

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Trust Lands Management Division • Central Land Office • Helena

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Scoping Notice Fox Farm Easement Application May 10, 2023

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Helena Unit of the Central Land Office has received an easement application for public park and recreation purposes on Department managed State Trust Lands in the southwestern area of Great Falls immediately off Fox Farm Road, described as Government Lots 6 and 7 in Section 23, Township 20 North, Range 3 East. The application proposes to encumber 79.27 acres of the total 85.01-acre state-owned tract. The remaining 5.74 acres in the southeast corner of the tract is currently leased for commercial purposes and will not be included within the proposed easement.

The State Trust Lands within this project were acquired by the State in 1889 pursuant to the Enabling Act in fulfillment of acreage allocations to support the University of Montana.

The Missouri River Open Lands Preservation engaged Cascade County to apply for the easement. Easements on State Trust Land may only be held by a qualified public entity, such as a local or county government. MROLP shall bear all costs associated with the submission.

DNRC is soliciting public input on whether to issue the easement application in compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. Public engagement is important and public comments are the most effective way to provide input. DNRC seeks substantive comments to inform its decision-making. A substantive comment could be one that identifies an issue, alternative, or a resource that should be examined further. DNRC does not base its decisions on a count or tally of how many comments are for or against the project or how many times a certain issue or alternative is brought up. Comments may be submitted electronically or by mail.

In preparation for this MEPA analysis specialists including wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, and archeologists may be consulted. DNRC strives to balance its fiduciary responsibilities with its stewardship responsibilities that are intended to promote biodiversity and subsequently protect the future income-generating capacity of State Trust Lands.

The 30-day comment period pertaining to the easement application opens May 15, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. (MST) with comments accepted until 5:00 p.m. (MST) on June 15, 2023. For further information on the proposed project and to submit comment online, visit: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/land-transactions-easements/Fox-Farm-Easement-Application>.

Written comments may be submitted to: DNRC Helena Unit, Attn: Fox Farm Easement Application Comments, 8001 N. Montana Ave., Helena, MT 59602

The Seal of the State of Montana is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text "THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MONTANA" in a serif font. The inner circle depicts a landscape with a river, mountains, and a sailing ship. The year "1889" is inscribed at the bottom of the inner circle.

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Fox Farm Proposed Easement Map

Legend:

- DNRC Trust Lands Proposed For Easement (Blue shaded area)
- DNRC Trust Lands Excluded From Proposed Easement (Red hatched area)

Map Labels:

- Grizzly Dr
- Fox Farm Rd
- 22
- 20N3E
- Island View Dr
- 45th Ave SW
- 27
- 28
- Missouri River
- Taylor Island
- 26

Scale: 0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Source: Esri, DeLorme, GeoEye, United States Geological Survey, City of Grant Falls, Montana State Library, © OpenStreetMap, Wikimapia, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NAVTEQ, NOAA, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, Maxar

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