#### **AGENDA**

#### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS

#### March 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

# Supreme Court Chambers, Mazurek Justice Building Helena, MT

#### **ACTION ITEMS**:

#### 0323-1 <u>Timber Sales</u>

#### A. Brown's Ranch

Benefits: Common Schools Location: Flathead County

#### B. Cripple Horse 12

Benefits: Public Buildings Location: Lincoln County

#### C. Lower McKillop

Benefits: Common Schools Location: Lincoln County

#### D. Pasture Draw

Benefits: Common Schools and Public Buildings

Location: Ravalli County

#### E. Top Secret

Benefits: Common Schools Location: Granite County

#### 0323-2 Communitization Agreement: George #2H, Blinda #3H, and Jeri #4H Wells

Benefits: Common Schools Location: Roosevelt County

#### 0323-3 Oil and Gas Lease Sale (March 7, 2023)

Benefits: Common Schools

Location: Dawson and Toole Counties

#### 0323-4 Cabin and Home Site Sales: Set Minimum Bid for Sale

Benefits: MSU 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant Location: Missoula County

#### 0323-5 Cabin and Home Site Sales: Final Approval for Sale

#### A. Missoula County

Benefits: MSU 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant and Pine Hills School

Location: Missoula County

#### **B. Big Horn County**

Benefits: Common Schools Location: Big Horn County

#### 0323-6 Land Use License

Benefits: Navigable Waterways

Location: Stillwater River, Flathead County

#### 0323-7 Easements: Standard Grants

Benefits: Common Schools and MSU 2nd Grant

Location: Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Golden Valley, Liberty, Missoula, and Prairie

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

# 0323-1

### **TIMBER SALES:**

- A. Brown's Ranch
- B. Cripple Horse 12
  - C. Lower McKillop
    - D. Pasture Draw
      - E. Top Secret

0323-1A Timber Sale: Brown's Ranch

**Location:** Flathead County

Section 16, T25N R23W

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools Trust

**Trust Revenue:** \$204,843 (estimated, minimum bid)

#### **Item Summary**

**Location:** The Brown's Ranch Timber Sale is located approximately 13 miles south of Marion, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes 4 harvest units (575 acres) of ground-based tractor logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 15,507 tons (2.195 MMBF) of sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$19.40 per ton for non-ponderosa pine sawlogs and \$1.00 for ponderosa pine sawlogs, which would generate approximately \$204,843 for the Common Schools Trust and approximately \$58,306 in Forest Improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize a combination of commercial thinning and overstory removal harvest prescriptions designed to sanitize the stand of insect and disease activity, produce even aged stands, and promote forest health.

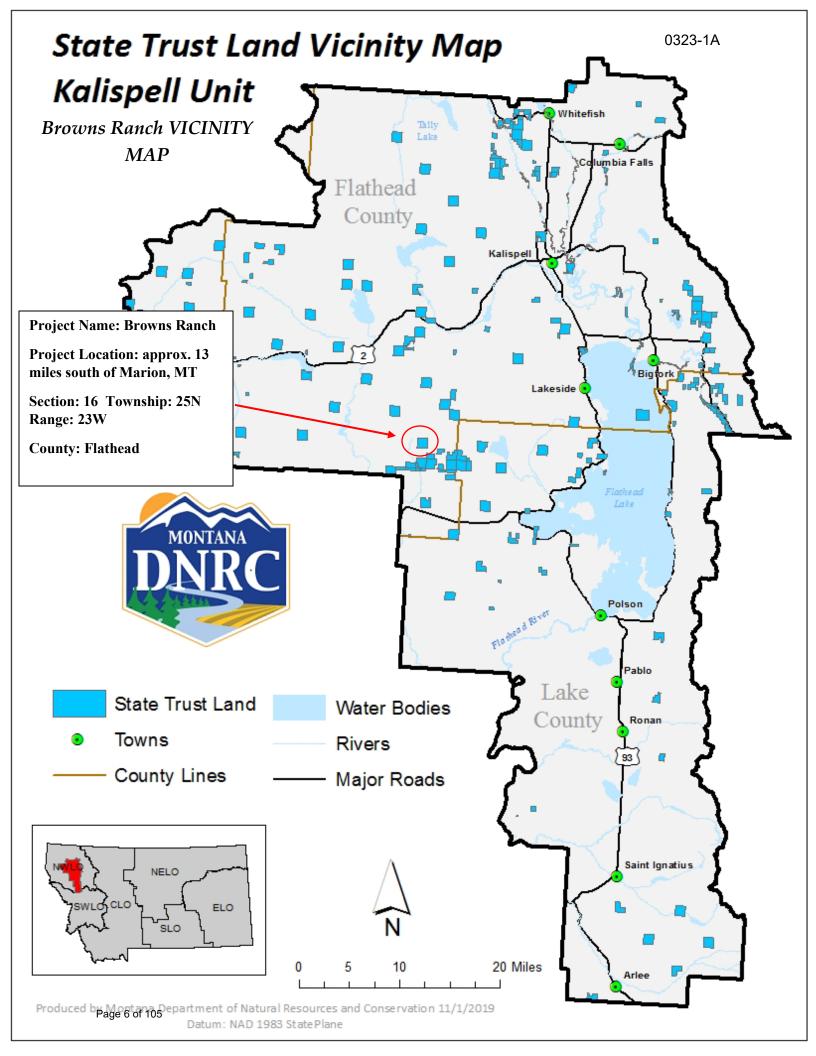
**Road Construction/Maintenance:** The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 8.4 miles of road maintenance.

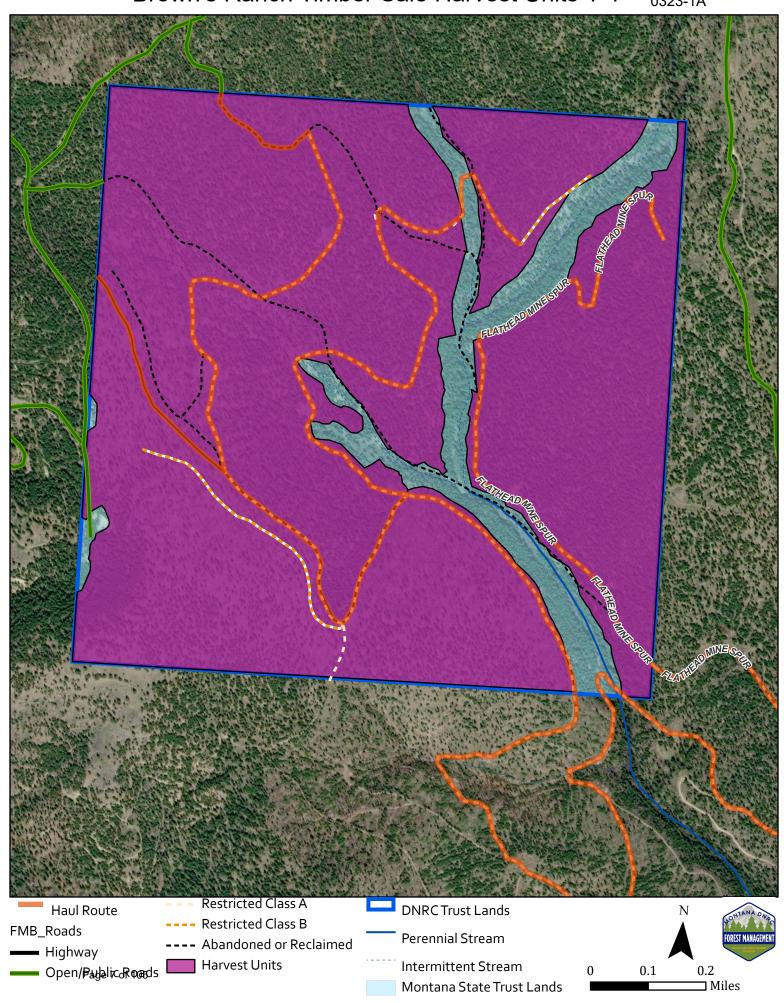
Access: Access is obtained through existing easements with Flathead Ridge Ranch.

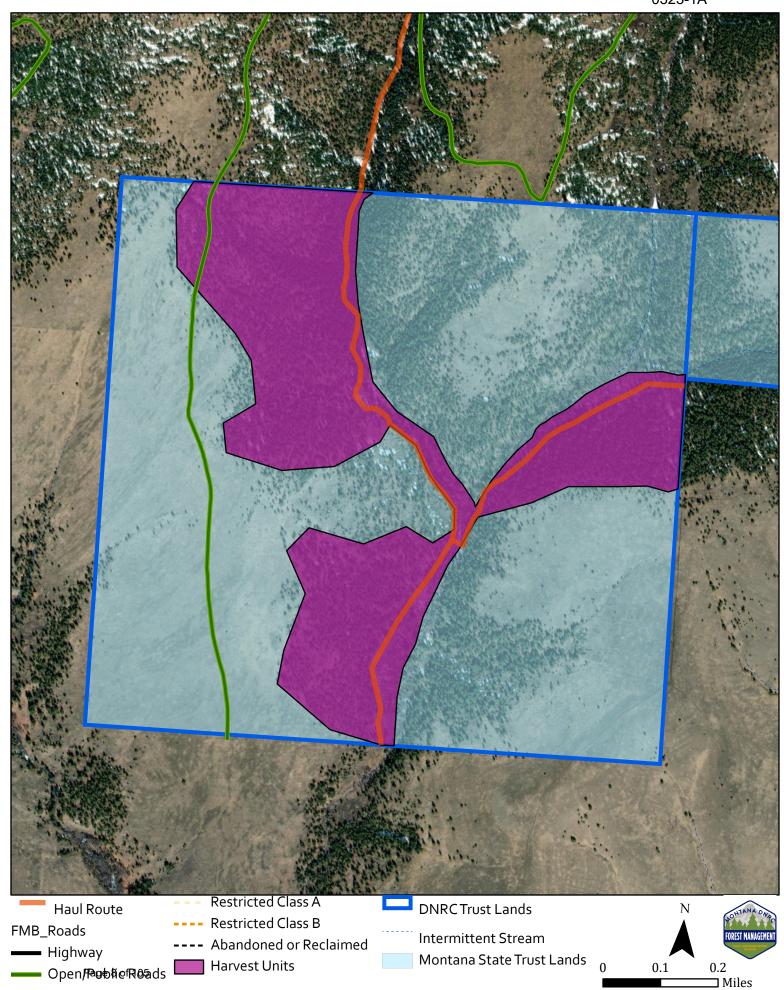
**Public Comments:** Two public comments were received. One comment of support was received from an industry representative. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) expressed concern related to wildlife and road construction. DNRC explained the project would follow the Department's Forest Management Rules and Habitat Conservation Plan and will continue communication with FWP throughout the project.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Brown's Ranch Timber Sale.







0323-1B Timber Sale: Cripple Horse 12

**Location:** Lincoln County

Section 12, T31N, R29W

Trust Beneficiaries: Public Buildings

**Trust Revenue:** \$156,245 (estimated, minimum bid)

#### **Item Summary**

**Location:** The Cripple Horse 12 Timber Sale is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Libby, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes 2 harvest units (151 acres) of tractor logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 10,259 tons (1.6 *MMBF*) of sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$15.23 per ton, which would generate approximately \$156,245 for the Public Buildings Trust and approximately \$42,780 in Forest Improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize a shelterwood harvest prescription designed to increase overall forest health, reduce fuel loading, and produce revenue for the Public Buildings trust.

