

Environmental Assessment Checklist

Project Name: Mount Johns Timber Sale
Proposed Implementation Date: October 2026
Proponent: Kalispell Unit, Northwest Land Office, Montana DNRC
County: Flathead and Lake

Type and Purpose of Action

Description of Proposed Action:

The Kalispell Unit of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing the Mount Johns Timber Sale. The project is located 5 miles south of Lakeside, MT (refer to Attachments vicinity map A-1 and project map A-2) and includes the following sections:

Beneficiary	Legal Description	Total Acres	Treated Acres
Common Schools	T26N R21W S36	643.5	462
Montana Tech	T25N R20W S8, 18	625.2	191

Objectives of the project include:

- The proposed harvest of 3.5-4.0 million board feet (MMbf) would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute (77-5-223, MCA) to offer for sale approximately 60 MMbf of timber annually and continue to produce revenue over time.
- The revenue generated from this proposal would benefit the Common Schools and Montana Tech trusts.
- Capture economic value of dead and dying trees and promote the regeneration of healthier, more resilient trees.
- Improve the long-term productivity of timber stands and reduce the incidence and risk of insect and disease damage through silvicultural treatments designed to reduce stand density and improve forest health and regenerate stands displaying poor vigor and growth.
- Promote biodiversity on State ownership by managing for appropriate or desired stand structures and species composition based on ecological characteristics such as topography, habitat type, disturbance regimes, and unique characteristics.
- Reduce fire hazard and associated risks of loss to the State of Montana and privately-owned land in Flathead and Lake County wildland urban interface.

Proposed activities include:

Action	Quantity
Proposed Harvest Activities	# Acres
Sanitation	598
Individual Tree Selection	42
Shelterwood	13
Total Treatment Acres	653
Proposed Forest Improvement Treatment	# Acres
Pre-commercial Thinning	640
Slashing	640
Proposed Road Activities	# Miles
New temporary road construction	0.85
Road maintenance	18.74

Duration of Activities:	3 years
Implementation Period:	October 2026-October 2029

The lands involved in this proposed project are held in trust by the State of Montana. (Enabling Act of February 22, 1889; 1972 Montana Constitution, Article X, Section 11). The Board of Land Commissioners and the DNRC are required by law to administer these trust lands to produce the largest measure of reasonable and legitimate return over the long run for the beneficiary institutions (Section 77-1-202, MCA).

The DNRC would manage lands involved in this project in accordance with:

- The State Forest Land Management Plan (DNRC 1996),
- Administrative Rules for Forest Management (ARM 36.11.401 through 471),
- The Montana DNRC Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) (DNRC 2010),
- and all other applicable state and federal laws.

Project Development

SCOPING:

- DATE:
 - September 8th, 2025 to October 13th, 2025
- PUBLIC SCOPED:
 - The scoping notice was posted on the DNRC Website:
<https://dnrc.mt.gov/News/scoping-notice>
 - Adjacent landowners, Statewide Timber Scoping list, Kalispell Timber Scoping List.
- AGENCIES SCOPED:

- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), U.S. Forest Service and internal DNRC staff.
 - Montana Tribal Agencies.
- **COMMENTS RECEIVED:**
 - How many: 2 comments.
 - Concerns: MT FWP expressed concern regarding potential impacts to winter range for elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer. Legacy Bike Park, an adjacent landowner, expressed concerns regarding the proposed haul route, specifically whether project-related traffic would utilize roads within the bike park and across their property.
 - Results: The public concerns were incorporated into project planning and design or have been explained in this document. DNRC will follow the guidance within the DNRC's Habitat Conservation Plan (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*). A detailed analysis of potential impacts to big game species can be found in comment WI-9 Big Game and proposed mitigations can be found under Wildlife Mitigations within the Wildlife Analysis. Legacy Bike Park roads will not be used or affected by the project.

DNRC specialists were consulted, including:

- Alex Golden, Forester and Project Lead
- Josh Harris, Hydrologist
- Justin Cooper, Wildlife Biologist
- Partick Rennie, Archeologist
- Mike Anderson, Fisheries Biologist
- Amy Gannon, Forest Pest Management Program Coordinator

Internal and external issues and concerns were incorporated into project planning and design and will be implemented in associated contracts.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED: (*Conservation Easements, Army Corps of Engineers, road use permits, etc.*)

- **United States Fish & Wildlife Service-** DNRC is managing the habitats of threatened and endangered species on this project by implementing the Montana DNRC Forested Trust Lands HCP and the associated Incidental Take Permit that was issued by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in February of 2012 under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. The HCP identifies specific conservation strategies for managing the habitats of grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and three fish species: bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and Columbia redband trout. This project complies with the HCP. The HCP can be found at <https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/about/planning-and-reports>.
- **Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)-** DNRC is classified as a major open burner by DEQ and is issued a permit from DEQ to conduct burning activities on state lands managed by DNRC. As a major open-burning permit holder, DNRC agrees to comply with the limitations and conditions of the permit.
- **Montana/Idaho Airshed Group-** The DNRC is a member of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group which was formed to minimize or prevent smoke impacts while using fire to accomplish land management objectives and/or fuel hazard reduction (Montana/Idaho

Airshed Group 2010). As a member, DNRC must submit a list of planned burns to the Airshed Group's Smoke Monitoring Unit describing the type of burn to be conducted, the size of the burn in acres, the estimated fuel loading in tons/acre, and the location and elevation of each burn site. The Smoke Monitoring Unit provides timely restriction messages by airshed. DNRC is required to abide by those restrictions and burn only when granted approval by the Smoke Monitoring Unit when forecasted conditions are conducive to good smoke dispersion.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No-Action Alternative: No harvest operations would take place. Natural progression would take place within the project area through events such as insect and disease outbreaks, windthrow and wildfires. No road maintenance would occur on the proposed haul route or temporary roads within state owned property.

