

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA
April 20, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303
HELENA, MT

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

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

ACTION ITEMS

0426-1 Timber Sales

A. Johnson's Draw

Location: Lincoln County
Benefits: Common Schools

B. Lion Point

Location: Missoula County
Benefits: Common Schools and Capitol Buildings

C. Pink Barna-kal

Location: Lincoln County
Benefits: Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools

D. Sunset Potomac

Location: Missoula County
Benefits: Capitol Buildings

0426-2 Cabin and Homesite: Preliminary Approval for Sale

Location: Flathead, Missoula, and Sanders Counties
Benefits: MSU 2nd, Pine Hills, Common Schools, Capitol Buildings, and MT Tech

0426-3 Easements

Location: Blaine, Cascade, Dawson, Fergus, Lincoln, McCone, Prairie, and Wheatland Counties
Benefits: Common Schools

0426-4 Reciprocal Access Agreement

Location: Rosebud County
Benefits: Common Schools

0426-5 Request for Approval to Initiate Scoping

Location: State of Montana
Benefits: Common Schools, Capitol Buildings, MSU 2nd, MSU Morrill, MSU Eastern/UM Western, MT Tech, U of M, Deaf & Blind School, Pine Hills, Veterans Home, Intensive Behavior Center, MT State Hospital, Lands Acquired-Public School, and Public Land Trust

0426-6 Request for Approval to Initiate Rulemaking

Location: State of Montana
Benefits: Common Schools, Capitol Buildings, MSU 2nd, MSU Morrill, MSU Eastern/UM Western, MT Tech, U of M, Deaf & Blind School, Pine Hills, Veterans Home, Intensive Behavior Center, MT State Hospital, Lands Acquired-Public School, and Public Land Trust

0426-7 Informational Item: Quarterly Litigation Update

Location: N/A
Benefits: N/A

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

Members Present

Greg Gianforte, 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

Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
Ryan Weiss, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator
Zack Winfield, DNRC Petroleum Engineer

Attachments

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in-Sheet

Call to Order

00:00:01 Governor Gianforte called the meeting to order.

Adopt Proposed Agenda

00:00:37 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General moved to approve the March agenda. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State and carried unanimously.

Adopt Prior Months Meeting Minutes

00:00:51 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General moved to approve the February, minutes. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State and carried unanimously.

Business Considered

0326-1 Timber Sales A, B & C

00:01:05 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:03:20 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0326-1A, B & C. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

0326-2 Oil and Gas Lease Sale

00:03:38 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:04:37 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0326-2. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:04:45 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
00:05:16 Zack Winfield, DNRC Petroleum Engineer
00:05:23 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
00:05:54 Zack Winfield, DNRC Petroleum Engineer
00:06:19 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
00:06:34 Zack Winfield, DNRC Petroleum Engineer

00:07:10 The motion to approve item 0326-2 carried unanimously.

0326-3 Commercial Lease Template Draft

00:07:14 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:08:01 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance made a motion to defer the commercial lease template draft to the June Land Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:08:31 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
00:09:12 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
00:09:30 Ryan Weiss, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator

00:09:54 The motion was approved and carried unanimously.

0326-4 Easements

00:10:04 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:10:49 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General moved to approve item 0326-4. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State and carried unanimously.

Board Discussion/Comments: N/A

General Public Comment: N/A

Adjournment

00:00:00 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>.*

0426-1

Timber Sales

A. Johnson's Draw

B. Lion Point

C. Pink Barna-kal

D. Sunset Potomac

**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-1A Timber Sale: Johnson's Draw

Location: Lincoln County

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools Trust

Trust Revenue: \$204,488 (estimated, minimum)

Item Summary:

Location: The Johnson's Draw Timber Sale is located approximately 9.5 miles southeast of Libby, Montana.

Size and Scope: The sale includes 5 harvest units (305 acres) of tractor, skyline and combination logging.

Volume: The estimated harvest volume is 16,346 tons (2.6 MMBF) of sawlogs.

Estimated Return: The minimum bid is \$12.51 per ton, which would generate approximately \$204,488 for the Common Schools Trust and approximately \$66,166 in forest improvement fees.

Prescription: This sale would utilize a shelterwood harvest prescription designed to capture the value of existing timber and reduce the fuel load.

Road Construction/Maintenance: The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 1.5 miles of road construction and 13.5 miles of road maintenance.

Access: Access is obtained through permanent easements with a private landowner and United States Forest Service.

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:

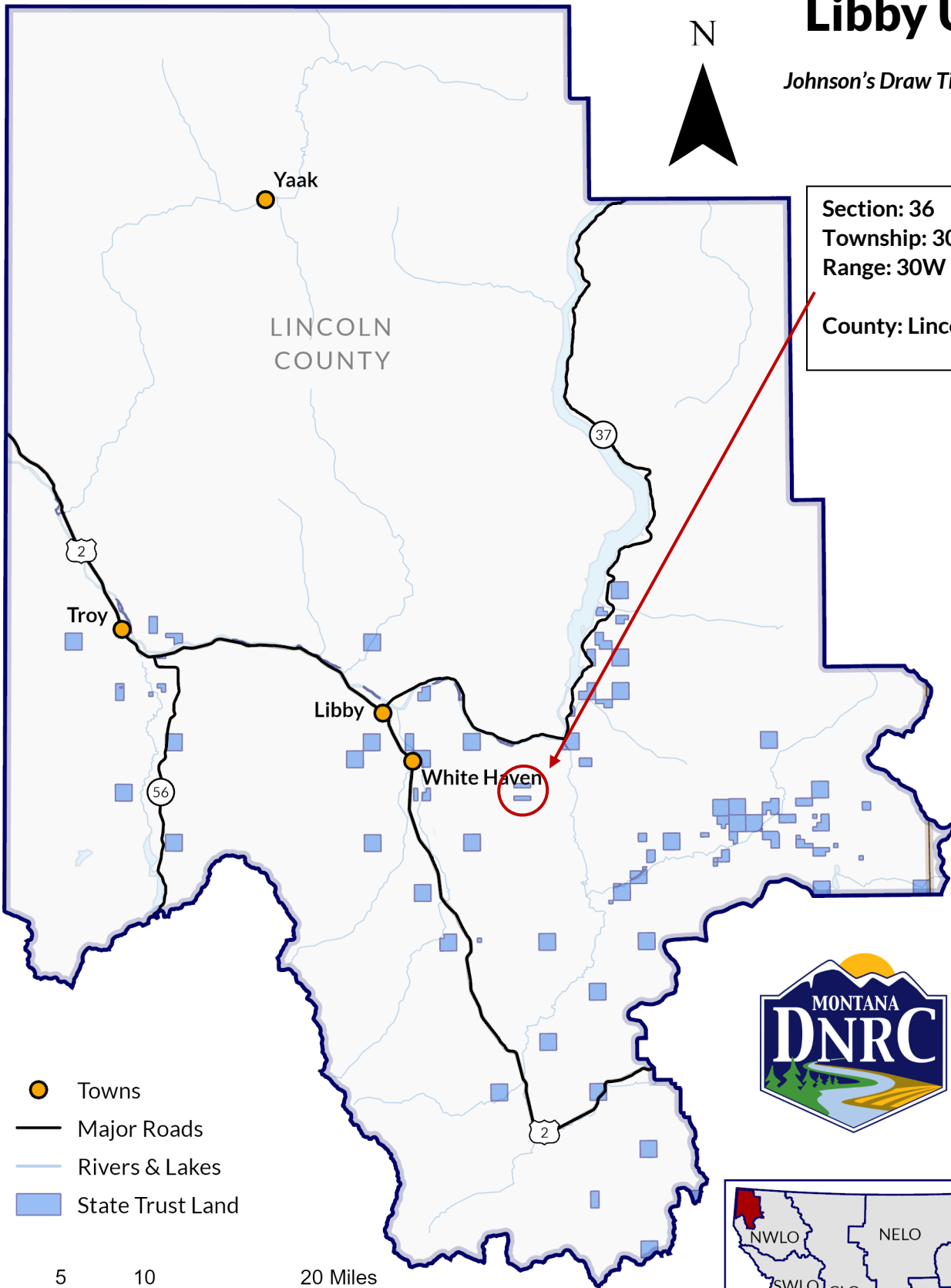
The DNRC recommends that the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Johnson's Draw Timber Sale.

State Trust Land Vicinity Map

Libby Unit

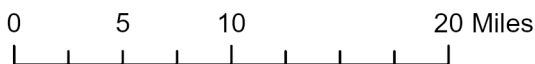
Johnson's Draw Timber Sale

N

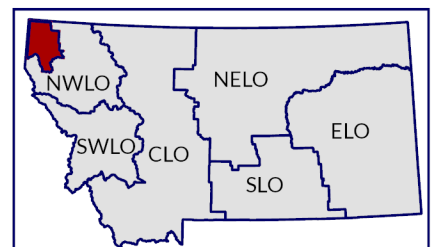


Section: 36
Township: 30N
Range: 30W
County: Lincoln

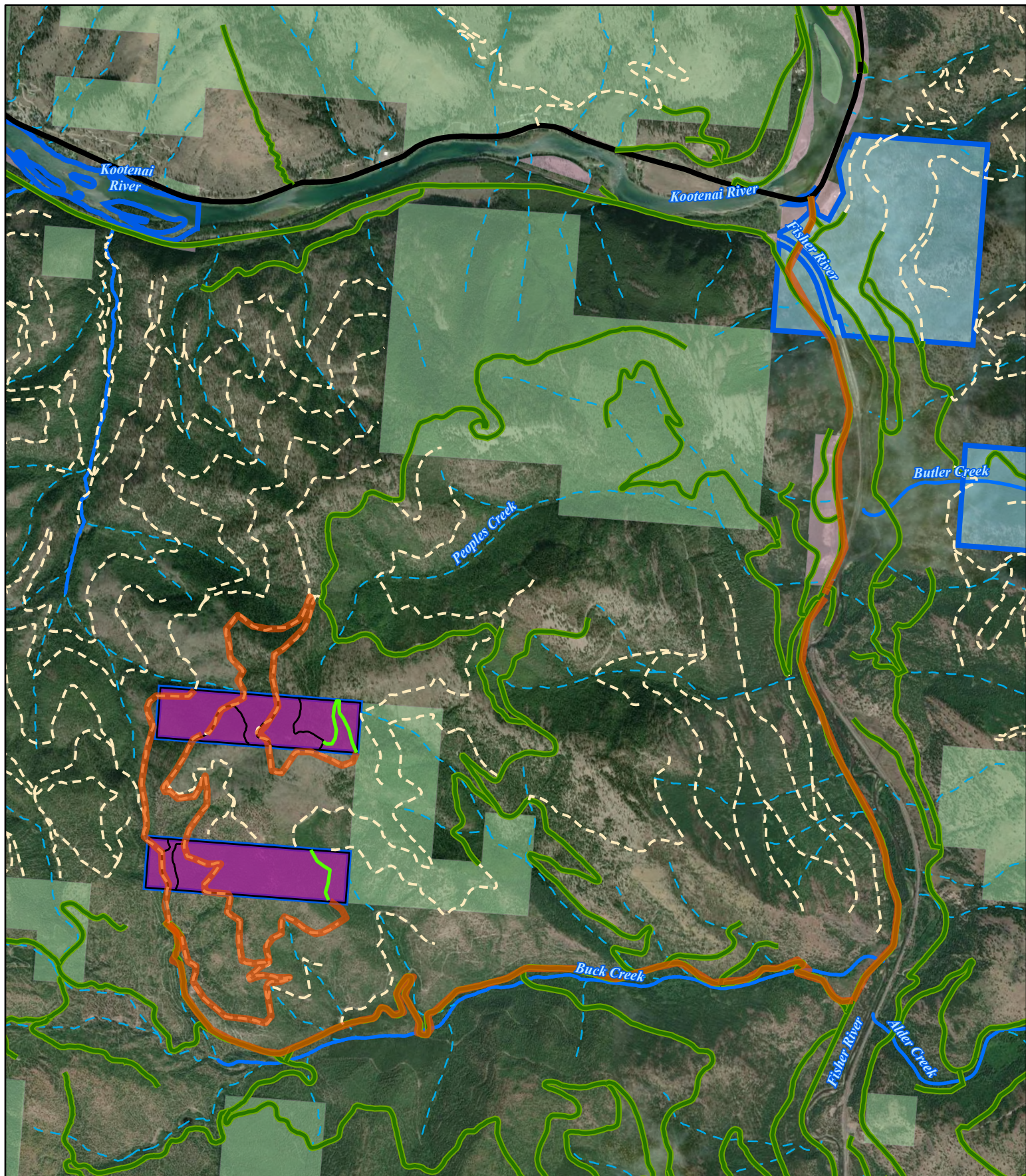
- Towns
- Major Roads
- Rivers & Lakes
- State Trust Land



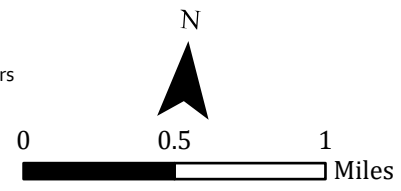
Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – 2025
NAD 1983 State Plane



Johnson's Draw Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units



Haul Route	Restricted Class A	Intermittent
New Road	Harvest Units	US Forest Service
FMB_Roads	TLMD_SurfaceTracts	Defense Dept/Army Corp of Engineers
Highway	Streams	Montana State Trust Lands
Open/Public Roads	Hydrograph	
	Perennial	



**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-1B Timber Sale: Lion Point

Location: Missoula County

Trust Beneficiaries: Common School and Capitol Buildings

Trust Revenue: \$85,326 (estimated, minimum)

Item Summary:

Location: The Lion Point Timber Sale is located approximately 30 miles west of Missoula, Montana.

Size and Scope: The sale includes 13 harvest units (899 acres) of tractor and cable logging.

Volume: The estimated harvest volume is 23,586 tons (3.6 MMBF) of sawlogs.

Estimated Return: The minimum bid is \$4.00 per ton for non-Ponderosa Pine species and \$1.00 per ton for Ponderosa Pine, which would generate approximately \$85,326 for the Common Schools (45%) and Capitol Buildings (55%) Trust and approximately \$78,735 in forest improvement fees.

Prescription: This sale would utilize individual tree selection, seed tree and overstory removal harvest prescriptions designed to improve stand health and vigor, capture economic value of insect and disease damaged trees, and reduce fuel loading and the risk of stand replacing fire.

Road Construction/Maintenance: The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 1.8 miles of road construction and 29.5 miles of road maintenance.

Access: Access is obtained through a permanent easement with a private landowner, a road use permits with the United State Forest Service, and a temporary road use permit with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP).

Public Comments: Three public comments were received. One comment from a cabin site lessee expressed general support for the project and requested information about silviculture and timing of operations. A nearby landowner expressed concern regarding construction of new open roads, wildlife and fisheries. DNRC explained to the commenter that new open roads would not be built as part of the project and that wildlife and fisheries concerns would be addressed in the Lion Point Environmental Assessment document. FWP suggested mitigation for wildlife and fisheries and requested further engagement during project planning. DNRC worked with FWP to address any concerns and include appropriate mitigations during project planning.

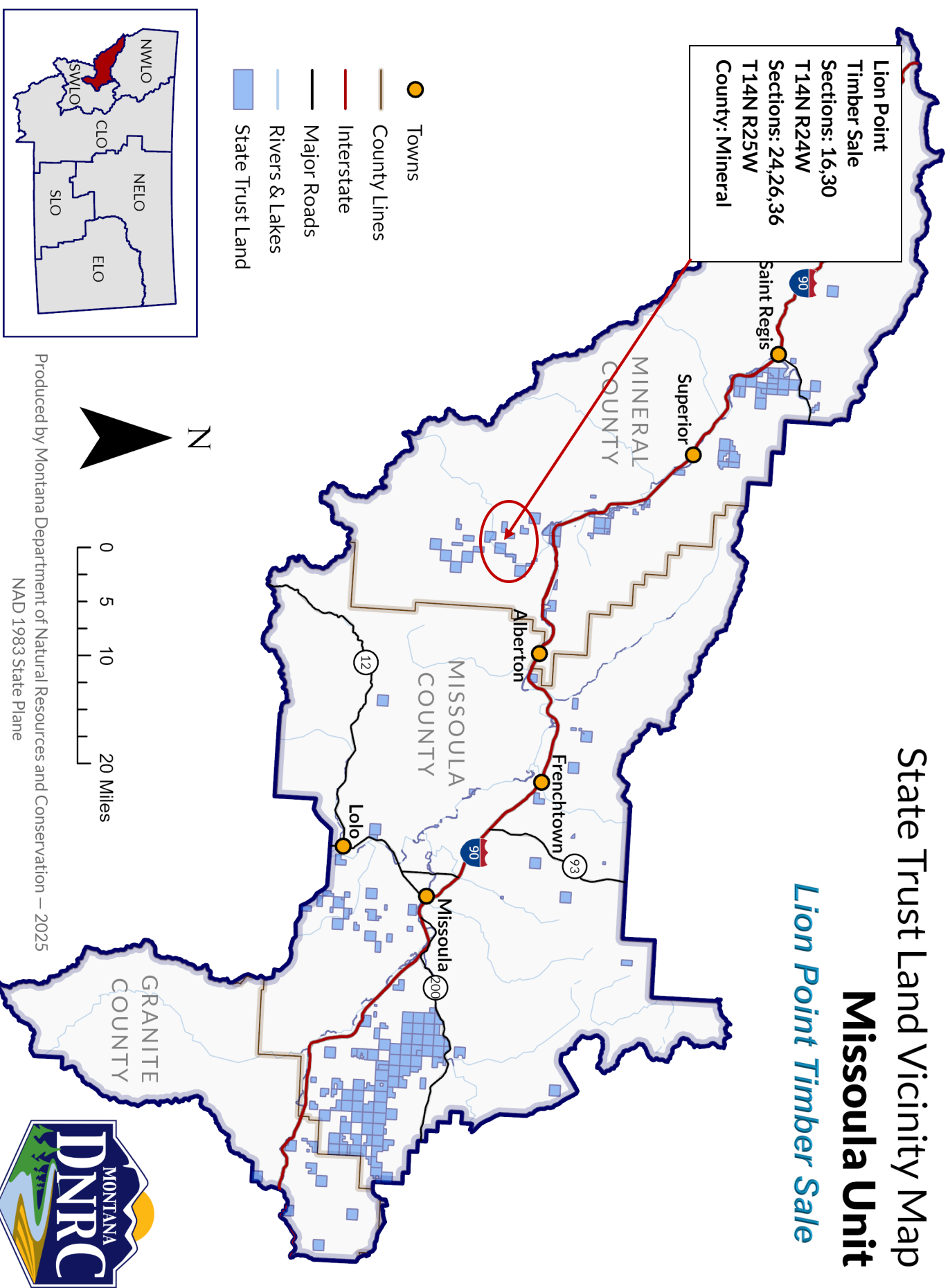
DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Lion Point Timber Sale.

