

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA  
MARCH 16, 2026, AT 9:00 A.M.  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303  
HELENA, MT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Approval of the March Land Board Agenda  
Approval of the February Land Board Meeting Minutes

**ACTION ITEMS**

**0326-1 Timber Sales APPROVED: 5-0**

**A. Island Lake**

*Location: Lincoln County  
Benefits: Common Schools*

**B. Spencer to Beaver**

*Location: Flathead County  
Benefits: MSU Eastern/UM Western, MT Tech, Deaf and Blind School, Capitol Buildings,  
MSU 2<sup>nd</sup>*

**C. Taylor to Swift**

*Location: Flathead County  
Benefits: MSU 2<sup>nd</sup>, MT Tech, Deaf and Blind School*

**0326-2 Oil and Gas Lease Sale APPROVED: 5-0**

*Location: Garfield, Hill, Liberty, Petroleum, Richland, Rosebud, and Toole Counties  
Benefits: Common Schools, Public Land Trust*

**0326-3 Commercial Lease Template Draft APPROVED: 5-0**

*Location: N/A  
Benefits: N/A*

**0326-4 Easements APPROVED: 5-0**

*Location: Blaine, Chouteau, Mineral, Missoula, Phillips, and Rosebud Counties  
Benefits: Common Schools, Montana Tech, MSU Eastern/UM Western, and Public Land  
Trust*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303  
HELENA, MT**

**Members Present**

Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor  
Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Austin Knudsen, Attorney General  
James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance  
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State  
Dawnell Fuller, Land Board Secretary

**Members Absent**

None

**Testifying Staff**

Erin Weisgerber, DNRC Deputy Director

**Attachments**

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in-Sheet

**Call to Order**

00:00:01 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor, called the meeting to order.

**Adopt Proposed Agenda**

00:00:45 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, moved to approve the February agenda. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, and carried unanimously.

**Adopt Prior Months Meeting Minutes**

00:01:09 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, moved to approve the January minutes. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and carried unanimously.

**Business Considered**

**0226-1 Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks: Habitat Conservation Leases**

00:01:39 Erin Weisgerber, DNRC Deputy Director, gave an overview of the item.

**Public Comment:**

00:02:36 Christy Clark, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Director.

00:04:06 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, moved to approve item 0226-1. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

**0226-2 Timber Sale: Sophie Lake**

00:05:32 Erin Weisgerber, DNRC Deputy Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:06:31 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, moved to approve item 0226-2. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

**0226-3 Easements**

00:07:07 Erin Weisgerber, DNRC Deputy Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:07:56 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, moved to approve item 0226-3. The motion was seconded by James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

**0226-4 Approval to File Objections on Water Rights (Executive Session)**

00:08:28 Erin Weisgerber, DNRC Deputy Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

The Land Board assembled into executive session at 9:11 A.M. pursuant to MCA 2-3-203(4), to discuss litigation strategy. The public portion of the meeting resumed at 9:37 A.M.

00:10:04 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, moved to approve item 0226-4. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, and carried 4-1.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

**0226-5 Bison Grazing Proposals (Executive Session)**

00:10:43 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

The Land Board assembled into executive session at 9:39 A.M. pursuant to MCA 2-3-203(4), to discuss litigation strategy. The public portion of the meeting resumed at 10:18 A.M.

00:12:21 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, moved that DNRC review existing legal authorities and develop a rulemaking package on grazing lease stocking rates, including the current omission of bison, and that DNRC neither authorize any new or pending bison grazing requests nor allow APR to turn bison out on the lease.

00:016:38 The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, and carried unanimously.

*These summary minutes and the audio recording are a draft record and will become official upon Land Board approval at the next meeting.*

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

00:17:09 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, made a motion that DNRC develop and propose a policy, for consideration at the April meeting, that favors issuing grazing leases on state trust lands to production livestock operations over non-production operations, while honoring the fiduciary obligations of the Land Board and the agency.

00:18:02 The motion was seconded by James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

00:18:37 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, made a motion for the Montana Land Board to place the topic of updating its current Land Exchange Policy along with any other appropriate action relating to the Land Exchange Policy on the agenda for the regularly scheduled May meeting.

00:19:20 The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:19:25 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance.

00:21:00 The motion was approved and carried unanimously.

**General Public Comment:** N/A

**Adjournment**

00:21:22 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Greg Gianforte, Governor

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

**Please note:** *The Land Board has adopted the audio recording of its meetings as the official record, as allowed by [2-3-212, MCA](#). These minutes provide an abbreviated summary of the Land Board discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. The time designations listed are approximate and may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio recording of this meeting. You may access the minutes and the audio recording on our website: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/About/LandBoardMeetingArchive>.*

# 0326-1

## TIMBER SALES

A. Island Lake

B. Spencer To Beaver

C. Taylor To Swift

**Land Board Agenda Item  
March 16, 2026**

**0326-1A Timber Sale: Island Lake**

**Location:** Lincoln County

**Trust Beneficiaries:** Common Schools

**Trust Revenue:** \$332,234 (estimated, minimum)

**Item Summary:**

**Location:** The Island Lake Timber Sale is located approximately 28 miles east of Libby, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes three harvest units (*430 acres*) of tractor logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 16,286 tons (*2.5 MMBF*) of sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$20.40 per ton, which would generate approximately \$332,234 for the Common Schools Trust and approximately \$66,447 in forest improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize old growth restoration and commercial thinning harvest prescriptions designed to decrease the potential of insects and disease, retain the value of impacted trees, and open stands to allow for existing larger trees to persist.

**Road Construction/Maintenance:** The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 4.5 miles of road maintenance.

**Access:** Access is obtained through open public roads.

**Public Comments:** One public comment was received from a logging industry representative requesting more information about the potential bidding of the timber sale and whether it would be bid with another timber sale. DNRC assured the commenter that a decision regarding bidding has not been made and they would take his comment into consideration.

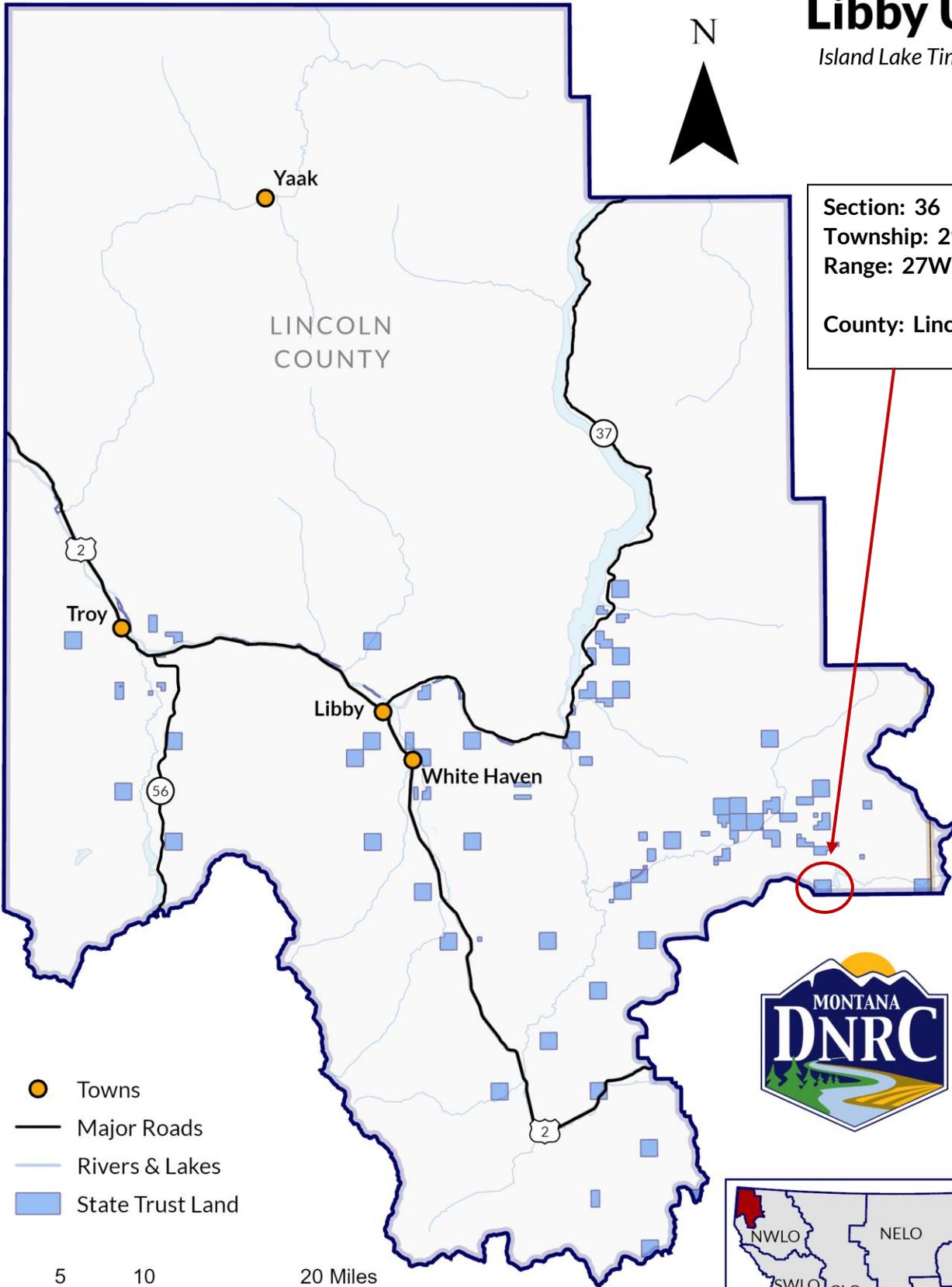
**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Island Lake Timber Sale.

# State Trust Land Vicinity Map

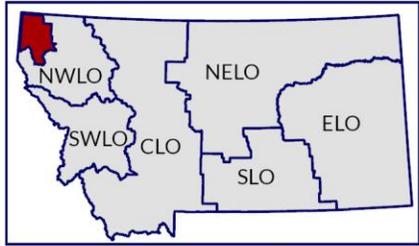
## Libby Unit

*Island Lake Timber Sale*



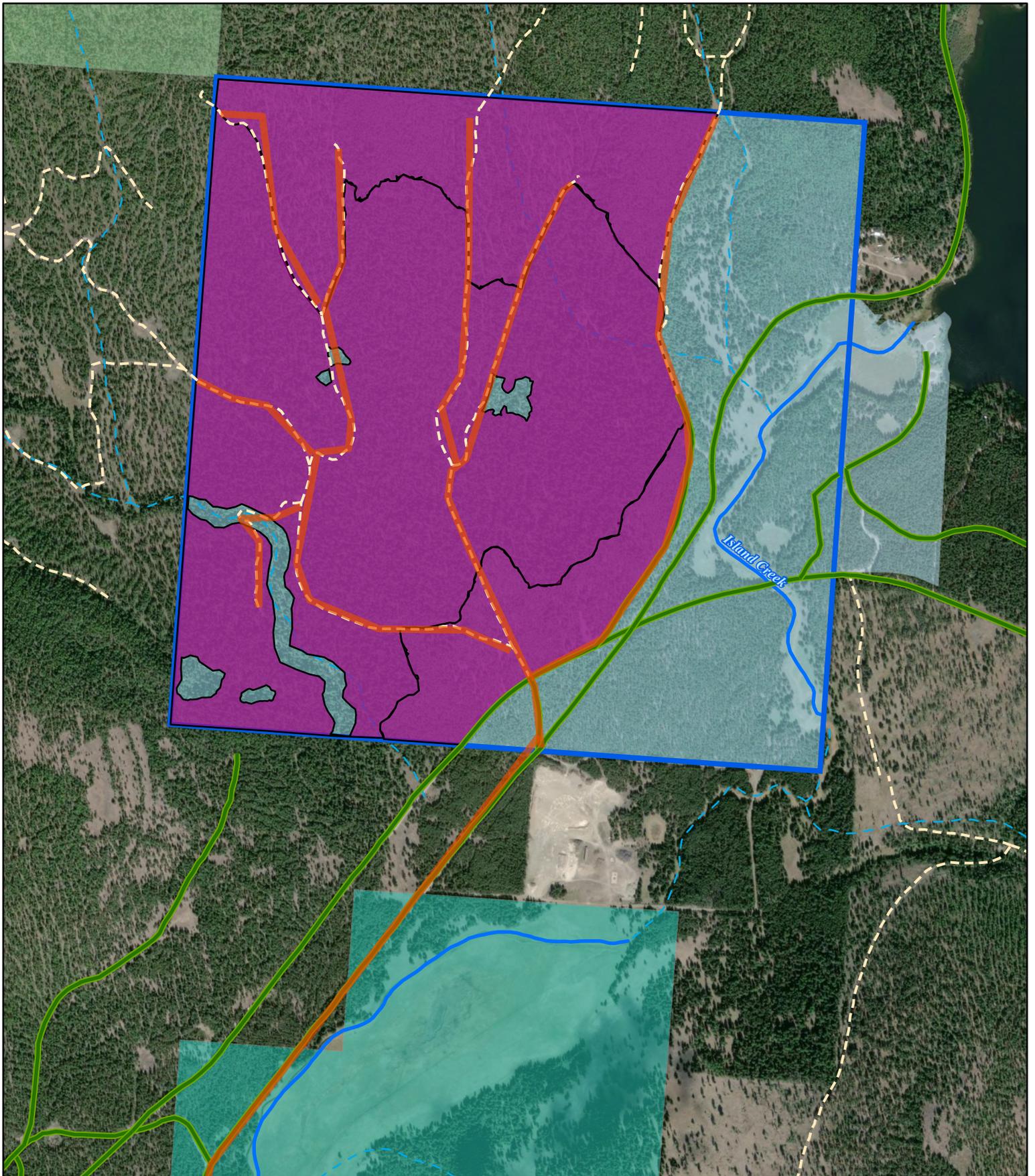
Section: 36  
Township: 29N  
Range: 27W  
County: Lincoln