Action Alternative: Under this alternative, a commercial harvest would take place removing between 3.5 and 4.0 million board feet (MMbf) of timber. Timber would be harvested using ground-based methods on 653 acres. Specific harvest unit and precommercial thinning data are provided in the table in the Vegetation Existing Conditions section; using this table with maps in Attachment A will provide additional detail for this project.

598 acres would receive a sanitation prescription, 42 acres would receive an individual tree selection, and 13 acres would receive a shelterwood harvest. Timber would be harvested using traditional ground-based logging systems.

New stands of healthy trees would be regenerated on 640 acres through sanitation and individual tree selection treatments with a specific goal of addressing current forest health issues. A shelterwood treatment would take place on 13 acres to promote forest health and increased growth and vigor.

Mechanical site preparation would occur on 653 acres of the total harvest area, thus promoting the establishment of natural regeneration.

The commercial timber harvest and the high levels of fuel reduction would reduce the potential for a high intensity wildfire adjacent to private landowners.

The transportation plan would utilize the existing road system with minimal additions of temporary roads (approximately 0.85 miles). Road maintenance would be performed on approximately 18.74 miles of existing road. All roads utilized within this project would be brought up to/maintain Best Management Practices concurrent with this project.

Impacts on the Physical Environment

Evaluation of the impacts on the No-Action and Action Alternatives including **direct, secondary, and cumulative** impacts on the Physical Environment.

VEGETATION:

Vegetation Existing Conditions:

Previous harvests have occurred in 1999 and 2011 with varying prescriptions and objectives. Under the Rollins Chunk Timber Sale in 1999, the greater part of the project area was harvested using a combination of improvement cut, seed tree, and commercial thin treatments. This combination of treatments was utilized to address insect and disease issues, specifically heavy prevalence of dwarf mistletoe patches. This resulted in a mosaic of even and uneven-aged stands that have varying prevalence insect and disease issues.

Cover types range from western larch/Douglas-fir to pure Douglas-fir. There are remnants of ponderosa pine stands but regeneration has been primarily Douglas-fir as time has progressed. Many of the harvest units have ponderosa pine listed as the desired future condition and given the current mortality within the Douglas-fir cohort, looks to be the natural progression of the stand. Stand age ranges from 40-99 years to 100-149 years based on historical harvesting and natural mortality.

Disease is widespread throughout the project area, with the most prevalent being dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium douglasii* and *Arceuthobium laricis*) and pini (*Phellinus pini*). There is a significant presence of these and other diseases that are negatively affecting the health and vigor of the area. In western larch and Douglas-fir stands, mistletoe is affecting overstory trees. Within younger stands, pini is affecting otherwise vigorous trees in large, expanding pockets, a pattern that is atypical of the disease's traditional distribution and severity. This future wildfire-risk not only for state lands but neighboring private properties due to an increased potential of fuel loading with dead and dying trees.

Harvest Unit	Habitat Group	Fire Regime	Current Cover Type	Age Class (years)	DFC	RX	Forest Improvement Activities	Acres
1	Moderately warm and dry (westside)	Low-to-mixed	Western Larch/Douglas Fir	40-99	Ponderosa Pine	Sanitation	Pre-commercial thinning, slashing, and planting	33
2	Warm and moist (westside)	Mixed	Western Larch/Douglas Fir	40-99	Western Larch/Douglas Fir	Sanitation	Pre-commercial thinning, slashing, and planting	39
3	Warm and moist (westside)	Mixed	Western Larch/Douglas Fir	40-99	Ponderosa Pine	Individual/Select Tree Harvest	Pre-commercial thinning, slashing, and planting	42
4	Warm and moist (westside)	Mixed	Douglas Fir	100-149	Ponderosa Pine	Sanitation	Pre-commercial thinning, slashing, and planting	64
5	Moderately warm and dry (westside)	Low-to-mixed	Douglas Fir	100-149	Ponderosa Pine	Shelterwood Harvest		13

6	Warm and moist (westside)	Mixed	Western Larch/Douglas Fir	100-149	Western Larch/Douglas Fir	Sanitation	Pre-commercial thinning, slashing, and planting	294
7	Moderately cool and moist (westside)	Mixed	Western Larch/Douglas Fir	100-149	Western Larch/Douglas Fir	Sanitation	Pre-commercial thinning, slashing, and planting	168

Fire Hazard/Fuels: natural mortality of disease-affected trees as well as the previous winter's wind event has caused a recent increase in heavy fuel loading within the project area. This is most prevalent within the younger stands facing increased mortality and has increased the amount of ladder fuels in the bottom of the canopy. Multiple ownerships with the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) as well as a large landowner touch the border of trust lands and have the potential of being affected by a higher-intensity wildfire.

Insects and Diseases: Douglas-fir dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium douglasii*), western larch dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium laricis*), red belt fungus (*Fomitopsis pinicola*), Indian paint fungus (*Echinodontium tinctorium*), pouch fungus (*Cryptoporus volvatus*), pini (*Phellinus pini*) and armillaria root disease (*Armillaria ostoyae*) are all present within the project area.