State Trust Land Vicinity Map Missoula Unit

Lion Point Timber Sale

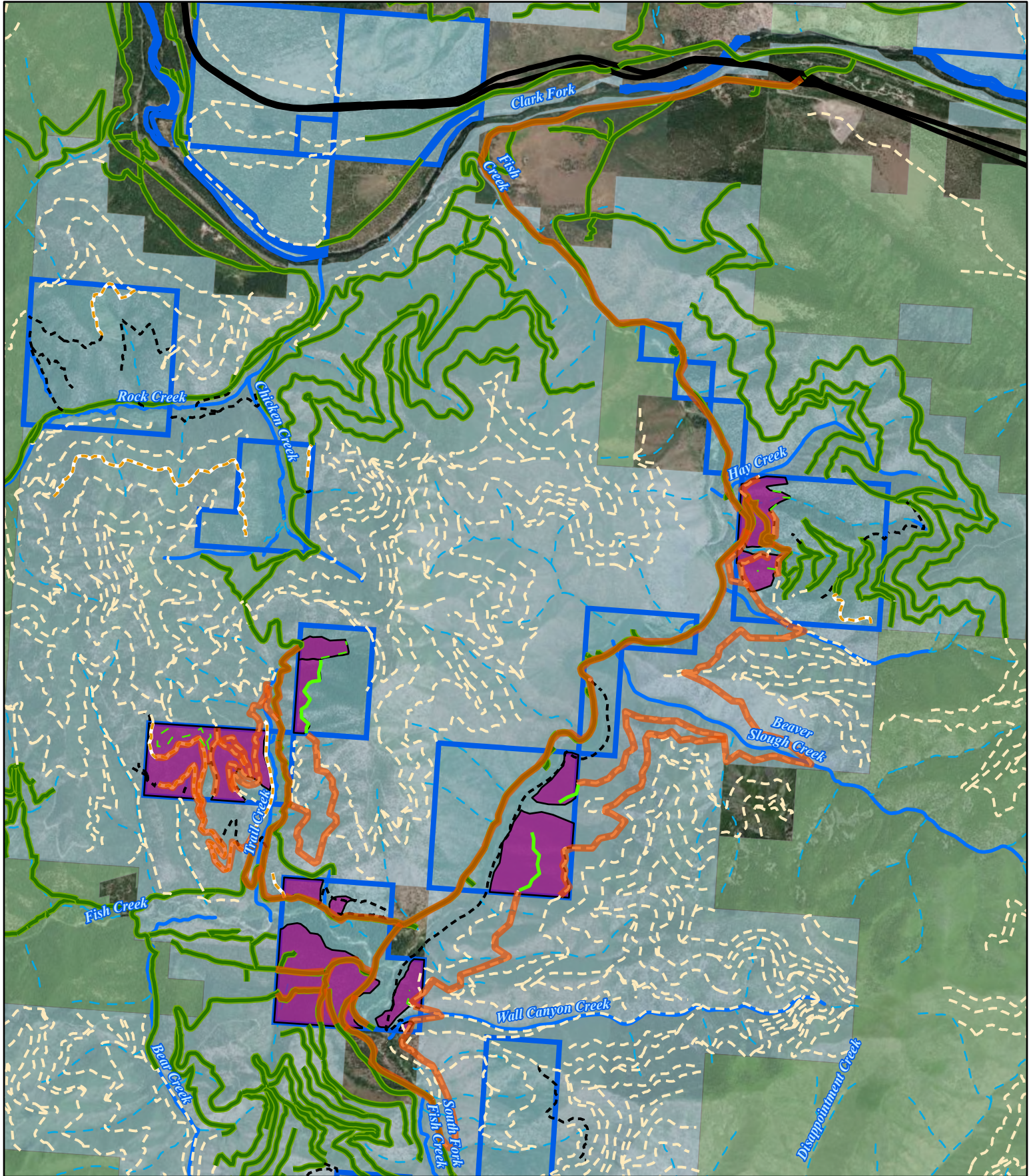
Lion Point
Timber Sale
Sections: 16,30
T14N R24W
Sections: 24,26,36
T14N R25W
County: Mineral



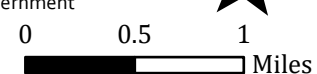
Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation — 2025
NAD 1983 State Plane



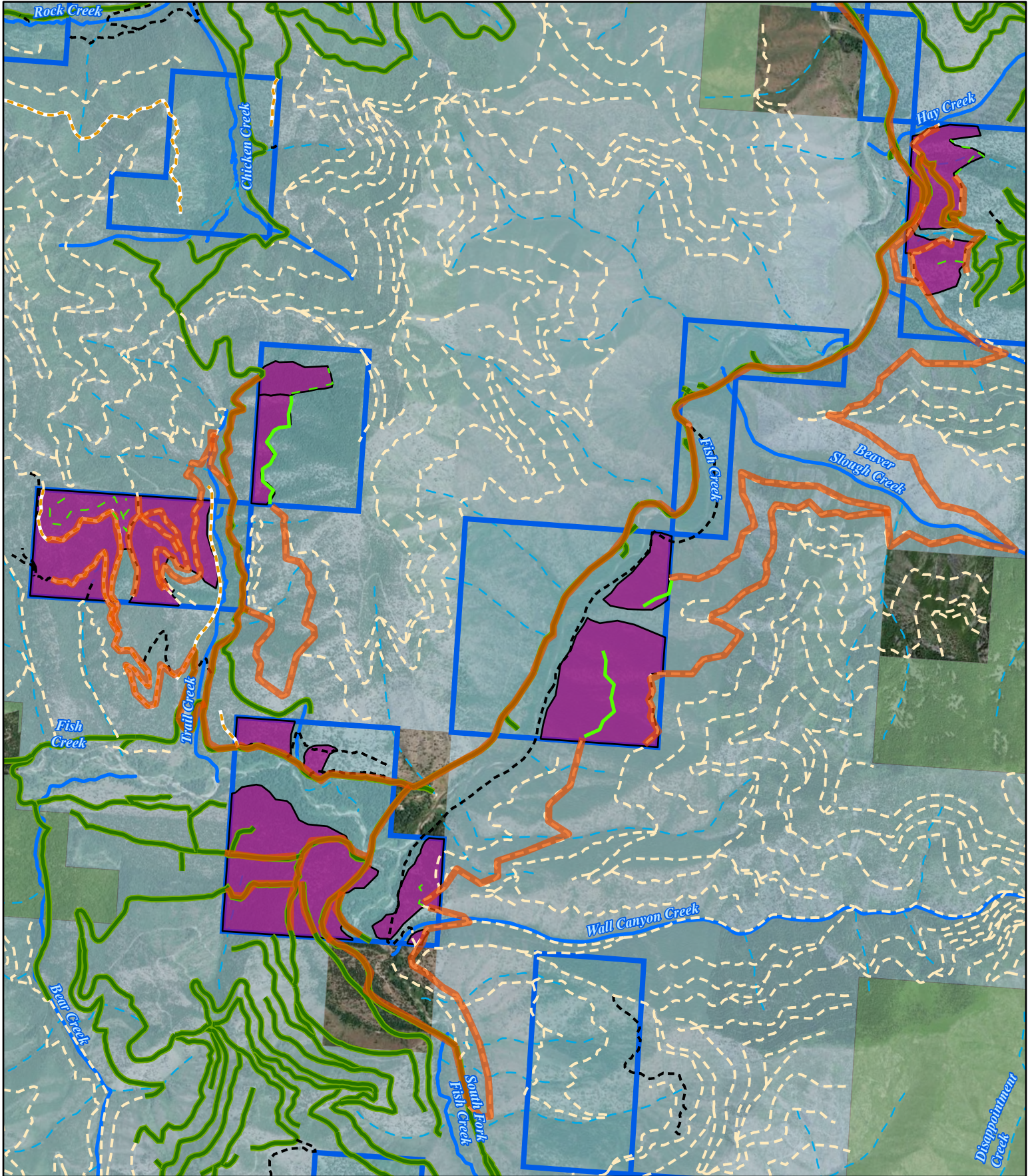
Lion Point Timber Sale Haul Route



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



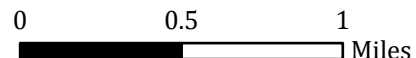
Lion Point Timber Sale Harvest Units



- Haul Route
- New Road
- - - Temporary Road
- FMB_Roads
- Highway
- Open/Public Roads

- - - Restricted Class A
- - - Restricted Class B
- - - Abandoned or Reclaimed A
- Harvest Units
- Harvest Units
- TLM_D_SurfaceTracts

- Streams
- Hydrograph
- Perennial
- - - Intermittent
- US Forest Service
- State of Montana Misc.
- Montana State Trust Lands



**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-1C Timber Sale: Pink Barna-kal

Location: Lincoln County

Trust Beneficiaries: County Schools Trust

Trust Revenue: \$329,772 (estimated, minimum)

Item Summary:

Location: The Pink Barna-kal Timber Sale is located approximately 5 miles southwest of Eureka, Montana.

Size and Scope: The sale includes 16 harvest units (389 acres) of tractor logging.

Volume: The estimated harvest volume is 20,470 tons (3.2 MMBF) of sawlogs.

Estimated Return: The minimum bid is \$16.11 per ton, which would generate approximately \$329,772 for the Common Schools Trust and approximately \$83,684 in forest improvement fees.

Prescription: This sale would utilize seed tree, shelterwood and commercial thinning harvest prescriptions designed to establish a new age class of trees and enhance vigor of existing stands.

Road Construction/Maintenance: The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 3.2 miles of road reconstruction and 9.1 miles of road maintenance.

Access: Access is obtained through a temporary road use permit with the United States Forest Service and a right-of-way easement with a private landowner.

Public Comments: Six comments were received. One comment from a logging industry representative expressed support for the project. One comment from Lincoln Electric Cooperative expressed concern about timber management near overhead powerlines and right-of-ways. One comment from a nearby landowner expressed interest in potential purchase of DNRC timber sales. One comment for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks expressed concern over wildlife habitat. Two comments from nearby landowners expressed concern over wildlife, weeds, soils, wildfire fuels and project economics. All comments were addressed in the Lincoln County Forest Management Project Environmental Assessment.

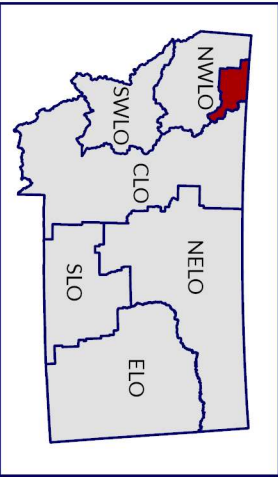
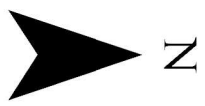
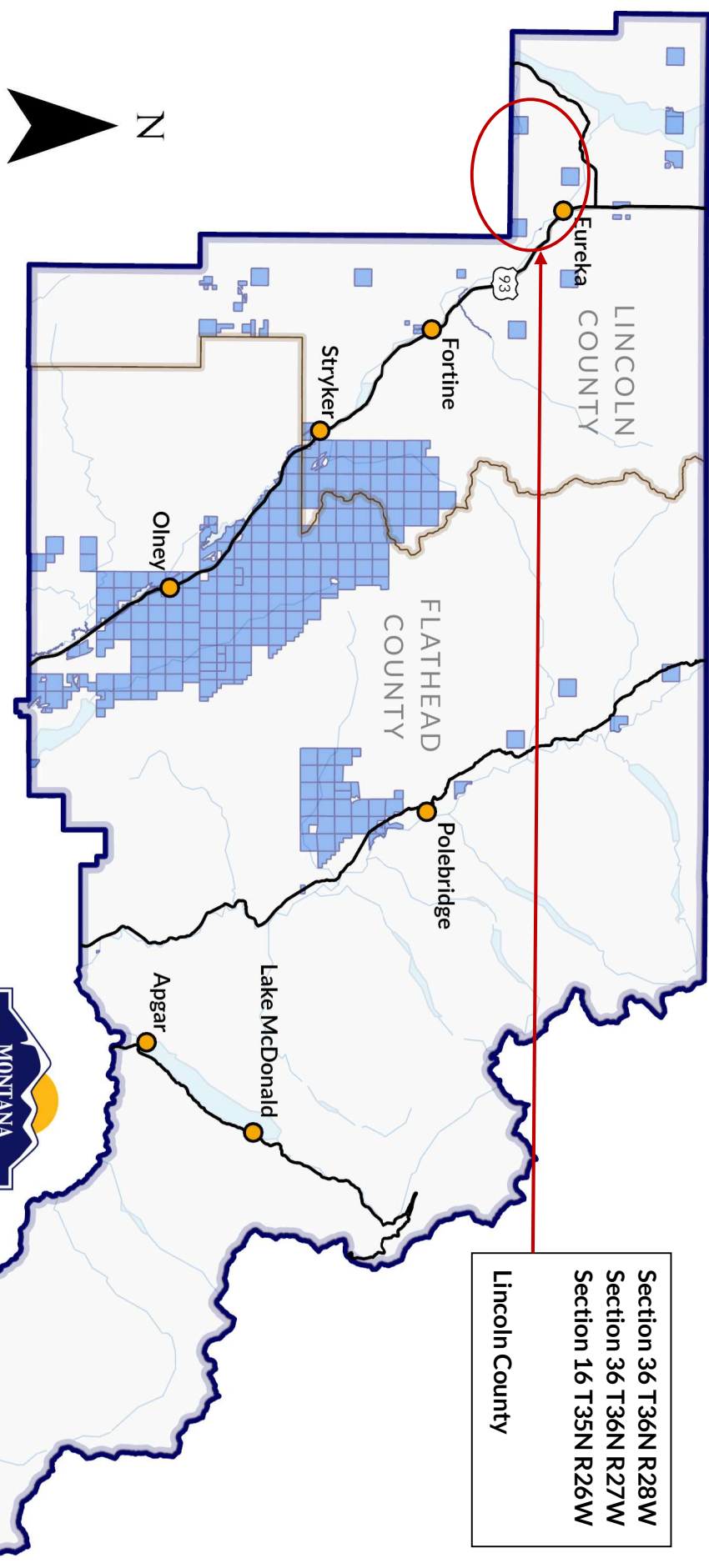
DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Pink Barna-kal Timber Sale.

State Trust Land Vicinity Map Stillwater Unit

Pink Barna-kal Timber Sale

Section 36 T36N R28W
Section 36 T36N R27W
Section 16 T35N R26W
Lincoln County

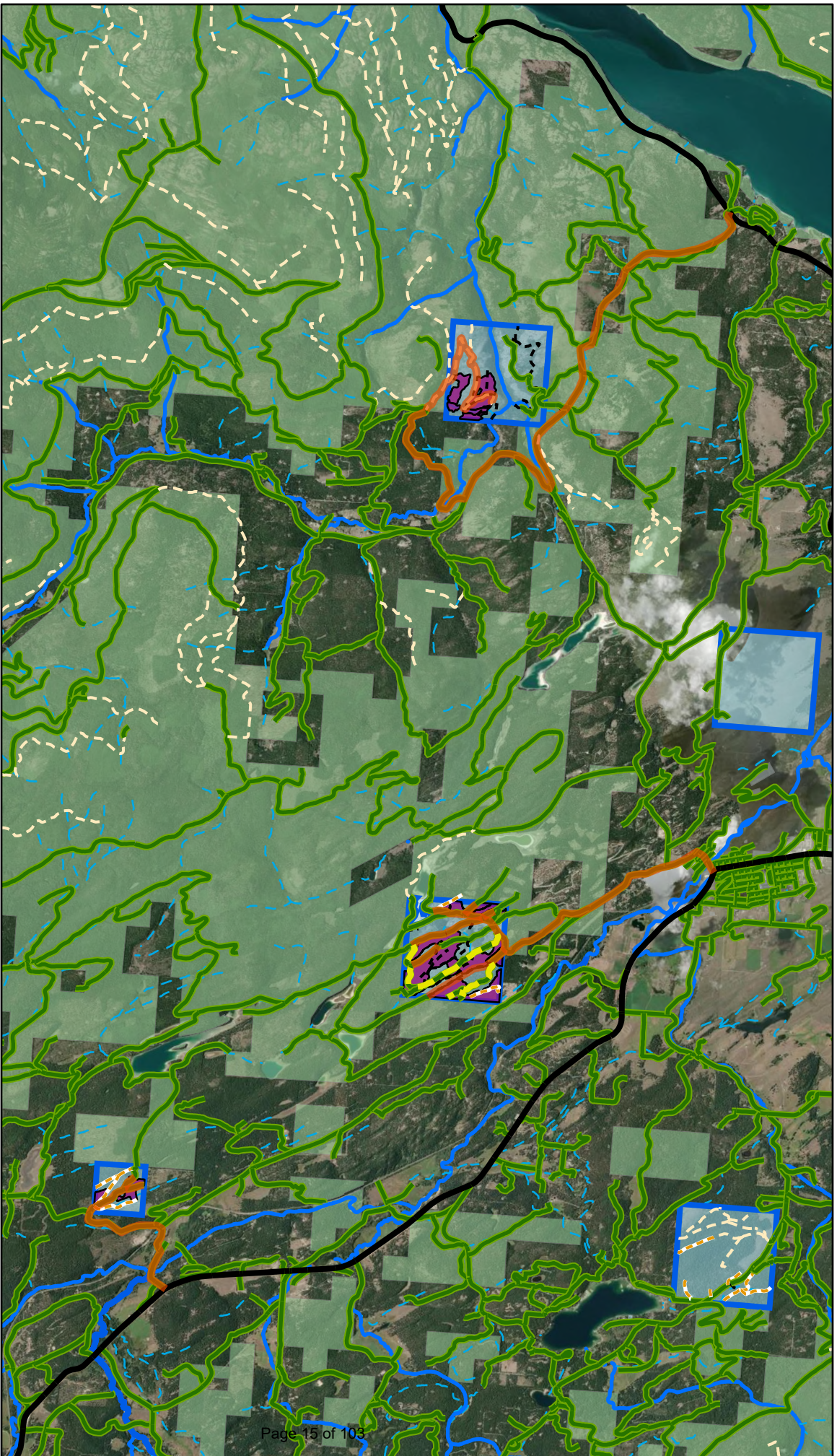


- Towns
- County Lines
- Major Roads
- Rivers & Lakes
- State Trust Land

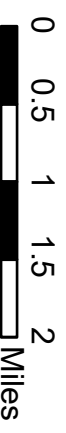


Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation — 2025
NAD 1983 State Plane

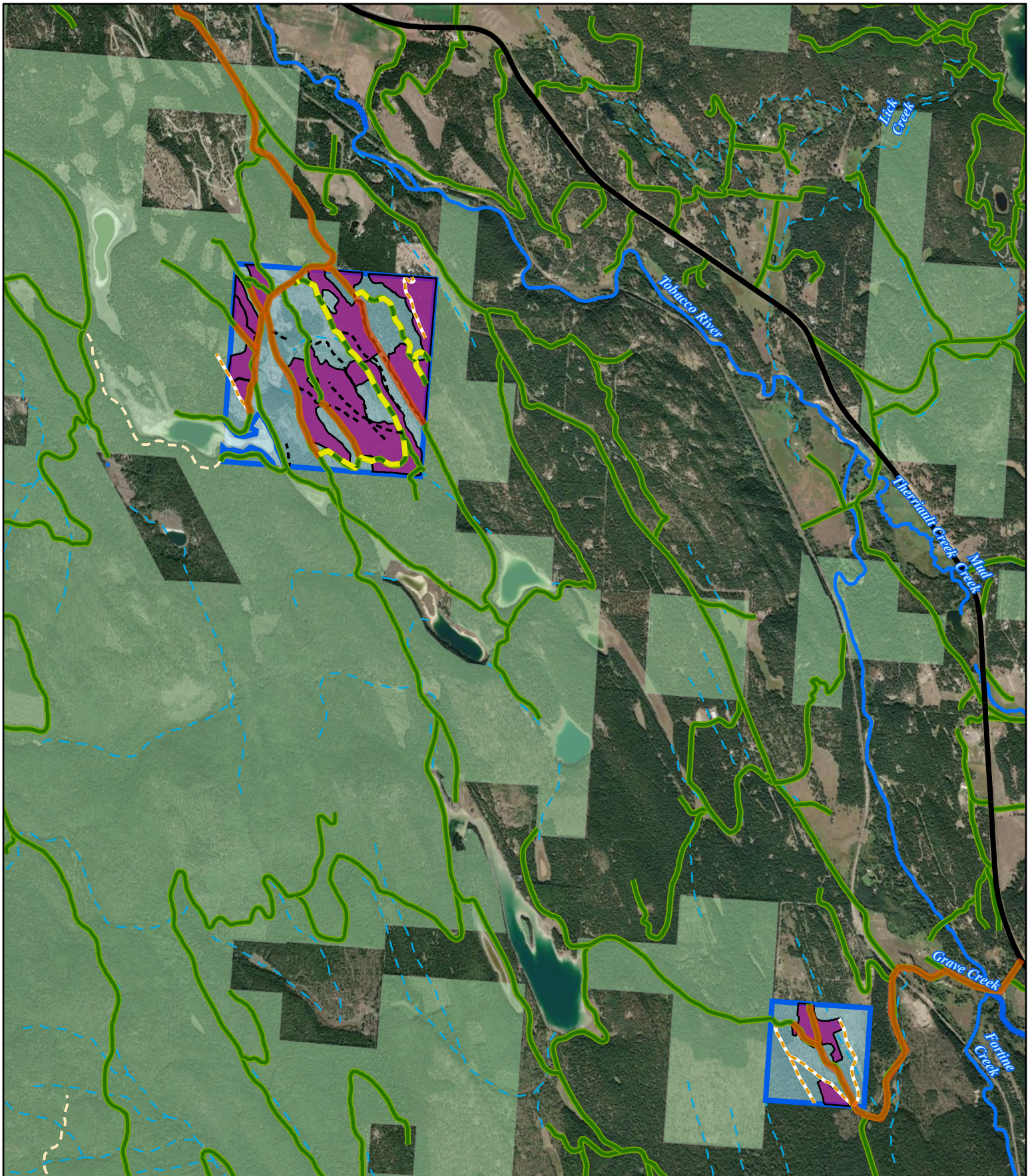
Pink Barna-kal Timber Sale Haul Route



- Haul Route
 - Reconstruction of Existing Road
 - FMB_Roads
 - Highway
 - Open/Public Roads
 - Restricted Class A
 - Restricted Class B
 - - Abandoned or Reclaimed
-
- Harvest Units
 - Harvest Units
 - TLMD_SurfaceTracts
 - Streams
 - Hydrograph
 - Perennial
 - Intermittent
 - US Forest Service
-
- State of Montana Misc.
 - State of Montana Misc.
 - Montana State Trust Lands
 - Local Government