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

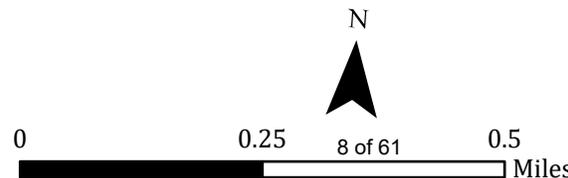


Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – 2025  
NAD 1983 State Plane

# Island Lake Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units



- |                          |                    |                           |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Haul Route               | Harvest Units      | Intermittent              |
| FMB_Roads                | TLMD_SurfaceTracts | US Fish and Wildlife      |
| Highway                  | Streams            | US Forest Service         |
| Open/Public Roads        | Hydrograph         | State of Montana Misc.    |
| Roads Restricted Class A | Perennial          | Montana State Trust Lands |



**Land Board Agenda Item  
March 16, 2026**

**0326-1B Timber Sale: Spencer to Beaver**

**Location: Flathead County**

**Trust Beneficiaries: MSU Eastern/UM Western, MT Tech, Deaf and Blind School, Capitol Buildings, MSU 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Trust Revenue: \$670,899 (estimated, minimum)**

**Item Summary:**

**Location:** The Spencer to Beaver Timber Sale is located approximately four miles west of Whitefish, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes 13 harvest units (871 acres) of tractor logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 27,792 tons (4.7 MMBF) of sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$24.14 per ton, which would generate approximately \$670,899 for the MSU Eastern/UM Western (35%), MT Tech (14%), Deaf and Blind School (6%), Capitol Buildings (23%), MSU 2<sup>nd</sup> (22%) Trusts and approximately \$123,952 in forest improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize seed tree, shelterwood, old growth maintenance, overstory removal, individual tree selection and commercial thinning harvest prescriptions designed to reduce insect and disease issues, reduce fuel loading and promote forest health.

**Road Construction/Maintenance:** The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 0.25 miles of road construction and 18.25 miles of road maintenance.

**Access:** Access is obtained through county and state-owned roads.

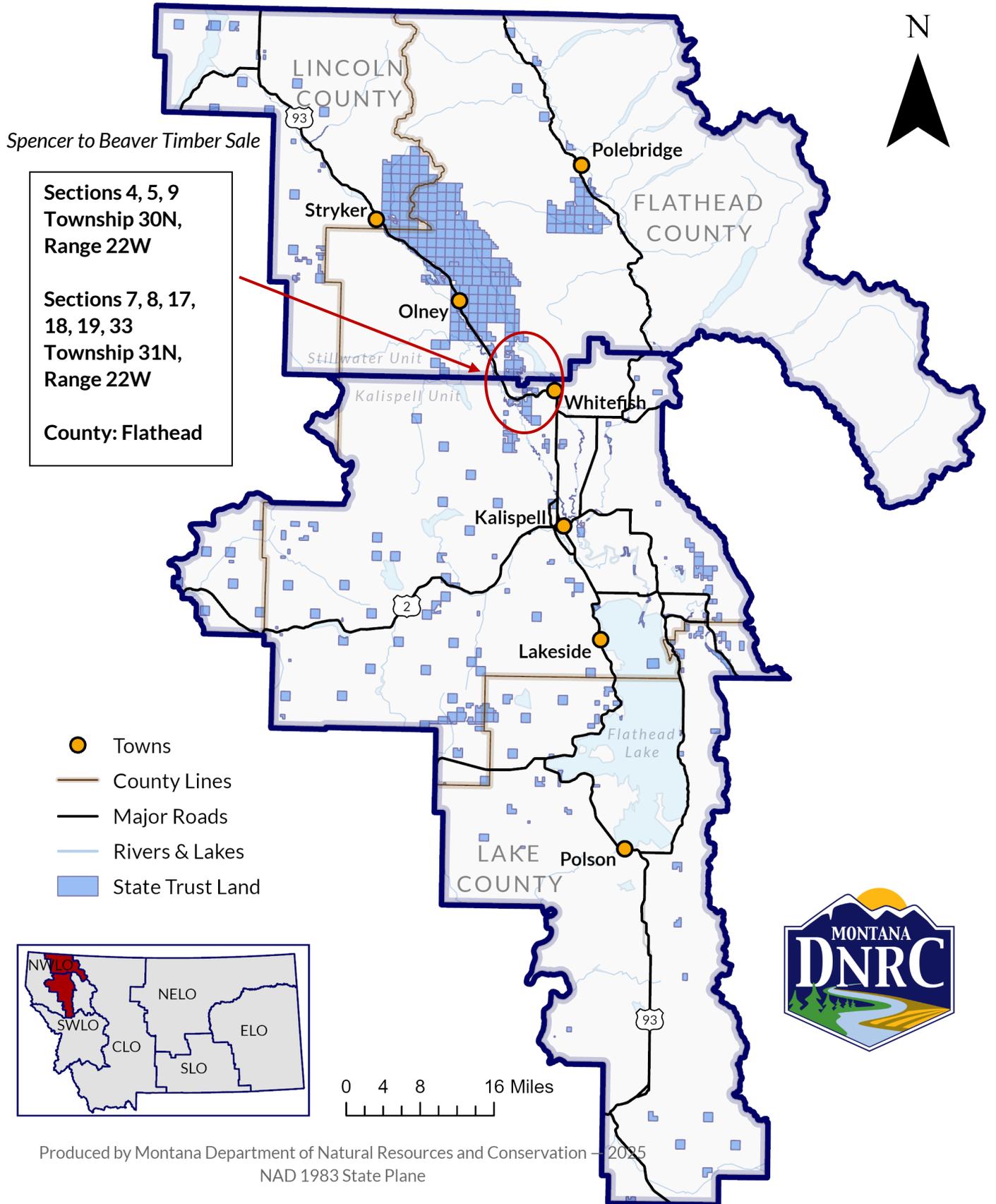
**Public Comments:** Seventy-five public comments were received. Seventy comments from the local residents and recreationists expressed concern regarding recreation, silviculture, wildfire fuels, weeds, aesthetics, wildlife, roads, climate, carbon emissions, air quality, aquatics, and soils. One comment from Lincoln Electric Cooperative emphasized keeping right-of-ways clear of hazard trees. Two comments from logging industry representatives provided general project support. Two comments from local recreation groups and licensees of state trust lands within the project area expressed concerns about silviculture, recreation and public access. DNRC assured the licensees that the project would be planned to uphold the commitments within the existing recreation agreement on the state trust lands. All comments were either addressed or dismissed with rationale in the Spencer to Beaver Environmental Assessment document.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Spencer to Beaver Timber Sale.

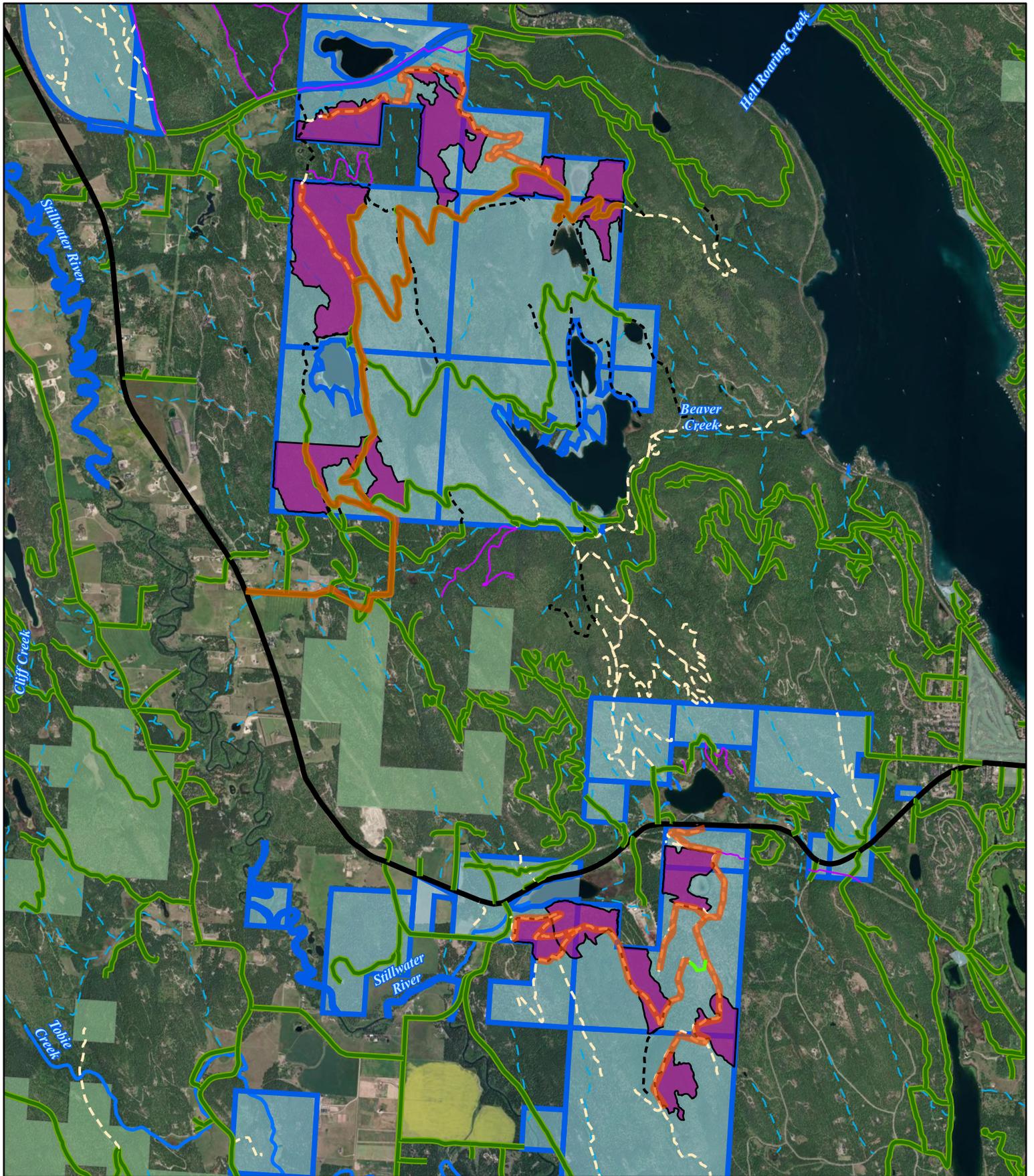
# State Trust Land Vicinity Map

## Kalispell & Stillwater Units

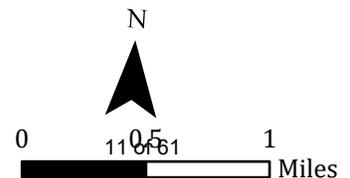


Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – 2025  
 NAD 1983 State Plane

# Spencer to Beaver Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units



- |                        |                          |                           |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Haul Route             | Pvt Access or Admin Site | Intermittent              |
| New Road               | Harvest Units            | US Forest Service         |
| FMB_Roads              | TLMD_SurfaceTracts       | State of Montana Misc.    |
| Highway                | Streams                  | Montana State Trust Lands |
| Open/Public Roads      | Hydrograph               | Local Government          |
| Restricted Class A     | Perennial                | Local Government          |
| Abandoned or Reclaimed |                          |                           |



**Land Board Agenda Item  
March 16, 2026**

**0326-1C Timber Sale: Taylor to Swift**

**Location: Flathead County**

**Trust Beneficiaries: MSU 2<sup>nd</sup>, MT Tech, Deaf and Blind School**

**Trust Revenue: \$90,175 (estimated, minimum)**

**Item Summary:**

**Location:** The Taylor to Swift Timber Sale is located approximately seven miles northwest of Whitefish, Montana.

**Size and Scope:** The sale includes nine harvest units (307 acres) of cable and tractor logging.

**Volume:** The estimated harvest volume is 15,710 tons (2.5 MMBF) of sawlogs.

**Estimated Return:** The minimum bid is \$5.74 per ton, which would generate approximately \$90,175 for the MSU 2<sup>nd</sup> (32%), MT Tech (11%), and Deaf and Blind School (57%) Trusts and approximately \$67,032 in forest improvement fees.