Sensitive/Rare Plants: The Montana Natural Heritage Database (<https://mtnhp.mt.gov/>; accessed March 4, 2026) identified the following species within the project area: Small Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*), Stalked Moonwort (*Botrychium pedunculatum*), Upward-lobed Moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens*), Wavy Moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*), Peculiar Moonwort (*Botrychium paradoxum*), Northern Moonwort (*Botrychium pinnatum*), Least Moonwort (*Botrychium simplex*), Pointed Broom Sedge (*Carex scoparia*), Giant Helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*), Tapertip Onion (*Allium acuminatum*), A Scorpidium Moss (*Scorpidium scorpioides*), Flatleaf Bladderwort (*Utricularia intermedia*), Short-flowered Monkeyflower (*Mimulus breviflorus*), Clustered Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*), Crested Shieldfern (*Dryopteris cristata*), Scalegod (*Idaho scapigera*), Stalk-leaved Monkeyflower (*Mimulus ampilatus*) and Spalding's Catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*).

Noxious Weeds: Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Dyer's Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), Rush Skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Bohemian Knotweed (*Reynoutria bohemica*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*), Kingdevil Hawkweed (*Hieracium piloselloides*), Tall Hawkweed (*Hieracium piloselloides* vill), Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), Meadow Hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*), Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Yellowflag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), Tall Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia*), Tansy Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Common St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), Curly-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), Sulphur Cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), Common Hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatICA*), Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), Russian Knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*), Hoary False-allyssum (*Berteroa incana*), Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Whitetop (*Lepidium draba*) and Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) have been identified in the project area.

Vegetation	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Current Cover/DFCs	X				X				X					
Age Class	X				X				X					
Old Growth	X				X				X					
Fire/Fuels		X				X					X			
Insects/Disease			X				X				X			
Rare Plants	X								X					
Noxious Weeds	X								X					
Action														
Current Cover/DFCs	X				X				X					
Age Class		X				X				X				
Old Growth	X				X				X					
Fire/Fuels		X				X				X				V-1
Insects/Disease			X			X				X				V-2
Rare Plants	X				X				X					
Noxious Weeds		X				X				X			Y	

Comments:

1. Harvest prescriptions will reduce the potential for crown fires in all units, as well as reducing overall fuel loading across the project area.
2. Dwarf mistletoe infected and other diseased trees would be removed which would then improve the health and vigor of the residual stand as well as future regeneration.

Vegetation Mitigations:

- The DNRC plans to complete herbicide treatments of noxious weeds in the project area for several years after harvest operations are completed. This will help control existing and any potential new occurrences of weeds. All equipment would be cleaned and inspected prior to the start of work.

SOIL DISTURBANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY:

Soil Disturbance and Productivity Existing Conditions: The geology of the project area is described as hard fine-grained metasediments belonging to the Belt Series. Ross (1963) describes the Belt Series as a monotonous assemblage of very thick units composed mainly of somber-hued, fine grained clastic rocks such as argillites, quartzites, etc., and some subordinate carbonate rocks. Soils in the site locale are thin and rocky belonging to the Winkler series (Veseth and Montagne 1980). The sale area is located on moderate to steep slopes with high rock fragment residual soils on the mountain ridges. Moderate to deep, silty, glacial till soils from limestone occur on mountain sideslopes. These are higher productivity soils with calcareous subsoils that limit rooting depth. Localized areas of deep lacustrine silts and gravelly alluvium occur along streams and in small parts of all sections.

Primary soil concerns are erosion, compaction or displacement associated with timber harvest operations and site preparation. Susceptibility to impact varies with soil type, harvest method, type of equipment and season of use. Access to cutting unit 5 will use an excavated skid trail in combination with a possible go-back trail and would impact approximately 0.3 acres. The percent slope of the go-back trail will exceed the standard 45% for a short pitch toward the top of the slope and impacts to soils are considered higher. Post-harvest excavated skid and go-back trails will require mitigation in the form of re-contouring, slash cover, and grass seed. However, the total impacted area would account for less than 1% of the project area.

An analysis of aerial photography and DNRC section records indicates a history of timber harvesting and road construction in the project area dating back to the 1920s, which has affected approximately 5% of the landscape. While these past entries left a footprint, legacy skid trails have begun to ameliorate through natural recovery and vegetative regrowth. Given the total acreage designated for harvest within the forested project area, the proposed forest management activity is classified as moderate. Additionally, the project scope includes approximately 653 acres of dedicated site preparation.

Soil Disturbance and Productivity	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Physical Disturbance (Compaction and Displacement)	X				X				X					
Erosion	X				X				X					
Nutrient Cycling	X				X				X					
Slope Stability	X				X				X					
Soil Productivity	X				X				X					
Action														

Soil Disturbance and Productivity	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Physical Disturbance (Compaction and Displacement)		X				X				X			Y	S1,S2,S4
Erosion		X				X				X			Y	S3, S5
Nutrient Cycling		X				X				X			Y	S6
Slope Stability		X				X				X			Y	S4, S5
Soil Productivity		X				X				X			Y	S6

Comments:

- Monitoring of previous DNRC timber harvests has shown that for similar soils, the total detrimental impacts in a harvest area average 14.7% for traditional ground-based operations localized to primary skid trails and log landing sites (DNRC 2011). Detrimental soil impacts are considered substantive when they exceed 20 percent of a harvest area (DNRC 1996).
- Standard implementation of forest Best Management Practices (BMPs) concurrent with harvest activities will lower the physical disturbance risks in the project area. Primary or highly impacted skid trails will be covered with slash and debris. Equipment operations will be limited to periods when soils are relatively dry, (less than 20 percent), frozen, or snow-covered to minimize soil compaction and rutting and maintain drainage features. Prior to harvest, a skidding plan will be decided to limit equipment passes.
- Direct and secondary effects to erosion from the proposed project would include skid trails in ground-based harvest areas and new roads. In each of these areas, there is a high risk of low impacts to erosion due to exposure of bare soil. Skid trails would present a short-term risk which would decrease once disturbed areas re-vegetate.
- Keep landings out of depressions in draw bottoms. Place landings adjacent to slopes and limit expansion.
- To mitigate erosion on slopes greater than 45%, excavated skid and go-back trails must be stabilized through frequent, heavy-duty water bars and partial re-contouring of side-cast material. The strategy focuses on "slash-packing" to achieve 40–60% ground cover, which dissipates runoff energy and promotes infiltration. These measures ensure long-term hillslope stability and prevent sediment delivery by mimicking natural contours and protecting the soil surface.
- Coarse woody debris will be left on-site in volumes recommended to help maintain soil moisture and forest productivity, generally in the 12-24 tons per acre range for habitat types found in the harvest locations (Graham et al. 1994). Because coarse woody debris would be left on site in amounts recommended by scientific literature, benefits to nutrient cycling and forest productivity would be maintained over the long term. Soil productivity is expected to be maintained when soil function is maintained within 80% of a harvest unit.

Soil Mitigations:

- Limit equipment operations to periods when soils are relatively dry, (less than 20 percent), frozen, or snow-covered to minimize soil compaction and rutting and maintain drainage features. Check soil moisture conditions prior to equipment start-up.
- The logger and sales administrator will agree to a skidding plan prior to equipment operations. Skid-trail planning will identify which main trails to use and how many additional trails are needed. Trails not complying with BMPs (i.e., trails in draw bottoms) will only be used if impacts can be adequately mitigated.
- Tractor skidding will be limited to slopes of less than 45 percent unless the operation can be completed without causing excessive displacement or erosion.
- Skid trails will be kept to 20 percent or less of the harvest unit acreage and have adequate drainage concurrently with operations.
- Slash disposal: Limit the combination of disturbance and scarification to 30 to 40 percent of the harvest units. No dozer piling on slopes over 35 percent; no excavator piling on slopes over 45 percent unless the operation can be completed without causing excessive erosion. Consider logging and scattering or jackpot burning on the steeper slopes. Consider disturbance incurred during skidding.
- Compliance with Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's), Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) laws, Montana DNRC Forested Trust Lands HCP and applicable DNRC Forest Management Administrative Rules.

References:

- DNRC, 1996. Forestry Best Management Practices: State Forest Management Plan. Montana DNRC, Forest management Bureau. Missoula, MT.
- DNRC, 2011. DNRC compiled soils monitoring report on timber harvest projects, 2006-2010, 1st Edition. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forest Management Bureau, Missoula, MT.
- Graham, R.T., Harvey, A.E., Jorgensen, M.F., Jain, T.B., and Page-Dumrose, D.S., 1994, Managing Course Woody Debris in Forests of the Rocky Mountains. U.S., Forest Service Research Paper INT-RP-477. Intermountain Research Station. 16p.
- NRCS, United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey. Available online at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/> accessed [3/25/2026]
- Vuke, S.M., Porter, K.W., Lonn, J.D., and Lopez, D.A., 2007, Geologic Map of Montana - Compact Disc: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology: Geologic Map 62-C, 73 p., 2 sheets, scale 1:500,000. This map was digitized in 2012 as a result of a contract between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY:

Water Quality and Quantity Existing Conditions: Situated within the 25,600-acre Big Lodge Creek – Frontal Flathead Lake watershed, the project area is defined by a landscape that is 62% forested and receives an average of 18 inches of annual precipitation. This watershed, which is owned by a mix of private, tribal, and state entities, maintains an A-1 classification, indicating its suitability for high-priority uses such as drinking and food processing after conventional treatment. The primary perennial drainages, Big Lodge and Forrey Creeks, serve as the primary hydrologic features of the area as they flow toward Flathead Lake. While tributaries exist within the proposed units, they are weakly defined and do not meet formal stream classifications; regardless, all harvest activities are designed to avoid Stream and Riparian Management Zones strictly.

The project itself is modest in scale, impacting only about 4.1% of the total watershed area. Hauling will rely on existing roads and a joint easement with Flathead Ridge Ranch. Although recent fuel break treatments in that specific section have left visible signs of sediment delivery to the floodplain, the planned paving of the road in the summer of 2026 is expected to provide a long-term solution to surface drainage and water quality concerns. The project will include 18.74 miles of road maintenance to meet State BMPs and will include up to 0.85 miles of temporary road construction.