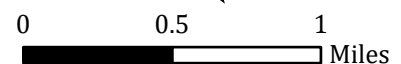


Alkali Lake and Barnaby Parcels Harvest Units

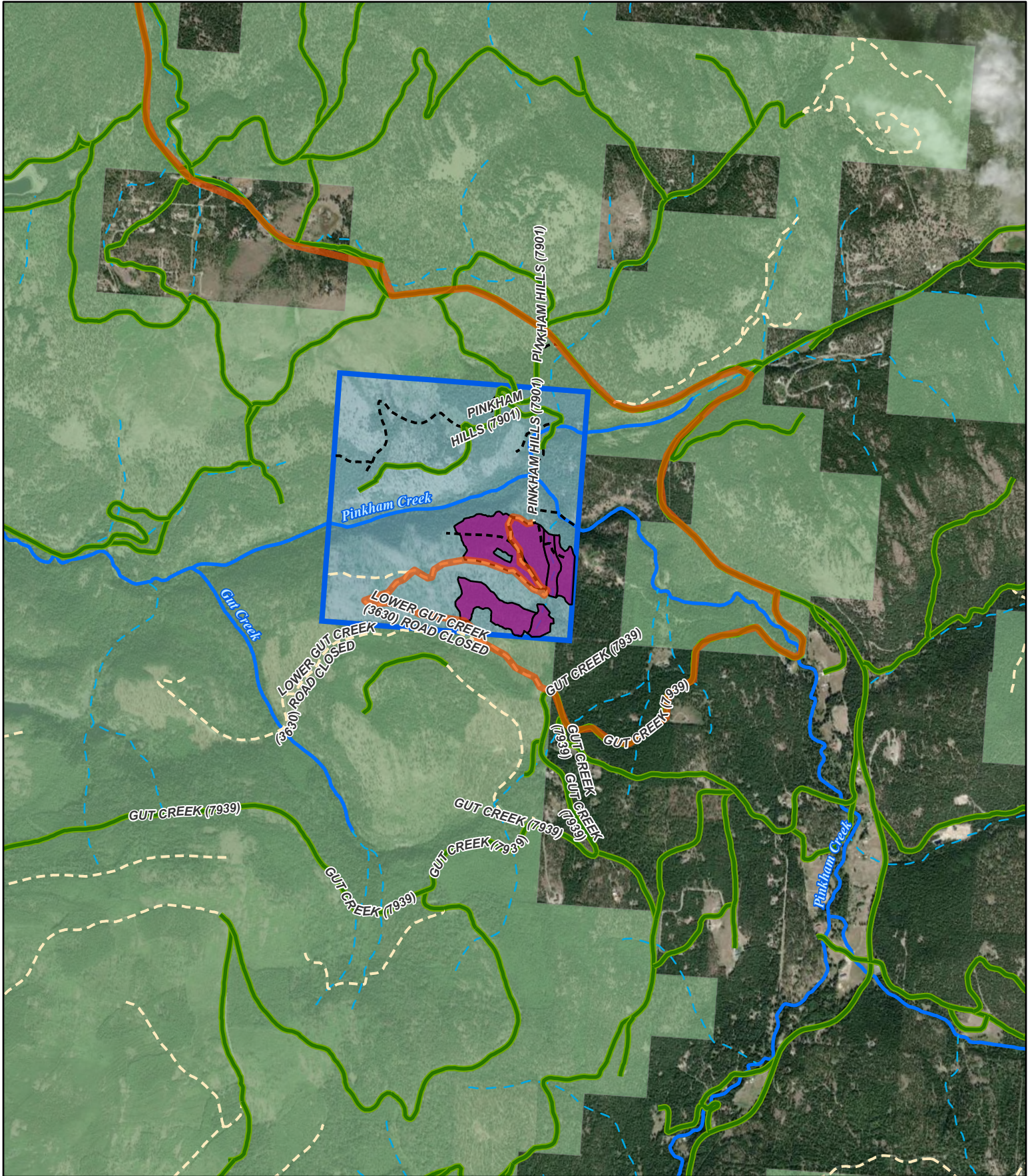


- Haul Route
- Reconstruction of Existing Road
- FMB_Roads
- Highway
- Open/Public Roads
- - - Restricted Class A
- - - Restricted Class B
- - - Abandoned or Reclaimed A
- Harvest Units
- Harvest Units
- TLMC_SurfaceTracts

- Streams
- Hydrograph
- Perennial
- - - Intermittent
- US Forest Service
- Montana State Trust Lands
- Local Government



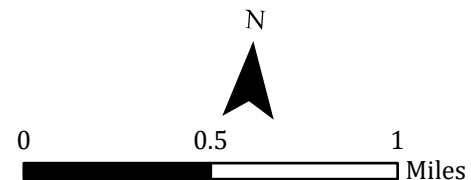
Pinkham Creek Parcel Harvest Units



- Haul Route
- FMB_Roads
- Highway
- Open/Public Roads
- Restricted Class A
- Restricted Class B

- Abandoned or Reclaimed Harvest Units
- Harvest Units
- LEMD_SurfaceTracts
- Streams
- Hydrograph
- Perennial

- Intermittent
- US Forest Service
- Montana State Trust Lands
- Local Government



**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-1D Timber Sale: Sunset Potomac

Location: Missoula County

Trust Beneficiaries: Capitol Buildings

Trust Revenue: \$93,943 (estimated, minimum)

Item Summary:

Location: The Sunset Potomac Timber Sale is located approximately 3.5 miles south of Greenough, Montana.

Size and Scope: The sale includes 5 harvest units (296 acres) of ground-based logging.

Volume: The estimated harvest volume is 12,126 tons (2.2 MMBF) of sawlogs.

Estimated Return: The minimum bid is \$8.00 per ton for non-Ponderosa Pine sawlogs and \$2.00 per ton for Ponderosa Pine sawlogs, which would generate approximately \$93,943 for the Capitol Buildings Trust and approximately \$47,350 in forest improvement fees.

Prescription: This sale would utilize shelterwood harvest prescriptions designed to improve forest stand growth and vigor, manage stands for healthy and biologically diverse forests and to bring stands closer to historic forest conditions.

Road Construction/Maintenance: The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 2.8 miles of road construction and 5.5 miles of road maintenance.

Access: Access is obtained through an existing easement with the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Public Comments: Three public comments were received from two nearby residents and one interested party with concerns about wildlife, aesthetics, silviculture and forest regeneration. All concerns were addressed directly with the individual or in the Coyote Greenough Forest Management Project Environmental Assessment document.

DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board direct DNRC to sell the Sunset Potomac Timber Sale.

State Trust Land Vicinity Map Clearwater Unit

Sunset Potomac Timber Sale

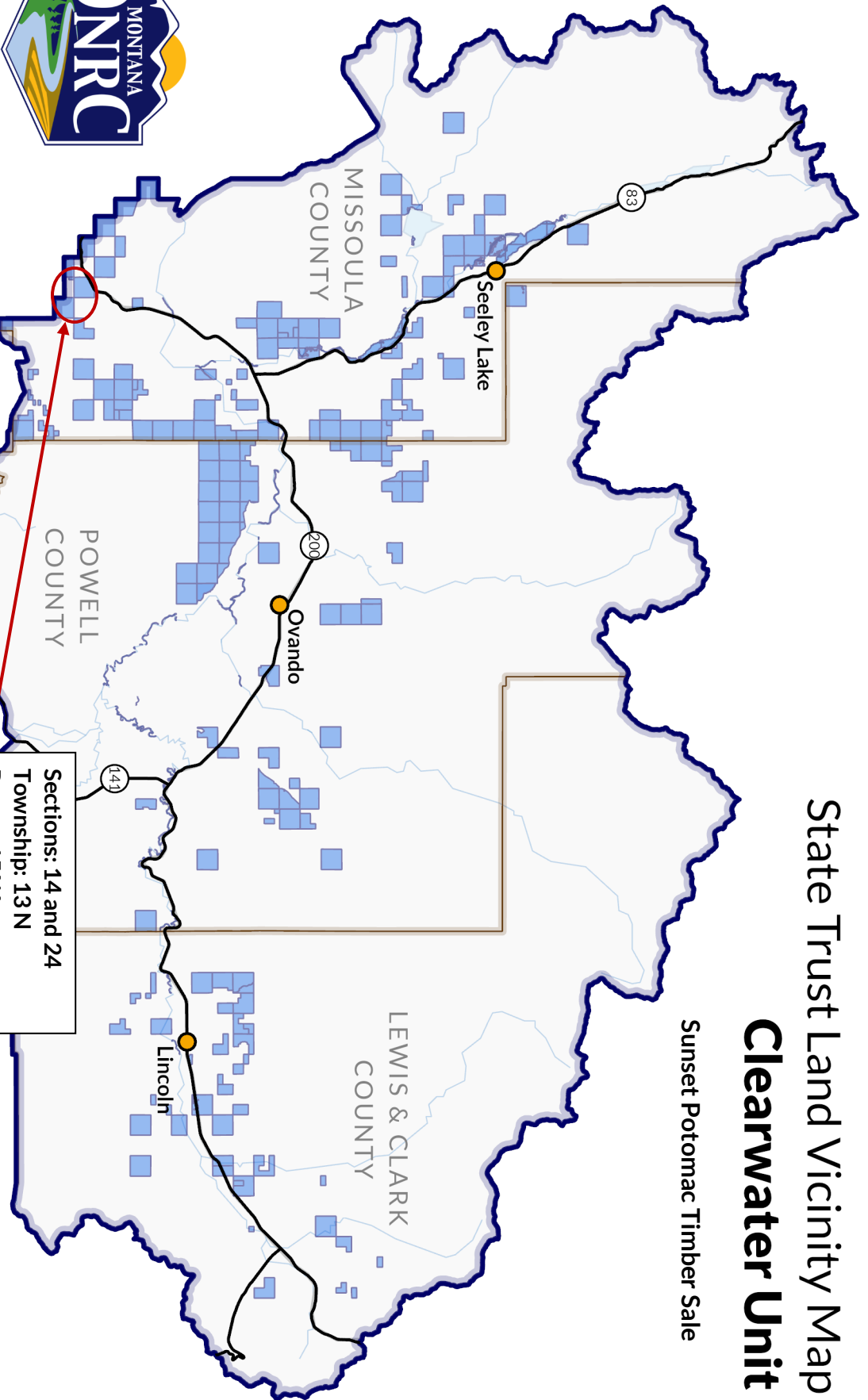
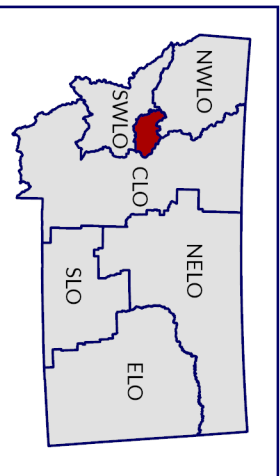


- Towns
- County Lines
- Major Roads
- Rivers & Lakes
- State Trust Land

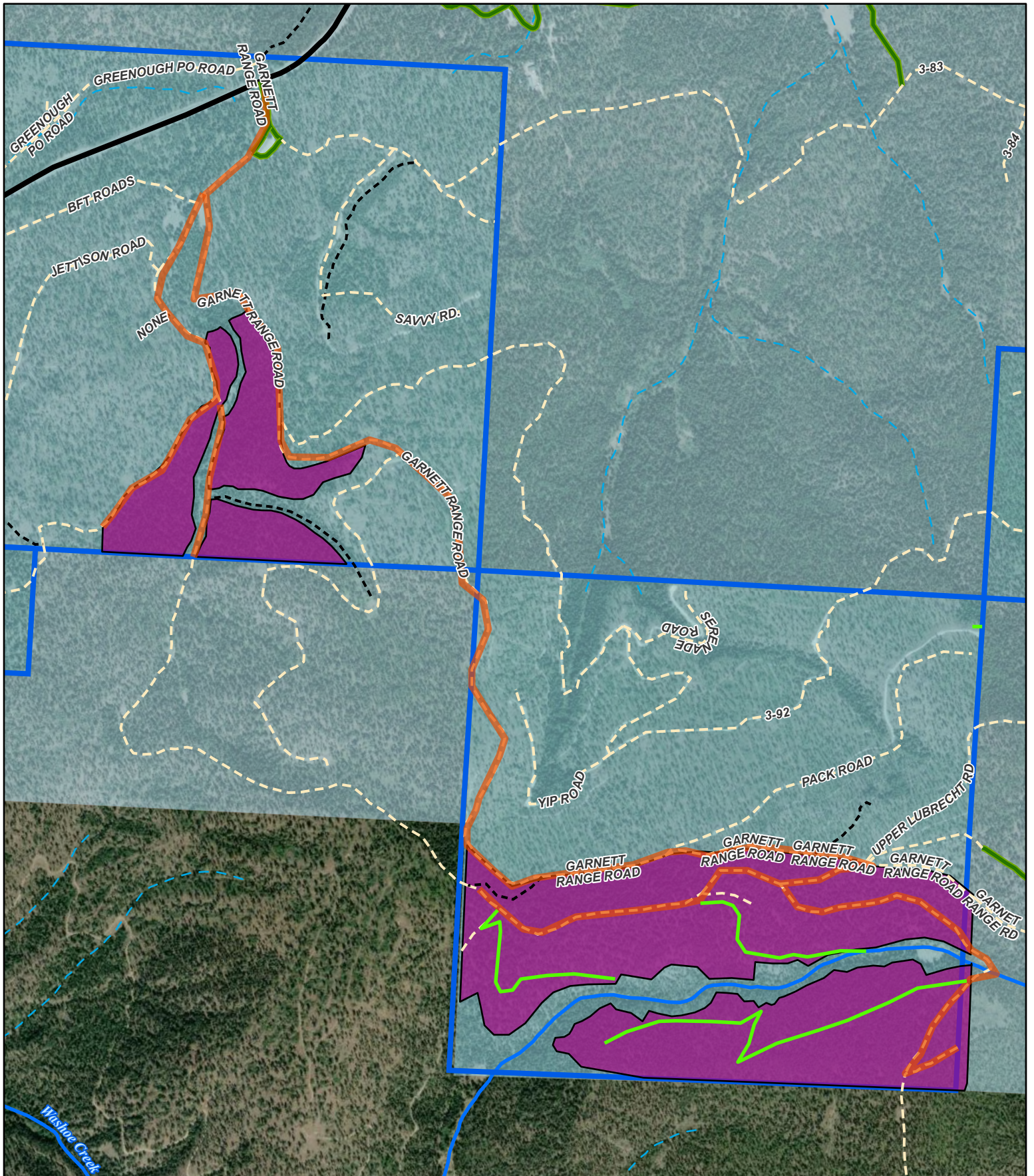


Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation — 2025
NAD 1983 State Plane

Sections: 14 and 24
Township: 13 N
Range: 15 W
County: Missoula



Sunset Potomac Haul Route and Harvest Units



Haul Route	Restricted Class A	Streams
New Road	Abandoned or Reclaimed	Hydrograph
FMB_Roads	Harvest Units	Perennial
Highway	TLMD_SurfaceTracts	Intermittent
Open/Public Roads		State of Montana Misc.
		Montana State Trust Lands

0 0.2 0.4 Miles

0426-2

Cabin and Home Sites:
Preliminary Approval for Sale

**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-2 Cabin and Home Sites: Preliminary Approval for Sale

Location: Flathead, Missoula, and Sanders Counties

Trust Beneficiaries: MSU 2nd, Pine Hills, Common Schools, Capitol Buildings, and MT Tech

Trust Revenue: Appraisals to be completed after preliminary approval

Item Summary:

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is requesting preliminary approval of 10 cabin and home sites nominated for sale in Flathead, Missoula, and Sanders Counties. These sales were nominated by the lessees and DNRC in conjunction with the 2026-2027 Cabin and Home Site Sales Program.

Sale Number	# of Acres	Legal Description	Nominator	Trust
Flathead County				
2093	0.464±	Lot 7 Echo Lake COS 18885 T27N-R19W, Section 5	Rachele & Edwin Gyorffy & Hung Chan	MT Tech
Missoula County				
2080	0.93±	Lot 44 Clearwater East Shore Inland COS 6114 T16N-R15W, Section 10	DNRC	MSU 2nd
2081	1.298±	Lot 2 Clearwater River East Shore COS 5310 T16N-R15W, Section 10	Ryan & Mary Knapp	MSU 2nd
2082	1.533±	Lot 15 Seeley Lake Development COS 6161 T16N-R15W, Section 4	Bruce Robertson	MSU 2nd
2083	1.363±	Lot 32 Seeley Lake Development COS 6161 T16N-R15W, Section 4	Robert & Allison Berg	MSU 2nd
2084	0.9±	Lot 2 Elbow Lake COS 4921 T15N-R14W, Section 20	Jon & Lori Watson Living Trust	Pine Hills
2085	1.2±	Lot 26 Elbow Lake COS 4921 T15N-R14W, Section 20	John & Penni Keerseemaker	Pine Hills
2086	1.21±	Lot 6 Sperry Grade COS 006917 T15N-R14W, Section 36	Reghan Brandt, Tracy Hartzell, Marci Miller	Common Schools
Sanders County				
2087	1.98±	Lot 5 Mudd Creek COS 3534 T22N-R27W, Section 12	Mark & Lois Hanson	Capitol Buildings
2088	1.23±	Tract 3 COS 3703 T24N-R27W, Section 36	Paul D. Lumpkin & Dugan L. Reber	Common Schools

These sale parcels are currently leased as cabin or home sites and, collectively, produce a below average income for residential leases statewide.

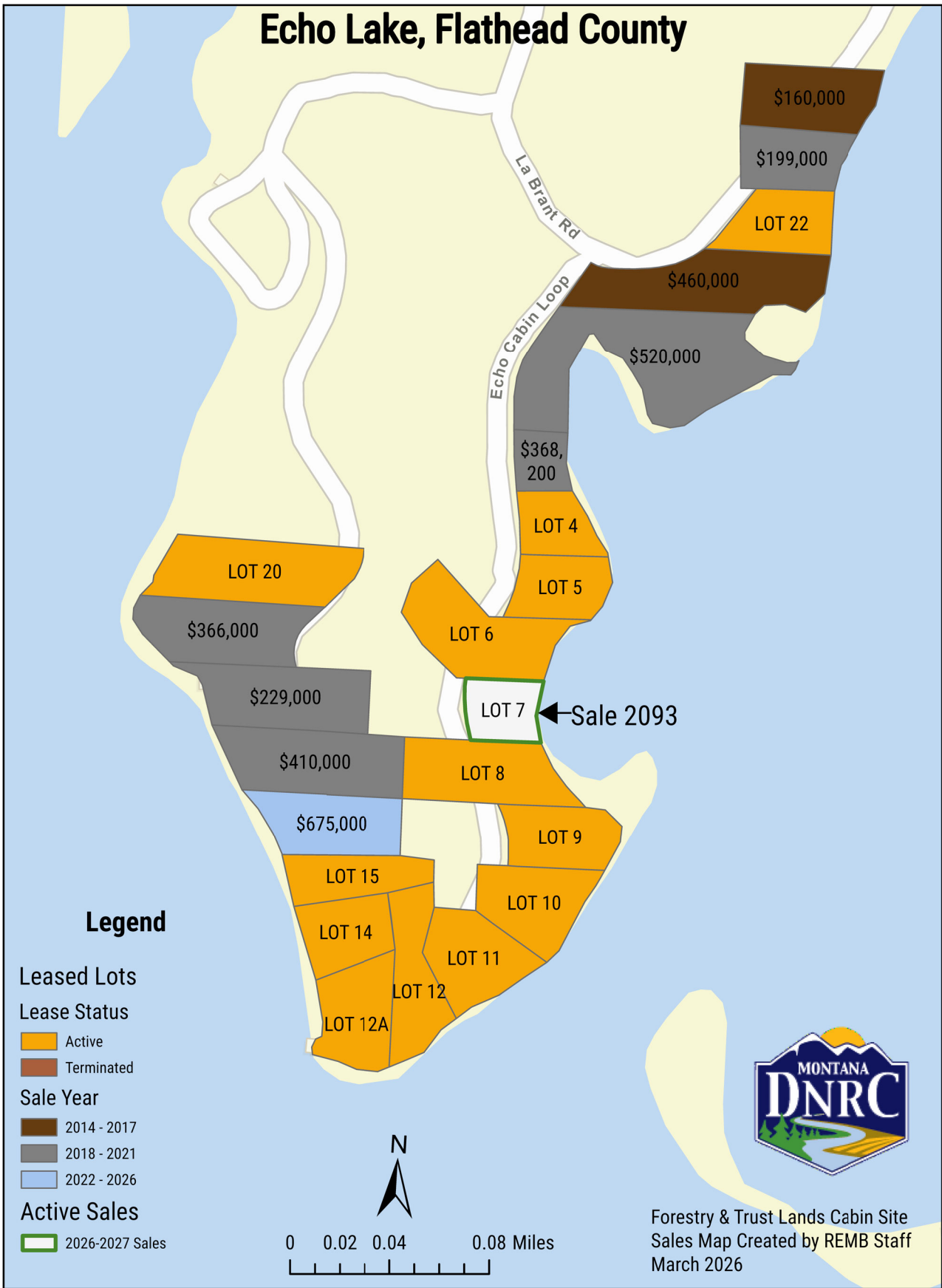
Preliminary approval allows DNRC to enter these sites in the Cabin and Home Site Sales process, the next step of which is an appraisal by a Montana general certified appraiser in Spring and Summer 2026. After appraisal, these sites will be brought to the Land Board again to set the minimum bid for the land and maximum value of any improvements.

Each parcel will be sold with the access that is currently provided to the current lessee under their lease agreement.

DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends the Land Board grant preliminary approval to sell these cabin and home sites.