**Prescription:** This sale would utilize shelterwood, seed tree and old growth maintenance harvest prescriptions designed to capture the economic value dead and dying trees and promote the regeneration of healthy and resilient trees.

**Road Construction/Maintenance:** The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 3.3 miles of road construction and 28.6 miles of road maintenance.

**Access:** Access is obtained through state-owned roads.

**Public Comments:** Eight public comments were received. Five comments from local residents expressed concerns about wildlife, forestry and silviculture, old growth, biodiversity, noxious weeds, riparian habitat, fire suppression and mitigation, climate and carbon emissions, recreation, and economics. One comment from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) expressed concerns about fuel breaks and important wildlife habitat characteristics. One comment from a local recreation organization commented about recreation, wildlife habitat, riparian habitat, public access and further opportunities to provide comments. One comment from a Northern Cheyenne Tribe representative requested a cultural resource report for the project area. All comments were addressed or dismissed with rationale in the Taylor to Swift Environmental Assessment document.

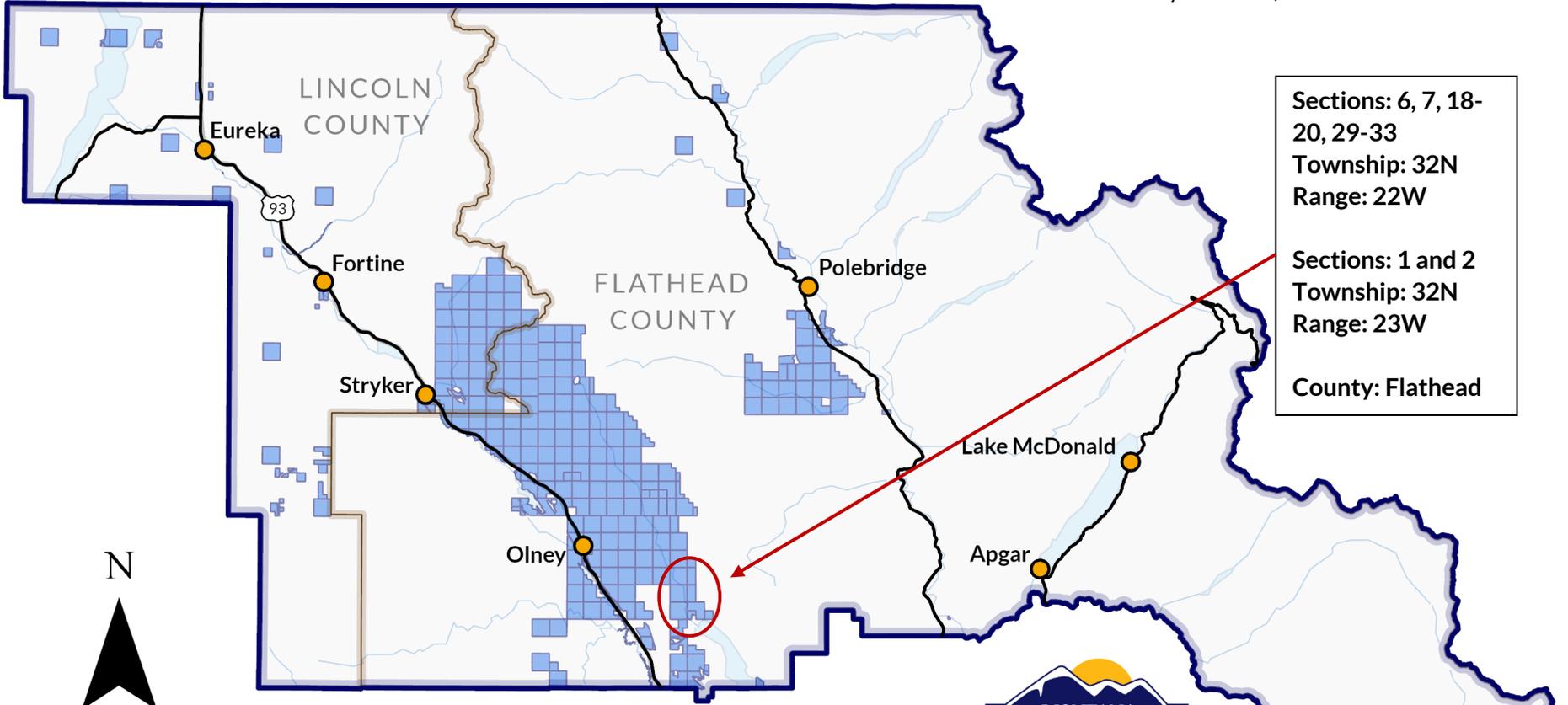
**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Taylor to Swift Timber Sale.

# State Trust Land Vicinity Map

## Stillwater Unit

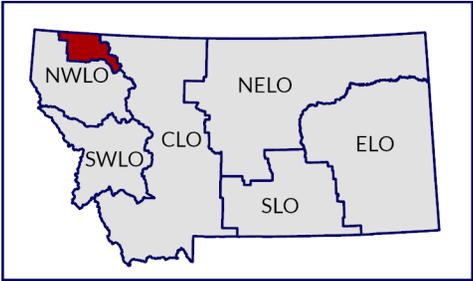
Taylor to Swift Timber Sale



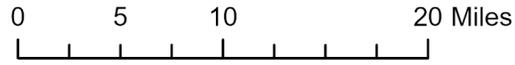
Sections: 6, 7, 18-20, 29-33  
 Township: 32N  
 Range: 22W

Sections: 1 and 2  
 Township: 32N  
 Range: 23W

County: Flathead

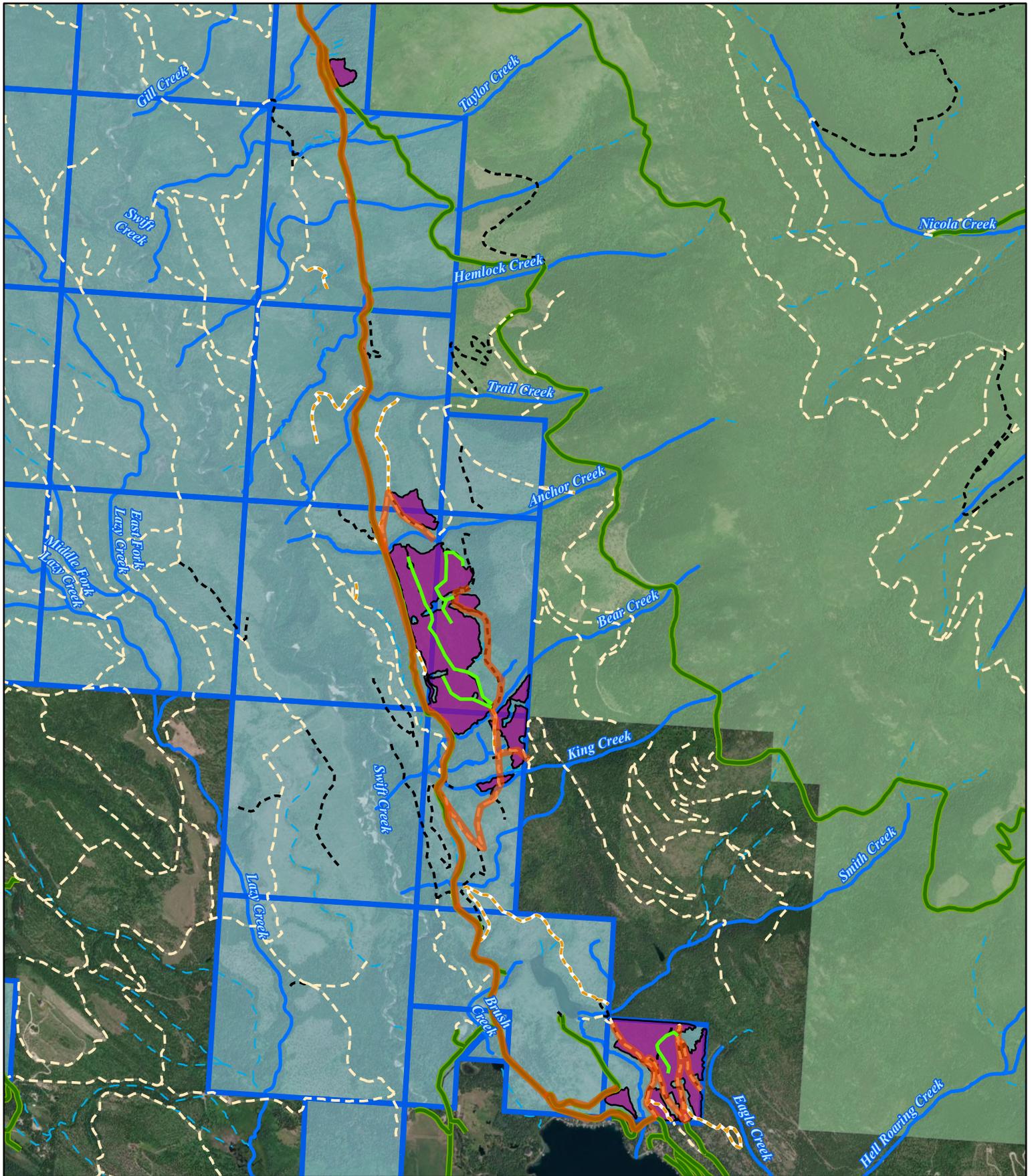


-  Towns
-  County Lines
-  Major Roads
-  Rivers & Lakes
-  State Trust Land



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

# Taylor to Swift Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units



Haul Route	Restricted Class A	<b>Streams</b>
New Road	Restricted Class B	<b>Hydrograph</b>
FMB_Roads	Abandoned or Reclaimed	Perennial
Highway	<b>Harvest Units</b>	Intermittent
Open/Public Roads	Harvest Units	US Forest Service
	TLMD_SurfaceTracts	Montana State Trust Lands

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

14 of 61

# 0326-2

OIL & GAS LEASE SALE

**Land Board Agenda Item  
March 16, 2026**

**0326-2 Oil and Gas Lease Sale**

**Location: Garfield, Hill, Liberty, Petroleum, Richland, Rosebud, and Toole**

**Trust Beneficiaries: Public Land Trust and Common Schools**

**Trust Revenue: Public Land Trust \$520,650 and Common Schools \$12,294**

**Item Summary:**

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) held an online oil and gas lease sale that opened on February 26 and closed on March 3, 2026, using the online auction platform, Efficient Markets (formerly known as EnergyNet). A total of 47 tracts were offered for lease.

Of the 47 tracts, 18 tracts were successfully leased for a total of \$532,944 that includes trust revenues breakdown for Public Land Trust \$520,650 and Common Schools \$12,294. The 18 tracts that were sold covered a total of 8,326 acres, with the average bid per acre of \$64.

The high competitive bid for the March 3, 2026 sale was \$4,005.00 per acre and the largest total bid was \$520,650 for Tract 13 in Richland County.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board approve to issue the leases from the March 3, Oil and Gas Lease Sale.

State of Montana  
Oil and Gas Lease Sale - March 3, 2026  
Lease Sale Results

The following described lands were offered for oil and gas leasing through an online bidding service, EnergyNet, beginning February 25, 2026 and closed on March 3, 2026.