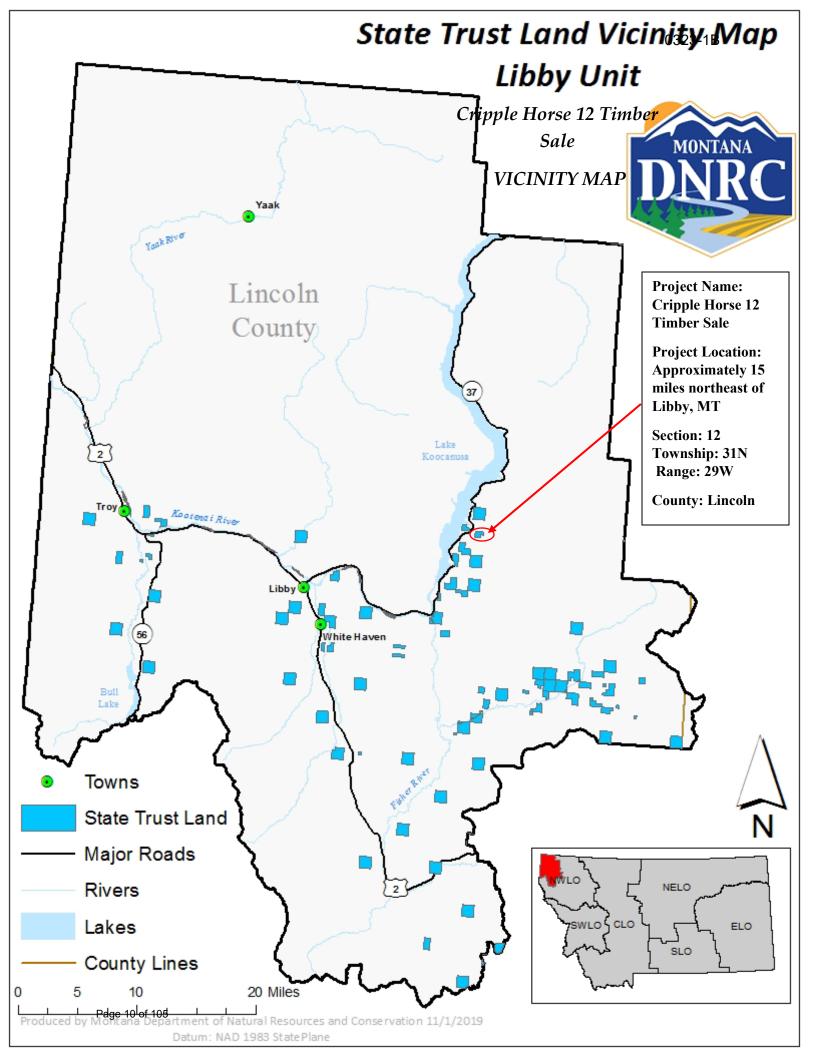
**Road Construction/Maintenance:** The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 0.8 miles of new permanent road construction, 0.6 miles of road reconstruction and 1.6 miles of road maintenance.

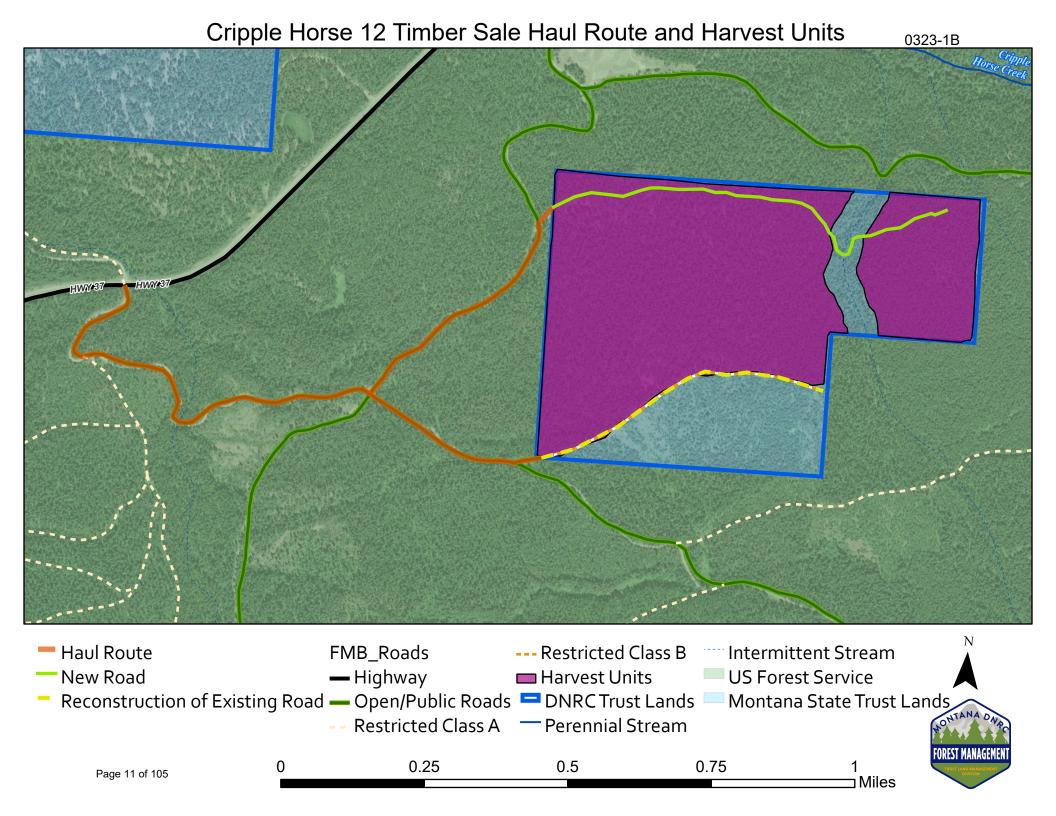
Access: Access is obtained through an easement with the United States Forest Service.

**Public Comments:** One public comment was received from an industry representative in support of the project.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Cripple Horse 12 Timber Sale.





#### 0323-1C <u>Timber Sale: Lower McKillop</u>

**Location:** Lincoln County

Section 36, T28N, R29W

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools

**Trust Revenue:** \$182,959 (estimated, minimum bid)

#### **Item Summary**

**Location:** The Lower McKillop Timber Sale is located approximately 21 miles southeast of Libby, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes 4 harvest units (*519 acres*) of skyline and tractor logging, as well as 11 acres of optional skyline logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 25,553 tons (3.76 *MMBF*) of Sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$7.16 per ton, which would generate approximately \$182,959 for the Common Schools Trust and approximately \$100,168 in Forest Improvement fees.

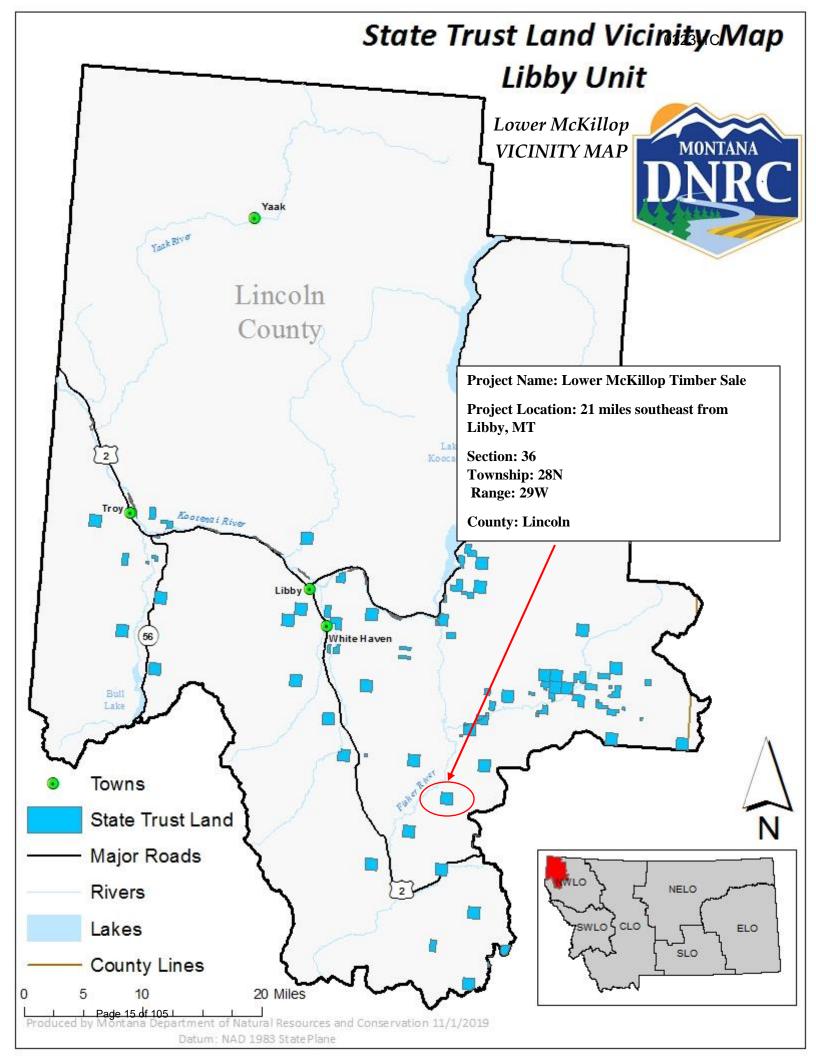
**Prescription:** This sale would utilize a shelterwood harvest prescription, designed to capture the value of disease and insect-infested timber and reduce fuel load, and an old growth restoration harvest prescription, designed to maintain the old growth characteristics by removing shade tolerant species and promoting the retention of healthy seral species.

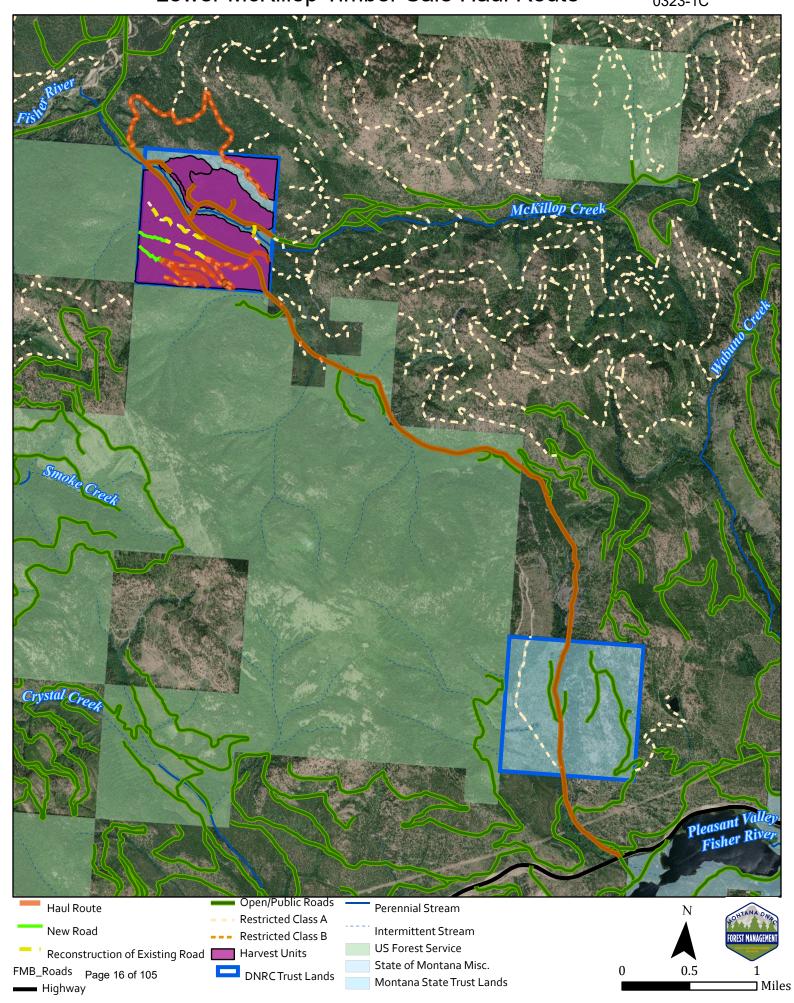
**Road Construction/Maintenance:** The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 0.5 miles of new permanent road construction, 0.91 miles of road reconstruction, 0.08 miles of road maintenance, and 5.4 miles of road maintenance with site improvements.