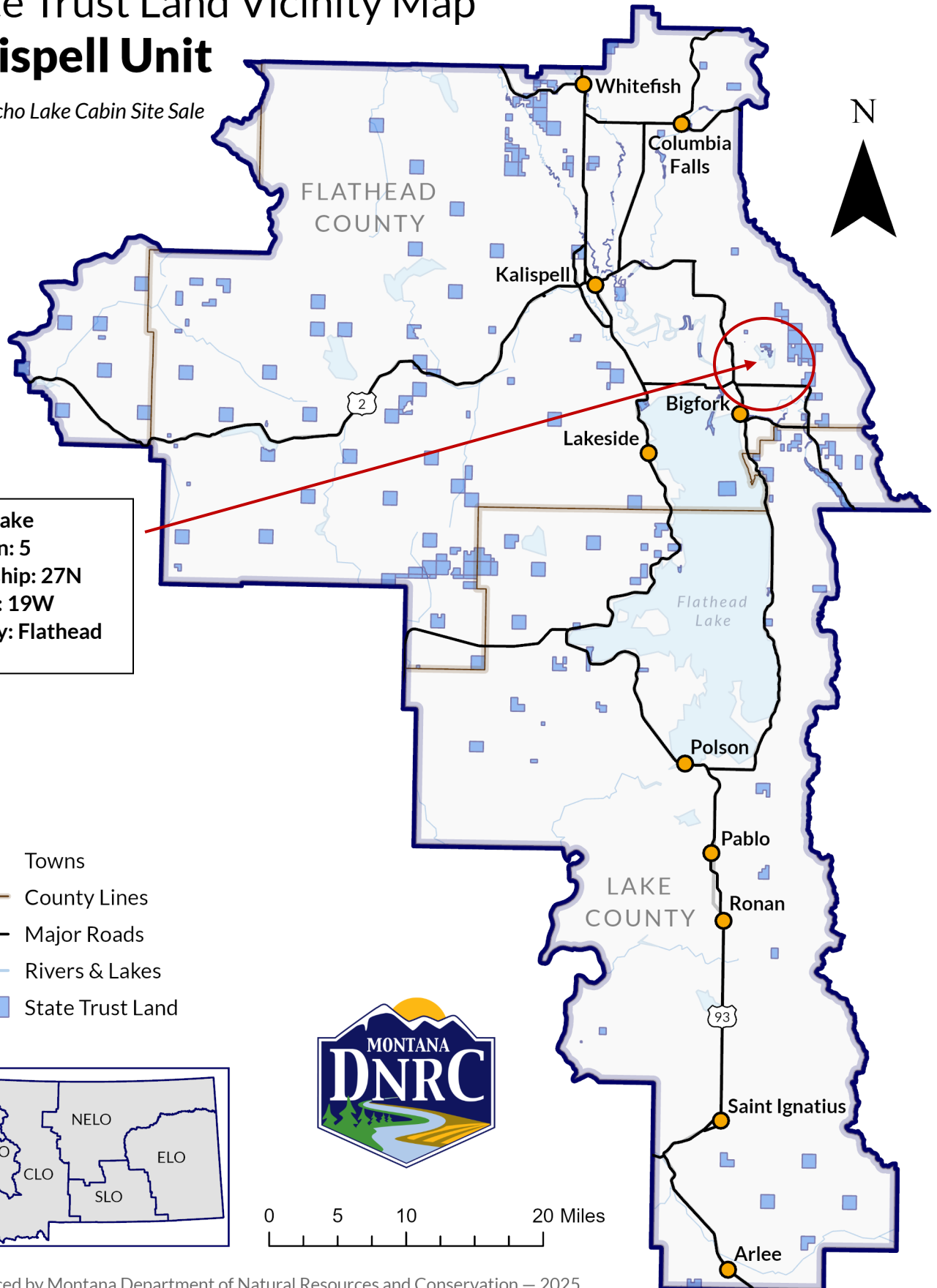
Echo Lake, Flathead County








State Trust Land Vicinity Map

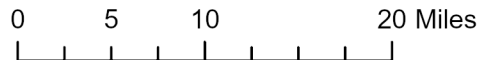
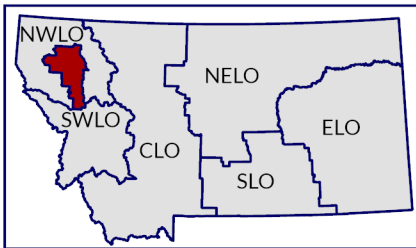
Kalispell Unit

2026 Echo Lake Cabin Site Sale



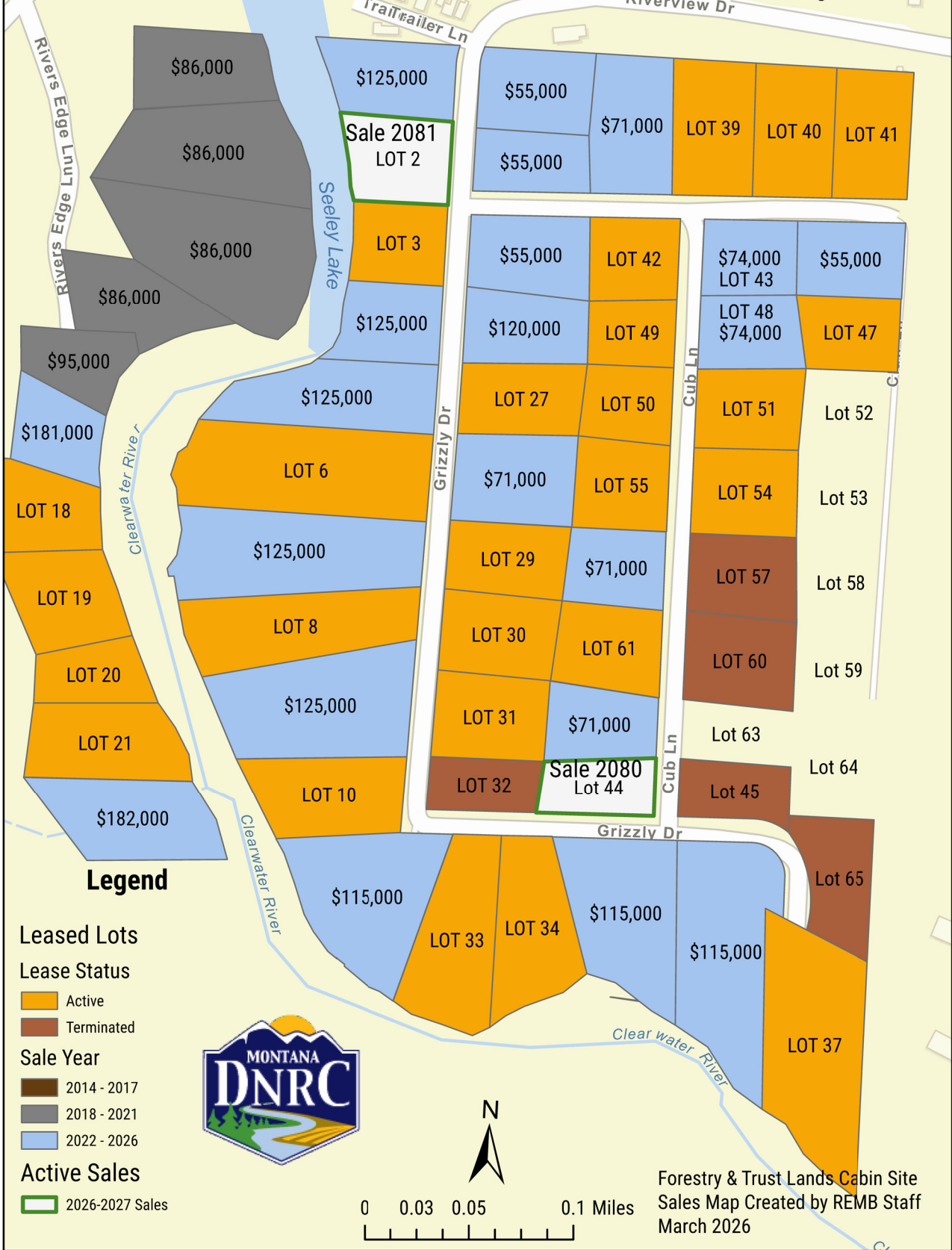
Echo Lake
 Section: 5
 Township: 27N
 Range: 19W
 County: Flathead

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



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

Clearwater River East Shore, Missoula County



Seeley Lake Development, Missoula County



Legend

Leased Lots

Lease Status

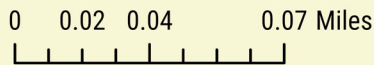
- Active
- Terminated

Sale Year

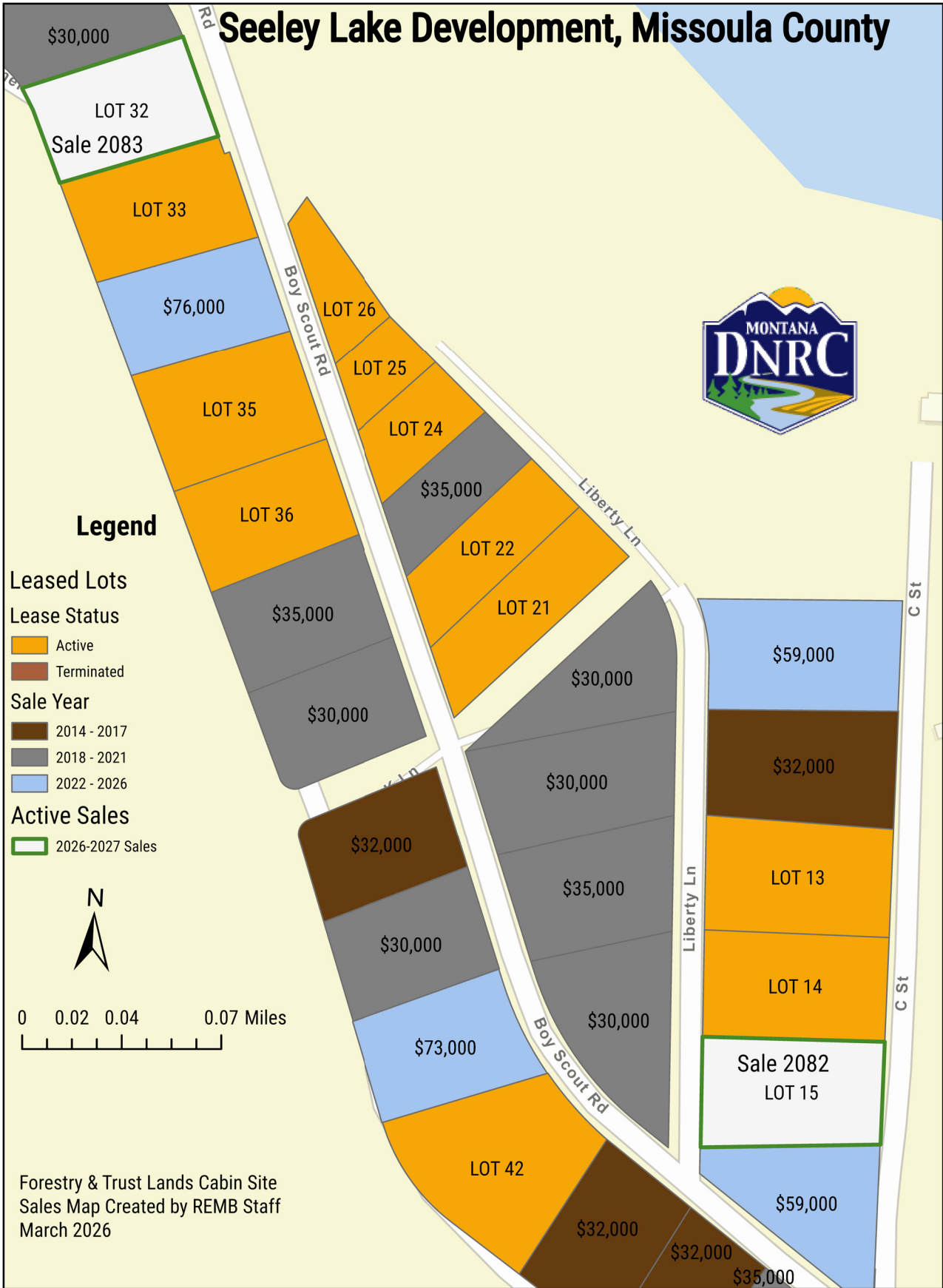
- 2014 - 2017
- 2018 - 2021
- 2022 - 2026

Active Sales

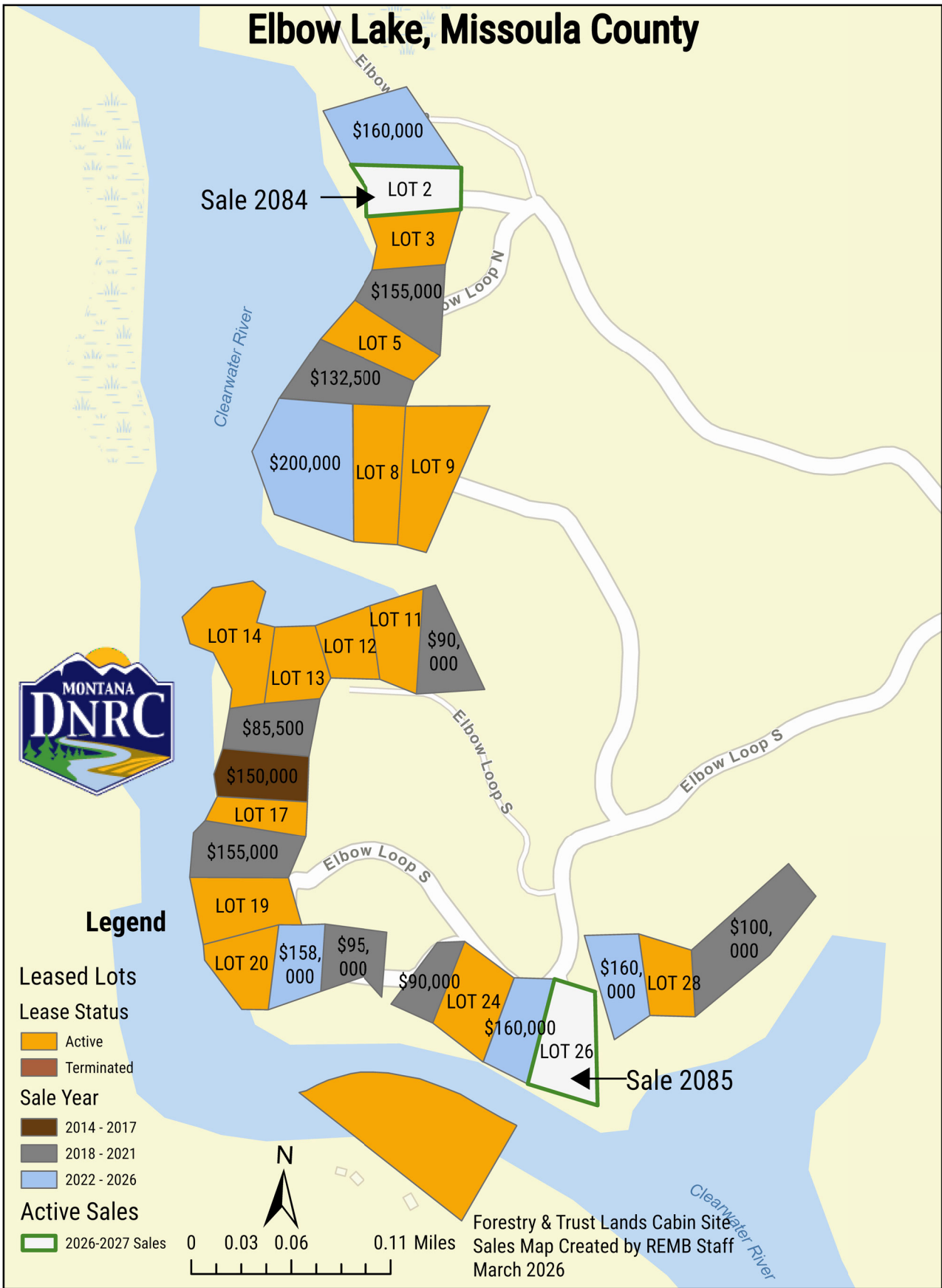
- 2026-2027 Sales



Forestry & Trust Lands Cabin Site
Sales Map Created by REMB Staff
March 2026



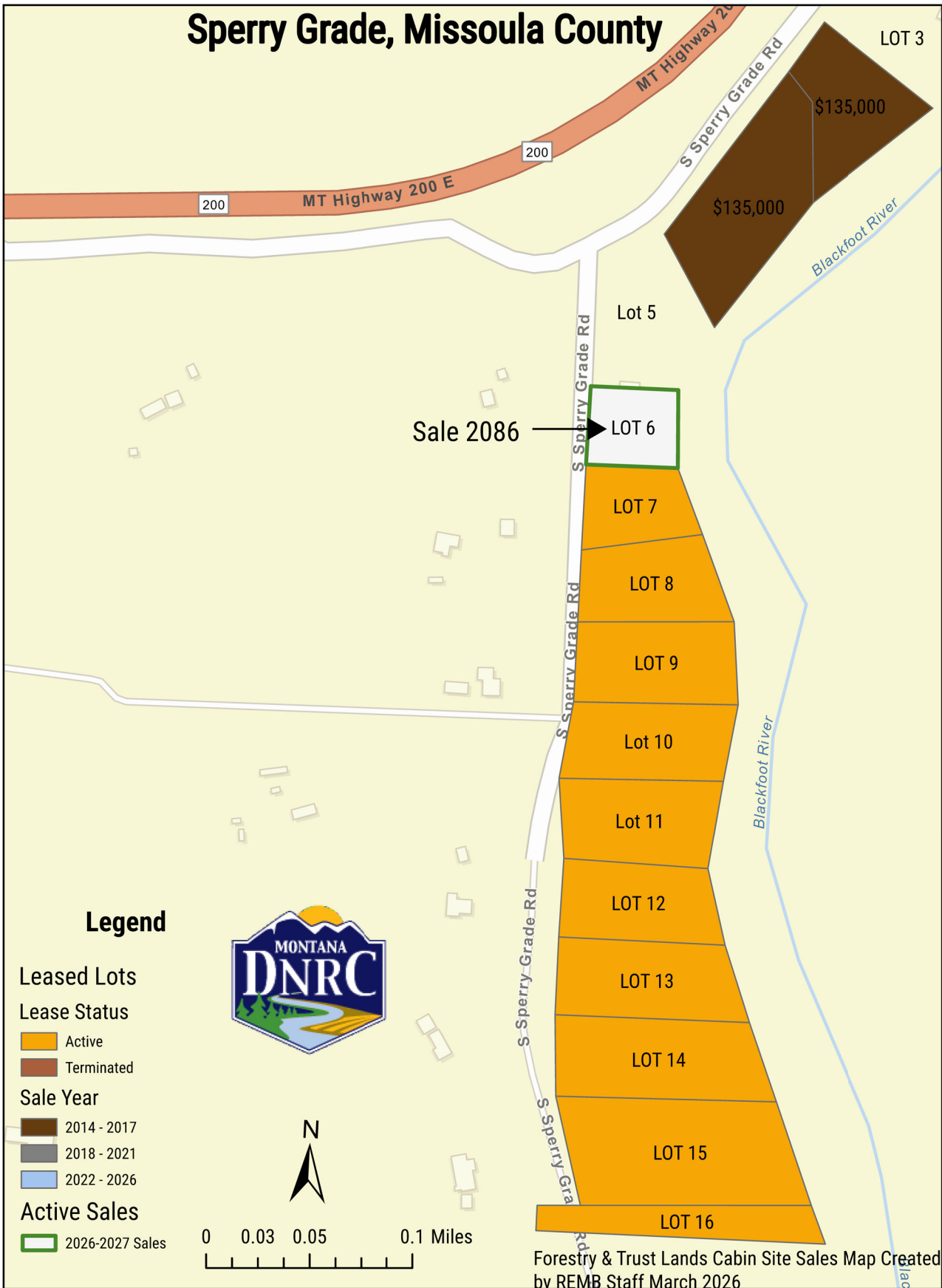
Elbow Lake, Missoula County



Lot Number	Price	Lease Status	Sale Year
LOT 2	\$160,000	Active	2026-2027
LOT 3	\$155,000	Active	2022-2026
LOT 5	\$132,500	Active	2022-2026
LOT 8	\$200,000	Active	2022-2026
LOT 9	\$200,000	Active	2022-2026
LOT 11	\$90,000	Active	2018-2021
LOT 12	\$90,000	Active	2022-2026
LOT 13	\$85,500	Active	2018-2021
LOT 14	\$85,500	Active	2022-2026
LOT 17	\$150,000	Active	2014-2017
LOT 19	\$155,000	Active	2018-2021
LOT 20	\$158,000	Active	2022-2026
LOT 24	\$90,000	Active	2018-2021
LOT 26	\$160,000	Active	2026-2027
LOT 28	\$160,000	Active	2022-2026
LOT 28 (unlabeled)	\$100,000	Active	2018-2021