Tract	Stipulations	Twp Rng Sec	Description	*	Acres	Bid/Acre	Total Bid	Lessee
<b>Garfield</b>								
1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13	13N 30E 16	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	14N 30E 36	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	14N 31E 16	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11	14N 31E 36	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
<b>Hill</b>								
5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 17	33N 9E 23	SE4NW4, NW4SE4, N2SW4, SW4SW4		200.00	\$1.50	\$300.00	BASELINE MINERALS, INC.
6	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 17	33N 9E 26	N2NW4, W2NE4		160.00	\$1.50	\$240.00	BASELINE MINERALS, INC.
<b>Liberty</b>								
7	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9	37N 6E 10	E2NW4, NE4	*	240.00	\$1.50	\$360.00	WINDWALKER LAND SERVICES, INC.
8	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9	37N 6E 16	W2		320.00	\$1.50	\$480.00	WINDWALKER LAND SERVICES, INC.
<b>Petroleum</b>								
9	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11	13N 29E 36	LOTS 1-7 INC., NW4, W2NE4, NW4SE4, N2SW4		627.80	\$1.50	\$941.70	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13	13N 30E 6	LOTS 3, 4, 5, SE4NW4		156.27	\$1.50	\$234.40	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	14N 29E 16	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
12	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13	14N 29E 36	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
<b>Richland</b>								
13	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 14, 15	23N 59E 13	YELLOWSTONE RIVERBED AND RELATED ACREAGE WITHIN THE S2		130.00	\$4,005.00	\$520,650.00	PHOENIX ENERGY ONE, LLC
<b>Rosebud</b>								
14	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12	13N 30E 36	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	PETRO-SENTINEL LLC
<b>Toole</b>								
15	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9	33N 2W 26	W2SE4, E2SW4 (57.5% undivided interest in 160 gross acres), ALL FORMATIONS EXCLUDING THE KOOTENAI FORMATION	*	92.00	\$1.50	\$138.00	HEIMMER, DON H
16	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9	35N 3E 36	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	HEIMMER, DON H
17	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16	36N 3E 36	ALL		640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	HEIMMER, DON H
18	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16	37N 2W 36	ALL	*	640.00	\$1.50	\$960.00	HEIMMER, DON H

\* Part or all of tract is not state-owned surface

## Summary By Lessor

	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Total Tracts</b>
<b>Dept. Of Natural Resources and Conservation</b>	8326.07	18

## Oil And Gas Lease Summary

<b>Total Tracts</b>	18
<b>Total Acres</b>	8,326.07
<b>Total Bid Revenue</b>	\$532,944.10
<b>Average Bid Per Acre</b>	\$64.01

**State of Montana**  
**Oil and Gas Lease Sale - March 3, 2026**  
**Stipulations**

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- 1 Lessee shall notify and obtain approval from the Department's Forestry and Trust Lands Division (FTLD) 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 FTLD'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 Forestry and Trust Lands Division (FTLD). After a well is drilled and completed, lessee shall send one copy of all logs run, Form 4A "Completion Report", and geologic report to FTLD. 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 FTLD whenever any subsequent change in well status or operator is intended or has occurred. Lessee shall also notify and obtain approval from the FTLD 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 FTLD 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 FTLD 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 FTLD.
- 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 The lessee is responsible to pay for all damages, including penalties and charges assessed by the USDA-CFSA on CRP lands, as a result of drilling and production on the tract.
- 9 If production from (a) well(s) on this tract is/are put to private use, (for example, farm taps) the Lessee is responsible for installation of (a) meter(s) and documentation of gas used as recorded by said meter(s). Documentation will be provided to the Department. Lessee will have (a) meter(s) installed within 45 days prior to gas production, or of the decision to use the well(s) as (a) tap well(s), or written notification of FTLD of this decision, whichever comes first. The Lessee shall work with MMB every year that the tap well is in use to pay royalties on the average price of gas. MMB will calculate a contract gas price annually based on projected AECO Index price. Non-compliance with this stipulation will result in lease cancellation.
- 10 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 FTLD prior to preparing a project proposal.

- 11 This lease is located within designated sage grouse core 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 FTLD prior to preparing a project proposal.
- 12 Unless otherwise approved by the Department in writing, wells and related surface infrastructure, including new road construction, are prohibited within 1/2 mile of the centerline of a navigable river, lake or reservoir, and within 1/4 mile of direct perennial tributary streams of navigable waterways, on or adjacent to the tract. No surface occupancy is allowed within the bed of a river, stream, lake or reservoir, islands and accretions or abandoned channels.
- 13 Due to the floodplain/wetlands area(s), surface use may be restricted or denied.
- 14 This tract contains navigable river beds and/or related acreage. No surface occupancy is allowed within the bed of the navigable river, abandoned channels, or on islands and accretions. In addition, upon completion of a successful well, where river title is disputed, the lessee will file an interpleader action under Rule 22, M.R.Civ.P. in the Montana District Court, or other court having jurisdiction, in which the leased lands are located for all acreage within the lease in which the title is disputed. The lessee shall name all potential royalty claimants as defendants.
- 15 If the lessee completes a successful oil and/or gas well, and if land title is disputed, the lessee shall fund professional land surveys as needed to determine the location and acreage encompassed by the spacing and/or pooling unit and the state lease acreage within that unit. Surveys shall be conducted by a licensed land surveyor acceptable to the Department, and shall be prepared pursuant to survey requirements provided by the Department.
- 16 This lease includes areas that may be environmentally sensitive. Therefore, if the lessee intends to conduct any activities on the lease premises, the lessee shall submit to FTLD one copy of an Operating Plan or Amendment to an existing Operating Plan, describing in detail the proposed activities. No activities shall occur on the tract until the Operating Plan or Amendments have been approved in writing by the Director of the Department. FTLD shall review the Operating Plan or Amendment and notify the lessee if the Plan or Amendment is approved or disapproved.

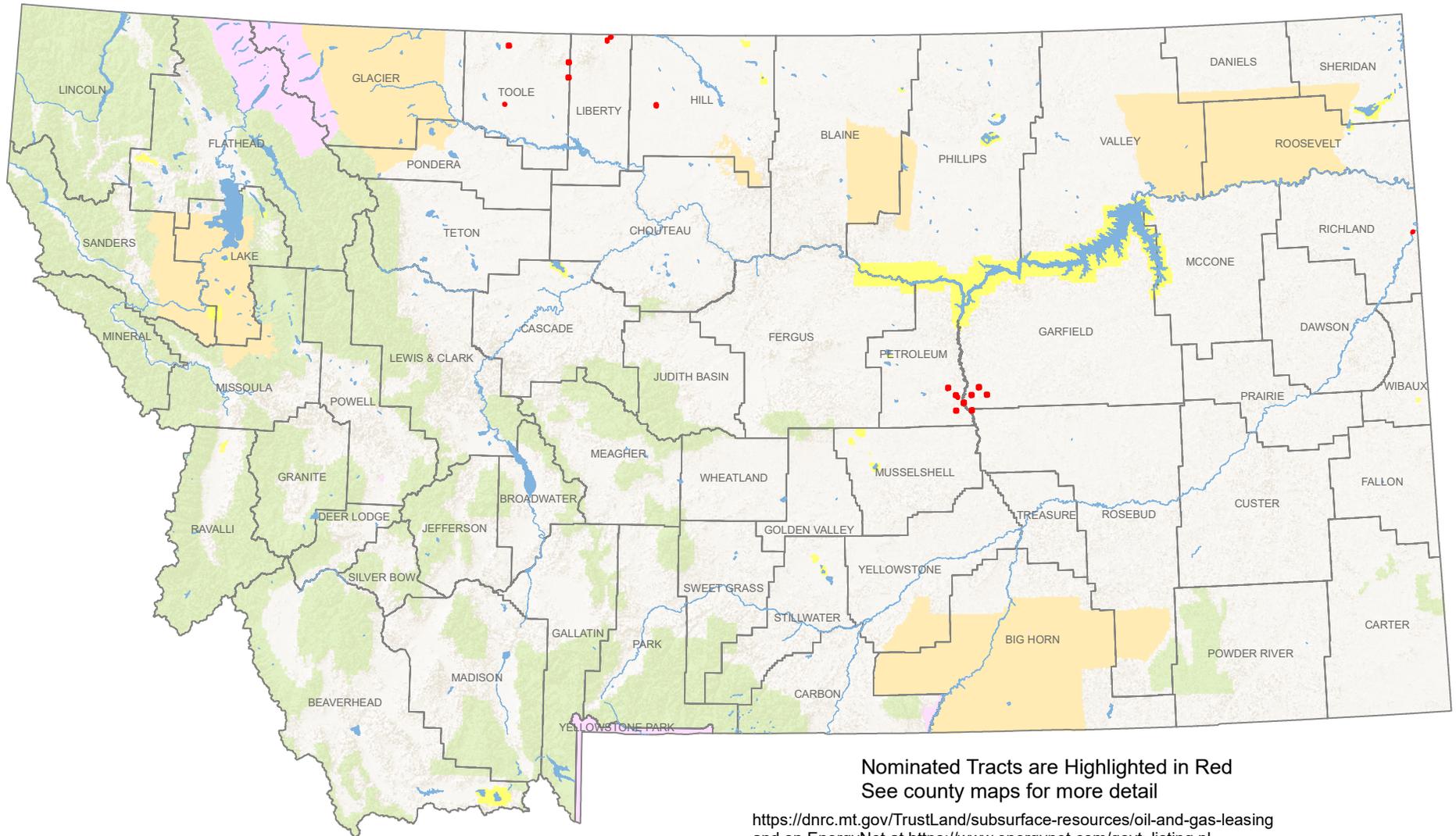
After an opportunity for an informal hearing with the lessee, surface activity may be denied or restricted on all or portions of any tract if the Director determines in writing that the proposed surface activity will be detrimental to trust resources and therefore not in the best interests of the trust.

- 17 This tract contains a MT DNRC lease to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This lease is being used as part of a waterfowl production area. Coordination with the U. S. FWS regarding the Department's MEPA review, and well location is required prior to approval of an oil or gas well and/or related activities.

# STATE OF MONTANA FEB 25 - MAR. 3, 2026 OIL AND GAS ONLINE LEASE SALE

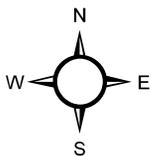
## Hosted by EnergyNet

### FINAL LIST MAP - ALL TRACTS



Nominated Tracts are Highlighted in Red  
See county maps for more detail

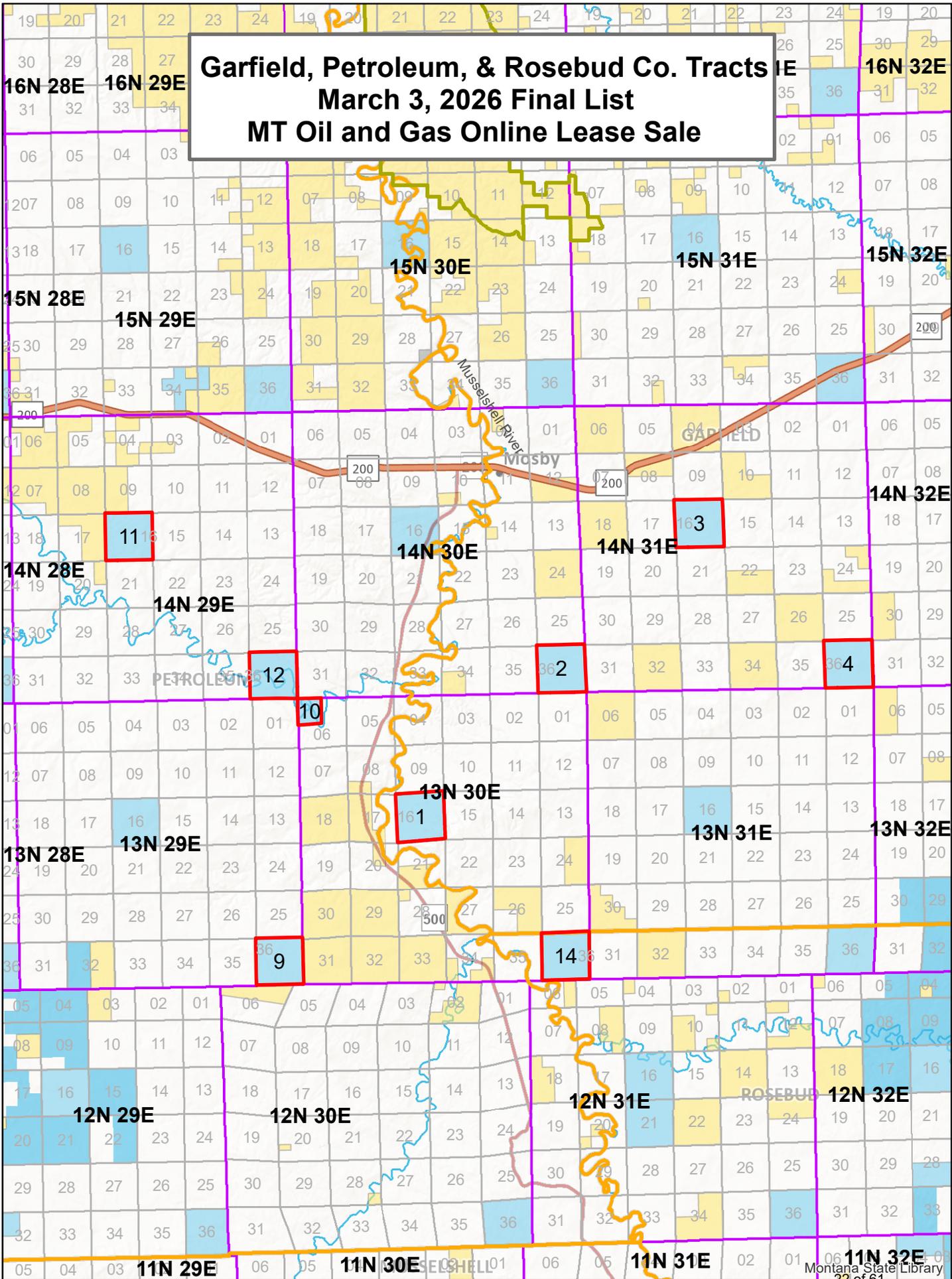
<https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/subsurface-resources/oil-and-gas-leasing>  
and on EnergyNet at [https://www.energynet.com/govt\\_listing.pl](https://www.energynet.com/govt_listing.pl)