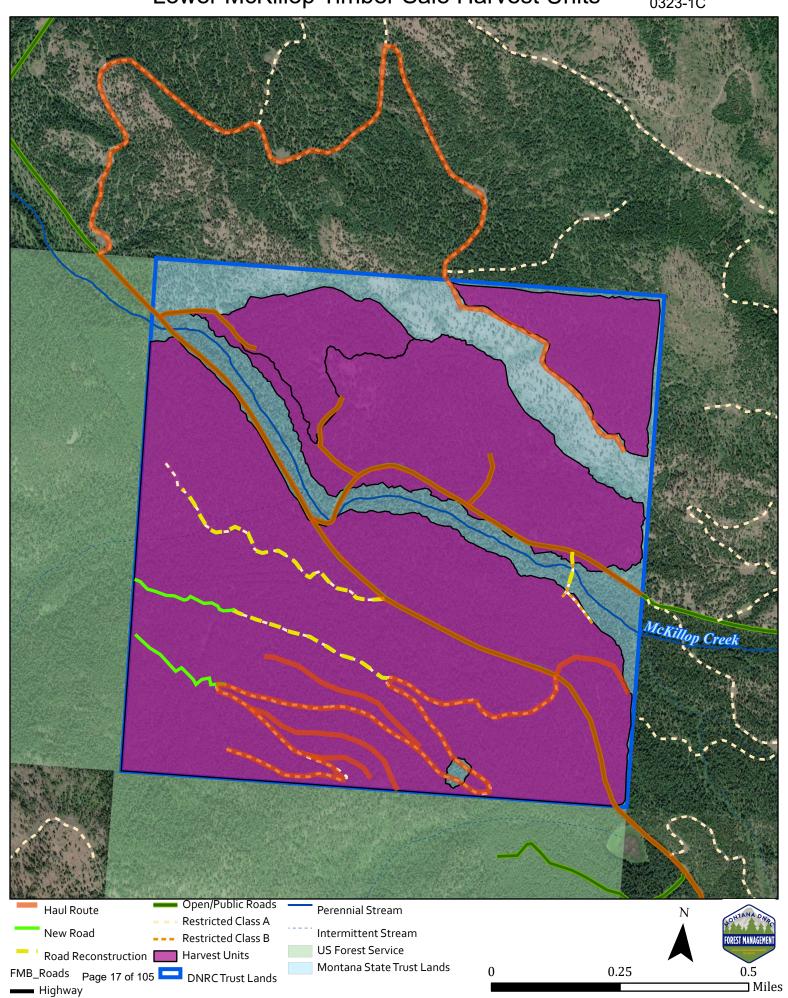
**Access:** Access is obtained through existing easements and a temporary road use permit obtained through the United States Forest Service.

**Public Comments:** Five public comments were received. Two industry representatives commented in support of the project. One comment of concurrence was received from a representative from Blackfeet Tribe. Lincoln County Noxious Weed Department expressed concern about noxious weeds and DNRC formulated a plan to mitigate noxious weeds in the sale area. A representative from Northern Cheyenne Tribe requested an archaeological report. The DNRC archeologist conducted a Class I report and did not find any evidence of cultural resources in the project area.

<u>DNRC Recommendation</u>:
The DNRC recommends the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Lower McKillop Timber Sale.







#### 0323-1D Timber Sale: Pasture Draw

**Location:** Ravalli County

Section 25,26,34,35,36, T2N, R19w

**Trust Beneficiaries:** Common Schools (55%) and Public Buildings (45%)

**Trust Revenue:** \$67,864 (estimated, minimum bid)

#### **Item Summary**

**Location:** The Pasture Draw Timber Sale is located approximately 4.2 miles northeast of Sula, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes 2 harvest units (466 acres) of tractor logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 9,038 tons (1.09MMBF) of sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$7.51 per ton, which would generate approximately \$67,864 for the Common Schools and Public Building Trust and approximately \$23,766 in Forest Improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize an individual tree selection harvest prescription designed to reduce insect and disease issues and move stand conditions to the desired future condition of ponderosa pine.

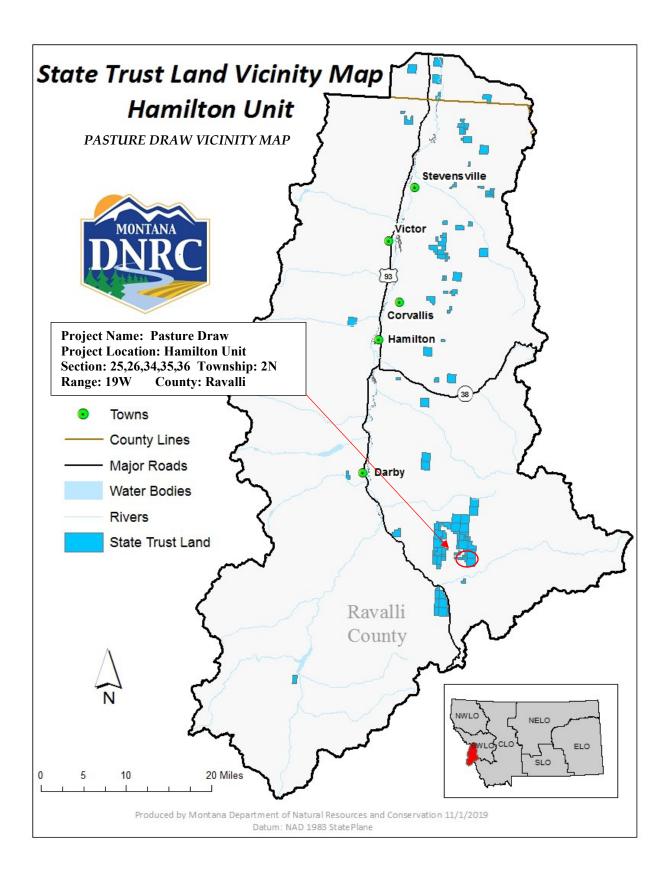
**Road Construction/Maintenance:** In conjunction with the harvest, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 0.5 miles of road reconstruction and 8.2 miles of road maintenance

**Access:** Access to the timber sale is obtained through Reciprocal Access Agreement with the United States Forest Service.

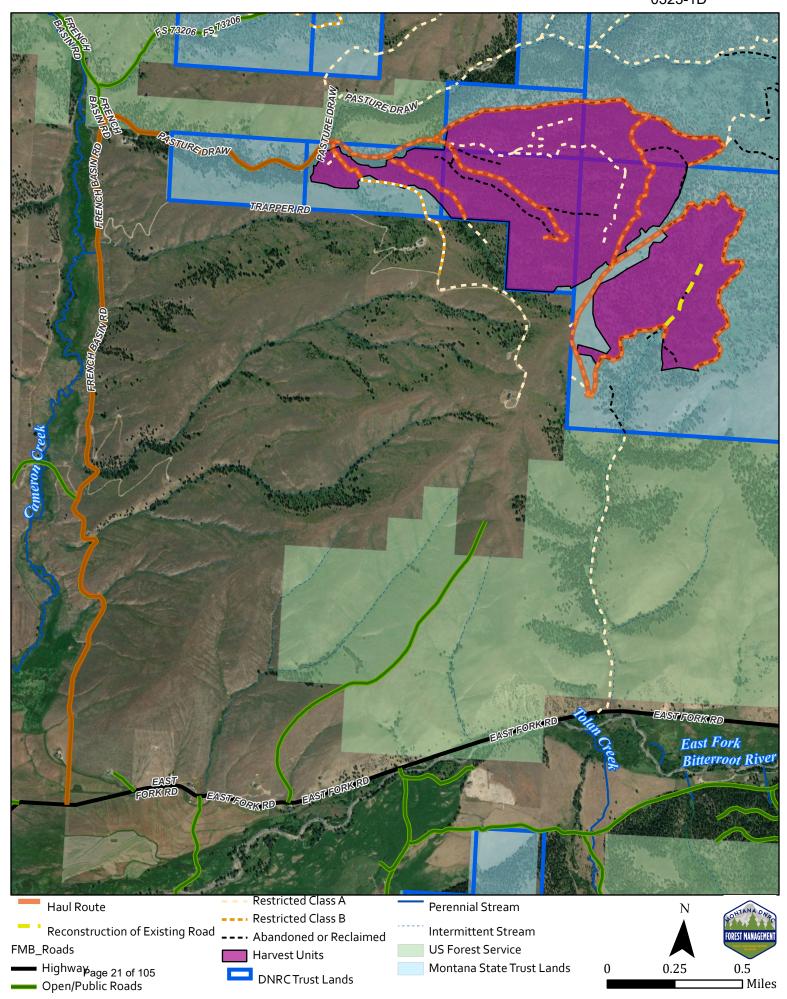
**Public Comments:** Four comments were received. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe did not have any concerns pertaining to sites of cultural significance within the project area. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks expressed concerns related to wildlife and retention of adequate large live and standing dead trees. Two comments were received from neighboring landowners concerned about logging traffic, roads, noxious weeds and slash piles. All public concerns were addressed in the Pasture Draw Timber Sale Environmental Assessment.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Pasture Draw Timber Sale.



### Pasture Draw Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units



0323-1E Timber Sale: Top Secret

**Location:** Granite County

Section 16 T12N R14W

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools

**Trust Revenue:** \$125,798 (estimated, minimum bid)

#### **Item Summary**

**Location:** The Top Secret Timber Sale is located approximately 40 miles east of Missoula, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes 4 harvest units (340 acres) of ground-based logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 11,192 tons (*1.65 MMBF*) of primarily Douglas-Fir sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$11.24 per ton, which would generate approximately \$125,798 for the Common Schools Trust and approximately \$35,926 in Forest Improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize an individual tree selection harvest prescription designed to harvest insect and disease infected trees, increase stand growth and vigor, and move the stand toward the desired future condition.

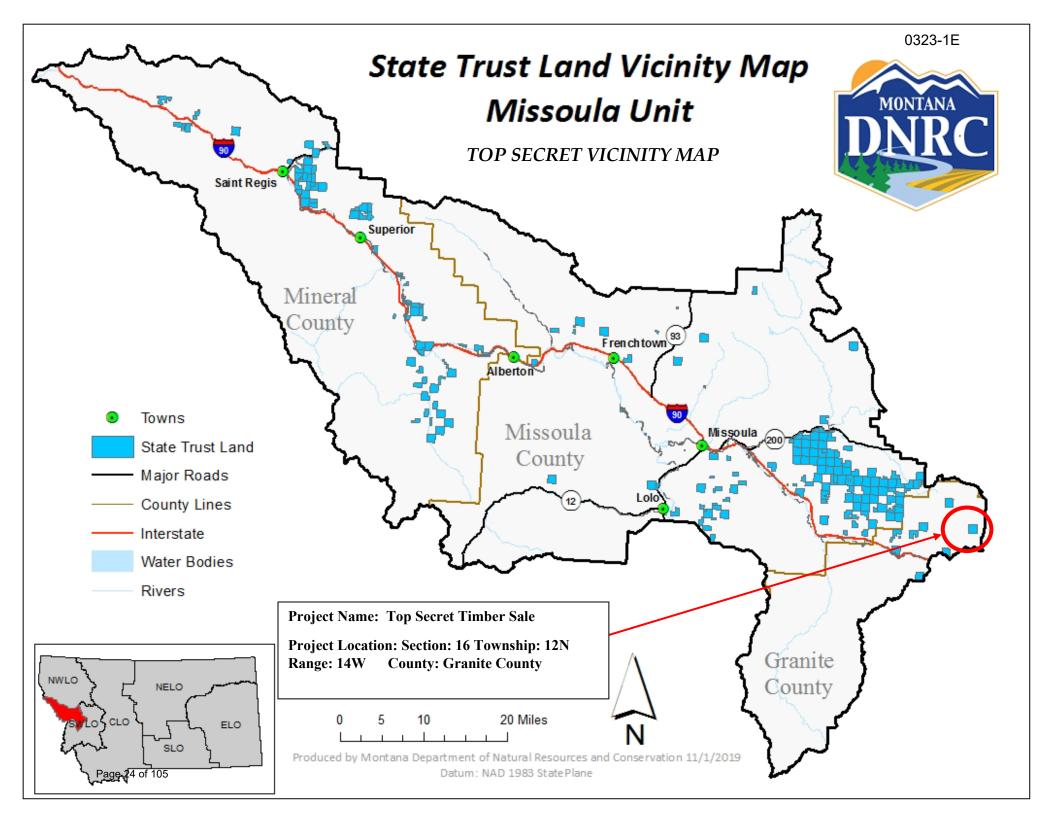
**Road Construction/Maintenance:** In conjunction with the sale, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 0.3 miles of new permanent road construction and 6.1 miles of road maintenance.