Water Quality & Quantity	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Water Quality	X				X						X			
Water Quantity	X				X				X					
Action														
Water Quality		X				X					X		Y	W1, W2
Water Quantity	X				X				X					W3

Comments:

- W1. No harvest will occur in the Stream or Riparian Management Zones. The potential risk of direct, secondary, or cumulative impacts on water quality due to sediment delivery is low.
- W2. Although the haul route will be maintained to meet Best Management Practices (BMPs), a low probability remains for minor water quality impacts, primarily centered around the Forrey Creek crossing and its associated floodplain. To address this risk, the state will provide wood wattles to mitigate the potential for direct sediment delivery into the system.
- W3. The proposed harvest is not expected to impact current water uses due to the size and scale of the project. In concert with implementing BMPs and streamside buffers, this harvest level is not expected to have measurable effects on the timing, magnitude, or duration of peak flows in disconnected downstream receiving waters.

Water Quality & Quantity Mitigations:

- Best Management Practices for Forestry would be implemented and monitored for effectiveness concurrent with all forest management activities.
- Implementation of Montana Administrative Rules for Forest Management and Streamside Management Zones.
- Implementing Montana DNRCs Habitat Conservation Plan commitments for Riparian Management Zones and Sediment Delivery.

References:

DEQ, 2011. Montana Average Annual Precipitation 1981-2010. Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality, Helena, MT

DNRC, 2003. Montana administrative rules for forest management. DNRC. Forest Management Bureau, Missoula, Montana.

DNRC, 2010 Habitat Conservation Plan - Trust Land Management Division - Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Management Bureau

FISHERIES:

Fisheries Existing Conditions: Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' mFish database does not indicate any species of concern for Forrey or Big Lodge Creek. They are likely habitat for small trout, similar to surrounding streams, though specific stocking reports are limited. As a result, no further analysis will be completed as direct, secondary, or cumulative impacts on fisheries resources are not expected.

No-Action: No direct or indirect impacts would occur to affected fish species or affected fisheries resources beyond those described in Fisheries Existing Conditions. Cumulative effects (other related past and present factors; other future, related actions; and any impacts described in Fisheries Existing Conditions) would continue to occur.

Action Alternative (see Fisheries table below):

Fisheries	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
<i>No-Action</i>														
Sediment	X				X				X					
Flow Regimes	X				X				X					
Woody Debris	X				X				X					
Stream Shading	X				X				X					
Stream Temperature	X				X				X					
Connectivity	X				X				X					
Populations	X				X				X					
<i>Action</i>														
Sediment	X				X				X					

Fisheries	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Flow Regimes	X				X				X					
Woody Debris	X				X				X					
Stream Shading	X				X				X					
Stream Temperature	X				X				X					
Connectivity	X				X				X					
Populations	X				X				X					

Comments: N/A

Fisheries Mitigations:

- No additional project-specific mitigations are necessary beyond the project design and the mitigations listed in the Water Resources analysis.

References:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, (2024). Montana Fish Distribution, mFish database, <https://fwp.mt.gov/gis/maps/mFish/?zoomFeatures=%7BlayerName:%22STREAMS%22,features:%5B%7BLLID:%221123386455677%22%7D%5D,fadeOutTimer:4%7D>. Accessed 19 June 2024.

WILDLIFE:

Wildlife Existing Conditions: The Project Area consists of three separate parcels, scattered across an area approximately 4 miles in diameter. The Project Area is 1,269 acres, of which, one full section is contained in DNRC's Habitat Conservation Plan (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*). The Project Area is comprised of habitat conditions favoring native wildlife species that use forested areas containing mature trees with a variety of canopy closure levels. The Project Area is located on the western side of Flathead Lake along the Forrey Creek drainage. The area is comprised of mostly east and south facing aspects from 3,200 feet to 4,900 feet in elevation. The Project Area contains 758 acres of mature forest stands (trees $\geq 9"$ dbh with $\geq 40\%$ canopy closure). There is no old-growth forest using Green et al. (1992) standards. The remaining 511 acres of the Project Area are comprised of younger stands that were treated approximately 25 years ago with an intermediate-type treatment. The area surrounding the Project Area is comprised mostly of United States Forest Service (USFS) and private timberlands with a long history of active forest management. For this reason, mature forest is limited on adjacent ownerships. Approximately 11.1 miles of roads are present within the Project Area, of which 2.5 miles are currently considered open to public motorized use and 8.6 miles are restricted from public motorized use. Restricted roads receive occasional motorized use for resource and fire-management purposes. Public non-motorized use is likely low in this parcel except during the big game hunting season when it likely elevates. Cumulative effects analysis areas incorporate lands near the Project Area and include a smaller 11,274-acre area for animals with smaller home ranges like pileated woodpeckers and a larger 54,583-acre area for animals that travel across larger areas such as Canada lynx and big game. Both CEAs are managed primarily for timber production by Flathead Ridge Ranch (20.2% of the Large CEAA) and the USFS (22.6%

of the Large CEAA). Additional information on cumulative effects analysis areas and analysis methods is available upon request. All impacts would be additive to any proposed or ongoing activities in the CEAA's. Overall, conditions within the Project Area favor wildlife species using dense forested habitat with a variety of age classes; however, the current ownership and history of management on surrounding lands leaves the Project Area with limited habitat connectivity between existing habitat along Flathead Lake and higher elevations.

No-Action Alternative: None of the proposed activities would occur. In the short-term, forest insects and disease will likely continue to kill some mature trees, potentially adding to larger patches of dead and dying trees within the Project Area. Overall, a slight decrease in habitat availability for species preferring mature connected forests would likely occur over time as other stands succumb to insect and disease damage, while habitat availability would increase for species preferring open forest habitat. In the long term, habitat suitability for mature forest-associated species would remain similar or slightly increase compared to current conditions as younger, previously harvested stands continue to grow and connect mature forest over the next 60-80 years. An increase in stand-replacement wildfire risk would also be anticipated.