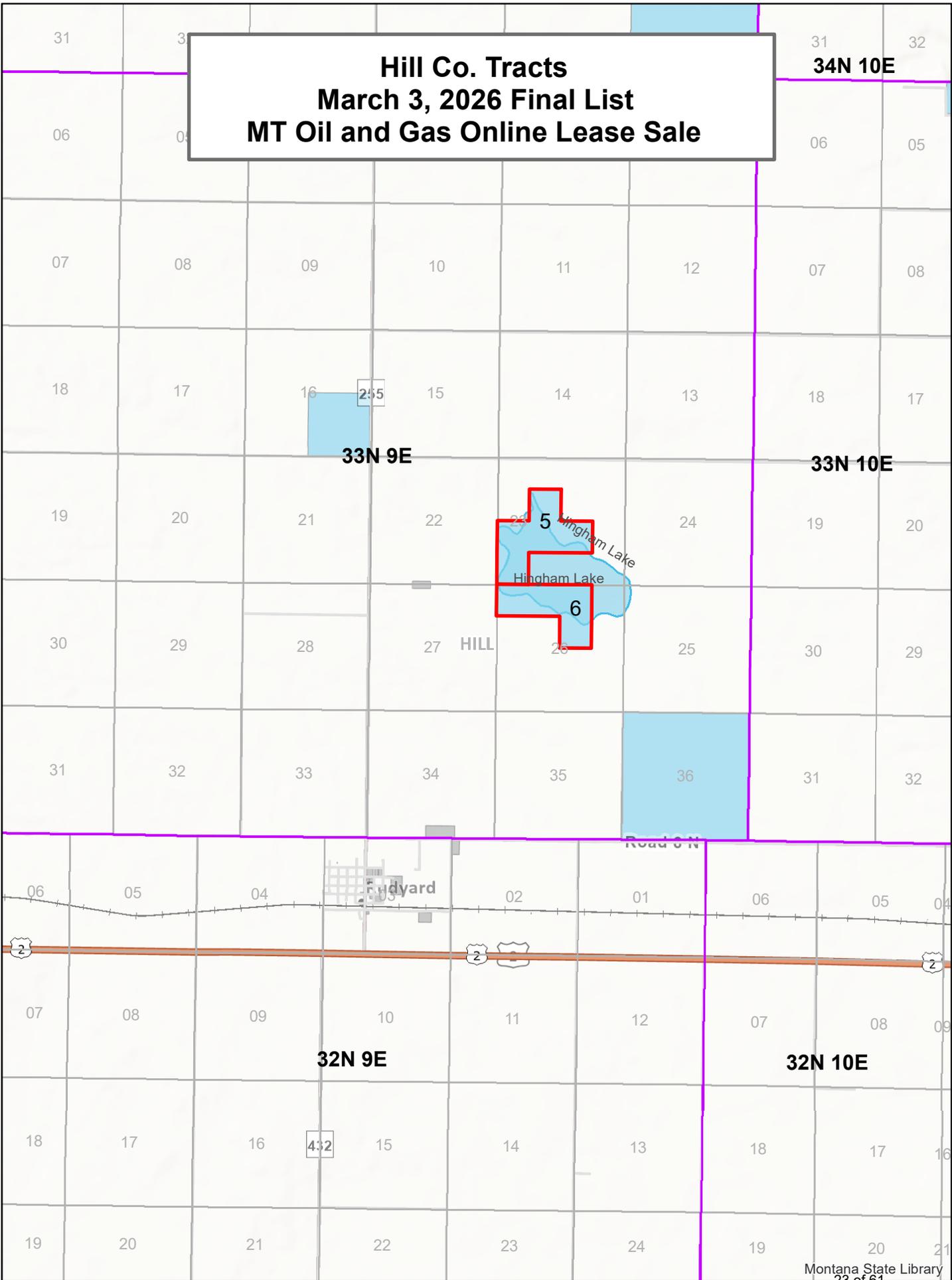
# Garfield, Petroleum, & Rosebud Co. Tracts

## March 3, 2026 Final List

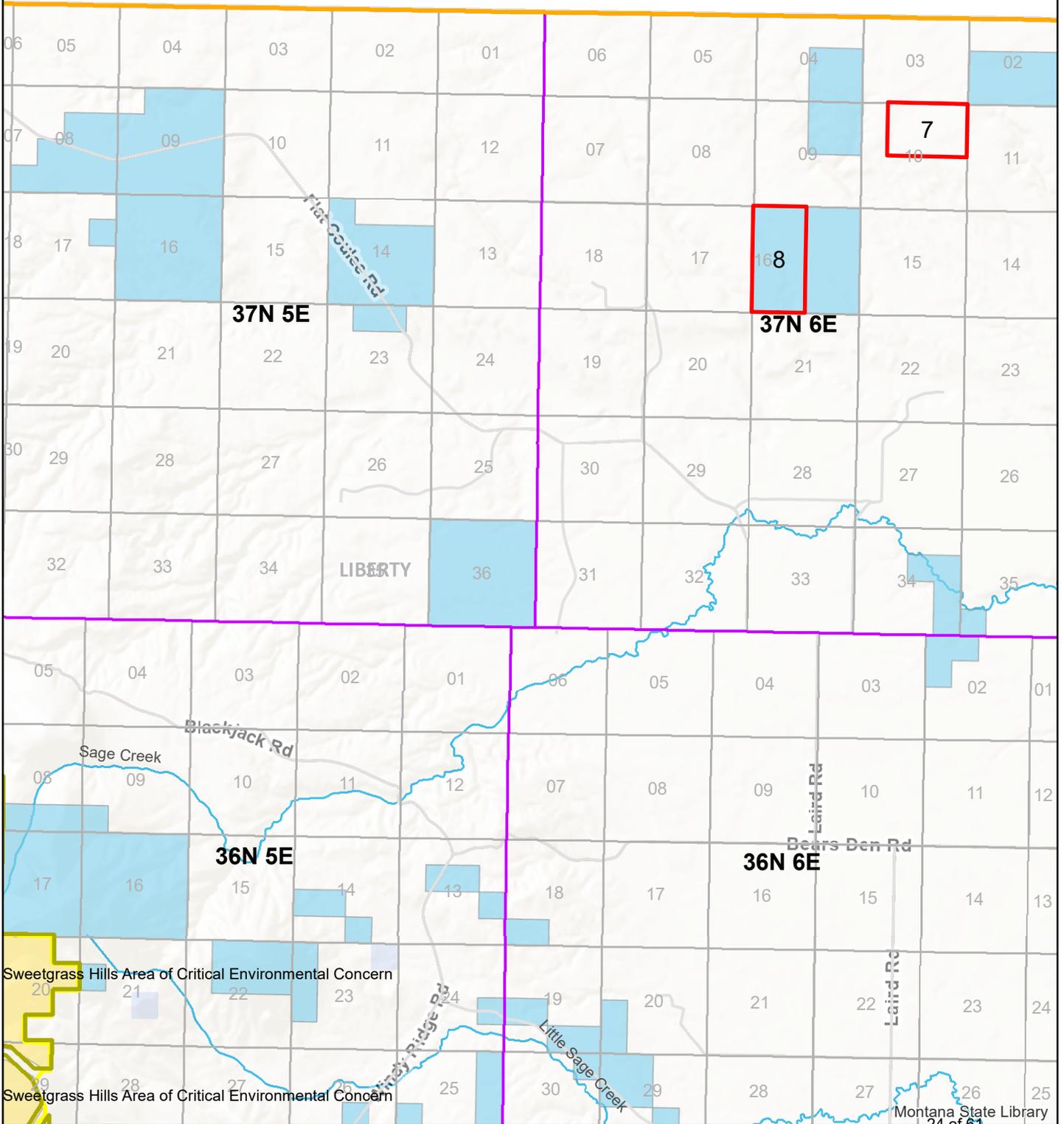
### MT Oil and Gas Online Lease Sale



**Hill Co. Tracts**  
**March 3, 2026 Final List**  
**MT Oil and Gas Online Lease Sale**



**Liberty Co. Tracts**  
**March 3, 2026 Final List**  
**MT Oil and Gas Online Lease Sale**



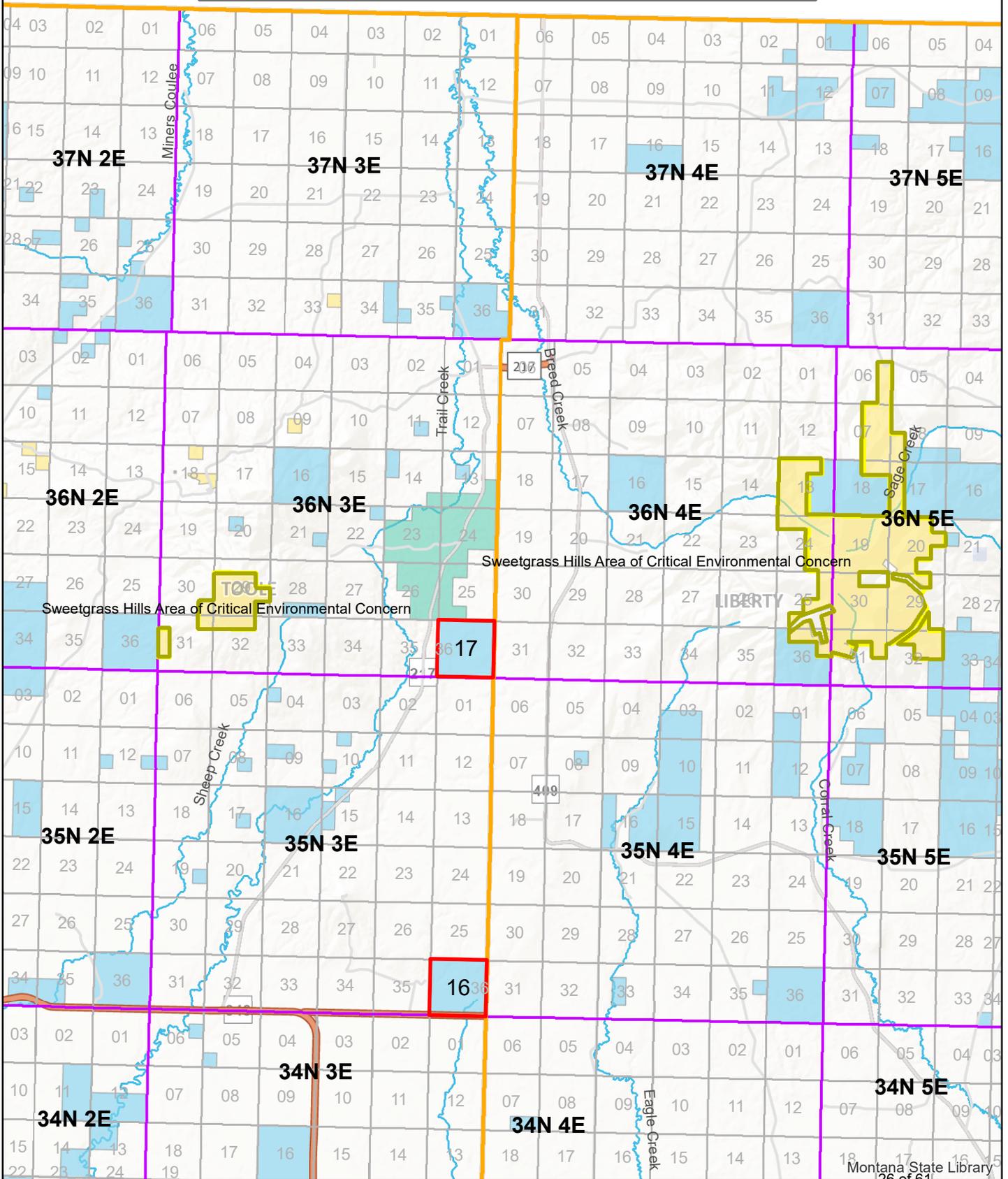
**Richland Co. Tract  
March 3, 2026 Final List  
MT Oil and Gas Online Lease Sale**