Forestry & Trust Lands Cabin Site
 Sales Map Created by REMB Staff
 March 2026

Sperry Grade, Missoula County



Legend

Leased Lots

Lease Status

- Active
- Terminated

Sale Year

- 2014 - 2017
- 2018 - 2021
- 2022 - 2026

Active Sales

- 2026-2027 Sales



0 0.03 0.05 0.1 Miles

Forestry & Trust Lands Cabin Site Sales Map Created by REMB Staff March 2026

State Trust Land Vicinity Map

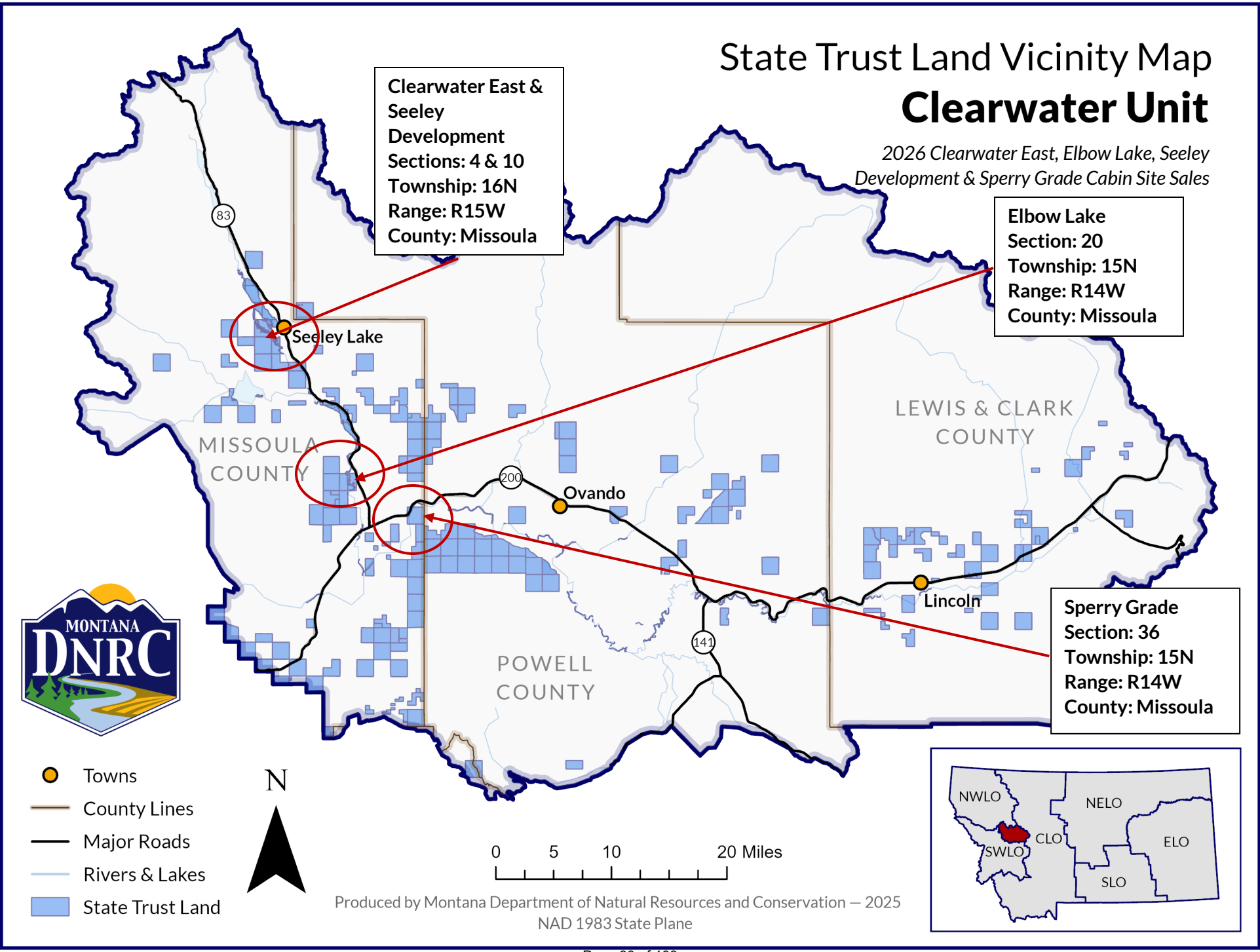
Clearwater Unit

2026 Clearwater East, Elbow Lake, Seeley Development & Sperry Grade Cabin Site Sales

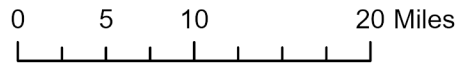
Clearwater East & Seeley
Development
Sections: 4 & 10
Township: 16N
Range: R15W
County: Missoula

Elbow Lake
Section: 20
Township: 15N
Range: R14W
County: Missoula

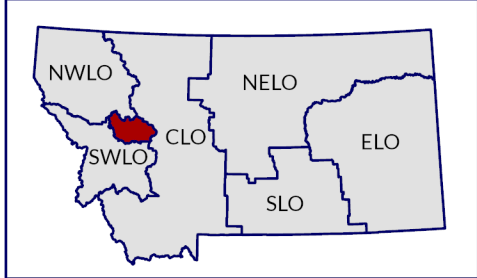
Sperry Grade
Section: 36
Township: 15N
Range: R14W
County: Missoula



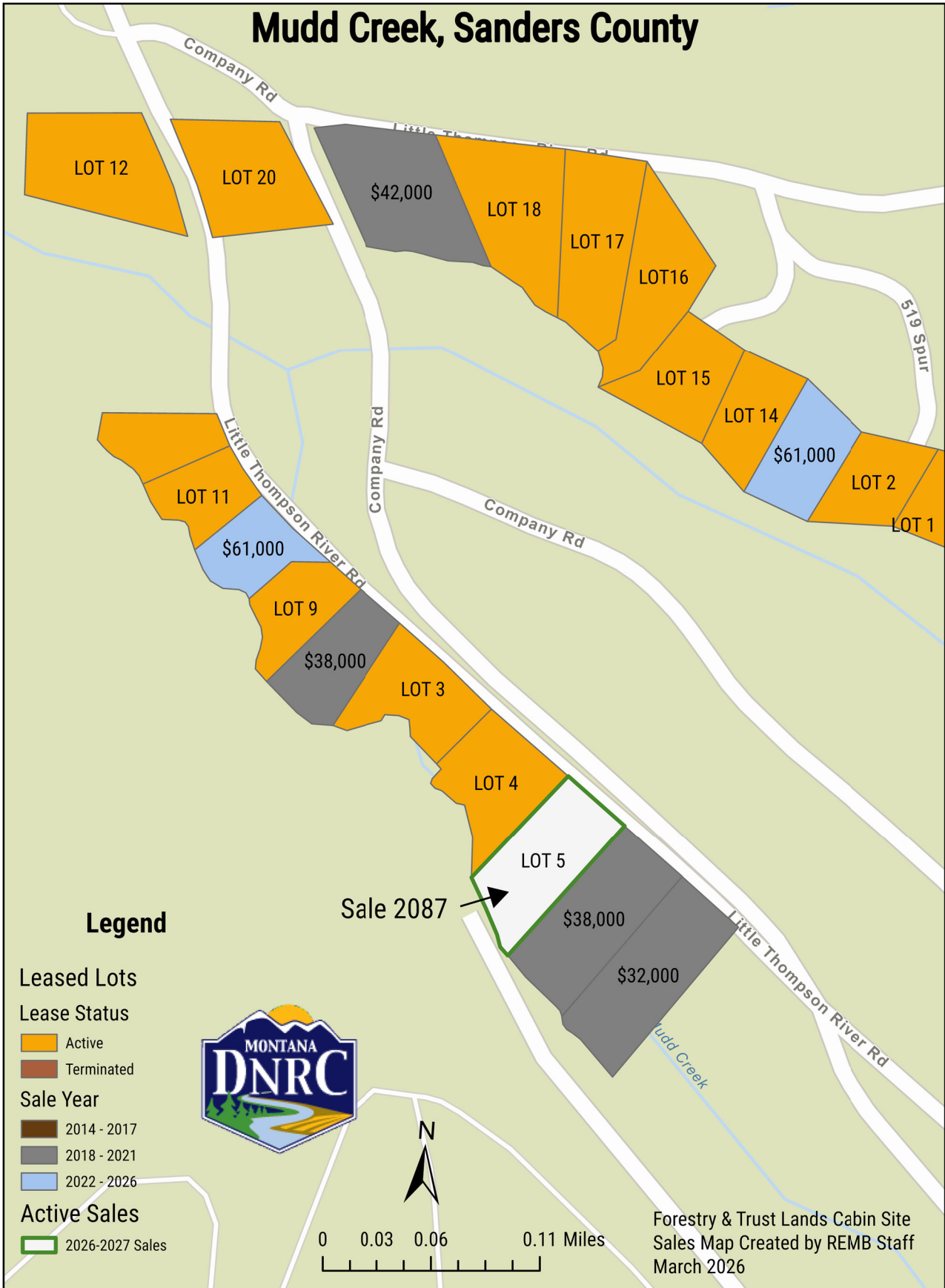
- Towns
- County Lines
- Major Roads
- Rivers & Lakes
- State Trust Land



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



Mudd Creek, Sanders County



Semem Creek, Sanders County

Sale 2088 →

LOT 1

LOT 2

\$50,000

LOT 4

LOT 6

LOT 7

LOT 9

\$75,000

Legend

Leased Lots

Lease Status

- Active
- Terminated

Sale Year

- 2014 - 2017
- 2018 - 2021
- 2022 - 2026

Active Sales

- 2026-2027 Sales



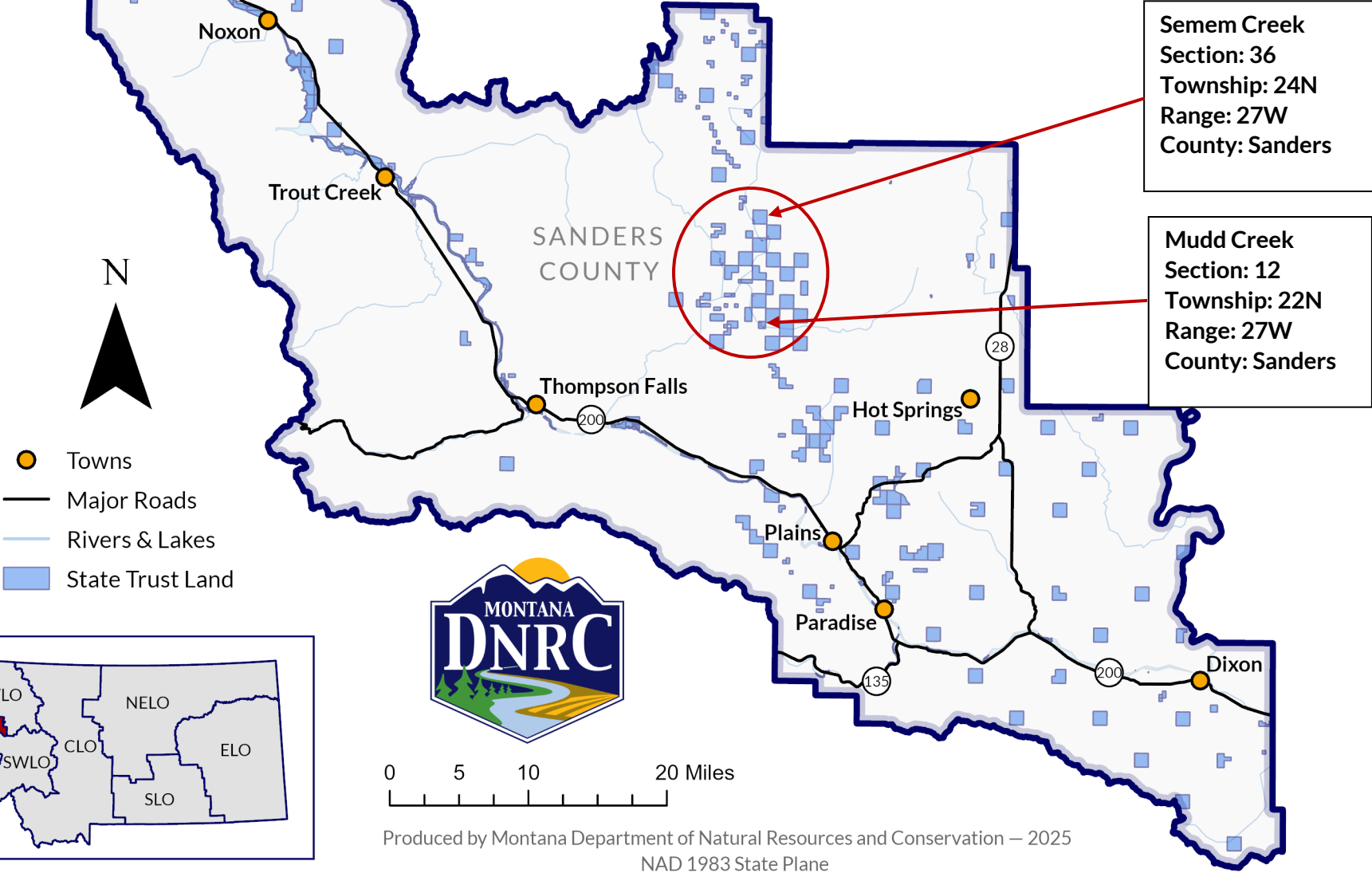
0 0.02 0.04 0.08 Miles



Forestry & Trust Lands Cabin Site
Sales Map Created by REMB Staff
March 2026

State Trust Land Vicinity Map Plains Unit

2026 Semem & Mudd Creek Cabin Site Sales



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

0426-3

Easements

**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-3 Easements

**Location: Blaine, Cascade, Dawson, Fergus, Lincoln, McCone, Prairie, and
Wheatland Counties**

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools

Trust Revenue: \$42,281

Item Table of Contents:

Applicant	Right-of-Way Purpose	Term	Page(s)
Lincoln County	Non-Motorized Trail	Permanent	36-37
Damon Carroll and David Maurer	Private Access Road	Permanent	38-39
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	40-53; 60-77
Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.	Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	54-59; 78-81

APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Lincoln County
512 California Ave.
Libby MT 59923

Application No.: 19904
R/W Purpose: a non-motorized public pedestrian and bicycle trail
Lessee Agreement: N/A (Unleased)
Acreage: 0.65
Compensation: \$21,872.00
Legal Description: 10-foot strip through E2SE4, SW4SE4, Sec. 16, Twp. 30N,
Rge. 31W, Lincoln County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

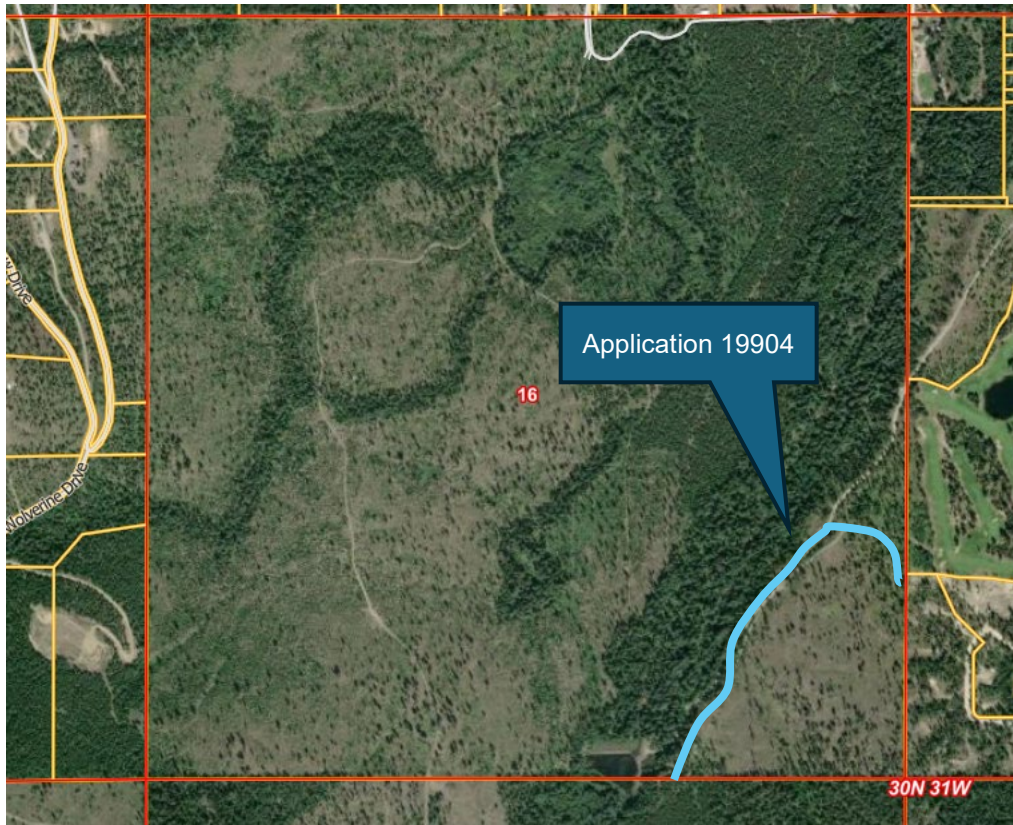
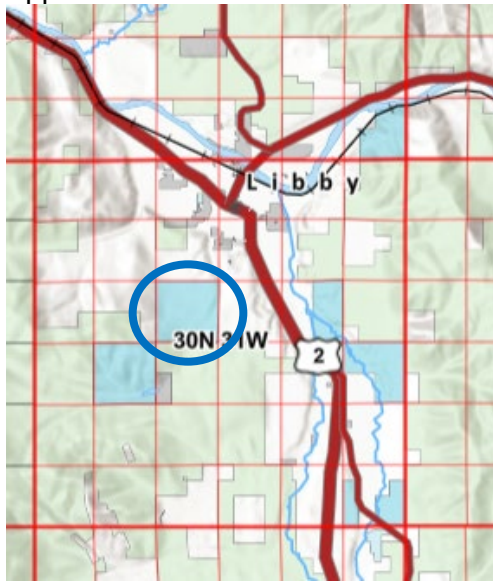
Item Summary:

Lincoln County is requesting an easement for a non-motorized trail across state trust land. The trail connects existing easements for trail purposes on private land and Forest Service land and will provide recreational access to a parcel of land owned by the County. The trail is approximately 2 miles in length in total and along an existing primitive trail. The trail system will provide recreational opportunities in close proximity to the City of Libby. Portions of unauthorized trail that do not align with the easement corridors will be rehabilitated and recreational users directed by signage to stay on the trail easements. A maintenance and management agreement has been executed between Lincoln County and the Libby Parks Department for the trail system.

DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Lincoln County.

Application #19904



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Damon Carroll and David Maurer
256 S. Eden Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

Application No.: 19921
R/W Purpose: a private access road to conduct normal farming and ranching operations

Lessee Agreement: N/A - Historic
Acreage: 0.02
Compensation: \$100.00
Legal Description: 30-foot strip through NW4SE4, Sec. 16, Twp. 17N, Rge. 3E, Cascade County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

Item Summary:

Damon Carroll and David Maurer are requesting a historic easement for a private access road for the purpose of accessing a single family residence and to conduct farming and ranching operations. This application is made pursuant to amendments of §77-2-101, MCA for recognition of historic uses across state trust lands.

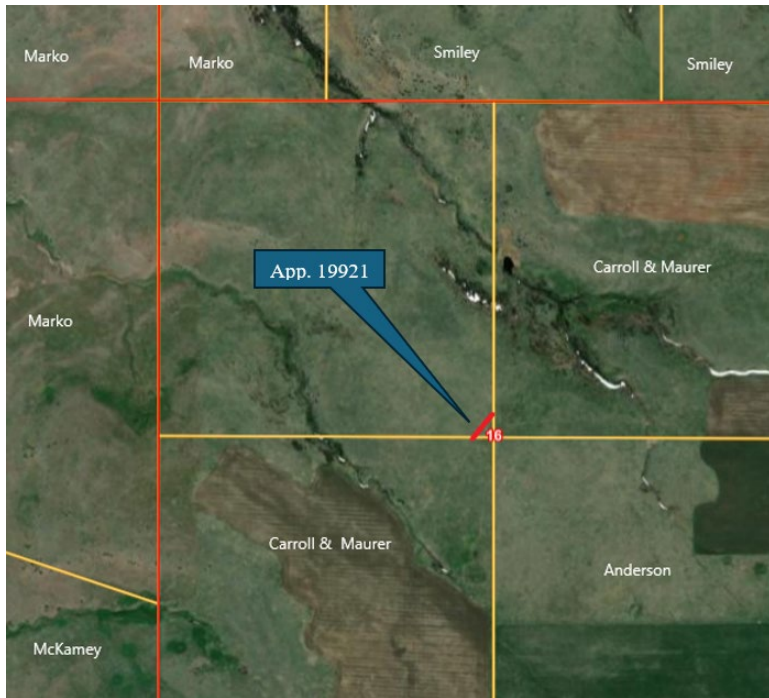
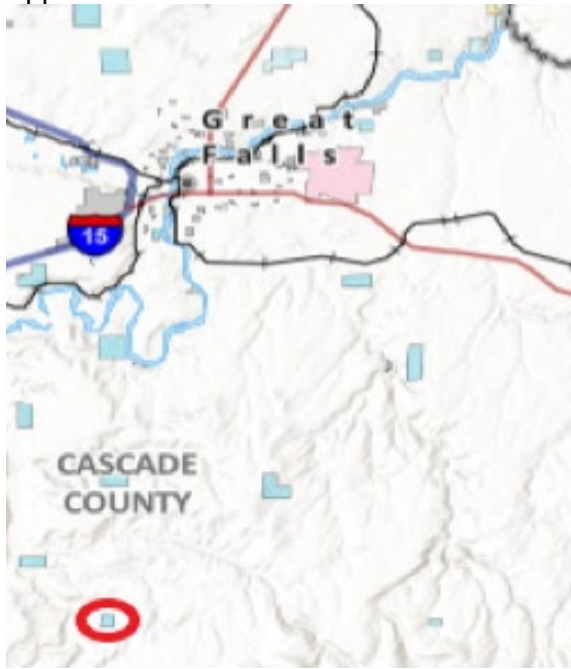
Damon Carroll and David Maurer’s private land to be accessed is described as follows:

- SW4, Section 16, Township 17 North, Range 3 East

DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends approval of the application of Damon Carroll and David Maurer.