Action Alternative (see Wildlife table below):

Wildlife	Impact												Can Impact be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Threatened and Endangered Species														
Grizzly bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) Habitat: Recovery areas, security from human activity	X				X				X				Y	WI-1
Lynx (<i>Felis lynx</i>) Habitat: SF hab.types, dense sapling, old forest, deep snow zone			X				X			X			Y	WI-2
Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>) Habitat: open cottonwood riparian forest with dense brush understories (Lake and Flathead counties)	X				X				X					WI-3
Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>) Habitat: high elevation areas that retain high snow levels in late spring	X				X				X					WI-3
Sensitive Species														
Bald eagle	X				X				X					WI-3

Wildlife	Impact												Can Impact be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
<i>(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)</i> Habitat: Late-successional forest within 1 mile of open water														
Black-backed woodpecker <i>(Picoides arcticus)</i> Habitat: Mature to old burned or beetle-infested forest	X				X				X					WI-3
Common loon <i>(Gavia immer)</i> Habitat: Cold mountain lakes, nest in emergent vegetation	X				X				X					WI-3
Fisher <i>(Martes pennanti)</i> Habitat: Dense mature to old forest less than 6,000 feet in elevation and riparian			X				X			X			Y	WI-4
Flammulated owl <i>(Otus flammeolus)</i> Habitat: Late-successional ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forest		X				X				X			Y	WI-5
Peregrine falcon <i>(Falco peregrinus)</i> Habitat: Cliff features near open foraging areas and/or wetlands	X				X				X					WI-3
Pileated woodpecker <i>(Dryocopus pileatus)</i> Habitat: Late-successional ponderosa pine and larch-fir forest			X				X				X		Y	WI-6
Fringed myotis <i>(Myotis thysanodes)</i>	X				X				X					WI-3

Wildlife	Impact												Can Impact be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Habitat: low elevation ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and riparian forest with diverse roost sites including outcrops, caves, mines														
Hoary bat (<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>) Habitat: coniferous and deciduous forests and roost on foliage in trees, under bark, in snags, bridges			X				X			X			Y	WI-7
Townsend's big-eared bat (<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>) Habitat: Caves, caverns, old mines	X				X				X					WI-3
Big Game Species														
Elk			X				X				X			WI-8
Whitetail		X				X				X				WI-8
Mule Deer		X				X				X				WI-8
Moose	X				X				X					WI-8
Other														
Mature Forest			X				X				X			WI-9

Comments:

WI-1. Grizzly Bear – The project area is not within a recovery zone and is over 15 miles from non-recovery occupied habitat (Wittinger 2002). While occasional presence of a grizzly bear in the parcel is possible, appreciable use by grizzly bears would not be expected due to the absence of preferred habitat and distance from occupied grizzly bear habitat. No observations have been reported within the 54,583-acre Large Cumulative Effects Analysis Area (hereafter Large CEAA) over the last 40 years (MNHP 2026). As grizzly bears continue to expand their range outside of recovery zones, bears could occasionally travel through the parcel during their long-range movements, but appreciable changes to potential movement patterns would not be anticipated.

WI-2. Canada Lynx – Approximately 440 acres of suitable lynx habitat (72.5% of existing suitable habitat in the Project Area) would be altered by the proposed Action Alternative. All of these acres would be treated with harvest prescriptions that would not retain enough conifer cover to continue providing suitable lynx habitat immediately post-harvest. To ensure that forest structural attributes preferred by lynx and lynx prey (snowshoe hares) remain following harvest, patches of advanced regeneration and shade-tolerant trees would be retained within portions of

suitable lynx habitat. Additionally, 12 to 24 tons/acre of coarse woody debris would be retained in accordance with DNRC Forest Management Rules (*ARM 36.11.414*) and retention of large, downed logs ≥ 15 -inch diameter would be emphasized. Mature forest and foraging habitat connectivity is currently limited between the Project Area and surrounding lands within the Large CEAA. Some connections between habitat patches would be removed by the proposed activities; however, no major ridgeline or riparian connections would be affected. A mosaic of stands would still exist as travel corridors within the Large CEAA and would maintain connectivity for lynx at the landscape scale. Suitable lynx habitat would remain unharvested on 167 acres (13.2% of current suitable habitat) as five disjoint patches ranging in size from 5 acres to 113 acres. Portions of this unharvested area would remain connected to a larger block of suitable lynx habitat, primarily on USFS lands to the northeast. Any lynx that might be using the area could temporarily be displaced from the Project Area by the proposed activities; however, appreciable use of the area under current existing conditions would not be expected due to surrounding unsuitable habitat/forest types, past harvesting, and lack of any lynx observations within the surrounding area (MNHP 2026). Like the Project area, the Large CEAA has low habitat suitability and poor connectivity for lynx in the vicinity of the Project Area due to similar factors. Therefore, the likelihood of appreciable use of the CEAA by Canada lynx is low. The Action Alternative would reduce suitable lynx habitat within the Large CEAA. Abundance and connectivity of suitable lynx habitat would remain greatest in higher elevations, primarily on USDA Forest Service (USFS) lands in northwestern portions of the CEAA. Lynx habitat alteration by the proposed DNRC activities would be additive to forest management projects on lands within the larger CEAA.

WI-3. This species was evaluated, and it was determined that the Project Area lies outside of the normal distribution for the species, and/or suitable habitat was not found to be present.