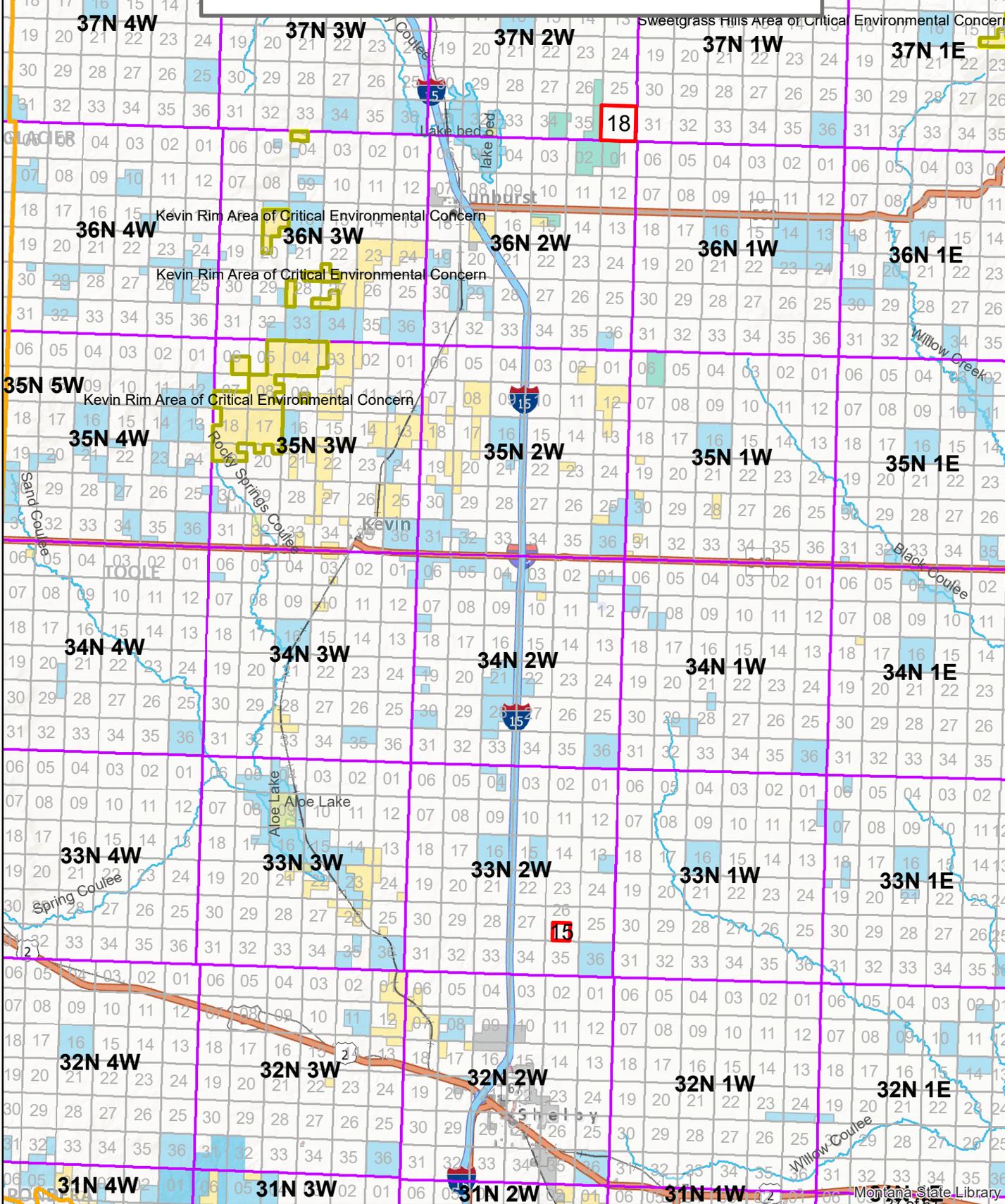
# Toole Co. E. Tracts

## March 3, 2026 Final List

### MT Oil and Gas Online Lease Sale



# Toole Co. W. Tracts March 3, 2026 Final List MT Oil and Gas Online Lease Sale



# 0326-3

COMMERCIAL LEASE

TEMPLATE DRAFT

**Land Board Agenda Item  
March 16, 2026**

**0326-3 Commercial Lease Template Draft**

**Location: N/A**

**Trust Beneficiaries: N/A**

**Trust Revenue: N/A**

**Item Summary:**

At the January 2026 Land Board meeting, the DNRC was directed to work with the Board to update the Commercial Lease Template for future agreements. The Real Estate Management Bureau has met with several members and staff to refine the document but requires additional time to complete a final draft for Board review.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC requests an extension to incorporate all feedback and present the finalized draft at the April Land Board meeting.

# 0326-4

EASEMENTS

**Land Board Agenda Item  
March 16, 2026**

**0326-4 Easements**

**Location: Blaine, Chouteau, Mineral, Missoula, Phillips, and Rosebud Counties**

**Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools, Montana Tech, MSU Eastern/UM Western, and Public Land Trust**

**Trust Revenue: Common Schools \$15,591, Montana Tech \$1,195, MSU Eastern/UM Western \$748, and Public Land Trust \$15,448**

**Item Table of Contents**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Right-of-Way Purpose</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>
NorthWestern Energy	Buried Natural Gas Pipeline	30-year	32-33
Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.	Buried Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	34-37, 46-59
Moore's Sunday Creek Ranch	Private Access Road	Permanent	38-39, 42-43
Montana Department of Transportation	Highway Bridge Construction	Permanent	40-41
Richard Engellant	Private Access Road	Permanent	44-45
Missoula Electric Cooperative	Two Buried Electric Lines	Permanent	60-61

**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: NorthWestern Energy  
1903 S. Russell Street  
Missoula, MT 59801

Application No.: 19881  
R/W Purpose: a buried 12-inch natural gas pipeline  
Lessee Agreement: N/A (Navigable River)  
Acreage: 0.15  
Compensation: \$2,945.00  
Legal Description: 50-foot strip below the Clark Fork River in Gov. Lot 1 and  
NW4NE4, Sec. 18, Twp 12N, Rge. 17W, Missoula County

Trust Beneficiary: Public Land Trust

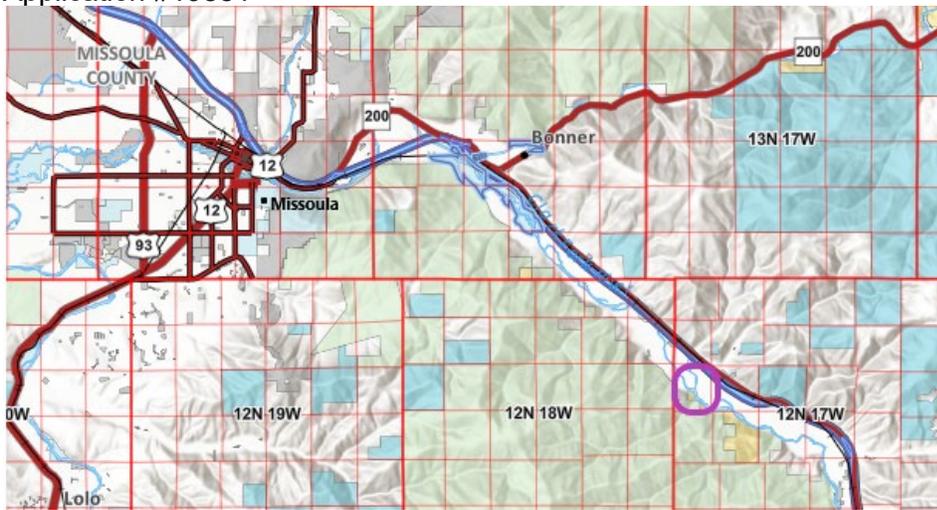
**Item Summary:**

NorthWestern Energy is requesting an easement for a 12-inch natural gas pipeline crossing the Clark Fork River near Turah. The pipeline is proposed to replace an existing pipeline, however it will be rerouted and placed within a different location to meet current regulations required by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The new proposed corridor will also aid in the ability to provide easier maintenance for the pipeline. The new pipeline will be horizontally directionally drilled well below scour depth of the river. The existing pipeline was authorized in 2016 under the historic right of way statute at the time and will be swabbed, capped and abandoned in place. Should any portion of the pipeline become exposed, that portion of the exposed pipeline will be removed.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of NorthWestern Energy.

Application #19881



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19905  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 2.46  
Compensation: \$1,845.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through E2E2, Sec. 36, Twp. 24N, Rge. 31E,  
Phillips County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

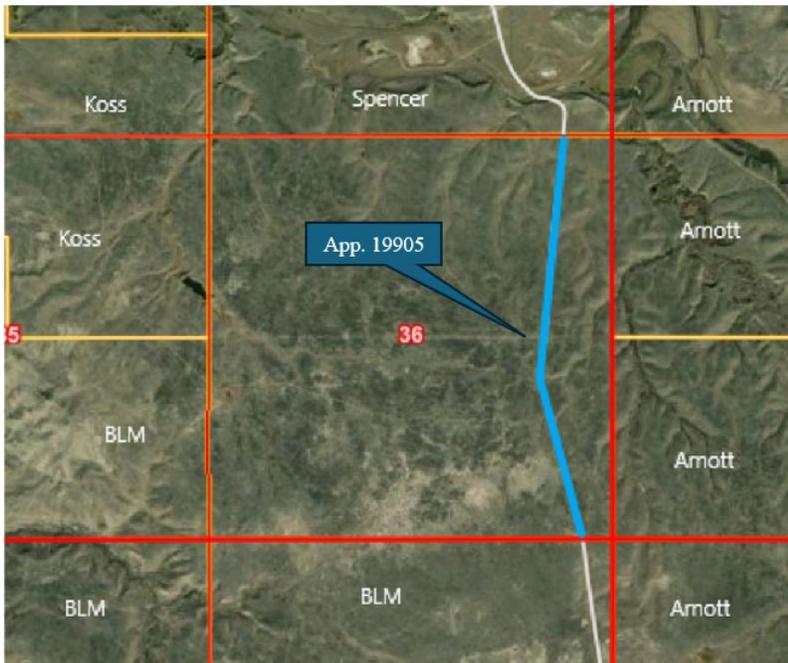
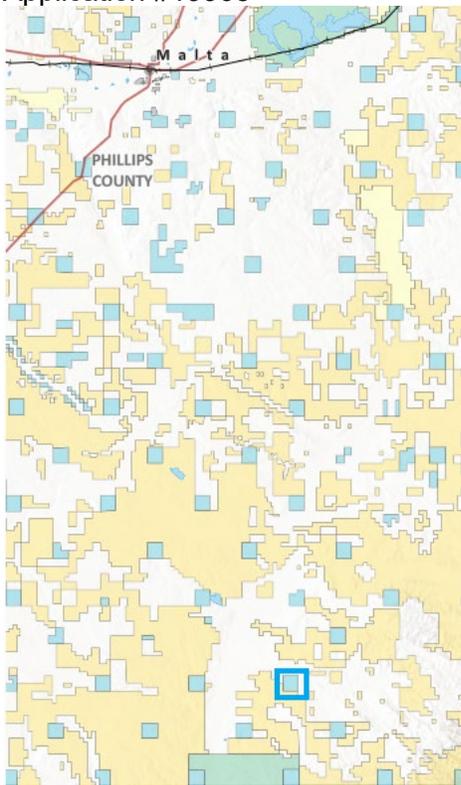
**Item Summary:**

Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. is requesting an easement to install a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable in the South Malta exchange. The line will provide reliable telephone and broadband services to homes and businesses in Phillips County. The proposed route was chosen in order to follow the existing roadway. Other routes were considered and eliminated for topographical, environmental, and economic reasons.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19905



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19906  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 1.46  
Compensation: \$1,095.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through N2NE4, SE4NE4, NE4SE4, Sec. 36,  
Twp. 24N, Rge. 29E, Phillips County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

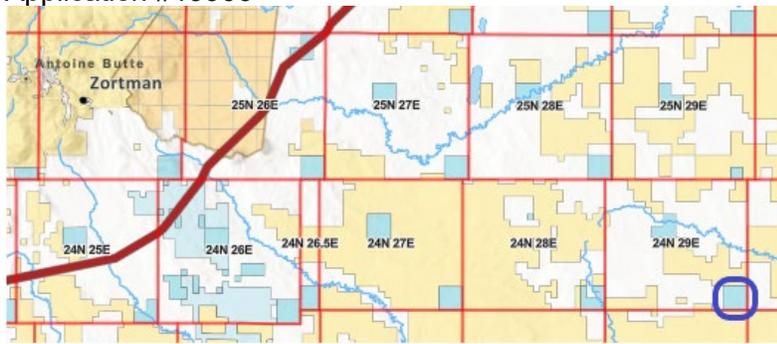
**Item Summary:**

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19906



## **APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Moore's Sunday Creek Ranch  
3253 Cherry Creek Road  
Miles City, MT 59301

Application No.: 19907  
R/W Purpose: a private access road to conduct normal farming and ranching operations

Lessee Agreement: N/A (Historic)  
Acreage: 3.18  
Compensation: \$1,749.00  
Legal Description: 15-foot strip through E2NE4, NE4SE4, Sec. 8 and W2W2, Sec. 9, Twp. 11N, Rge. 43E, Rosebud County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools and MSU-Eastern/UM-Western

### **Item Summary:**

Moore's Sunday Creek Ranch is requesting a historic easement for a private access road across state trust land to access their private lands to conduct normal farming and ranching operations. This application is made pursuant to amendments of §77-2-101, MCA for recognition of historic uses across state trust land. The state sections are legally accessible by a public county road.