**Access:** Access to the project area is obtained through county roads and a DNRC-owned easement through private property.

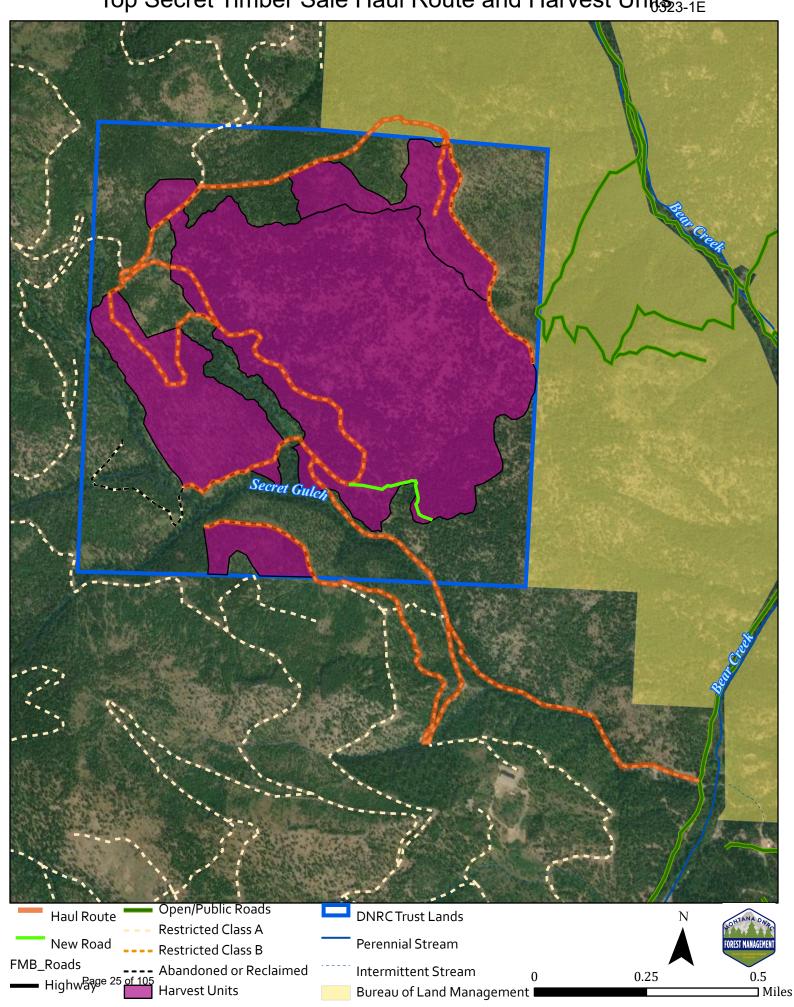
**Public Comments:** No comments related to the project were received.

#### **DNRC** Recommendation

The DNRC recommends the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Top Secret Timber Sale.



Top Secret Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units 3-1E



# 0323-2

# **COMMUNITIZATION AGREEMENT:**

George #2H, Blinda #3H and Jeri #4H Wells

#### 0323-2 Communitization Agreement: George #2H, Blinda #3H, and Jeri #4H wells

**Location:** Roosevelt County

T27N R57E Sections 3 & 10 T28N R57E Section 34

Trust Benefits: Common Schools

Trust Revenue: Unknown

#### **Item Summary**

Kraken Oil & Gas has filed a request with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for the approval of a communitization agreement to communitize State owned acreage in conformity with Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (BOGC) regulations.

A communitization agreement brings together small tracts of land within a spacing unit for the distribution of production revenues. The agreement allows the State to receive its proper royalty share of production revenues from the spacing unit.

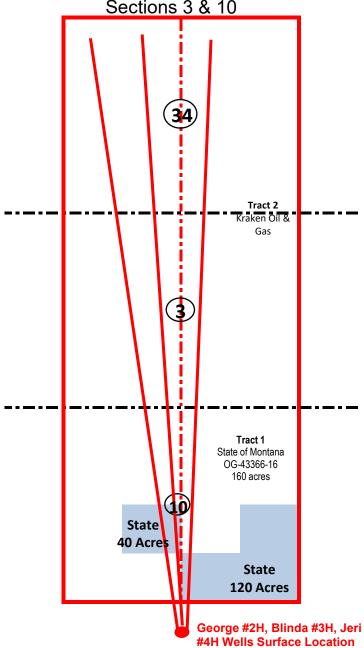
The George #2H, Blinda #3H and Jeri #4H wells are horizontal Bakken/Three Forks formation oil wells. The wells are located approximately 9 miles southeast of Culberston and were drilled on surface in Section 15. DNRC owns 160.00 acres of the 1920.00 mineral acres in the permanent spacing unit that will be communitized. The Agreement encompasses any wells producing from the Bakken/Three Forks Formation in the spacing unit comprised of Sections 3 & 10 of T27N R57E and Section 34 of T28N R57E.

The DNRC tract comprises 8.33% of the communitized area. DNRC will consequently receive 1.389% of all oil production (16.67% royalty rate x 8.33% tract participation).

#### **DNRC** Recommendation

The Director recommends the Land Board approve this Communitization Agreement.

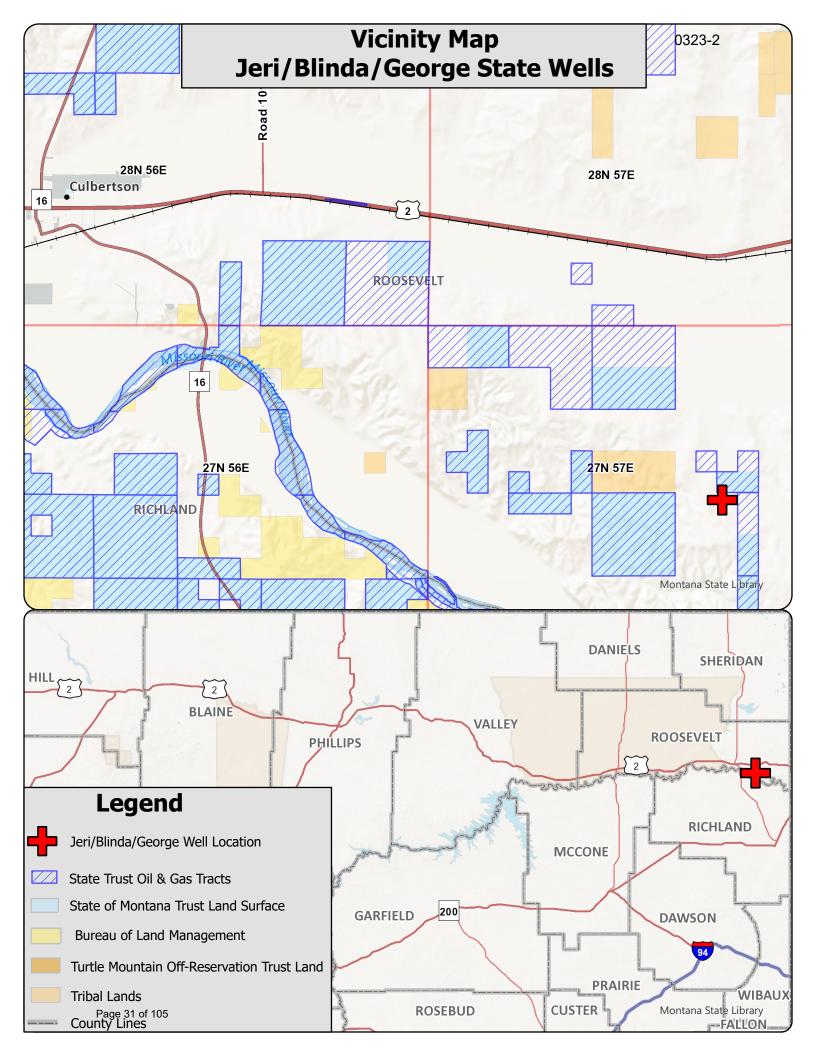
# Township 28 North Range 57 East Section 34 Township 28 North Range 57 East Sections 3 & 10



	Tract No.	Туре		Acres	Tract Participation	Royalty %	Owner's Interest		
	1	State of Montana OG-43366-16		160.00	8.333333%	16.67%	1.389167%		
2 Kraker		Kraken Oil 8	k Gas	1760.00	91.666667%	NULL	14.850840%		

Total 1,920.00 100.000000%

<sup>\*</sup> The Operator of the Communitized Area is Kraken Oil & Gas



# 0323-3

**OIL AND GAS SALE:** 

(March 7, 2023)

0323-3 Oil and Gas Lease Sale (March 7, 2023)

Location: Dawson, Toole

Trust Benefits: Common Schools

**Trust Revenue: \$4,474.00** 

#### **Item Summary**

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) held an online oil and gas lease sale that began on March 1, 2023, and closed on March 7, 2023, through an online auction company, EnergyNet. A total of five tracts were offered for lease. Five tracts were leased for a total of \$4,474.00. The five tracts that were sold covered a total of 2,237.00 acres. The average bid per acre was \$2.00.

The high competitive bid for the March 7, 2023 sale was \$2.75 per acre and the largest total bid was \$1,760.00 for Tract 5 in Toole County.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The director requests Land Board approval to issue the leases from the March 7, 2023, oil and gas lease sale.

# State of Montana Oil & Gas Lease Sale - March 7, 2023 Lease Sale Results

The following described lands were offered for oil and gas leasing through an online bidding service, EnergyNet, beginning March 1, 2023 and closed on March 7, 2023.

Tract Stipulations	Twp Rng	Sec Description	Acres	Bid/Acre	Total Bid Lessee
Dawson					
1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	13.N 56.E	16 ALL	640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00 PRIMARY FUELS, LLC
2 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	16.N 54.E	10 NE4	160.00	\$1.50	\$240.00 PRIMARY FUELS, LLC
3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	16.N 54.E	12 S2NE4, SE4NW4, NE4SW4	160.00	\$1.50	\$240.00 PRIMARY FUELS, LLC
4 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12	16.N 54.E	36 LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, N2, N2S2	637.00	\$2.00	\$1,274.00 PETRO-HUNT, LLC
Toole					
5 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	37.N 2.E	36 ALL	640.00	\$2.75	\$1,760.00 CABRIN EXPLORATION, INC.

<sup>\*</sup> Part or all of tract is not state-owned surface

### **Summary by Lessor**

	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Total Tracts</b>
Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation	2,237.00	5

### Oil and Gas Lease Sale Summary

Total Tracts	5
Total Acres	2,237.00
Total Bid Revenue	\$4,474.00
Average Bid Per Acre	\$2.00

## State of Montana Oil & Gas Lease Sale - March 7, 2023 Stipulations

- 1 Lessee shall notify and obtain approval from the Department's Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) prior to constructing well pads, roads, power lines, and related facilities that may require surface disturbance on the tract. Lessee shall comply with any mitigation measures stipulated in TLMD's approval.
- 2 Prior to the drilling of any well on or into the lease premises, lessee shall send one copy of the well prognosis, including Form 22 "Application for Permit" to the Department's Trust Land Management Division (TLMD). After a well is drilled and completed, lessee shall send one copy of all logs run, Form 4A "Completion Report", and geologic report to TLMD. A copy of Form 2 "Sundry Notice and Report of Wells" or other appropriate Board of Oil and Gas Conservation form shall be sent to TLMD whenever any subsequent change in well status or operator is intended or has occurred. Lessee shall also notify and obtain approval from the TLMD prior to plugging a well on the lease premises.

Issuance of this lease in no way commits the Land Board to approval of coal bed methane production on this lease. Any coal bed methane extraction wells would require subsequent review and approval by the board.