Application #19921



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19922
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 2.27
Compensation: \$1,589.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through W2NE4, S2NW4, W2SW4, Sec. 16,
Twp. 15N, Rge. 49E, Prairie County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

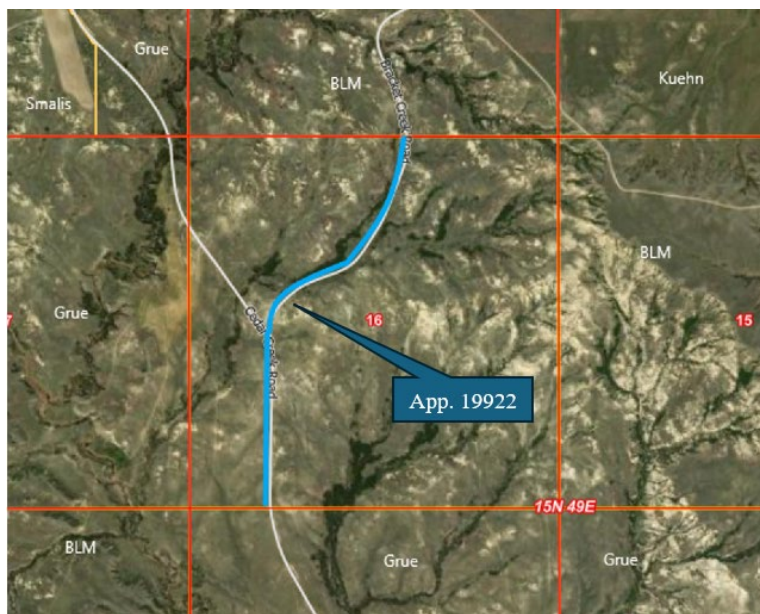
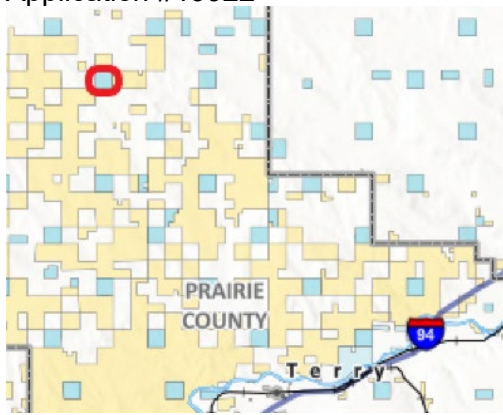
Item Summary:

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative is requesting an easement to install a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable. The line will provide reliable telephone and broadband services to homes and businesses in Prairie, McCone and Dawson counties. The proposed route was chosen in order to follow existing roadways. Other routes were considered and eliminated for topographical, environmental, and economic reasons.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19922



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19923
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 2.05
Compensation: \$1,435.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through S2S2, Sec. 36, Twp. 16N, Rge. 45E,
Prairie County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

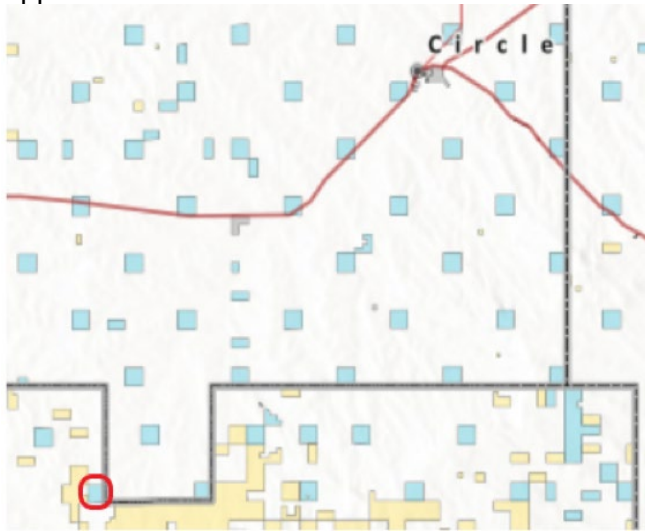
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19923



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19924
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.49
Compensation: \$343.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through N2NW4, NW4NE4, Sec. 36, Twp. 17N,
Rge. 46E, McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

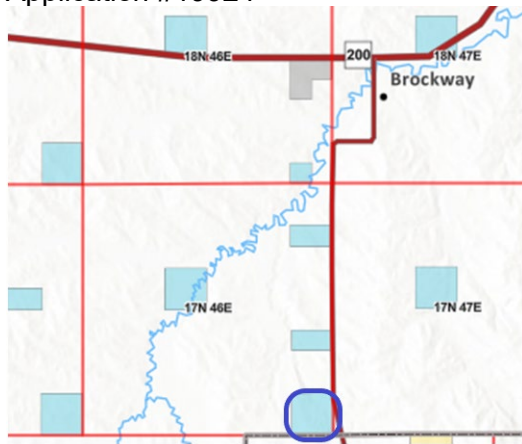
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19924



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19925
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 2.07
Compensation: \$1,449.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through W2SW4, NE4SW4, SE4SW4, S2SE4,
Sec. 16, Twp. 17N, Rge. 49E, McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

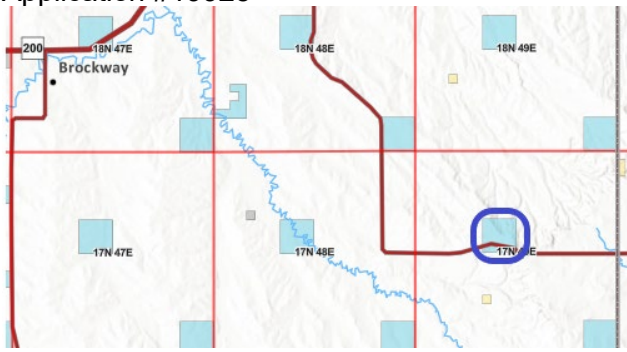
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19925



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19926
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.98
Compensation: \$1,386.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through NW4NW4, SW4NW4, SE4NW4, S2NE4,
Sec. 16, Twp. 18N, Rge. 45E, McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

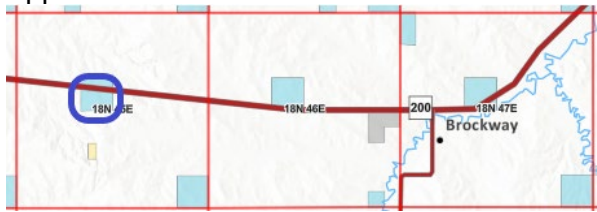
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19926



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19927
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.25
Compensation: \$875.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through SE4NE4, E2SE4, Sec. 16, Twp. 18N,
Rge. 48E, McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

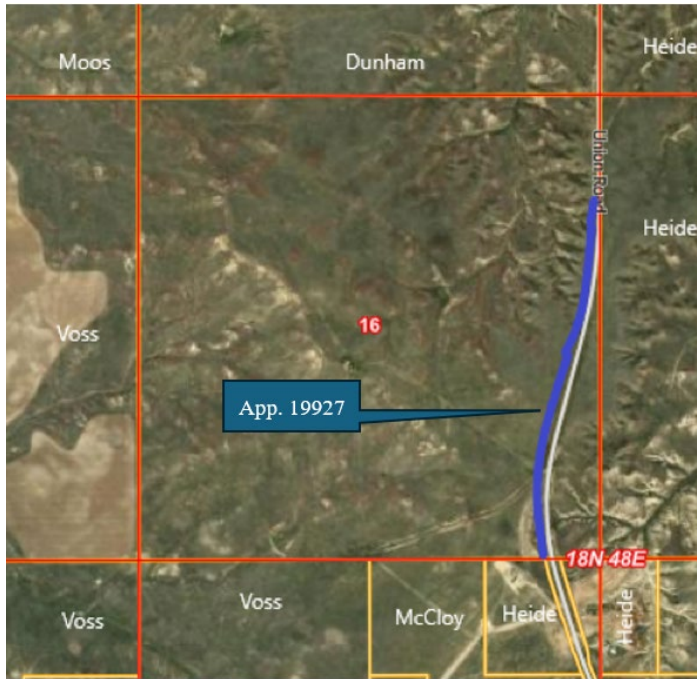
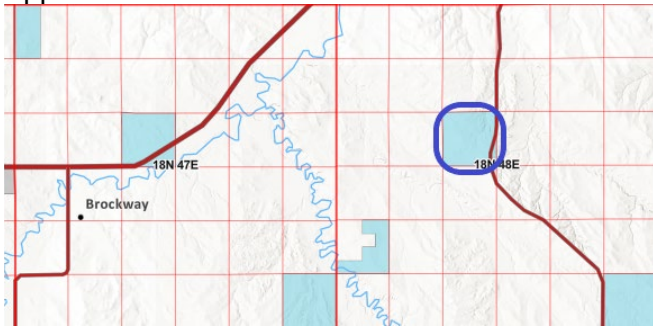
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19927



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19928
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.99
Compensation: \$693.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through W2SW4, SE4SW4, Sec. 16, Twp. 18N,
Rge. 50E, Dawson County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

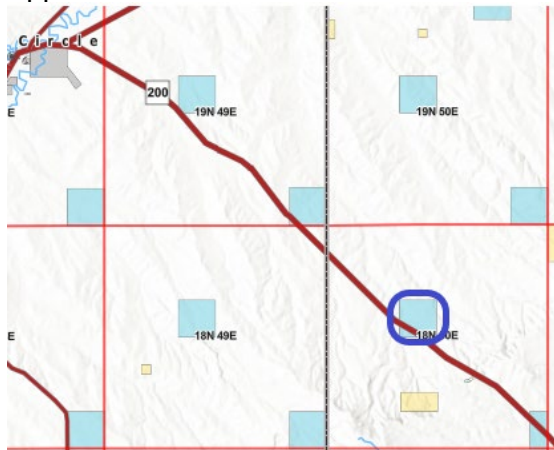
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19928



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

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

Application No.: 19929
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.01
Compensation: \$100.00
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through Gov. Lot 1, Sec. 2, Twp. 6N, Rge. 15E,
Wheatland County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

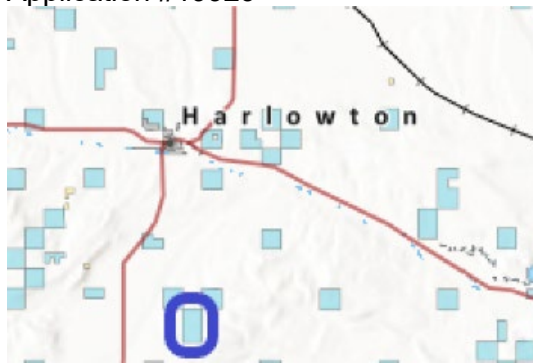
Item Summary:

Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. is requesting easements to upgrade current fiber facilities and services in the Harlowtown exchange service area. These improvements will offer state-of-the-art telecommunications toll and distribution facilities, as well as future growth capabilities. The proposed route is the most direct route between terminus locations and was chosen in order to follow the existing easement. 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 #19929



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

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

Application No.: 19930
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 2.30
Compensation: \$1,610.00
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through W2SW4, SE4SW4, S2SE4, Sec. 36,
Twp. 7N, Rge. 18E, Wheatland 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 #19930



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

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

Application No.: 19931
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.61
Compensation: \$915.00
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through E2SE4, Sec. 9, Twp. 18N, Rge. 15E,
Fergus County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

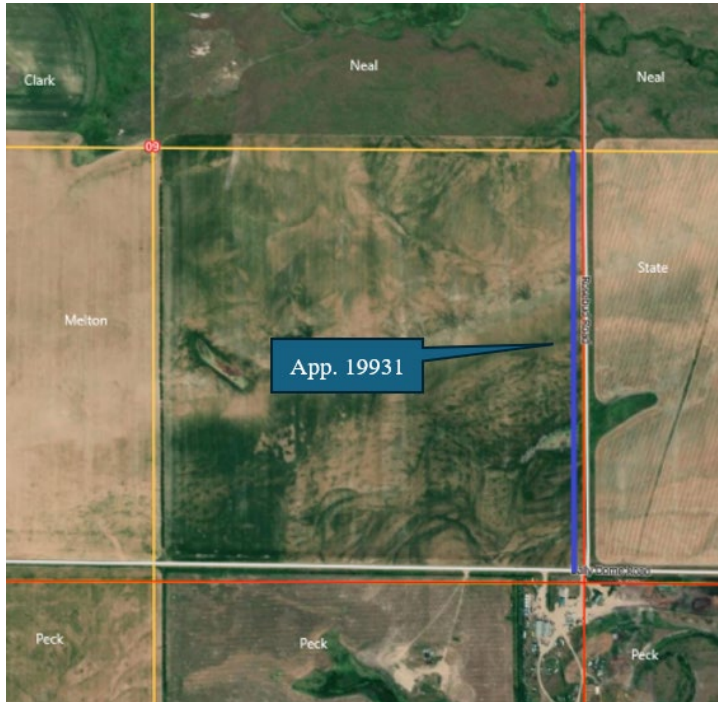
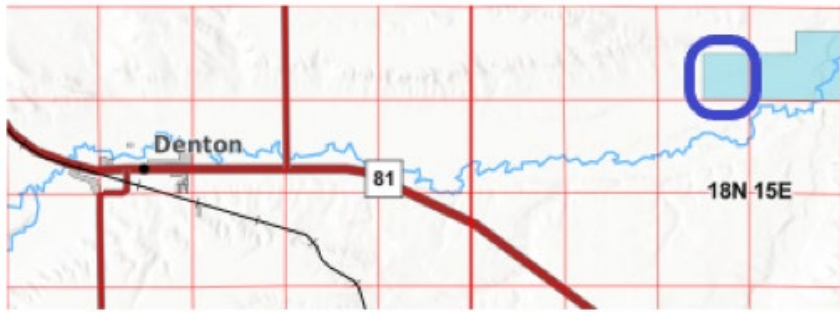
Item Summary:

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19931



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19932
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.23
Compensation: \$861.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through Gov. Lot 1, SE4NE4, Sec. 6, Twp. 20N,
Rge. 44E, McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

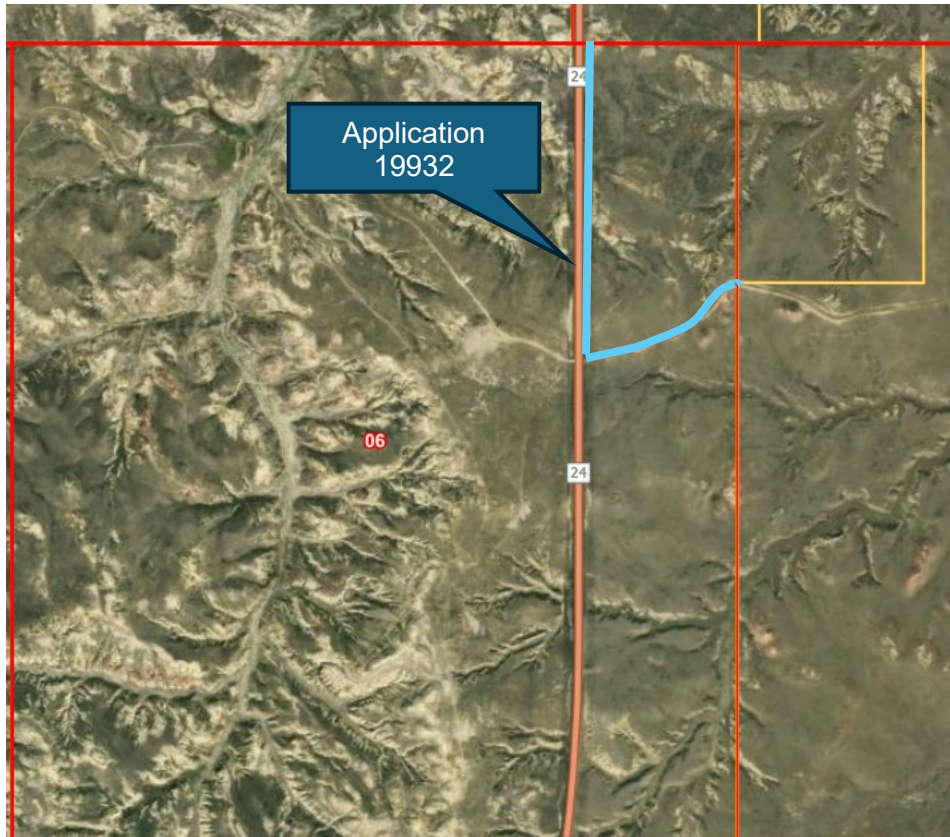
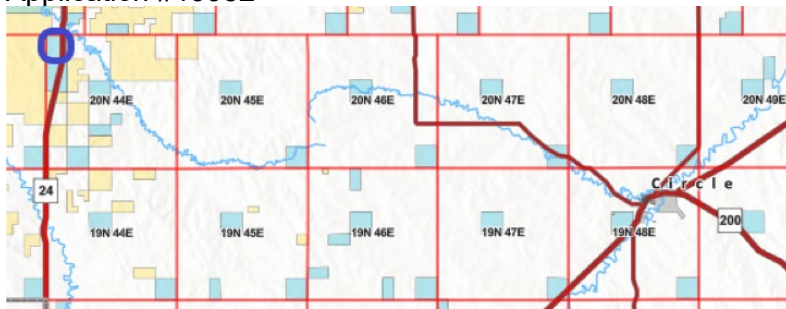
Item Summary:

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative is requesting easements to install a buried fiber optic telecommunications cable. The line will provide reliable telephone and broadband services to homes and businesses in McCone 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 #19932



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19933
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 2.11
Compensation: \$1,477.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through N2NW4, SE4NW4, S2NE4, Sec. 36,
Twp. 20N, Rge. 47E, McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

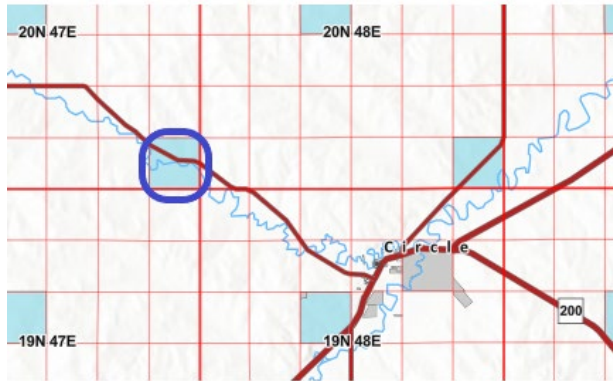
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19933



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19934
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.46
Compensation: \$1,022.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through W2NW4 and 16-foot strip through SW4SW4,
Sec. 36, Twp. 21N, Rge. 43E, McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

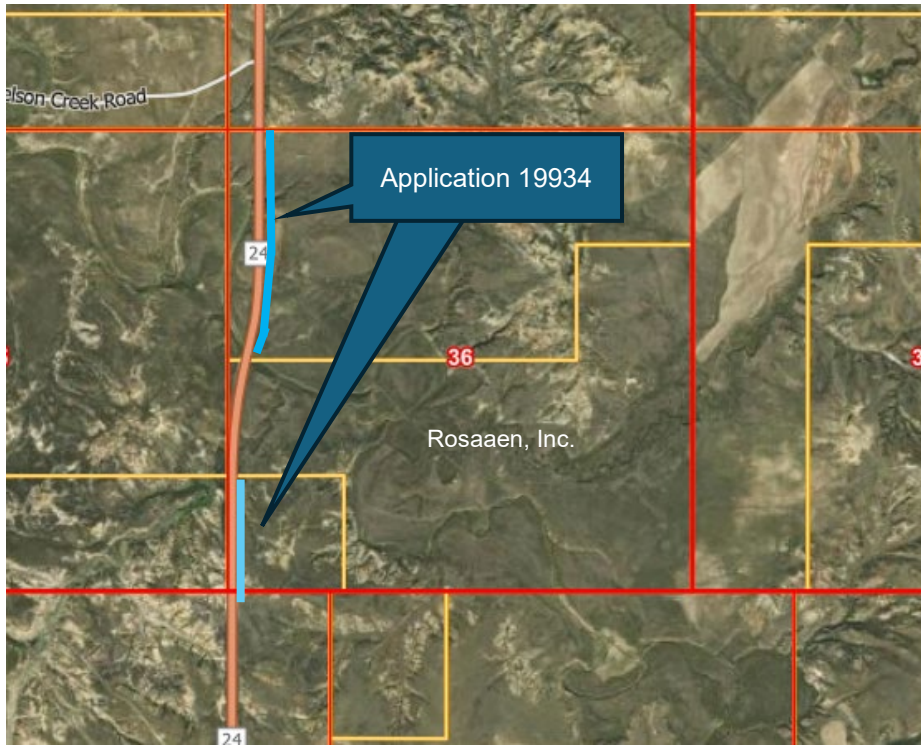
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19934



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19935
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.94
Compensation: \$1,358.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through N2N2, Sec. 16, Twp. 21N, Rge. 47E,
McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

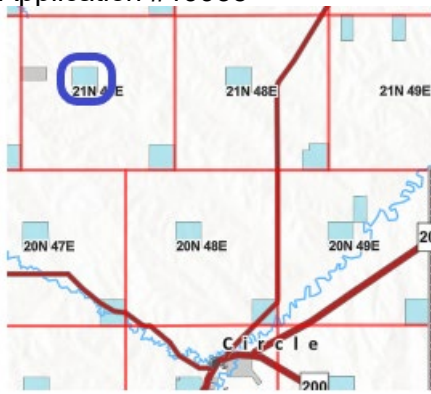
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19935



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19936
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.97
Compensation: \$679.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through N2NE4, Sec. 36, Twp. 21N, Rge. 47E,
McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

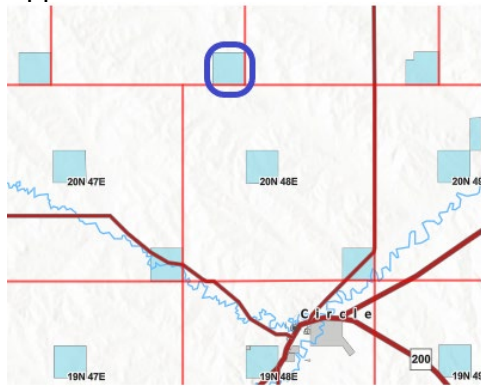
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19936



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19937
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.96
Compensation: \$672.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through Gov. Lots 1 & 2, Sec. 6, Twp. 21N,
Rge. 49E, McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

