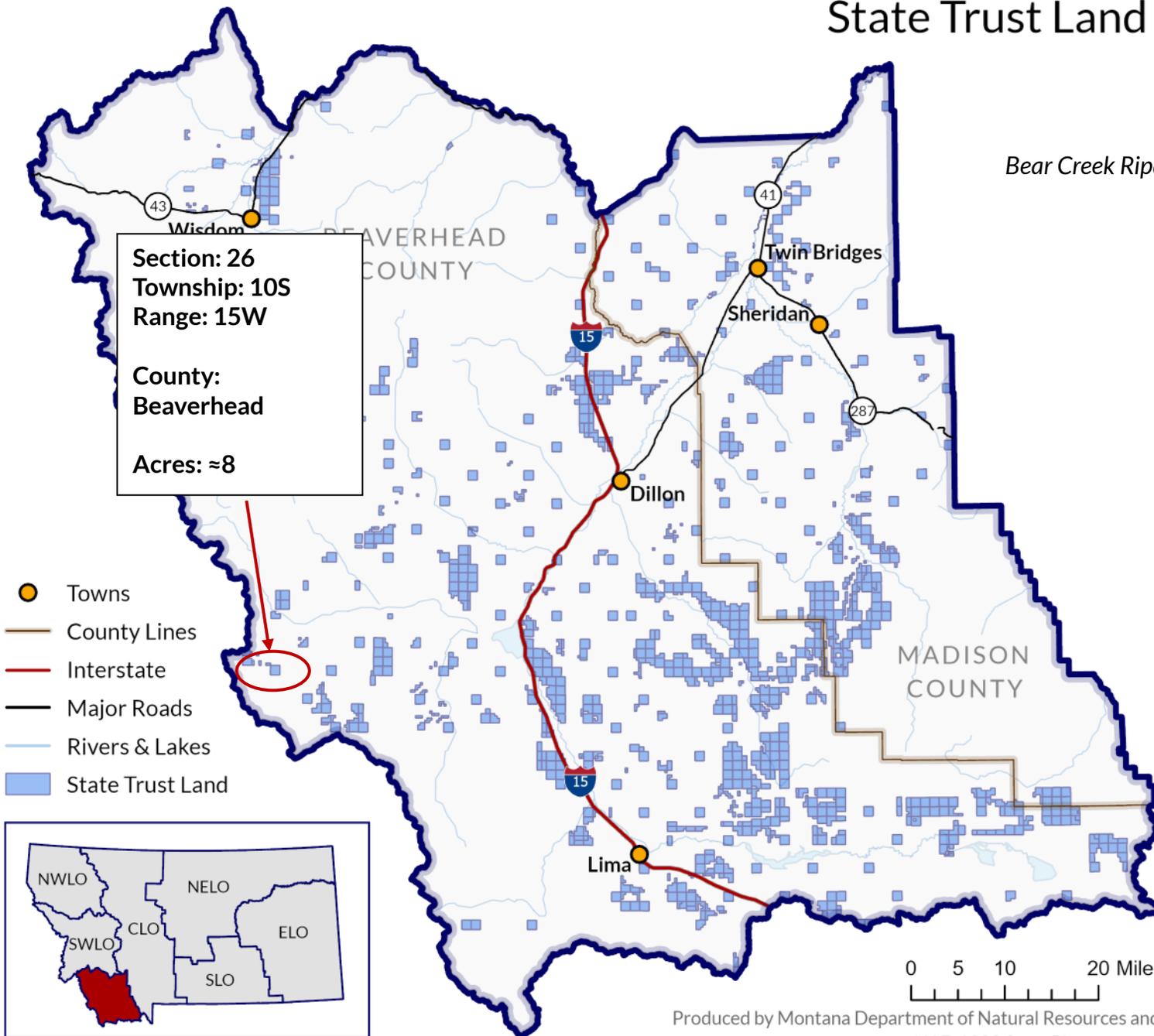
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michaela Kalinowski".

Michaela Kalinowski
Forest Action Plan Forester
406-925-7076



State Trust Land Vicinity Map Dillon Unit

Bear Creek Riparian Restoration Project



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