- 3 The TLMD will complete an initial review for cultural resources and, where applicable, paleontological resources of the area intended for disturbance and may require a resources inventory. Based on the results of the inventory, the TLMD may restrict surface activity for the purpose of protecting significant resources located on the lease premises.
- 4 The lessee shall be responsible for controlling any noxious weeds introduced by lessee's activity on State-owned land and shall prevent or eradicate the spread of those noxious weeds onto land adjoining the lease premises. The lessee's methods of control shall be reviewed and approved by the Department's Unit Office that has jurisdiction for that locale.
- 5 The definitions of "oil" and "gas" provided in 82-1-111, MCA, do not apply to this lease for royalty calculation purposes.
- 6 If the State does not own the surface, the lessee must contact the owner of the surface in writing at least 30 days prior to any surface activity. A copy of the correspondence shall be sent to TLMD.
- 7 Due to unstable soil conditions on this tract and/or topography that is rough and/or steep, surface use may be restricted or denied. Seismic activity may be restricted to poltershots.
- 8 This lease is located within designated sage grouse general habitat. Proposed activities are subject to, and shall comply with, all provisions, stipulations and mitigation requirements of the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, as implemented by Governor's Executive Orders 10-2014, 12-2015, and amendments thereto. Contact the TLMD prior to preparing a project proposal.
- 9 Due to the floodplain/wetlands area(s), surface use may be restricted or denied.
- 10 This tract has (an) existing well(s) and related facilities. The lessee has 45 days from the effective date of this lease to determine whether or not to assume responsibility from the former lessee for the well(s) and any existing facilities. The lessee may not enter the well(s) until a change of operator has been filed with, and approved by, the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation. If a change of operator is accepted, the(se) well(s) must be returned to commercial production or plugged and the well site(s) reclaimed within 18 months from the effective date of this lease.
- 11 No surface occupancy will be permitted in the hatched portion of the DFWP easement area shown on the accompanying topographic map and 2017 aerial photo (unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director of MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks).

12 MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MT-DFWP) holds a permanent public park and recreation easement D-12389 on 357.28 surface acres, more or less, approximately north of the right-of-way of MT State Highway No. 200S for the development, maintenance and operation of a public shooting range, including associated facilities. DNRC will consult with MT-DFWP regarding oil and gas activity proposed on their easement area.

If the lessee proposes oil and gas activity on the easement area, lessee shall coordinate with MT-DNRC and MT-DFWP to determine a suitable location of proposed oil and gas well(s), related facilities and equipment for possible development and production within the easement area, but outside the no-surface-occupancy area. The location of the well(s), equipment and facilities shall be reasonable and shall not cause undue hardship to the oil and gas lessee. MT-DFWP's easement requires written concurrence that the proposed uses do not unreasonably conflict with their rights under the easement. The lessee will also work and coordinate with MT-DNRC if proposing any activity outside the MT-DFWP easement area on this tract.

## 0323-4

## **CABIN AND HOME SITE SALES:**

Set Minimum Bid for Sale

0323-4 Cabin and Home Sites: Set Minimum Bid for Sale

**Location:** Missoula County

Trust Benefits: MSU 2<sup>nd</sup>

Trust Revenue: \$247,000

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is requesting to set minimum bid for two (2) cabin sites nominated for sale in Missoula County. These sales were nominated by the lessees in conjunction with the 2022-2023 Cabin and Home Site Sales Program.

Sale No.	Acres	Legal Description	Nominator	Trust
		Lot 17, Clearwater River West Shore,		Montana
		COS 5310	John & Sheila	State
2006	1.051±	T16N-R15W, Section 10	Devins	University
				Montana
		Lot 19, Morrell Flats, COS 5840	Freda & Wade	State
2016	0.508±	T16N-R15W, Section 14	Rathbun	University

#### Background:

Preliminary Land Board approval was granted in April of 2022 (Approved 4-1) for these sites to be included as part of the 2022-2023 Cabin Site Sales Program.

#### **Cultural/Paleontological Resources:**

A Class I level of cultural resource inventory was conducted for each of the proposed sales. Home sites typically contain numerous structures and the ground surfaces within most home sites have been disturbed over the course of many years of occupation and development. These sales will have no effect to state-owned heritage properties.

#### Access/Recreational Use:

As part of the cabin site sale process, the State will convey any access that it has and can be conveyed to the purchaser of the cabin or home site property. Current cabin/home site access is limited to the lessee and does not provide access or recreational use to the general public. State lands classified as cabin or home sites are closed to general recreational use by the public in accordance with ARM 36.25.150(1)(a). Therefore, the State is not selling land under the cabin site sale program that the public is permitted to use for recreation. Rather, the funds generated by these sales will go towards purchasing new lands that will have dedicated public access and recreational opportunities.

### **Economic Analysis:**

Short term – The average rates of return on these sale parcels are shown in Figure 1 below. The parcels will continue to receive these returns if they remain in state ownership. The income rates of return will likely grow smaller, as average annual value appreciation is greater than the annual rent increase, as shown in Figures 2 and 3 below.

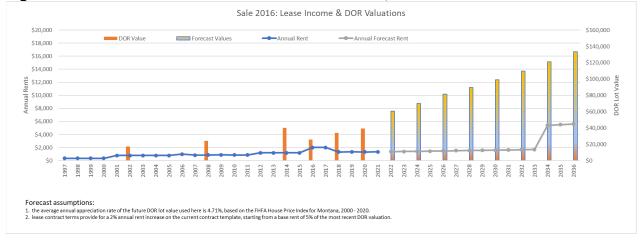
Figure 1: Rates of Return at Current Appraised Values

Sale No.	Rate of Return	Sale No.	Rate of Return
2006	1.764%	2016	1.62%

Figure 2: Sale 2006-Review of Past Income and Values; Forecast Income & Values



Figure 3: Sale 2016-Review of Past Income and Values; Forecast Income & Values



Long term – The funds from the sale of these parcels would be combined with other sale funds to purchase replacement lands through DNRC's Land Banking program. Lands purchased are required to have an equal or greater rate of return than the combined lands that generated the sale funds used for the purchase. To date, the average annual rate of return on acquisitions has been 3.33% on acquisitions with income generated from annual lease payments. However, the rates of return on land acquired more recently have been higher, ranging from 3.58% on acquisitions purchased within the last five years to 3.89% for lands acquired within the last ten years. Figure 4 shows hypothetical lot values derived from the 3-year average net revenue of the current lease, at a sample range of income rates of return that could be anticipated when the sale proceeds are used for a land banking acquisition.

Figure 4: Lot Values derived from 3-year Average Net Income at Sample Rates of Return

Sale Number		Rate of Return at Current Appraised Value for Land	Average Rate of Return on all Land Banking Acquisitions	Average Rate of Return on Land Banking Acquisitions within the last 5 years	Average Rate of Return on Land Banking Acquisitions within the last 10 years
	Income Rate of Return	Various (see Figure 1)	3.33%	3.58%	3.89%
2006	1.764%	\$181,000	\$95,861	\$89,167	\$82,061
2016	1.62%	\$66,000	\$32,657	\$30,376	\$27,955

## **Appraised Values of Land and Improvements:**

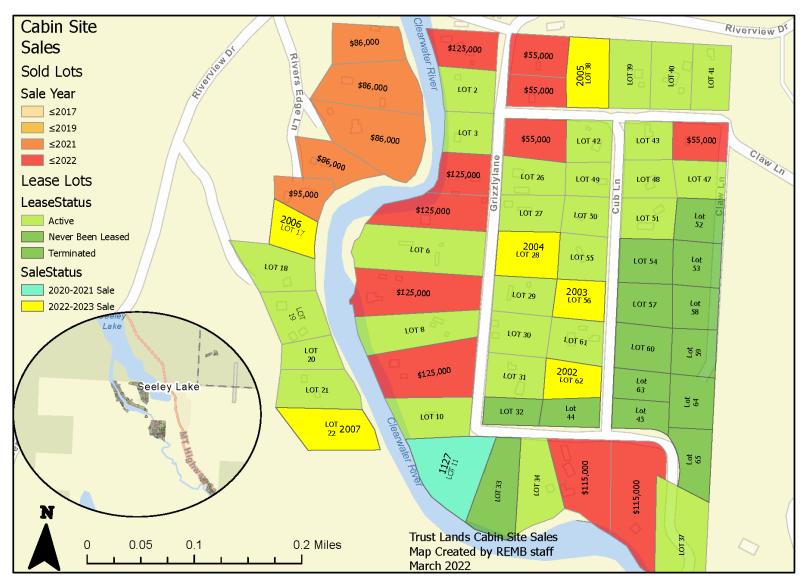
The appraisal of these cabin sites was prepared by Montana General Certified Appraiser Elliott M. Clark, MAI of Clark Real Estate Appraisal of Whitefish, Montana. Each of the sale proponents appealed the values determined by the appraiser and requested a hearing regarding the appraised land values. The administrative hearings were held on December 20, 2022. Administrative Law Judge Martin Balukas' recommendation to the Land Board was to set minimum bid at the appraised land values prepared by Montana General Certified Appraiser Elliott M. Clark, MAI of Clark Real Estate Appraisal, as shown below.

Sale Nos.	Appraised Land Value	Appraised Improvements Value
2006	\$181,000	\$475,000
2016	\$66,000	\$240,000

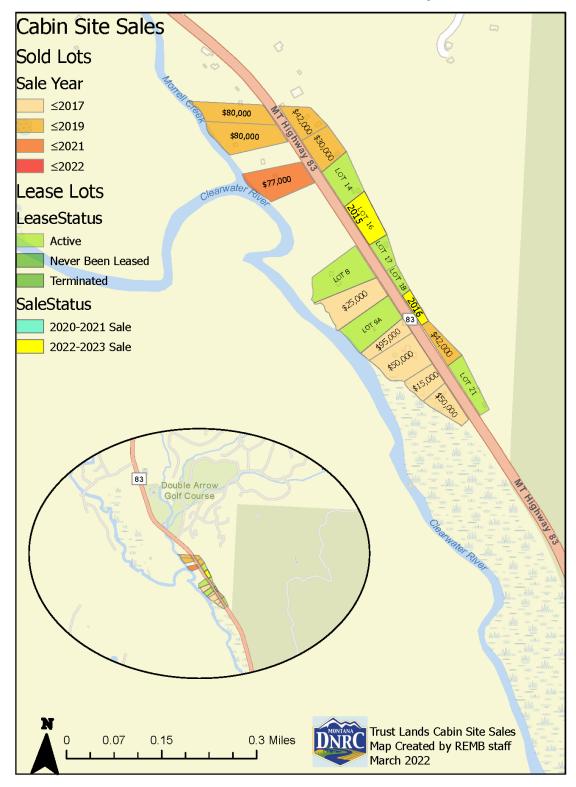
## **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board set the minimum bid for these cabin sites at the appraised land values and the maximum value of compensation for the improvements shown above.

## Clearwater River, Missoula County



## Morrell Flats, Missoula County



## 0323-5

## CABIN AND HOME SITE SALES:

Final Approval for Sale

- A. Missoula County
- B. Big Horn County

0323-5A Cabin and Home Sites: Final Approval for Sale

**Location:** Missoula County

Trust Benefits: MSU 2nd, Pine Hills School

**Trust Revenue:** \$1,906,000

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is requesting final approval for sale of fourteen (14) cabin sites nominated for sale in Missoula County. These sales were nominated by the lessees in conjunction with the 2022-2023 Cabin and Home Site Sales Program.