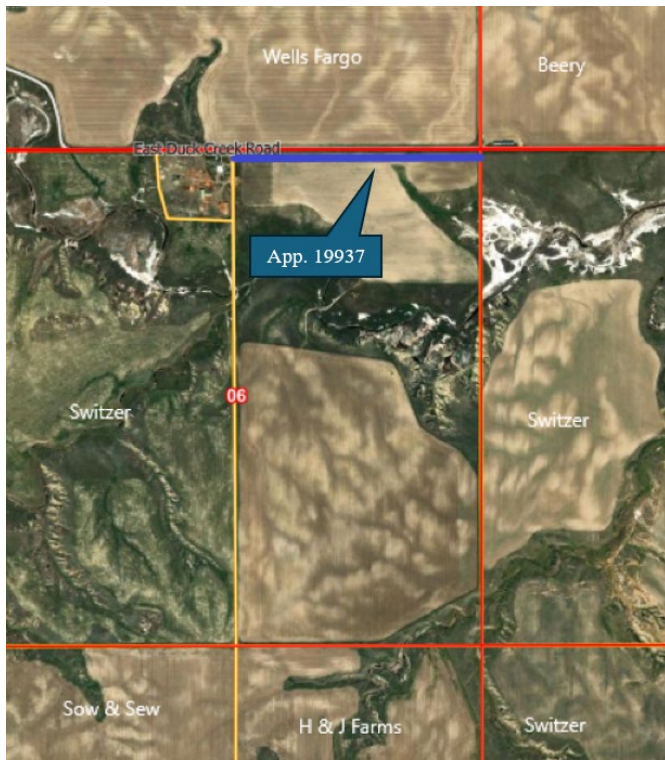
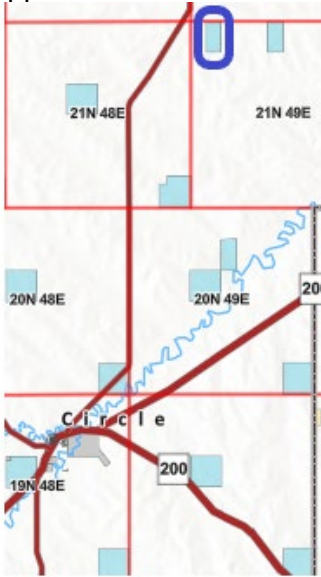
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19937



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19938
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.11
Compensation: \$100.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through NE4SW4, Sec. 6, Twp. 22N, Rge. 49E,
McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

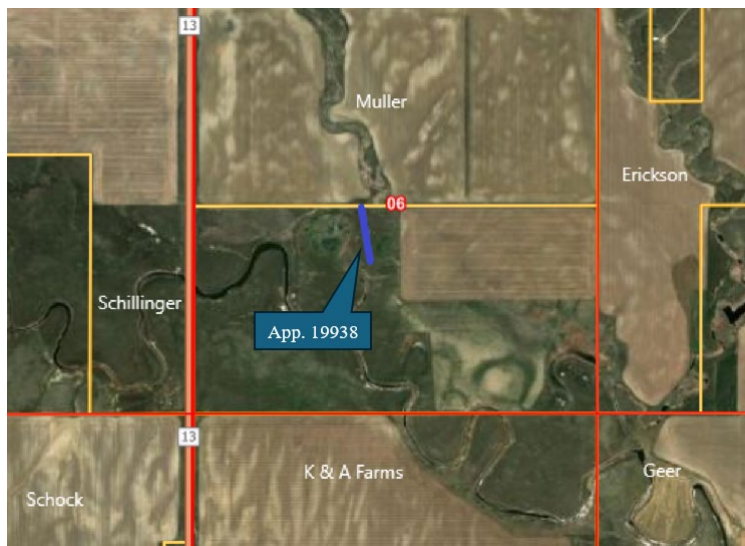
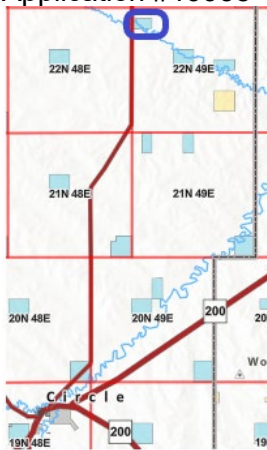
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19938



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19939
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.97
Compensation: \$1,379.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through W2W2, Sec. 36, Twp. 24N, Rge. 43E,
McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

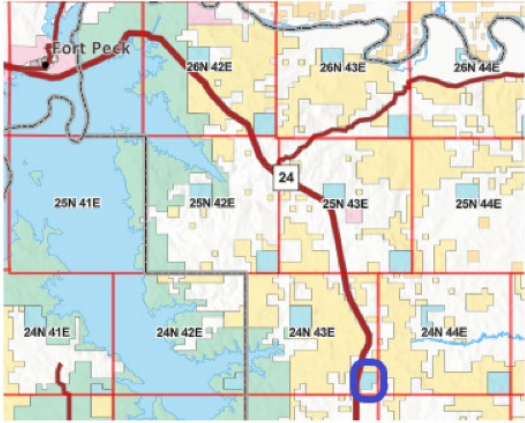
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19939



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

Applicant: Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 280
Circle, MT 59215

Application No.: 19940
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.98
Compensation: \$1,386.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through S2S2, Sec. 16, Twp. 24N, Rge. 45E,
McCone County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

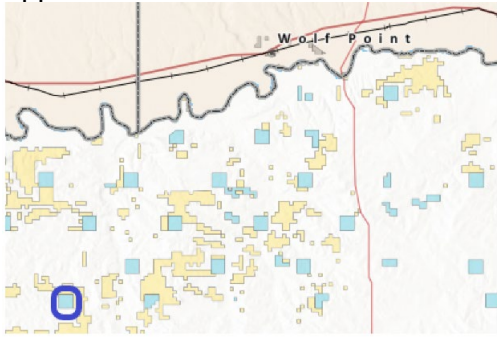
Item Summary:

Continuation of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19940



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

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

Application No.: 19941
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.39
Compensation: \$695.00
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through N2SE4, SE4SE4, Sec. 20, Twp. 27N,
Rge. 19E, Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

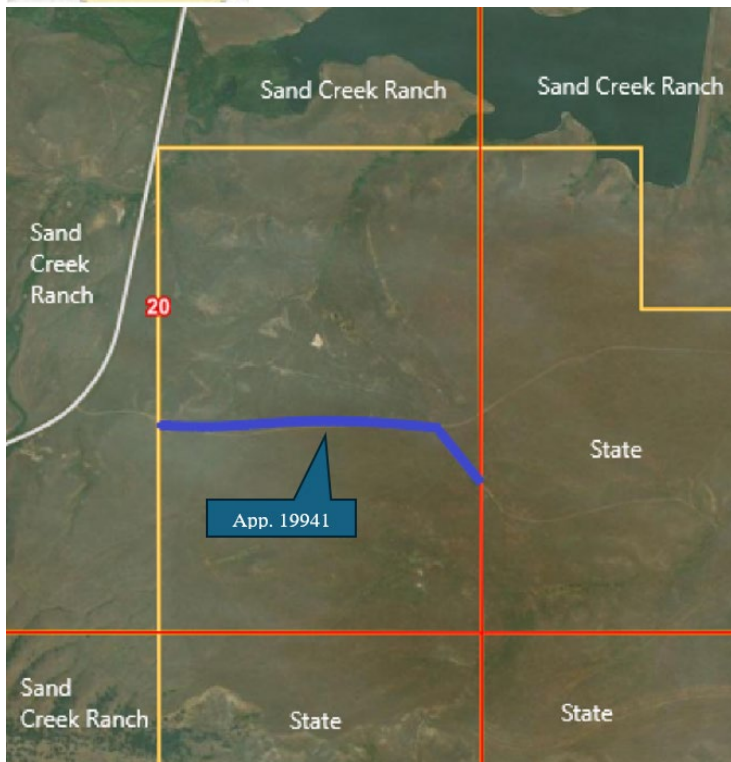
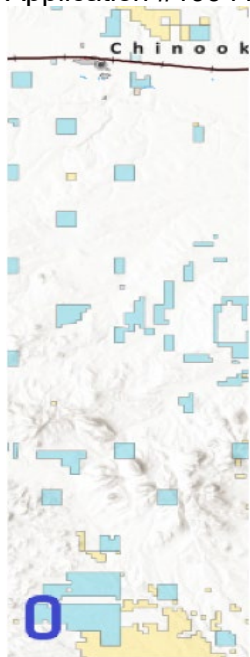
Item Summary:

Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. is requesting an easement to extend fiber optic telecommunications facilities in the Chinook exchange. These improvements will offer state-of-the-art telecommunications toll and distribution facilities, as well as future growth capabilities. The proposed route is the most direct route between terminus locations and 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 #19941



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

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

Application No.: 19942
R/W Purpose: a buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.57
Compensation: \$285.00
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through SE4NE4, Sec. 5, Twp. 29N, Rge. 21E,
Blaine County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

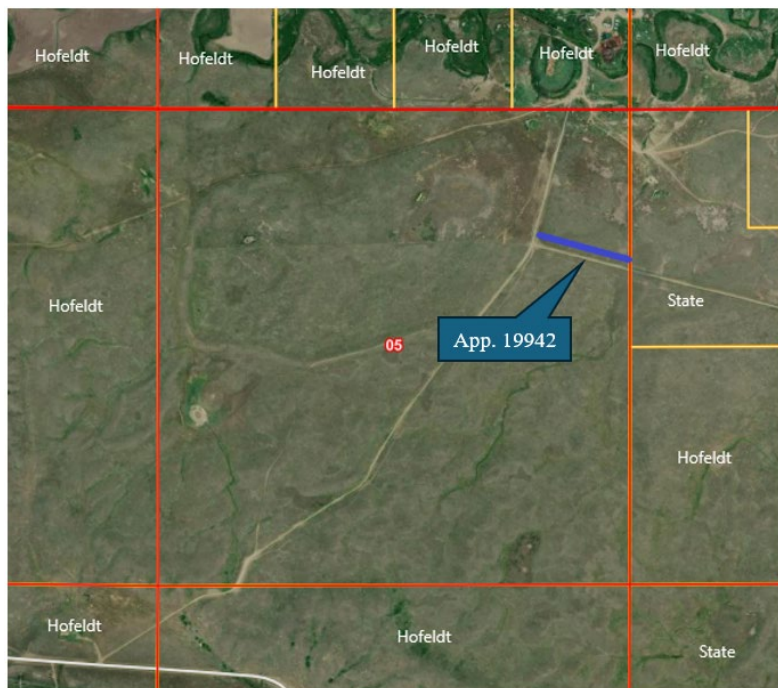
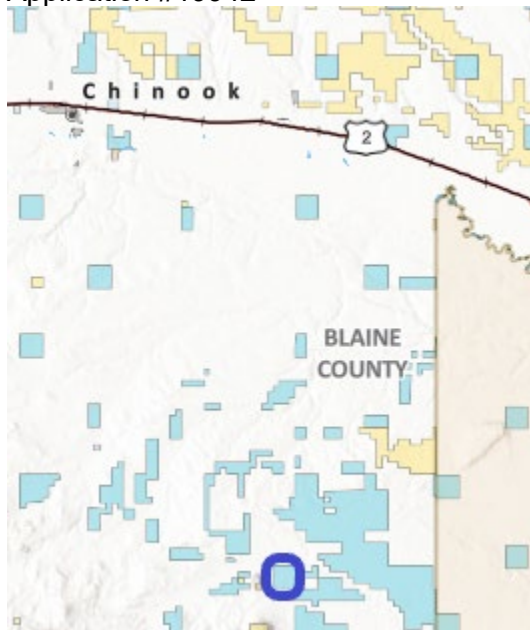
Item Summary:

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

DNRC Recommendation:

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

Application #19942



0426-4

Reciprocal Access Agreement

**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-4 Reciprocal Access Agreement

Location: Rosebud County

Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

Trust Revenue: \$1,379

Reciprocating Party: Janice K. Shaver

Application No.: 19871

Purpose: private access roads for resource management purposes

Lessee Agreement: ok

Acreage – State: 1.98

Acreage – Shaver: 1.61

Compensation: \$1,379 due from Shaver

Legal Description - State: 15-foot strip through E2SW4, NW4SW4, W2NW4, Sec. 36, Twp. 7N, Rge. 39E

Legal Description – Shaver: 15-foot strip through Gov. Lot 3, SE4NW4, NE4SW4, W2SW4, Sec. 25, Twp. 7N, Rge. 39E

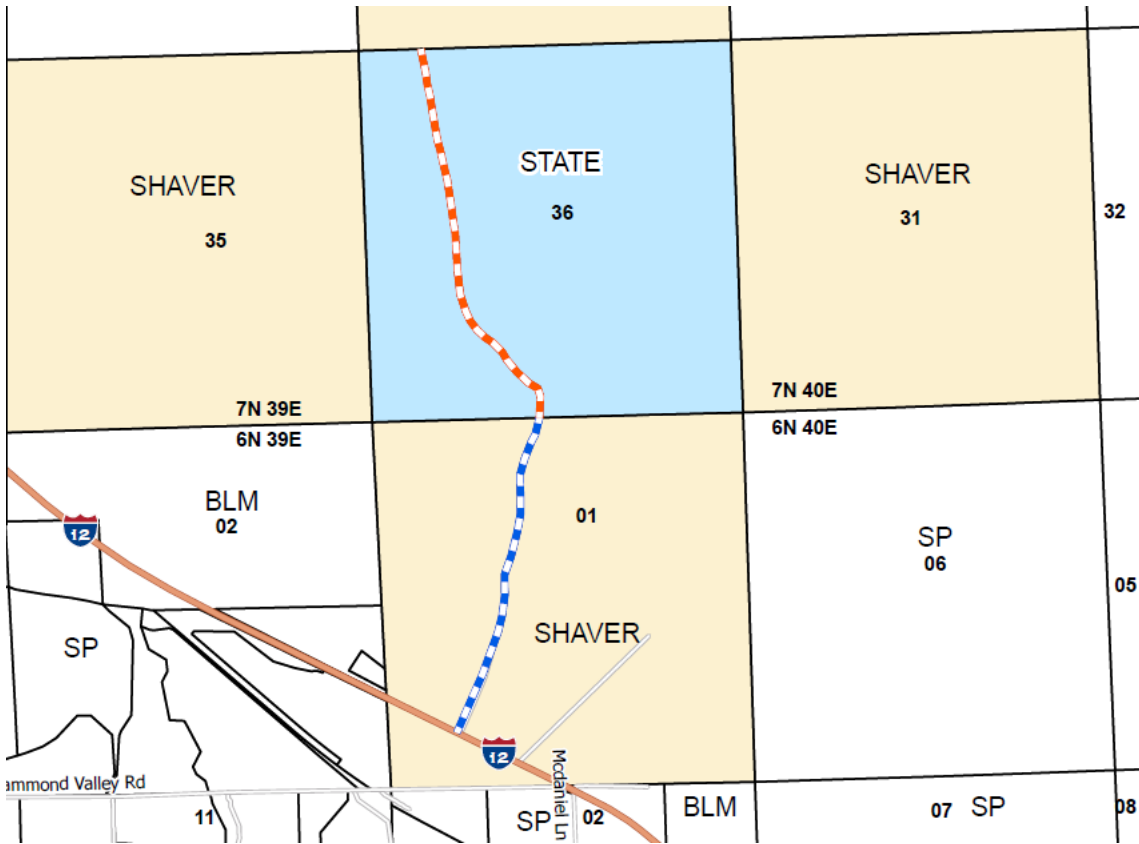
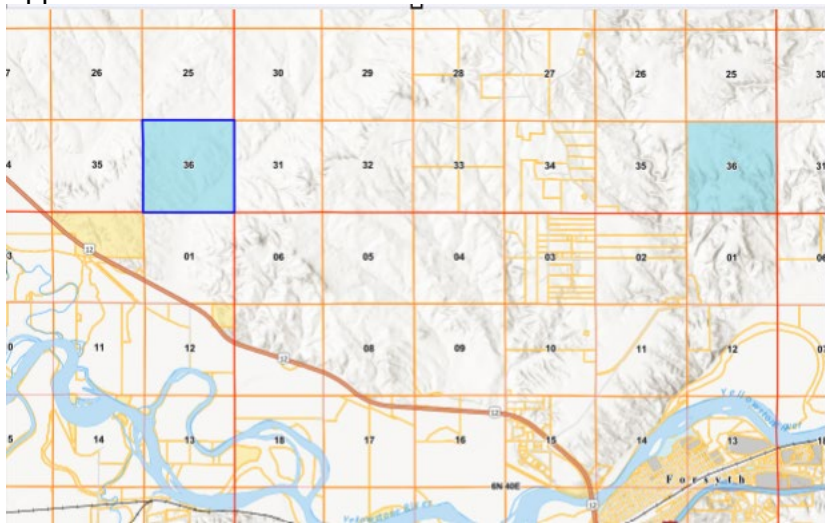
Item Summary:

Montana state trust lands is intermingled with the Shaver Ranch property. In order for the State and Shaver to gain legal access to their respective ownerships a reciprocal agreement is proposed. In this proposal both parties have agreed to a 15-foot wide resource management purposes easement. The state trust lands to be accessed is Sec. 36, Twp. 7N, Rge. 39E and the Shaver property to be accessed is Secs. 25 & 35, Twp. 7N, Rge. 39E and Sec. 31, Twp. 7N, Rge. 40E.

DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends approval of the reciprocal access agreement with Janice K. Shaver.

Application #19871



0426-5

Request for Approval to Initiate Scoping

**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-5 Request for Approval to Initiate Scoping

Location: State of Montana

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools, Capitol Buildings, MSU 2nd, MSU Morrill, MSU Eastern/UM Western, MT Tech, U of M, Deaf & Blind School, Pine Hills, Veterans Home, Intensive Behavior Center, MT State Hospital, Lands Acquired-Public School, and Public Land Trust

Trust Revenue: Unknown

Item Summary:

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) requests Land Board approval to initiate public scoping regarding a new Land Board policy to guide the issuance of grazing leases and licenses to production livestock operations while also factoring the fiduciary obligations of the Land Board and DNRC.

If approved, the DNRC will conduct public scoping for 30 days, collect public comments, make any applicable revisions and return for the June 15, 2026 meeting with a final proposal for adoption.

DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board approve this request to initiate scoping to adopt the new Land Board policy.

Land Board Preference to Award Grazing Leases or Licenses to Bidders Involved in Production Livestock Operations

77-6-202 and 205, MCA and 36.25.111 and 117, ARM detail the process and requirements for a prospective lessee or licensee of state trust land to obtain a lease or license through competitive bidding.

In reviewing competitive bids deemed to be complete and proper on classified grazing ground the department should consider:

- Does the bid fulfill the fiduciary obligations of the Land Board and the department?
- Does the bid align with the Land Board and department's mission, including considering environmental factors and protecting the long-term income-generating capacity of the land?
- Is the bid in the best interest of the state?

When comparing two or more bids deemed to be complete and proper on classified grazing ground, and the above questions have been satisfied, and all other factors appear to be equal except one bidder has indicated in their bid form that they participate in production livestock operations, and one bidder has not:

- The department should award the lease or license to the bidder who has indicated that they intend to utilize the lease or license for production livestock operations.
- "Production livestock operations" means the use of the leased or licensed land primarily and directly for raising and marketing livestock, their offspring, or products derived from the livestock in the regular course of business. Production livestock operations include activities and use that are customary and necessary in raising livestock and preparing them, their offspring, or the products derived therefrom for market.

This preference for lessees or licensees participating in production livestock operations can be taken into account, but does not supersede:

- The Land Board and department's fiduciary obligation to obtain the highest measure of advantage for the trust.
- An existing lessee or licensee's preference right to match high bids and request a hearing on renewing leases or licenses.

0426-6

Request for Approval to Initiate Rulemaking

**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-6 Request for Approval to Initiate Rulemaking

Location: State of Montana

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools, Capitol Buildings, MSU 2nd, MSU Morrill, MSU Eastern/UM Western, MT Tech, U of M, Deaf & Blind School, Pine Hills, Veterans Home, Intensive Behavior Center, MT State Hospital, Lands Acquired-Public School, and Public Land Trust

Trust Revenue: Unknown

Item Summary:

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) requests Land Board approval to initiate rulemaking to amend surface management rules by amending two rules (36.25.102, 36.25.127) and adopting one new rule pertaining the administration and management of grazing agreements. The amendments are necessary to align with the February 16, 2026 Land Board motion directing the DNRC develop a rulemaking package regarding grazing lease stocking rates and addresses the absence of bison from the existing provisions.

If approved, a proposal notice will be filed with the Secretary of State's office. There will be a 30-day comment period and a public hearing. After notice and hearing, but prior to filing the adoption notice, the DNRC would seek final Land Board approval.

DNRC Recommendation:

The DNRC recommends that the Land Board approve this request to initiate the rulemaking process to amend the rules associated with the surface management of state trust lands.

0426-7

Quarterly Litigation Update

**Land Board Agenda Item
April 20, 2026**

0426-7 Informational Item: Quarterly Litigation Update

Location: N/A

Trust Beneficiaries: N/A

Trust Revenue: N/A

Item Summary:

Status update on legal cases involving Montana state trust lands.



To: Montana State Board of Land Commissioners
From: Brian C. Bramblett, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel
Date: April 14, 2026
RE: Litigation Update

This Litigation Update does not include bankruptcy proceedings that include state trust land leases, permits, or land use licenses as an asset of the bankruptcy estate; or administrative hearings/contested case proceedings related to state trust land leases, permits, or land use licenses.