WI-4. Fisher – Approximately 489 acres of potential fisher habitat would be affected by the proposed activities (81.1% of fisher habitat available in the Project Area; 14.5% of habitat in the Small CEAA). 467 of these acres would be treated with a sanitation treatment and the remaining 22 acres would be treated with a shelterwood treatment. Neither treatment would provide suitable fisher habitat post-harvest due to low tree retention. Considering the history of timber harvest and the lack of connectivity in the Small CEAA, the area is not likely to be used by fishers. No observations have been reported within the 11,274-acre Small CEAA (MNHP 2026). Connectivity would remain limited; however, a corridor along Forrey Creek will remain unharvested to retain suitable riparian habitat connectivity for any fisher utilizing the Project Area. To reduce potential adverse effects on fishers at least all snags and 2 large snag recruitment trees per acre (>21 inches dbh) would be retained (*ARM 36.11.411*). Snags are important habitat features that provide resting and denning sites for fishers.

WI-5. Flammulated Owls – The proposed timber harvest would affect approximately 73 acres (18.1% of habitat in the Project Area) of preferred flammulated owl cover types. All these acres are currently too densely forested to be considered suitable for flammulated owl use. Approximately 53 acres of flammulated owl cover types would undergo harvest treatments that would maintain or improve habitat suitability by creating more open forest structure. Suitable flammulated owl habitat would persist on 30.3% of the Project Area with an overall improvement in habitat conditions. Preservation of large snags and patches of submerchantable trees (if available) in these units could conserve forest structure favoring use by flammulated owls. All treatments would reduce tree density within the stand and would favor seral species, which would create more open forest stand conditions potentially beneficial to flammulated owls in the long term. To retain potential nesting trees for flammulated owls, at least 2 large snags and 2 large snag recruitment trees per acre (>21 inches dbh) would be retained (*ARM 36.11.411*). If

harvesting occurred during the summer or early fall period, flammulated owls could temporarily be displaced by the proposed activities. Within the 11,274-acre Small CEAA, a minimum of 639 acres (5.7% of Small CEAA) of forest stands would be potentially suitable for flammulated owls; however, snags available for nesting are likely limited in some areas due to differing snag conservation philosophies on surrounding private ownerships.

WI-6. Pileated Woodpecker – The proposed activities would affect 445 acres of suitable pileated woodpecker habitat (80.5% of habitat available in the Project Area). These acres would be treated with harvest prescriptions retaining less than 35 mature trees per acre and would be unsuitable for pileated woodpeckers post-harvest. To decrease potential adverse effects on pileated woodpeckers, at least 2 large snags and 2 large snag recruitment trees per acre (>21 inches dbh, or largest size class available) would be retained and all snags cut for safety reasons would be left in the harvest unit (*ARM 36.11.411*). Additionally, 12 to 24 tons/per acre of downed wood would be retained, with an emphasis on logs >15" diameter. Post-harvest, the Project Area would contain one patch, roughly 75 acres in size, that could support breeding pileated woodpeckers if they are currently present. Habitat availability within the Small CEAA is limited due to past timber harvesting on surrounding private lands; however, approximately 3,021 acres (26.9% of the Small CEAA) would remain as suitable habitat. Habitat alterations due to the proposed action would be additive to recent forest management projects on adjacent private lands. Overall, continued use of the small CEAA by pileated woodpeckers would be anticipated.

WI-7. Hoary bat – The proposed activities would affect approximately 486 acres of potential hoary bat habitat (64.1% of existing habitat). Because hoary bats typically roost in trees and snags, the proposed actions would remove roosting habitat and create a disturbance for any hoary bats utilizing the Project Area. Potential disturbance would be expected from June through September, when hoary bats are in Montana. After the conclusion of activities, continued use of harvested areas by hoary bats would be anticipated. At least 2 large snags and 2 large snag recruitment trees per acre (>21 inches dbh, or largest size class available) would be retained and could provide roosting habitat. Hoary bats are considered common and widespread throughout Montana, but wind energy development poses a threat to their population (Bachen et al 2020).

WI-8. Big Game – The Project Area provides winter habitat for elk, white-tailed deer, and mule deer (63.3%, 49.9%, and 49.9% of the Project Area respectively; *DFWP 2008*). Approximately 853 acres (67.2%) of the Project Area provides at least a marginal degree thermal cover and snow intercept ($\geq 40\%$ canopy closure of pole and mature trees). Of these acres, the proposed activities would affect 182 acres of high-quality thermal cover and snow intercept ($\geq 60\%$ canopy closure; 75.5% of available high-quality thermal cover in the Project Area) and an additional 394 acres of marginal thermal cover (40%-60% canopy closure; 64.5% of available marginal thermal cover in the Project Area). All these acres would be treated with harvest prescriptions that would reduce mature canopy cover below 40%; thus, reducing the capacity of these stands to provide thermal cover and snow intercept during more severe winter conditions. Approximately 59 acres of high-quality thermal cover (4.6% of the Project Area) would remain within the Project Area post-harvest. An additional 217 acres of marginal thermal cover (17.1% of the Project Area) would provide connectivity between scattered thermal cover areas in the Project Area post-harvest. High-quality thermal cover would remain on approximately 123 acres of the Large CEAA (0.2% of the Large CEAA) and moderately connected via 7,390 acres of marginal thermal cover (13.5% of the Large CEAA). Within the Large CEAA, recent forest management over the past 40 years has impacted winter range thermal cover and snow intercept on 61.9% of elk winter range, 44.7% of white-tailed deer winter range, and 61.5% of mule deer winter range.