Sale No.	Acres	Legal Description	Nominator	Trust	
	Clearwater River East Shore Inland				
		Lot 62, Clearwater River East		Montana	
		Shore Inland, COS 6114		State	
2002	1.142±	T16N-R15W, Section 10	Stuart Cebulski	University	
		Lot 56, Clearwater River East		Montana	
		Shore Inland, COS 6114		State	
2003	1.098±	T16N-R15W, Section 10	Peter Giese	University	
		Lot 28, Clearwater River East	Rhonda Tabish;	Montana	
		Shore Inland, COS 6114	Lindsay &	State	
2004	1.58±	T16N-R15W, Section 10	Brandon Hartwell	University	
		Lot 38, Clearwater River East		Montana	
		Shore Inland, COS 6114	Brooke & Joshua	State	
2005	1.776±	T16N-R15W, Section 10	Thorson	University	
		Clearwater River West Sh	ore		
		Lot 22, Clearwater River West		Montana	
		Shore, COS 5310	Cindi & Robert	State	
2007	1.865±	T16N-R15W, Section 10	Magray	University	
	Elbow Lake				
		Lot 27, Elbow Lake		Pine Hills	
2008	0.858±	T15N-R14W, Section 20	Curtis Anderson	School	
		Lot 25, Elbow Lake, COS 4921	Dustin & Marisa	Pine Hills	
2009	0.84±	T15N-R14W, Section 20	Anderson	School	

	1			
		Lot 7, Elbow Lake, COS 4921	Boehmler Lake	Pine Hills
2010	2.17±	T15N-R14W, Section 20	Cabin, LLC	School
		Lot 1, Elbow Lake, COS 4921	Larry & Pauline	Pine Hills
2013	1.36±	T15N-R14W, Section 20	Tomsich	School
		Seeley Lake Outlet East	t .	
		Lot 17, Seeley Lake Outlet East,		Montana
		COS 4875		State
2020	1.448±	T16N-R15W, Section 4	Toby Bedard	University
		Lot 11, Seeley Lake Outlet East,		Montana
		COS 4875	Cannon	State
2021	1.58±	T16N-R15W, Section 4	Investments	University
	Seeley Lake Outlet West			
		Lot 9, Seeley Outlet West, COS	D.P.B. IV &	Montana
		5140	A.S.B. Buckley	State
2022	0.861±	T16N-R15W, Section 4	Living Trust	University
		Lot 16, Seeley Lake Outlet West,	_	Montana
		COS 5140	Priyanka & Linda	State
2023	1.166±	T16N-R15W, Section 4	Fernando	University
		Lot 17, Seeley Lake Outlet West,		Montana
		COS 5140	Courtland &	State
2025	1.166±	T16N-R15W, Section 4	Lydia Perry	University

## **Background:**

Preliminary Land Board approval was granted in April of 2022 (Approved 4-1) for these sites to be included as part of the 2022-2023 Cabin Site Sales Program. The Land Board set the minimum bid for these cabin sites at the appraised land values and the maximum value of compensation for the improvements in November of 2022 (Approved 4-1).

## **Cultural/Paleontological Resources:**

A Class I level of cultural resource inventory was conducted for each of the proposed sales. Home sites typically contain numerous structures and the ground surfaces within most home sites have been disturbed over the course of many years of occupation and development. These sales will have no effect to state-owned heritage properties.

#### Access/Recreational Use:

As part of the cabin site sale process, the State will convey any access that it has and can be conveyed to the purchaser of the cabin or home site property. Current cabin/home site access is limited to the lessee and does not provide access or recreational use to the general public. State lands classified as cabin or home sites are closed to general recreational use by the public in accordance with ARM 36.25.150(1)(a). Therefore, the State is not selling land under the cabin site sale program that the public is permitted to use for recreation. Rather, the funds generated

by these sales will go towards purchasing new lands that will have dedicated public access and recreational opportunities.

## **Economic Analysis:**

Short term – The average rates of return on these sale parcels are shown in Figure 1 below. The parcels will continue to receive these returns if they remain in state ownership. The income rates of return will likely grow smaller, as average annual value appreciation is greater than the annual rent increase.

Figure 1: Rates of Return at Current Appraised Values

Sale	Rate of	Sale	Rate of
No.	Return	No.	Return
2002	2.922%	2010	3.487%
2003	2.837%	2013	4.199%
2004	2.717%	2020	3.032%
2005	3.171%	2021	2.251%
2007	1.595%	2022	1.81%
2008	2.143%	2023	2.991%
2009	2.612%	2025	1.495%
2010	3.487%		

Long term – The funds from the sale of these parcels would be combined with other sale funds to purchase replacement lands through DNRC's Land Banking program. Lands purchased are required to have an equal or greater rate of return than the combined lands that generated the sale funds used for the purchase. To date, the average annual rate of return on acquisitions has been 3.33% on acquisitions with income generated from annual lease payments. However, the rates of return on land acquired more recently have been higher, ranging from 3.58% on acquisitions purchased within the last five years to 3.89% for lands acquired within the last ten years.

## **Appraised Values of Land and Improvements:**

The appraisals of these cabin sites were prepared by Montana General Certified Appraisers Elliott M. Clark, MAI of Clark Real Estate Appraisal of Whitefish, Montana and Nicholas J. Hogan, MAI, of Hall – Widdoss & Company, P.C. in Missoula.

Sale No.	Appraised Land Value	Appraised Improvements Value	Final Sale Price
2002	\$71,000	\$292,000	\$71,000
2003	\$71,000	\$333,000	\$71,000
2004	\$71,000	\$146,000	\$71,000
2005	\$71,000	\$290,000	\$71,000
2007	\$181,000	\$409,000	\$182,000
2008	\$160,000	\$240,000	\$160,000

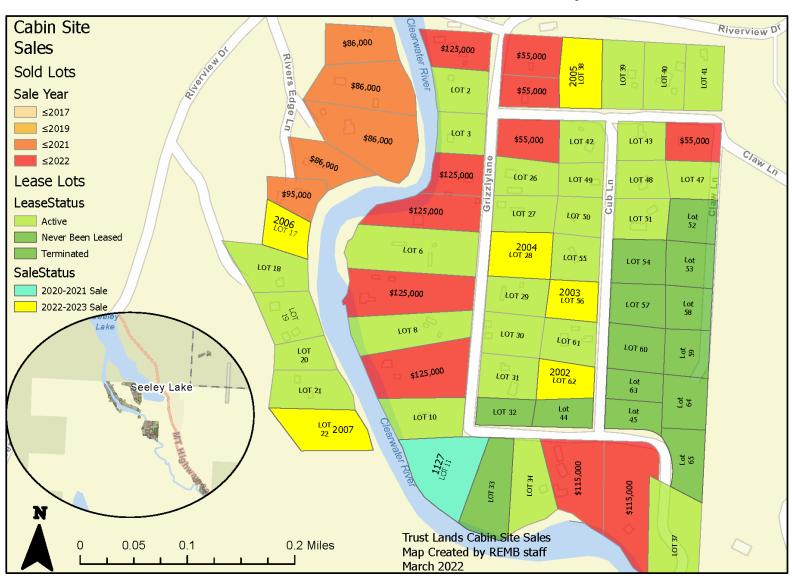
2009	\$160,000	\$150,000	\$160,000
2010	\$200,000	\$275,000	\$200,000
2013	\$160,000	\$315,000	\$160,000
2020	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$100,000
2021	\$160,000	\$350,000	\$160,000
2022	\$200,000	\$375,000	\$200,000
2023	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$100,000
2025	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Sale Price
The cabin sites sold at public auctions on February 15, 2023 and February 16, 2023. There was one qualified bidder for each sale. The sites sold for the final sale prices listed above.

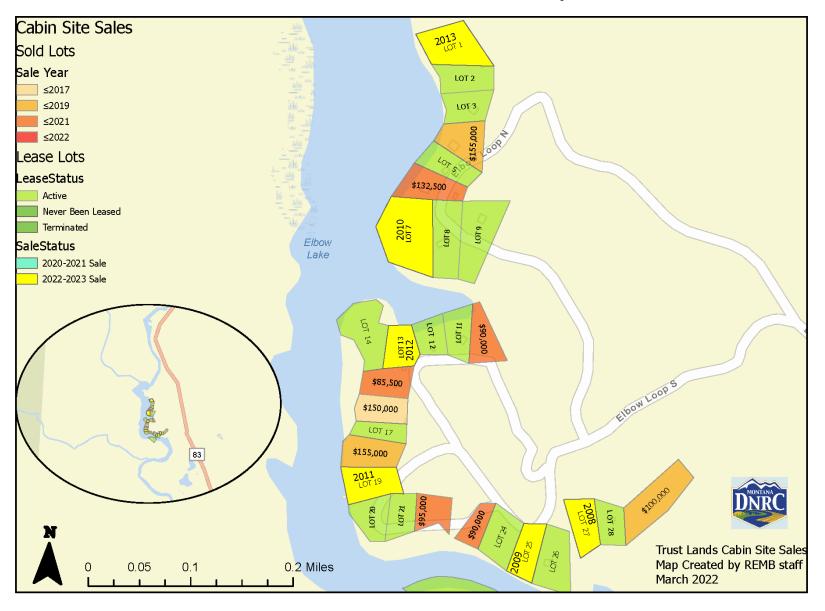
## **DNRC Recommendation**

The DRNC recommends the Land Board grant final approval for the sale of these cabin sites at the values shown above.

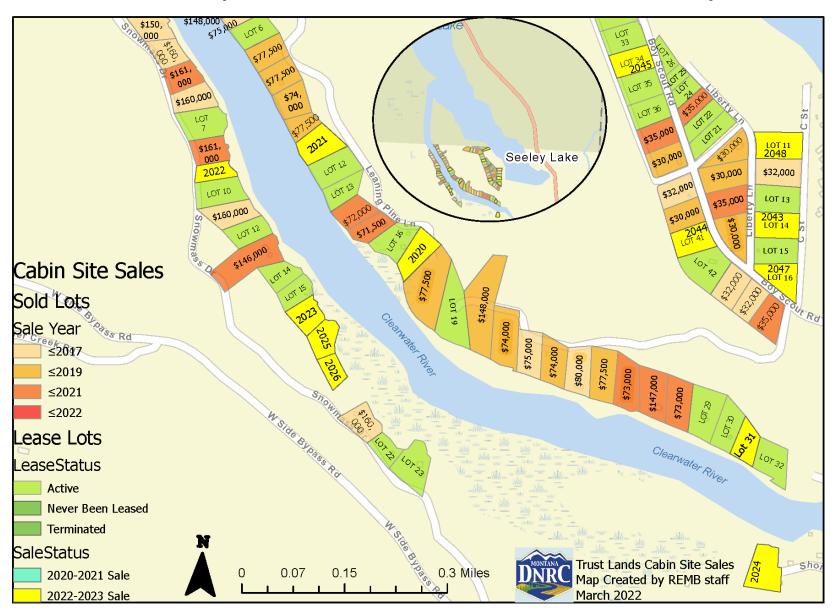
## Clearwater River, Missoula County



## Elbow Lake, Missoula County



## Seeley Lake Outlet East & West, Missoula County



0323-5B Cabin and Home Sites: Final Approval for Sale

**Location:** Big Horn County

**Trust Benefits:** Common Schools

Trust Revenue: \$18,000

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is requesting final approval for sale of one (1) home site nominated for sale in Big Horn County. This sale was nominated by the lessee in conjunction with the 2020-2021 Cabin and Home Site Sales Program.

Sale No.	Acres	Legal Description	Nominator	Trust
1155	1.94 <u>+</u>	Tract 1, COS 762 T2N-R33E, Section 27	Kenneth D. Fox	Common Schools

### **Background**

Preliminary Land Board approval was granted in April of 2020 (Approved 5-0) for this site to be included as part of the 2020-2021 Cabin and Home Site Sale Program. The Land Board set the minimum bid for this home site at the appraised land value and the maximum value of compensation for the improvements in December of 2022 (Approved 4-1).

## **Cultural/Paleontological Resources:**

A Class I level of cultural resource inventory was conducted for the proposed sale. Home sites typically contain numerous structures and the ground surfaces within most home sites have been disturbed over the course of many years of occupation and development. This sale will have no effect to state-owned heritage properties.

#### Access/Recreational Use:

As part of the cabin and home site sale process, the State will convey any access that it has and can be conveyed to the purchaser of the cabin or home site property. Current cabin/home site access is limited to the lessee and does not provide access or recreational use to the general public. State lands classified as cabin or home sites are closed to general recreational use by the public in accordance with ARM 36.25.150(1)(a). Therefore, the State is not selling land under the cabin site sale program that the public is permitted to use for recreation. Rather, the funds generated

by these sales will go towards purchasing new lands that will have dedicated public access and recreational opportunities.

## **Economic Analysis:**

Short term – The average rate of return on this sale parcel is 7.361%. The parcel will continue to receive this return if it remains in state ownership. The income rate of return will likely grow smaller over the next 20 years, as average annual value appreciation is greater than the annual rent increase.