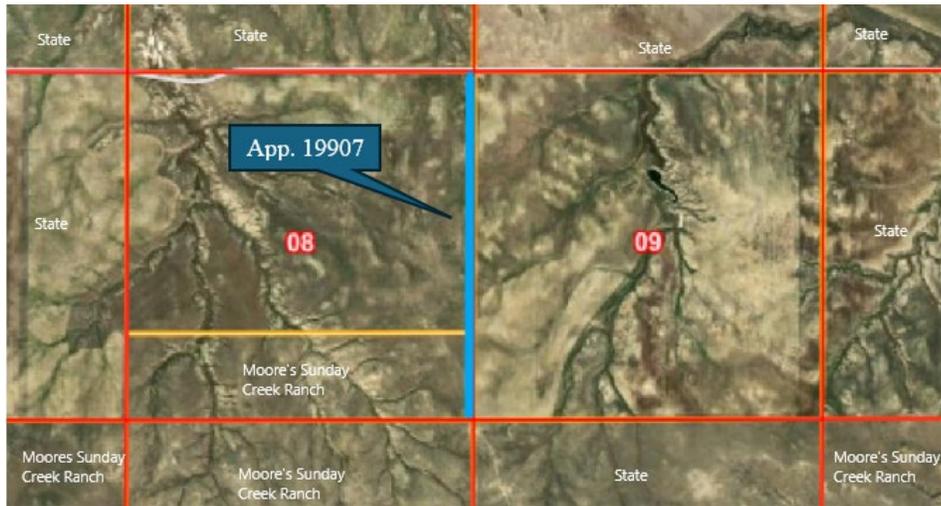
Moore's Sunday Creek Ranch private land to be accessed is described as follows:

- S2S2, Section 8, Township 11 North, Range 43 East
- N2, Section 15, Township 11 North, Range 43 East
- All, Section 17, Township 11 North, Range 43 East
- All, Section 18, Township 11 North, Range 43 East
- All, Section 20, Township 11 North, Range 43 East
- All, Section 21, Township 11 North, Range 43 East
- All, Section 22, Township 11 North, Range 43 East

### **DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Moore's Sunday Creek Ranch.

Application #19907



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Montana Department of Transportation  
PO Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620

Application No.: 19908  
R/W Purpose: highway bridge construction and maintenance, including  
occupancy by utilities as defined in §69-4-101, MCA

Lessee Agreement: N/A (Navigable River)  
Acreage: 1.45  
Compensation: \$12,503.00  
Legal Description: a tract of land across the Clark Fork River between Gov. Lot 3 and  
Gov. Lot 5, Sec. 1, Twp. 14N, Rge. 24W, Mineral County

Trust Beneficiary: Public Land Trust

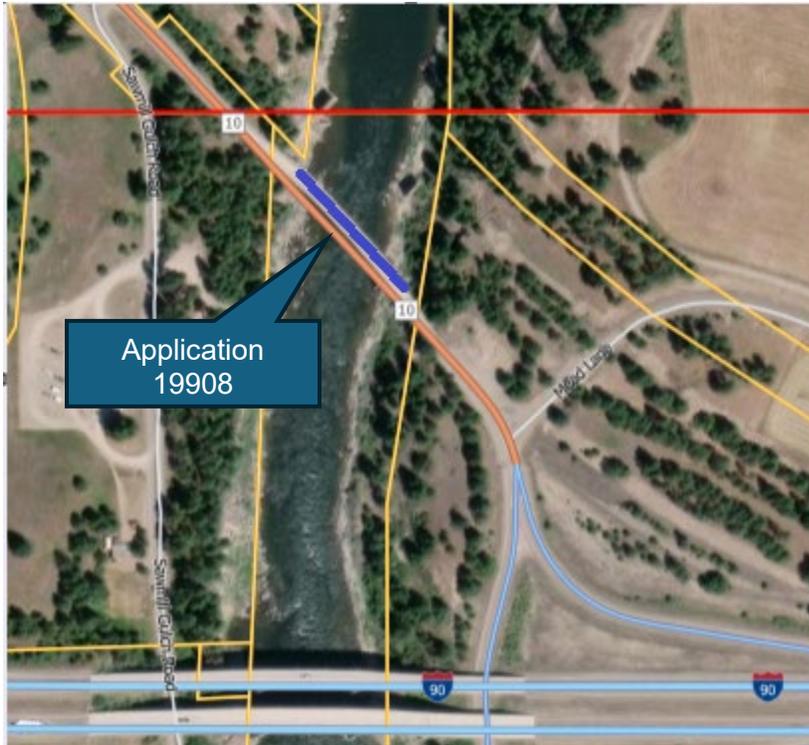
**Item Summary:**

The Department of Transportation is requesting an easement to replace the existing bridge at the Cyr Interchange off I-90 near Alberton at Old Highway 10. The most recent bridge inspection detected serious deterioration issues and with the age of the structure and substandard should width, it was determined that full replacement is warranted.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Montana Department of Transportation.

Application #19908



## **APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Moore's Sunday Creek Ranch  
3253 Cherry Creek Road  
Miles City, MT 59301

Application No.: 19909  
R/W Purpose: a private access road to conduct normal farming and ranching operations

Lessee Agreement: N/A (Historic)  
Acreage: 4.54  
Compensation: \$2,497.00  
Legal Description: 30-foot strip through W2NW4, SE4NW4, NE4SW4, W2SE4, Sec. 16, Twp. 11N, Rge. 43E, Rosebud County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

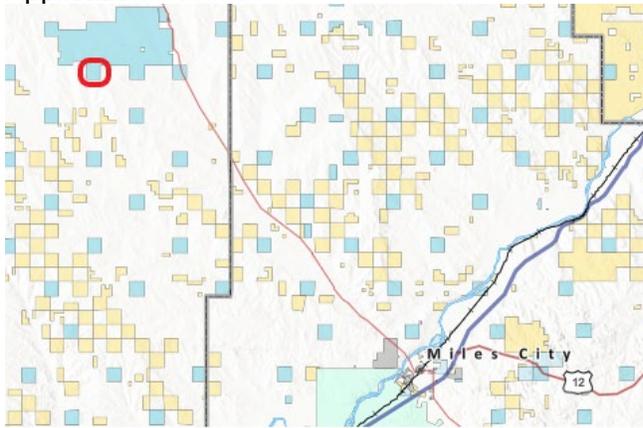
### **Item Summary:**

Continuation of Moore's Sunday Ranch application.

### **DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Moore's Sunday Creek Ranch.

Application #19909



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Richard Engellant  
3238 Geraldine Road North  
Geraldine, MT 59446

Application No.: 19910  
R/W Purpose: a private access road to conduct normal farming and ranching operations

Lessee Agreement: N/A (Historic)  
Acreage: 1.46  
Compensation: \$2,044.00  
Legal Description: 15-foot strip through E2NE4, N2SE4, Sec. 29, Twp. 22N, Rge. 11E, Chouteau County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

**Item Summary:**

Richard Engellant is requesting a historic easement for a private access road across state trust lands for the purpose of conducting normal farming and ranching operations. This application is made pursuant to amendments of §77-2-101, MCA for recognition of historic uses across state trust land. The state trust land is legally accessible by a petitioned and dedicated county road, although the county does not maintain the existing two track trail.

Richard Engellant’s private land to be accessed is described as follows:

- PT. N2SE4, Section 30, Township 22 North, Range 11 East
- NW4SE4, PT. N2SW4, Section 29, Township 22 North, Range 11 East

**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Richard Engellant.

Application #19910



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19911  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 1.44  
Compensation: \$720.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through S2SW4, Sec. 21, Twp. 27N, Rge. 19E,  
Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

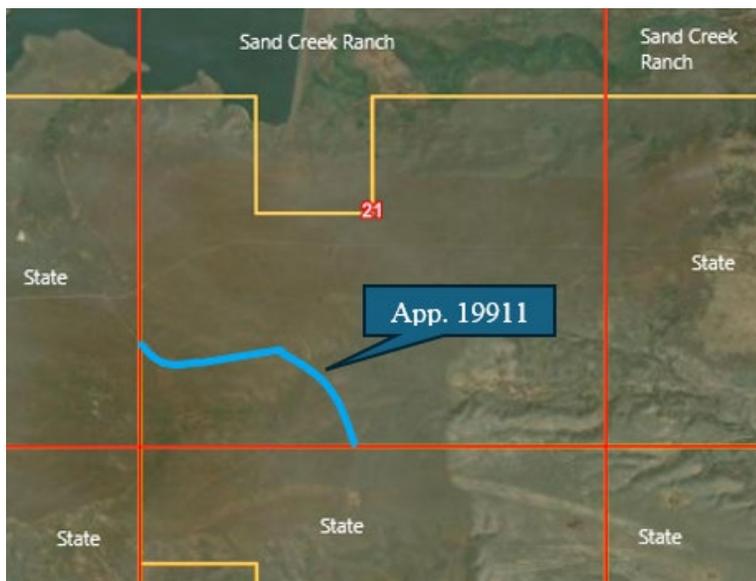
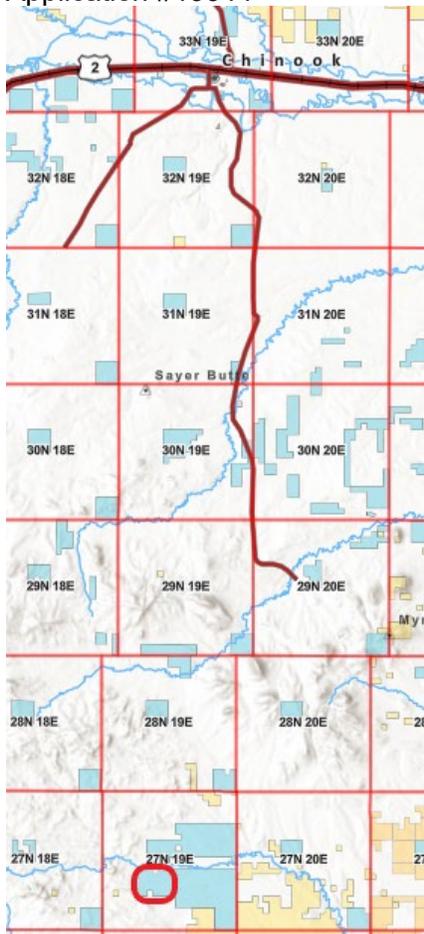
**Item Summary:**

Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. is requesting an easement to install a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable in the Chinook exchange area. The line will provide reliable telephone and broadband services to homes and businesses in Blaine county. The proposed route was chosen in order to follow the existing roadway. Other routes were considered and eliminated for topographical, environmental, and economic reasons.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19911



## **APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19912  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 1.59  
Compensation: \$795.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through E2NW4, SW4NE4, Sec. 28, Twp. 27N,  
Rge. 19E, Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