GENERAL LITIGATION

New cases and cases not reported on January 20, 2026:

American Prairie v. Montana Board of Land Commissioners and DNRC

- Montana First Judicial District, Lewis and Clark County (DV-25-2025-0000732-WM)
- Issue: Petition for judicial review and declaratory judgment action challenging the Montana State Board of Land Commissioners (MBLC) February 17, 2026, motions regarding rulemaking and policy development.
- Current Status:
A response to the complaint is due April 29, 2026. On April 1, 2026, APR filed a motion for preliminary injunction in which it contends that the Land Board motion, “ordering DNRC to not approve any new or pending bison grazing requests until a new rulemaking package was complete” should be enjoined. A response to the motion for preliminary injunction is due May 4, 2026, and preliminary injunction hearing is scheduled for June 11, 2026.

State, DNRC, and Land Board v. Welch

- Eleventh Judicial District, Flathead County Cause No. DV-15-2026-000-0151-NT.
- Issue: Action for trespass and ejectment by DNRC/Land Board against former cabin site lessee.
- Current Status: The defendant was served on April 2, 2026. The defendant is required to file an answer or responsive pleaded on or before April 23, 2026.



State v Talen Montana, LLC, et. al.

- United State District Court for Montana CV 16–35–H–DLC
- Issue: Litigation to determine of damages and rent for occupancy of the segment of the Missouri River between Sun River to Black Eagle Falls.
- Current Status: Mediation is scheduled for April 27, 2026.

Status of cases reported on January 20, 2026:

American Prairie v. DNRC and Amanda Kaster

- Montana First Judicial District, Lewis and Clark County (DV-25-2025-0000732-WM). Served on DNRC November 17, 2025.
- Issue: Application for writ of mandamus and declaratory judgment seeking to mandate DNRC approval of American Prairie request to graze bison on State Lease Nos. 8171 and 9361.
- Current Status:
On March 3, 2026, the district court granted mandamus and ordered DNRC to conduct review under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).
On March 23, 2026, the district court granted DNRC’s Rule 54(b) motion to certify the mandamus order for appeal and stayed APR’s motion for attorney fees.
On March 25, 2026, DNRC filed a notice of appeal in the Montana Supreme Court and a motion to stay enforcement of the mandamus order pending appeal in the district court.

Williams Family Trust v. DNRC and Hensley

- Montana’s First Judicial District, Broadwater County (DDV-2019-14).
- Issue: Judicial review proceeding and breach of contract claim filed by former lessee related to disputed improvement valuation and competitive bid process.
- Current Status: Awaiting orders on cross motions for summary judgment and preparing for trial.

River Oxbow Ranch, et. al. v. Montana Land Board, DNRC, et al.

- Montana’s Fifteenth Judicial District, Roosevelt County (DV-2021-47).
- Issue: Lawsuit for quiet title seeking to resolve riverbed and island ownership in Roosevelt County and seeking mesne profits for royalties paid to DNRC. Montana Land Board and DNRC filed a counterclaim.
- Current Status: On October 15, 2025, DNRC counsel filed a motion for joinder of additional parties which was granted in January 2026. Parties have set a new procedural schedule with DNRC currently working on service of additional cross- and third-party defendants. The case is proceeding with the early stages of discovery.

Valley Garden Land and Cattle v. DNRC, AM Welles, and Riverside Contracting

- Montana’s Fifth Judicial District, Madison County (DV 29-2024-0036).
- Issue: Lawsuit challenging asphalt plant on trust land parcel, alleging violation of MEPA, §§77- 3-201, et seq., public participation, Water Use Act and Montana Constitution.
- Current Status: Litigation is on hold pending the outcome of the gravel pit litigation (below). A status conference will take place prior to continuing.

Valley Garden Land and Cattle v. DNRC and AM Welles

- Montana's Fifth Judicial District, Madison County (DV 29-2023-0037).
- Issue: Lawsuit challenging gravel pit expansion on trust land parcel, alleging violation of MEPA, §§77-3-201, et seq., public participation, Water Use Act and Montana Constitution.
- Current Status: Court denied Plaintiffs' claims regarding MEPA, public participation, and the Montana Constitution and denied Plaintiffs' claim for attorney fees. The Court granted limited relief and ordered DNRC to charge additional rental fees for storage of offsite materials on state trust land. DNRC is working to resolve post-judgment issues.

Held, et al. v. State

- Montana Supreme Court (DA 25-0809).
- Issue: Lawsuit challenging MEPA exception for greenhouse gases, in part, as it relates to trust land leases that directly or indirectly result in increased CO₂e. The Montana Supreme Court affirmed and remanded to resolve Plaintiffs' attorney fees claim. The district court awarded approximately \$2,800,000 in attorney fees.
- Current Status: Attorney fees awarded by district court are being appealed.

WATER COURT LITIGATION

The water right cases listed below include all water right litigation to which the MBLC is a party. Ownership objections to water rights with point(s) of diversion (POD) on private land and place(s) of use (POU) on state trust land are identified as: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**.

New cases consolidated since January 20, 2026:

CASE 41F-0256-R-2026

- Claimants: Jumping Horse Stock Ranch; MBLC
- Objectors: Howard Blakely; Jumping Horse Stock Ranch; MBLC; US DOI BOR
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. In 2023, MBLC objected to Claim Nos 41F 8354-00; 41F 8355-00; 41F 132837-00; 41F 132838-00; 41F 136475-00; 41F 136476-00; 41F 136478-00; 41F 215610-00. The objections predate the MBLC motion requiring prior approval. The objections, based on a stipulation between the Claimant and MBLC, ask the Water Court to create implied claims for the POU located on state trust land for Claims 41F 132837-00; 41F 132838-00; 41F 136475-00; 41F 136476-00; and 41F 136478-00.
- Current Status: The Water Court consolidated this matter on March 23, 2026. KLH Advisors appeared April 13, 2026.

CASE 41F-0174-R-2026

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC self-objection and verified motion to amend Claim No. 41F 215357-00 to resolve issue remarks.
- Current Status: The Water Court issued its Notice of Filing of Master's Report on March 17, 2026.

CASE 41F-0232-R-2025

- Claimants: Black Mountain Ranch 100, LLC; Jerry A. Leech; Bar K Ranch, LLC
- Objectors: MBLC; Indian Creek Ditch Co.
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. In 2023, MBLC objected to Claim No. 41F 45320-00. All of POU 2 and parts of POU 3 and 5 are on state trust land. The MBLC objection, as filed, seeks co-ownership of the claim. Indian Creek Ditch Co. objected to Claim Nos. 41F 45320-00 and 41F 133931-00. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current Status: Status Conference was held on January 29, 2026. Parties were ordered to file any settlement documents by May 1, 2026.

Status of cases reported on January 20, 2026:

CASE 41F-0198-R-2025

- Claimant: Valley Garden Land & Cattle LLC
- Objectors: Valley Garden Land & Cattle LLC; MBLC; US BOR
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 41F 45985-00, 41F 45986-00, and 41F 101042-00 on August 18, 2023. Each of these claims are for irrigation with a POD on private land and 20 acres of irrigation on state trust land (POU 21). The objection requests either coownership or creation of an implied claim for POU 21. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current Status: The Water Court extended the settlement deadline to May 18, 2026. KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026.

CASE 41I-0200-R-2025

- Claimant: Catlin Ranch LP
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41I 130122-00 on August 11, 2022. This claim is for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs located on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for any of the POUs on state trust land. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC with PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court extended the settlement deadline to January 16, 2026. No settlement documents were filed on that date, so the Water Court issued a Scheduling Order putting the matter on a hearing track. The deadline for parties to exchange lists of lay witnesses and expert witnesses with associated exhibits is April 24, 2026.

CASE 43QJ-0121-R-2025

- Claimant: B&E Pinkerton LLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 43QJ 30143660 on March 24, 2025. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POD 1 and POU 1 on state trust land. The objection maintains that the state trust land should not be included because there is no water source on the state trust land, and requests refinement to remove the state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court extended the settlement deadline to April 3, 2026. KLH Advisors appeared April 3, 2026, and requested a 60-day extension to the settlement deadline.

CASE 41J-0007-I-2025

- Claimant: Dana Ranch Co. Inc.
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: The Water Court consolidated MBLC's objections to Claim Nos. 41J 30135969 and 41J 30136117 on March 10, 2025. Both claims are for livestock direct from source with all PODs and POUs on state trust land.
- Current Status: MBLC filed a *Statement and Unopposed Motion to Resolve Objections* on March 20, 2026. Awaiting resolution by the water master.

- **CASE 41J-0008-I-2025**
- Claimant: Galt Ranch LP
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41J 30134505 on March 10, 2025. This claim is for livestock direct from source that identifies state trust land for POU 6 and POD 6. The objection seeks to have the legal description for POD 6 and POU 6 refined to remove the state trust land based on the determination there is no water source on the state trust land in this location.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. MBLC filed a *Status Report and Proposed Resolution of Objection* on February 13, 2026. The Water Court ordered the Claimant to file a written statement either agreeing or disagreeing with the proposed resolution by March 20, 2026. The Claimant did not file a statement by the deadline, which is deemed agreement with MBLC's proposed resolution.

CASE 41J-0010-I-2025

- Claimant: Sieben Livestock Co.
- Objector: MBLC
- Notice of Intent to Appear: US DOI BLM
- Issue: The Water Court consolidated MBLC's objections to Claim Nos. 41J 30129340, 41J 30129384, and 41J 30129421 on March 10, 2025. All three claims are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POU's located on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for any of the POU's on state trust land. The objections request that the Water Court create implied rights for the MBLC with PODs and POU's on the state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court extended the settlement deadline to April 10, 2026.

CASE 41J-0009-I-2025

- Claimant: Springdale Colony
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41J 30135075 on March 10, 2025. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POD5 and POU 5 located on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for a POU on state trust land. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC with POD 5 and POU 5 on the state trust land.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. MBLC filed an unopposed *Proposed Resolution of Objection* on April 3, 2026. Awaiting resolution by the water master.

CASE 43QJ-0125-R-2025

- Claimant: Kennedy Properties LLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: The case involves objections to Claim No. 43QJ 197394-00 and Claim No. 43QJ 197424-00. MBLC objected to Claim No. 43QJ 197394-00 on March 24, 2025. **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. The claim is for sprinkler/flood irrigation

diverted by pump with a POD off state trust land and has one POU on state trust land. The MBLC approved this objection before it was filed.

MBLC objected to Claim No. 43QJ 197424-00 on March 24, 2025. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POD 1 and POU 1 located on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for POU 1 on state trust land for this claim. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC for POD 1 and POU 1 on the state trust land.

- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. MBLC filed its *Status Report and Proposed Resolution of Objection* on March 11, 2026. The deadline for Kennedy Properties to show cause why the motion should not be granted is April 17, 2026.

CASE 41S-2087-R-2025

- Claimant: Montana Holdings, Inc.
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41S 101545-00 on September 23, 2022. This claim is for groundwater diverted by a well with the POD and POU on state trust land. MBLC owns Claim No. 41S 21653-00 for this tract of state trust land. Accordingly, the objection seeks to have Claim No. 41S 101545-00 dismissed as redundant.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. MBLC filed a *Motion to Amend Objection* on February 6, 2026, stating MBLC should be added as a co-owner to Claim No. 41S 101545-00, as opposed to the claim being dismissed. The motion was granted. The Water Court issued its *Notice of Filing of Master's Report* on March 4, 2026 granting co-ownership. The report was adopted by the Court on March 25, 2026.

CASE 41S-2088-R-2025

- Claimants: Amanda A. Peck; Robert W. Peck; MBLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC filed a self-objection to Claim No. 41S 101592-00, on September 23, 2022. This claim is for sprinkler/flood irrigation diverted by pump. The objection seeks to amend the maximum acres and flow rate for the water right.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. MBLC withdrew its objection to Water Right Claim 41S 101592-00 on February 6, 2026. In adherence to the Water Court's order, DNRC filed a memo on April 9, 2026, with its recommendation to substantiate the claimed maximum acres and resolve the issue remarks.

CASE 41S-2136-R-2025

- Claimant: Stevensons Diamond Dot Inc.
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41S 14310-00 on September 23, 2022. This claim is for groundwater diverted by well with the POD, POU, and source on state trust land. MBLC Claim No. 41S 21553-00 is for this tract of state trust land. Accordingly, the objection seeks to have Claim No. 41S 14310-00 dismissed as redundant.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. MBLC filed a *Motion to Amend Objection* on February 6, 2026, stating MBLC

should be added as a co-owner to Claim No. 41S 14310-00, as opposed to the claim being dismissed. The motion was granted. The Water Court issued its *Notice of Filing of Master's Report* on March 4, 2026 granting co-ownership. The report was adopted by the Court on March 25, 2026.,

CASE 41S-2127-R-2025

- Claimant: Spring Creek Hutterian Society
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41S 139550-00 on September 23, 2022. This claim is for irrigation with a POD on private land and 14 acres of irrigation on state trust land (POU 9). The objection requests either co-ownership or creation of an implied claim for POU 9. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. MBLC filed a *Proposed Resolution of Objection* on March 13, 2026. The Water Court ordered Spring Creek Hutterian Society to file a statement either agreeing or disagreeing with the proposal by April 17, 2026.

CASE 41F-0197-R-2025

- Claimant: Valley Garden Land & Cattle LLC
- Objector: Valley Garden Land & Cattle LLC; MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 41F 45973-00 on August 18, 2023. This claim is for livestock direct from source with POD 4 and POU 4 on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for a POU on state trust land. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC with POD 4 and POU 4 on the state trust land.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 9, 2026. Valley Garden Land & Cattle filed a stipulated *Proposed Resolutions* on February 3, 2026. Awaiting resolution by the water master.

CASE 41S-2089-R-2025

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objector: Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
- Issue: FWP objected to Claim No. 41S 21699-00 on April 17, 2023. FWP seeks co-ownership of water right because the place of use extends onto FWP land.
- Current Status: The Water Court extended the settlement deadline to April 24, 2026.

CASE 43QJ-0250-R-2025

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC filed a self-objection to Claim Nos. 43QJ 47490-00 and 43QJ 30106803 on March 24, 2025. The objections ask the Water Court to correct legal land description errors.
- Current Status: Closed. MBLC filed a *Motion to Resolve MBLC Objections, Resolve Issue Remark and Verified Motion to Amend Claim 43QJ 47490-00* on December 10, 2025. The Water Court issued its *Order Adopting Master's Report* on February 5, 2026.

CASE 41F-0202-R-2025

- Claimants: Peter McDermott; MBLC; Sean P. Lang 2009 Irrevocable Trust
- Objectors: US DOI BOR; Peter McDermott; Howard Blakely; Yolanda Blakely; John P. Zuelke; John P. Scully.
- Issue: MBLC co-owns Claim Nos. 41F 132840-00, 41F 132841-00, and 41F 132842-00. BOR's objection maintains the water rights were not perfected or have been abandoned.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. On March 17, 2026, the US filed a *Partially Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time*, up to and including May 18, 2026, to file settlement documents.

CASE 400-0001-I-2024

- Claimant: Buggy Creek Livestock LLLP
- Objectors: MBLC; US BIA; US BLM
- NOIA: Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim No. 400 30136580, which is a livestock direct from source claim with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for a POU on state trust land. The objection requests that the Water Court create an implied right for the MBLC with PODs and POUs on the state trust land.
- Current Status: The Water Court extended the settlement deadline to February 16, 2026. On January 29, 2026, Buggy Creek filed a stipulated *Statement and Unopposed Motion to Amend Claims to Resolve Issue Remarks and Objections*. On February 12, 2026, the US filed its *Statement on Claimant's Motion to Amend*.

CASE 400-0082-I-2024

- Claimant: Cornwell Ranch
- Objectors: MBLC; US BLM
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 400 30135293, 400 30136082, 400 30136084, 400 30137032, 400 30137036, 400 30137766, and 400 30137772 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for any of the POUs on state trust land. The objections request that the Water Court create implied rights for the MBLC with PODs and POUs on the state trust land.
- Current Status: KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. Cornwell Ranch filed a stipulated *Notice of Filing Proposed Post Decree Abstracts and Proposed Implied Claim Abstracts* on March 18, 2026. Awaiting final review and resolution by water master.

CASE 41E-0200-R-2024

- Claimants: DPHHS; MBLC; Lori Norby; Anita and Edward McCauley; North Fork Trust
- Objectors: Edward K. McCauley; Anita L. McCauley; BLM
- Counter-objectors: Lori Norby; Pallister Joint Living Trust
- Issue: Claim Nos. 41E 27437, 41E 27438, 41E 30884, 41E 93869, and 41E 94068 contain DNRC issue remarks questioning the type of historical right, priority date, and flow rate, among other issue remarks. MBLC is listed as co-owner of 41E 27438.

- Current Status: This case was placed on a hearing track on May 15, 2025. KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. The Water Court extended the remaining scheduling deadlines. The deadline for completion of discovery is May 29, 2026. The deadline to file all pre-trial motions is July 7, 2026.

CASE 41K-0029-R-2023

- Claimant: Broken O Land & Livestock
- Objectors: Broken O Land & Livestock; US BLM; MBLC
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 41K 96112, 41K 187156, 41K 187157, and 41K 30103793 (flood/ditch/sprinkler irrigation) based on POUs on state trust land. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval. The objection asks the Water Court to create an implied claim for the POUs located on state trust land.
- Current Status: This matter has been placed on a hearing track. KLH Advisors was substituted as counsel for this matter on January 13, 2026. The Water Court extended the discovery deadline to April 30, 2026.

CASE 40A-0363-R-2022

- Claimant: McFarland White Ranch Inc.; MBLC
- Objector: McFarland White Ranch Inc.; MBLC
- Issue: **Ownership (POD on private land/POU on state trust land)**. MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 40A 211602 and 40A 211604 filed by McFarland White Ranch Inc. with a POD on private land and a POU on state trust land. McFarland White Ranch Inc. objected to MBLC being listed as co-owner on Claim Nos. 40A 30002022 and 40A 110020 (sprinkler irrigation) with a POU on state trust land. This objection predates the MBLC motion requiring prior approval.
- Current status: In 2022, MacFarland White Ranch Inc. filed a motion and statement agreeing that MBLC is co-owner of all four rights. Issues unrelated to state ownership are still being resolved.

CASE 41S-0071-R-2024

- Claimant: MBLC
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: Self-objection to resolve issue remarks on Claim Nos. 41S 18155-00, 41S 18200-00, 41S 21653-00, 41S 42853-00, 41S 47789-00, 41S 47811-00, 41S 47835-00, 41S 47843-00, 41S 47850-00, 41S 101593-00, 41S 101594-00, 41S 112271-00, 41S 215296-00, and 41S 30029050.
- Current Status: The water master issued its *Notice of Filing of Master's Report* on March 18, 2026, resolving MBLC's self-objections. Awaiting final Water Court approval.

CASE 41I-0151-R-2025

- Claimant: Galzagorry
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: Galzagorry Inc. Claim No. 41I 30132306 (stock watering) contains a DNRC issue remark regarding location of the POUs on both state trust land and private land. The POD for this claim is on state trust land.

- Current Status: The parties entered a stipulation creating an implied water right owned by MBLC for the portions of Claim 411 30132306 appurtenant to state trust land. Awaiting final order by Water Court.

CASE 400-0071-I-2024

- Claimant: Buggy Creek Livestock LLLP
- Objectors: MBLC; US BLM
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 400 30136577 and 400 30136625 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POU's on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for any of the POU's on state trust land. The objections request that the Water Court create implied rights for the MBLC with PODs and POU's on the state trust land.
- Current Status: Closed. On February 6, 2026, the Water Court approved the parties' settlement agreement creating an implied water rights owned by MBLC for the portions of Claim 400 30136625 and 400 30136577 appurtenant to state trust land.

CASE 400-0080-I-2024

- Claimant: Cornwell Ranch
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 400 30136085 and 400 30137029 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more POD and POU on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for any of the POU's on state trust land. The objections request that the Water Court create implied rights for the MBLC with PODs and POU's on the state trust land.
- Current Status: Closed. The Water Court issued its *Order Adopting Master's Report* on February 17, 2026, creating implied water rights owned by MBLC for the portions of Claim Nos. 400 30136085 and 400 30137029 appurtenant to state trust land.

CASE 41F-0133-R-2025

- Claimants: HRMT Land LLC; MBLC
- Issue: MBLC Claim No. 41F 30106559 and HRMT Land LLC Claim No. 41F 30114717 (stock watering) contain a DNRC issue remark regarding potential overlap of the POU's.
- Current Status: Closed. The Water Court issued its *Order Adopting Master's Report* on October 16, 2026.

CASE 400-0070-I-2024

- Claimant: Buggy Creek Livestock LLLP
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 400 30136576, 400 30136588, and 400 30163348 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POU's on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for any of the POU's on state trust land. The objections request that the Water Court create implied rights for the MBLC with PODs and POU's on the state trust land.
- Current Status: Closed. The Water Court issued an order adopting the Master's Report on December 29, 2025. That order generates an implied water right owned by MBLC for the portion of Claim 400 30136579 appurtenant to state trust land. The order also names

MBLC as the sole owner of Claim Nos. 40O 30136588 and 40O 30136648, for which the POU and POD are on state trust land.

CASE 40O-0061-I-2024

- Claimant: Antelope Ranch Inc.
- Objector: MBLC
- Issue: MBLC objected to Claim Nos. 40O 30134608 and 40O 30134611 which are for livestock direct from source with one or more PODs and POUs on state trust land. Water is not diverted from a POD on private land for any of the POUs on state trust land. The objections request that the Water Court create implied rights for the MBLC with PODs and POUs on the state trust land.
- Current Status: Closed. The Water Court filed its *Notice of Filing of Master's Report* on March 11, 2026. Antelope Ranch filed an *Objection to Master's Report* on March 23, 2026, requesting that the Water Court reissue corrected Post Decree Abstracts correcting the ownership for the two water rights to MBLC, TLMD. The Water Court issued its final order on March 30, 2026.