Long term – The funds from the sale of this parcel would be combined with other sale funds to purchase replacement lands through DNRC's Land Banking program. Lands purchased are required to have an equal or greater rate of return than the combined lands that generated the sale funds used for the purchase. To date, the average annual rate of return on acquisitions has been 3.33% on acquisitions with income generated from annual lease payments. However, the rates of return on land acquired more recently have been higher, ranging from 3.58% on acquisitions purchased within the last five years to 3.89% for lands acquired within the last ten years.

## **Appraised Values of Land and Improvements:**

The appraisal was prepared by Montana General Certified Appraisers J. Scott Crosby and Valerie Crosby of Crosby Analytics, LLC in Cowley, Wyoming.

Sale No.	Appraised Land Value	Appraised Improvements Value	Final Sale Price
1155	\$18,000	\$207,000	\$18,000

#### Sale Price

The home site sold at public auction on February 27, 2023. There was one qualified bidder for the sale. The site sold for the final sale price listed above.

### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DRNC recommends the Land Board grant final approval for the sale of this home site at the value shown above.

## Sale 1155, Big Horn County



# 0323-6

LAND USE LICENSE:

Flathead County

0323-6 Land Use License

Location: Stillwater River, Flathead County

Trust Benefits: Navigable Waterways

Trust Revenue: \$300.00

## **Item Table of Contents**

Applicant	Land Use License Purpose	Term	Page(s)
Connie Valentine	Riprap placement	2 years	65-67

## NAVIGABLE WATER LAND USE LICENSE March 20, 2023

Applicant: Connie Valentine

205 Riverside Dr. Kalispell, MT 59901

License No.: LUL 305-2300046

Purpose: Placement of riprap along an eroded bank of the Stillwater River

Acreage: 0.1 Compensation: \$300.00

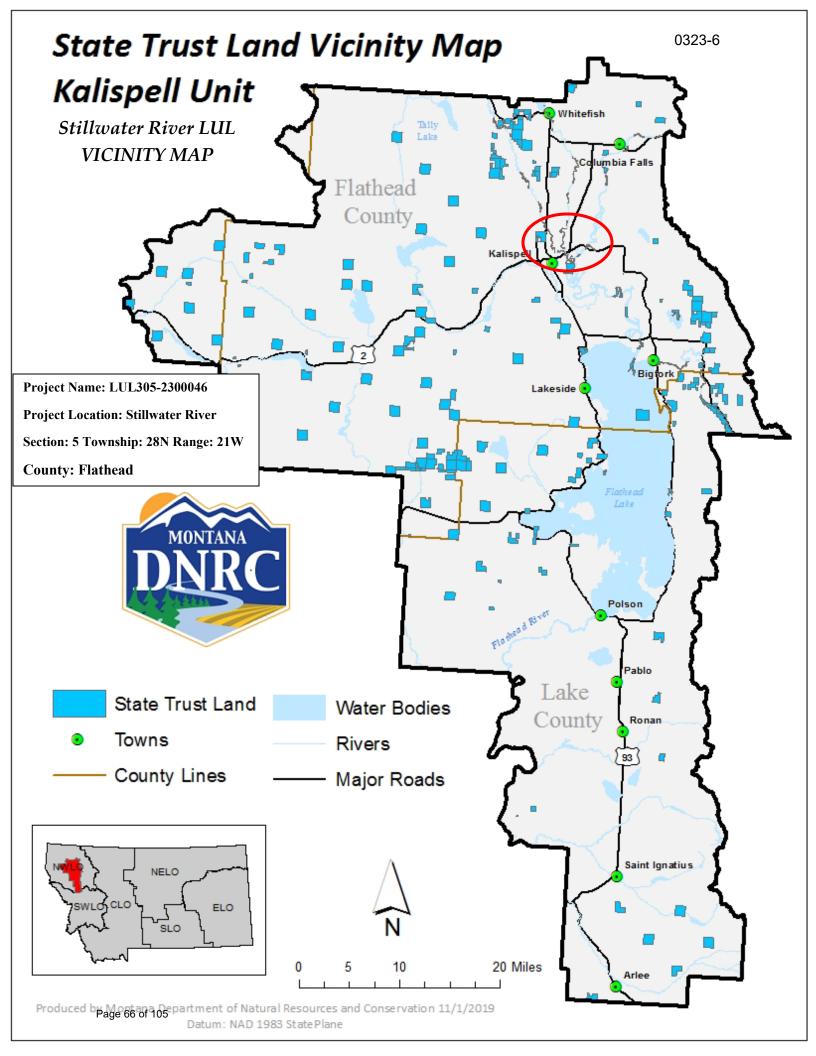
Legal Description: Sec. 5 T28N R21W
Trust Beneficiary: Navigable Waterways

#### Item Summary

The license is for placement of riprap erosion control along the banks and within the low water mark of the Stillwater River. Heavy machinery may be operated below the low water mark of the project area. Pursuant to ARM 36.25.1102(3), a land use license for this purpose is subject to final land board approval.

### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the license for Connie Valentine.





# 0323-7

**EASEMENTS**:

**Standard Grants** 

## 0323-7 Easements

Location: Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Golden Valley, Liberty, Missoula, and Prairie

Trust Benefits: Common Schools, MSU 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant

**Trust Revenue:** Common Schools = \$ 20,746

MSU 2nd = \$ 31,522

## **Item Table of Contents**

Applicant	Right-of-Way Purpose	Term	Page(s)
Triangle Telephone Cooperative	Buried Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	73-88
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.	Buried Electric Distribution Line	Permanent	89-90
Nemont Telephone Cooperative	Buried Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	91-92
Southeast Electric Cooperative	Overhead Electric Lines	Permanent	93-94
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative	Buried Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	95-100
Central MT Regional Water Authority	Buried 16" Water Line	Permanent	101-102
Snowmass Road Users Association	Private Access Road	Permanent	103-104

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19442

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok Acreage: 3.5

Compensation: \$4,253.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through NW4NW4, S2N2, Sec. 23, Twp. 28N,

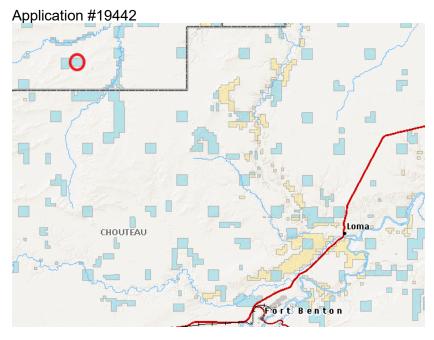
Rge. 5E, Liberty County

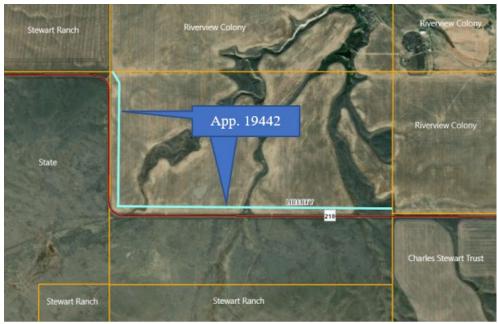
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

#### **Item Summary**

Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. is requesting an easement to replace existing underground telecommunications facilities. This will provide upgraded service capabilities in the Chester service area. The new fiber optic cable will be trenched along an existing road, therefore minimal impacts are expected to occur. The proposed route is the most direct route between terminus locations while also providing access to existing and future network considerations.

### **DNRC Recommendation**





Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19443

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.22
Compensation: \$1,647.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through S2SE4, Sec. 13, Twp. 28N, Rge. 4E,

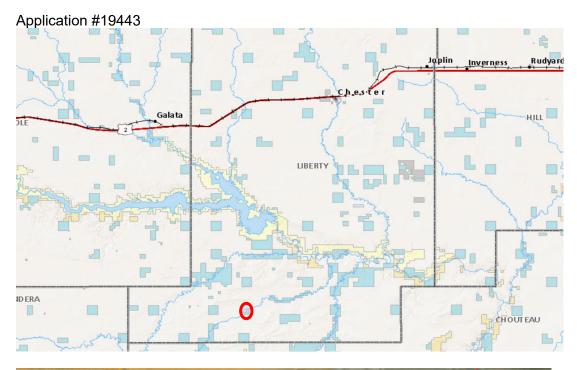
Liberty County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### Item Summary

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association's applications for Chester service area.

# **DNRC Recommendation**





Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19444

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.68
Compensation: \$408.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through SW4SE4, Sec. 21, Twp. 28N, Rge. 6E,

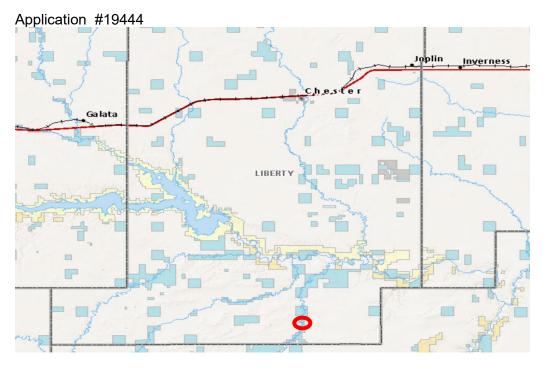
**Liberty County** 

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### Item Summary

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association's applications for Chester service area.

# **DNRC** Recommendation





Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19445

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.22
Compensation: \$732.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through E2SE4, Sec. 13, Twp. 29N, Rge. 4E,

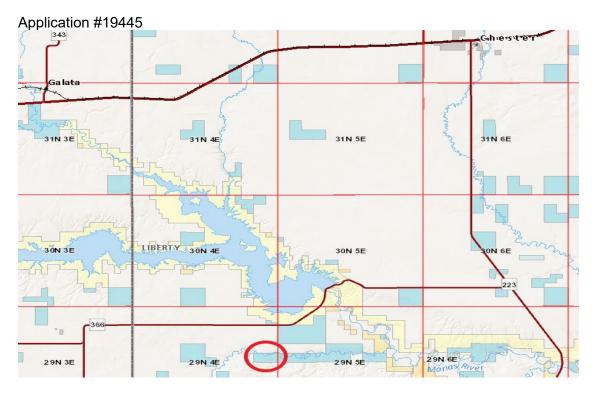
**Liberty County** 

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### Item Summary

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association's applications for Chester service area.

# **DNRC** Recommendation





Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19446

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 2.48
Compensation: \$1,448.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through NE4NW4, W2E2, Sec. 25, Twp. 29N,

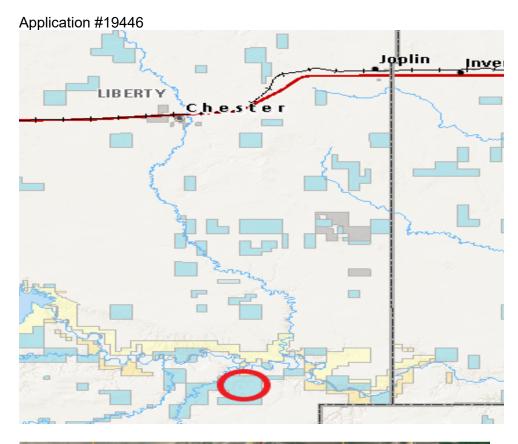
Rge. 6E, Liberty County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### Item Summary

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association's applications for Chester service area.

# **DNRC** Recommendation





Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19447

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 2.47
Compensation: \$1,482.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through W2E2, Sec. 36, Twp. 29N, Rge 6E,

**Liberty County** 

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### Item Summary

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association's applications for Chester service area.

# **DNRC** Recommendation





Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19448

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.04
Compensation: \$100.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through SW4SW4, Sec. 16, Twp. 30N, Rge. 6E,

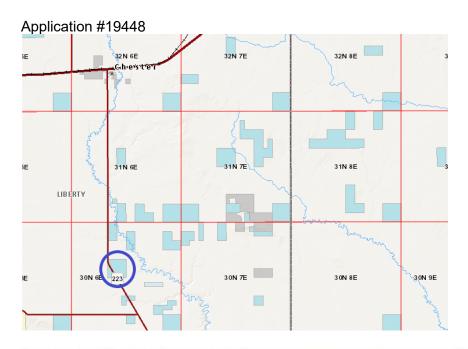
**Liberty County** 

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### Item Summary

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association's applications for Chester service area.