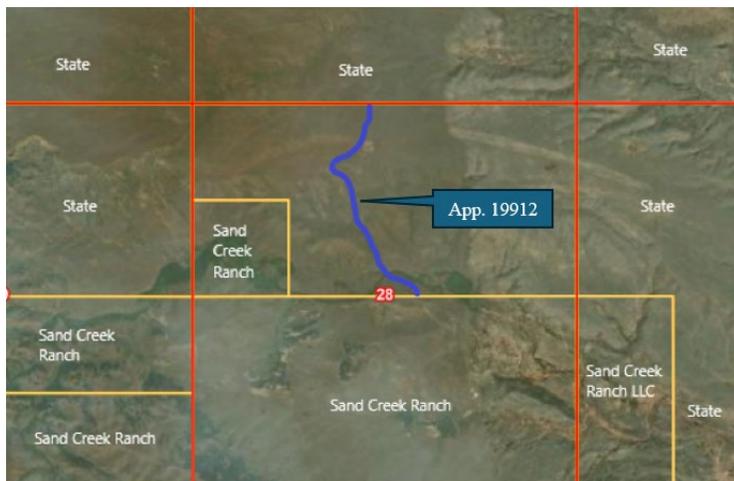
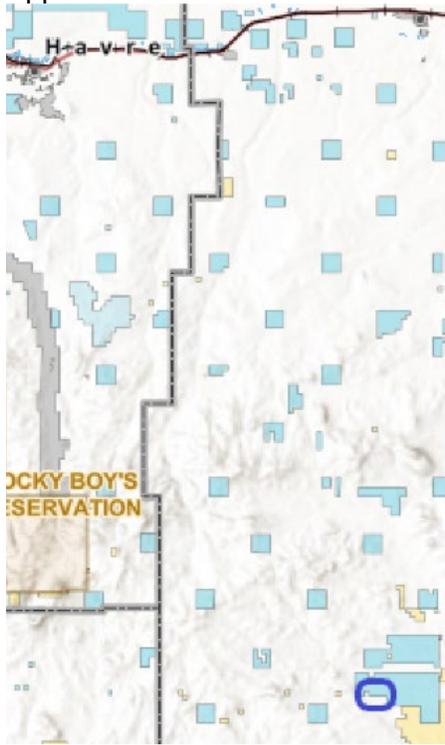
### **Item Summary:**

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

### **DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19912



## **APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19913  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 2.56  
Compensation: \$1,280.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through N2SW4, SE4SW4, S2SE4, Sec. 3,  
Twp. 29N, Rge. 21E, Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

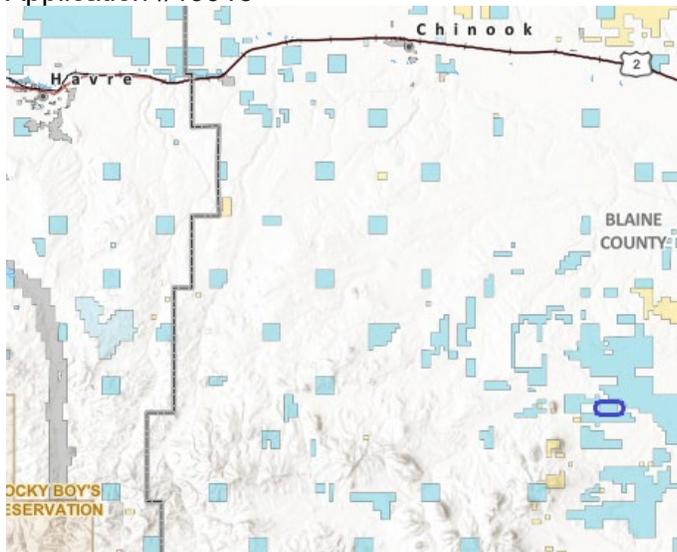
### **Item Summary:**

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

### **DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19913



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19914  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 1.66  
Compensation: \$830.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through S2NW4, SW4NE4, Sec. 4, Twp. 29N,  
Rge. 21E, Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

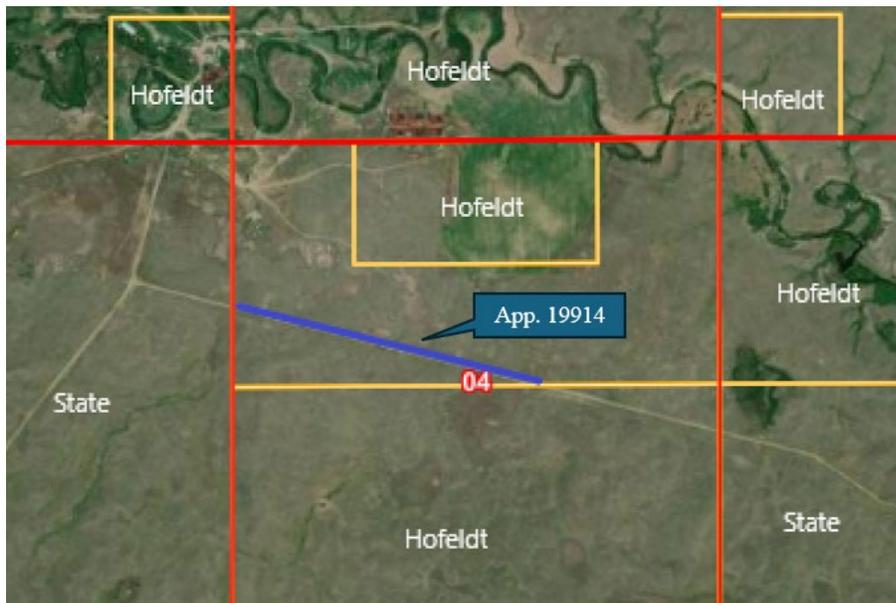
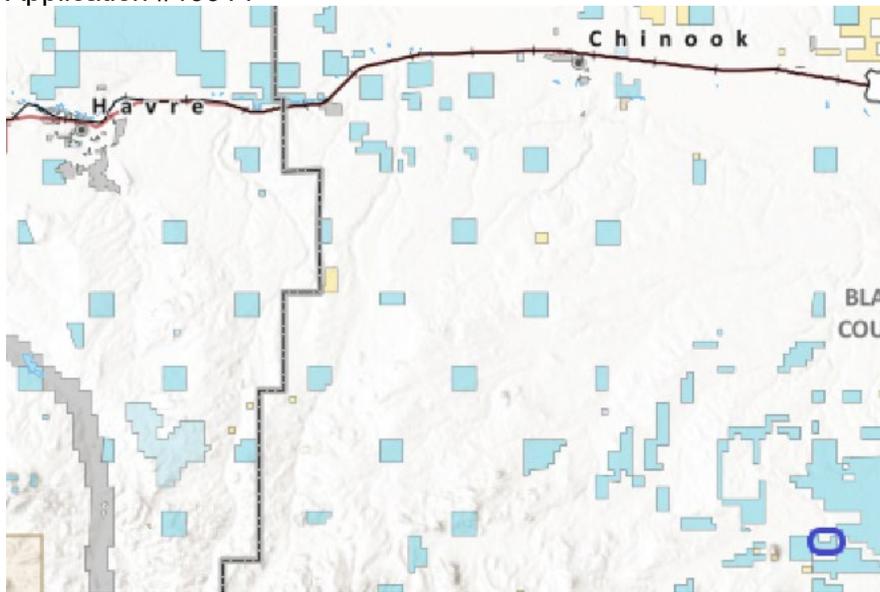
**Item Summary:**

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19914



## **APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19915  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 2.39  
Compensation: \$1,195.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through N2NW4, NW4NE4, S2NE4, Sec. 11,  
Twp. 29N, Rge. 21E, Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Montana Tech

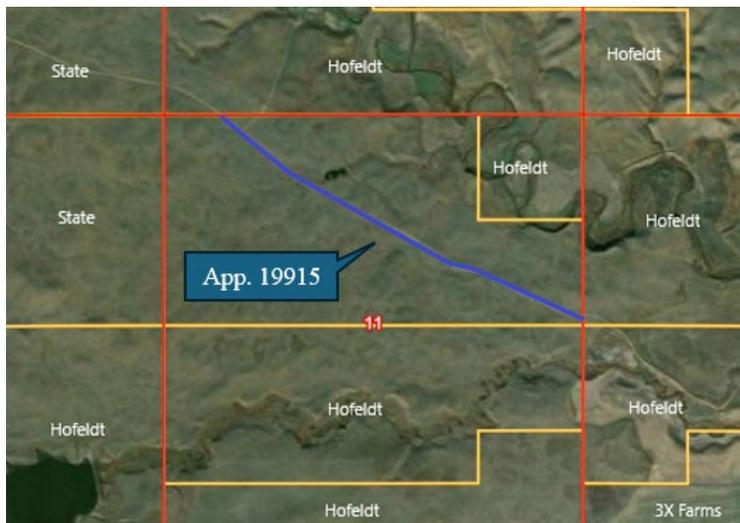
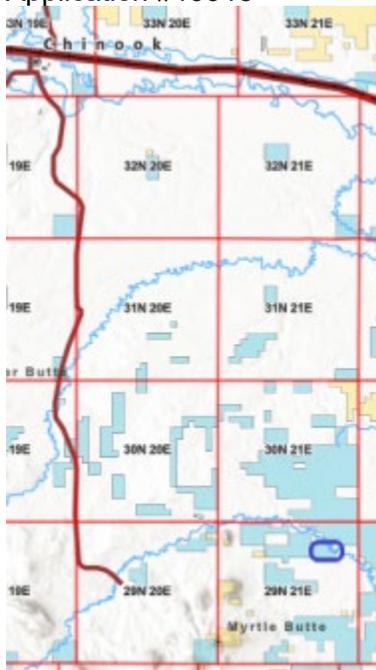
### **Item Summary:**

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

### **DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19915



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19916  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 2.08  
Compensation: \$1,040.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through E2NW4, SWNW4, NW4SW4, Sec. 27,  
Twp. 29N, Rge. 21E, Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

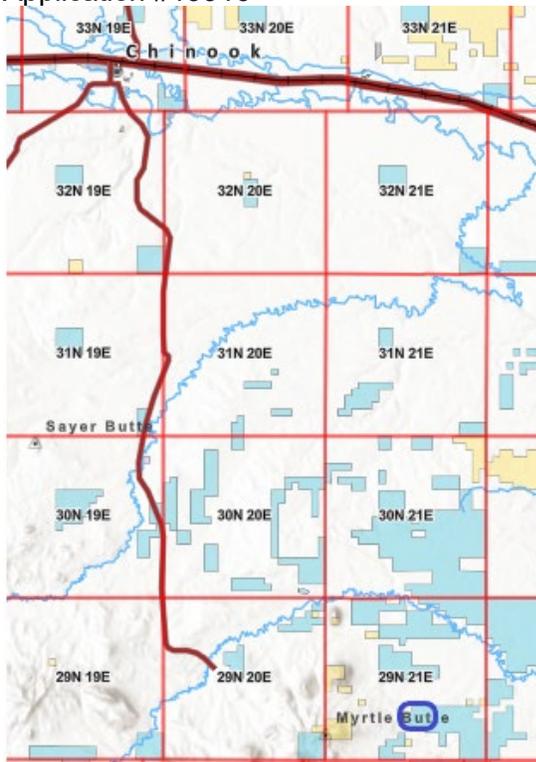
**Item Summary:**

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19916



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.  
PO Box 1220  
Havre, MT 59501

Application No.: 19917  
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable  
Lessee Agreement: ok  
Acreage: 3.41  
Compensation: \$1,705.00  
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through N2NW4, SE4NW4, SW4NE4, N2SE4,  
SE4SE4, Sec. 16, Twp. 37N, Rge. 20E, Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

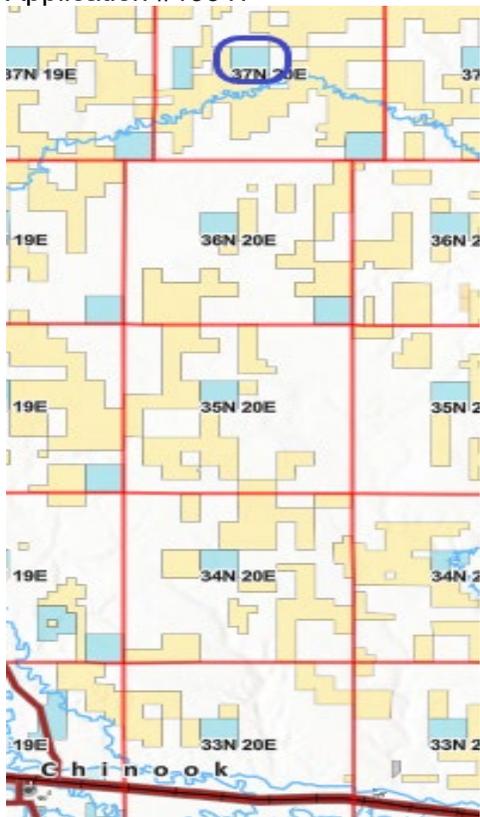
**Item Summary:**

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

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

Application #19917



**APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION**

Applicant: Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
1700 W. Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59808

Application No.: 19919  
R/W Purpose: a buried 14.4 kV single phase electric distribution line and a buried  
25kV three-phase distribution line

Lessee Agreement: N/A (Unleased)  
Acreage: 0.07  
Compensation: \$840.00  
Legal Description: 10-foot strip through SW4NW4, Sec. 36, Twp. 15N, Rge. 14W,  
Missoula County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

**Item Summary:**

Missoula Electric Cooperative is requesting an easement through state trust land for the purpose of providing electrical services to a new fire bunkhouse to be constructed on state trust land at the Clearwater Unit facility and service to a customer. These electric lines will originate from a buried electric facility within the highway right of way and provide necessary service to the bunkhouse.

**DNRC Recommendation:**

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Application #19919