# **DNRC** Recommendation





Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19449

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.22
Compensation: \$1,464.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through S2SE4, Sec. 26, Twp. 30N, Rge. 6E,

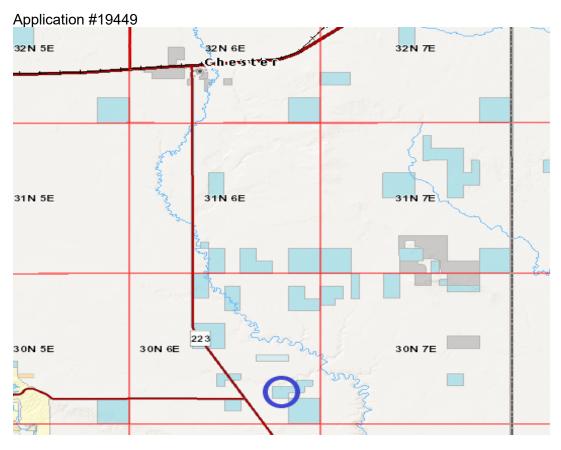
**Liberty County** 

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### **Item Summary**

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association's applications for Chester service area.

### **DNRC Recommendation**





Applicant: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

400 N. Fourth Street Bismarck, ND 58501

Application No.: 19451

R/W Purpose: a buried electric distribution line

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.82
Compensation: \$492.00

Legal Description: 30-foot strip through SE4SE4, Sec. 26, Twp. 8N, Rge. 60E,

Fallon County

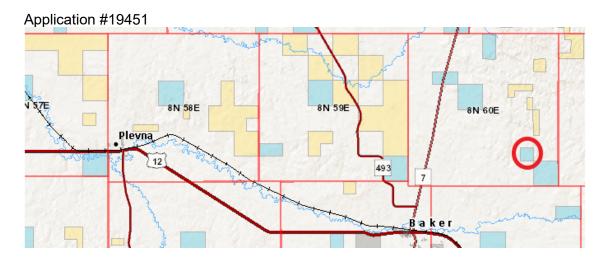
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

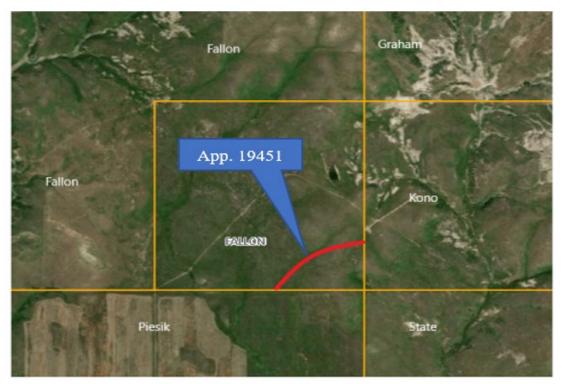
#### Item Summary

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. is requesting an easement to install a buried electric distribution line to service a water well on adjacent private land. Due to the location of existing services, the proposed corridor is the most direct route to provide service to the customer. The project is located within general sage grouse habitat and consultation with the program has occurred.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.





Applicant: Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 600

Scobey, MT 59263

Application No.: 19452

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.22
Compensation: \$915.00

Legal Description: 20-foot strip through S2SW4, Sec. 5, Twp. 35N, Rge. 46E,

**Daniels County** 

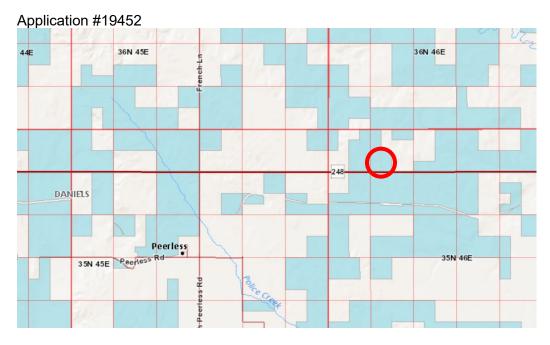
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

#### Item Summary

Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is requesting an easement to install a new buried fiber optic cable across State Land to provide service to a customer. The cable will be trenched primarily along an existing roadway, therefore minimal impacts are expected to occur. The proposed route is the most direct route to the private land from existing infrastructure.

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Nemont Telephone Cooperative, Inc.





Applicant: Southeast Electric Cooperative

PO Box 369

Ekalaka, MT 59324

Application No.: 19454

R/W Purpose: an overhead 14.4kV electric distribution line and a 115kV electric

transmission line

Lessee Agreement: ok Acreage: 3.71

Compensation: \$3,342.00

Legal Description: 60-foot strip through E2NE4, Sec. 36, Twp. 6S, Rge. 61E,

**Carter County** 

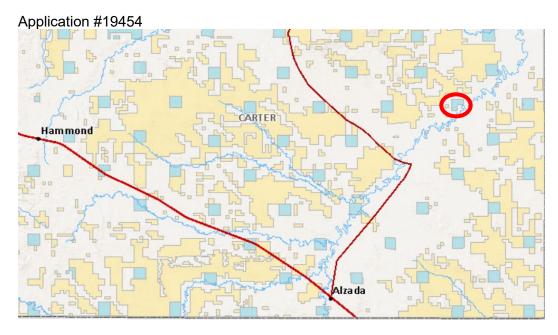
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

#### Item Summary

Southeast Electric Cooperative is requesting an easement to construct an overhead 115kV overhead electric transmission line across State Trust land to increase the electrical reliability in rural Carter County. During the course of the analysis of the request it was discovered that Southeast Electric had constructed an overhead 14.4kV electric distribution line in trespass in the same alignment in 2013. The original easement request was amended to widen the corridor to include both electric facilities and seek authorization for the trespass line with the proposed new line. As a result of the trespass, pursuant to §77-1-125, MCA, the DNRC is recommending a trespass penalty be imposed equal to 1.5 times the land value for the area encumbered by the 14.4kV line. The compensation shown above includes the land value for the 60-foot requested corridor (\$2,226.00) and the recommended trespass penalty for the area disturbed as a result of the unauthorized installation (20-foot wide disturbance multiplied by land value of \$600/acre multiplied by 1.5 = \$1,116.00).

#### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Southeast Electric Cooperative.





Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 280 Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19468

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.08
Compensation: \$100.00

Legal Description: 16-foot strip through SW4SW4, Sec. 34, Twp. 16N, Rge. 50E,

**Prairie County** 

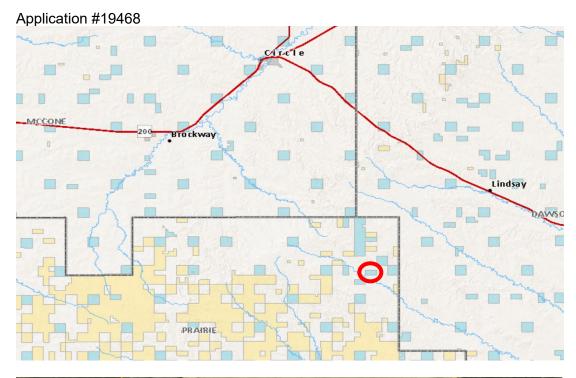
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

#### **Item Summary**

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is requesting an easement to place underground fiber optic telecommunication cable across state trust land. The new fiber optic cable will provide upgraded service capabilities and a communications link between rural Carter, Dawson and Prairie counties. The cable will be trenched primarily along existing roadways, therefore minimal impacts are expected to occur. The proposed route is the most direct route between terminus locations while also providing access to existing and future network considerations.

### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.





Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 280 Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19487

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.83
Compensation: \$291.00

Legal Description: two 16-foot strips through W2NW4 and SW4NW4, Sec. 14, Twp.

15N, Rge. 52E, Dawson County

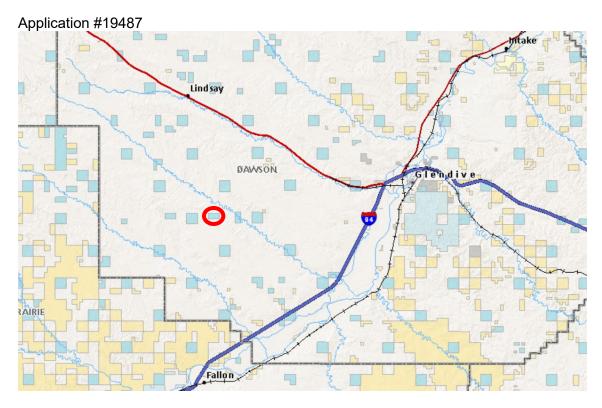
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### Item Summary

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative's applications for Carter, Dawson and Prairie counties service area.

# **DNRC** Recommendation

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.





Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 280 Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19488

R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optics telecommunications cable

Lessee Agreement: ok Acreage: 1.97 Compensation: \$887.00

Legal Description: 16-foot strip through S2NW4, NE4NW4, N2NE4, Sec. 16,

Twp. 15N, Rge. 50E, Prairie County

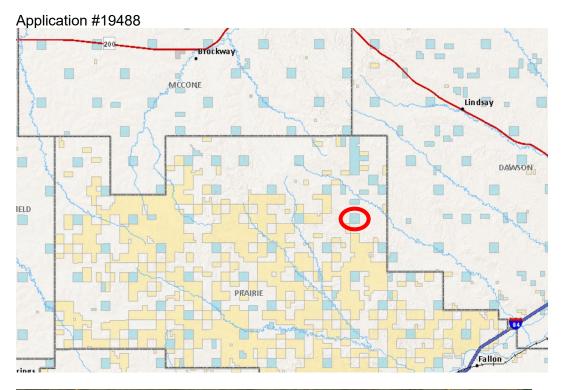
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

### Item Summary

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative's applications for Carter, Dawson and Prairie counties service area.

# **DNRC** Recommendation

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.





Applicant: Central Montana Regional Water Authority

PO Box 660

Roundup, MT 59072

Application No.: 19489

R/W Purpose: a buried 16" water transmission line

Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 4.90
Compensation: \$3,185.00

Legal Description: 30-foot strip through NW4, SW4, and SE4, Sec. 16, Twp. 9N,

Rge. 21E, Golden Valley County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

#### Item Summary

Central Montana Regional Water Authority is requesting an easement for a buried 16" water transmission pipeline across State trust land. This pipeline is a portion of Phase 2 of the water authority's project to provide a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water to the city of Roundup and other rural customers. The pipeline will follow the path of two existing roads, one being a two-track road and one a more established private road, therefore minimal impacts are expected to occur.

### **DNRC Recommendation**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Central Montana Regional Water Authority.





Applicant: Snowmass Road Users Association

PO Box 1223

Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Application No.: 19490

R/W Purpose: a private access road to twenty-one (21) lots as shown on

Certificates of Survey Nos. 5140, 6523 and 6624 for the purpose

of accessing one single-family residence per lot

Lessee Agreement: N/A (Historic)

Acreage: 5.29

Compensation: \$31,522.00

Legal Description: 40-foot strip through Gov. Lots 5, 7, 10 & 11, NW4SW4, SE4SW4,

Sec. 4, Twp. 16N, Rge. 15W, Missoula County

Trust Beneficiary: MSU 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant

#### **Item Summary**

Snowmass Road Users Association is requesting an easement for a private access road to twenty-one (21) lots in the cabin site neighborhood known as Seeley Lake Outlet West. Over the past few years multiple leased lots have been purchased through the cabin site sales program. Currently, ten lots have been sold and transferred into private ownership with three additional sales recently occurring and included in the March, 2023 Land Board agenda for final approval. As both purchasers of the lots and lessees are required to provide maintenance to the road system through their various agreements, the DNRC determined that it was appropriate to require the lot owners and lessees to form a Road Users Association (RUA) to ensure shared maintenance responsibilities are carried out. The RUA has been incorporated and bylaws adopted, with all lot owners and lessees becoming members. Issuing an easement to the RUA will provide for continued legal access and ensure the road is maintained properly.

#### **DNRC** Recommendation

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Snowmass Road Users Association.