Habitat alterations due to the proposed action would be additive to recent, ongoing, and proposed forest management projects in the CEAA.

Hiding cover would be altered by the proposed activities on 679 acres (66.1% of hiding cover in the Project Area). Proposed harvest treatments would remove hiding cover on these acres, however retaining some small patches of regenerating conifers and submerchantable trees within the harvest units would decrease site distances and maintain some cover. Sufficient vegetation would be retained on 348 acres (27.5% of the Project Area) to continue providing hiding cover for big game post-harvest. The reduction in hiding cover could result in increased mortality risk to big game species due to hunting, particularly where open and restricted roads facilitate hunter access. New temporary road, totaling 0.85 miles, would be built in the Project Area. Existing restricted roads would continue to be restricted by gates or berms during and after harvest activities. Hiding cover would remain on approximately 65.6% of the Large CEAA post-harvest. Habitat alterations due to the proposed action would be additive to recent, ongoing, and proposed forest management projects in the CEAA.

WI-9. Mature Forest – The proposed action would harvest approximately 486 acres of mature forest (64.1% of mature forest within the Project Area) with a reasonably closed canopy ($\geq 40\%$ canopy closure). Harvest prescriptions for all acres would reduce live tree densities and bring overstory canopy cover below 40%. Thus, these stands would no longer be suitable for wildlife species preferring dense mature forest with more shaded canopies. Total crown closure in most areas would not meet 40% canopy closure with the retention of submerchantable and regenerating conifers in the understory. All existing mature stands would contain approximately 5%-35% canopy closure of mature trees post-harvest and would likely not return to mature status within the next 80 years. Under the proposed Action Alternative, habitat suitability for species utilizing more open forest with intermediate amounts of mature trees would increase. Connectivity of mature forest would be reduced, as larger patches of mature forest in the Project Area would be removed by harvesting. Proposed harvesting would alter approximately 16.6% of existing mature forest within the Small CEAA. Existing connectivity and abundance of mature forest within the Small CEAA was already low, especially adjacent to the Project Area where harvest activities have removed up to 70.3% of mature forest within the Small CEAA over the past 25 years. Mature forest abundance would remain low (21.6%) with limited connectivity after harvest through much of the Small CEAA. Drier, open slopes and forest management projects on private lands have limited mature forest and harvesting continues to alter mature forest within the Small CEAA; the proposed action would be additive to these changes at the broader spatial scale.

Wildlife Mitigations:

- If a threatened or endangered species is encountered, consult a DNRC biologist immediately. Similarly, if undocumented nesting raptors or wolf dens are encountered within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the Project Area, contact a DNRC biologist.
- Contractors will adhere to food storage and sanitation requirements as described in the timber sale contract. Ensure that all attractants such as food, garbage, and petroleum products are stored in a bear-resistant manner.

- Prohibit contractors and purchasers conducting contract operations from carrying firearms while on duty as per *ARM 36.11.444(2)*.
- Within commercial harvest units, retain patches of advanced regeneration of shade-tolerant trees as per LY-HB4 (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*).
- Retain shade-tolerant trees (grand fir, subalpine fir, and spruce) <4 feet tall that do not pose competition risks to crop trees as per LY-HB4 (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*) in all pre-commercial thinning units.
- Effectively close restricted roads and skid trails in the Project Area via a combination of gates, kelly humps, rocks, and stumps. Maintain public motorized restrictions on restricted and temporary roads during and after harvest activities.
- Retain at least 2 snags and 2 snag recruits per acre >21 inches dbh or the next available size class, particularly favoring ponderosa pine, western larch and Douglas-fir for retention. If snags are cut for safety concerns, they must be left in the harvest unit.
- Retain 12-24 tons/acre of coarse-woody debris and emphasize retention of 15-inch diameter downed logs, aiming for at least one 20-foot-long section per acre as per LY-HB2 (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*).

References:

- Bachen, D.A., A. McEwan, B. Burkholder, S. Blum, and B. Maxell. 2020. Accounts of Bat Species Found in Montana. Report to Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena, Montana. 58 p.
- DFWP. 2008. Maps of moose, elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer distribution in Montana. *In* Individual GIS data layers. Available online at: <https://gis-mtfwp.opendata.arcgis.com/>
- Green, P., J. Joy, D. Sirucek, W. Hann, A. Zack, and B. Naumann. 1992. Old Growth Forest Types of the Northern Region. R-1 SES. USDA Forest Service, Northern Region, Missoula MT 60pp.
- MNHP. 2026. Environmental Summary Report for Latitude 47.84627 to 48.06457 and Longitude -114.15733 to -114.38813. Retrieved on 4/23/2026, from <http://mtnhp.org/MapView>.
- USFWS and DNRC. 2010. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forested Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volumes I and II., U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, Denver, Colorado and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Missoula, MT.
- Wittinger, W. 2002. Grizzly bear distribution outside of recovery zones. Unpublished memorandum. Report on file at Unpublished memorandum on file at USDA Forest Service, Region 1, Missoula, MT.

AIR QUALITY:

Air Quality	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Smoke	X				X				X					
Dust	X				X				X					
Action														
Smoke		X				X				X				
Dust		X				X				X				

Comments: N/A

Air Quality Mitigations:

- All pile burning activity will be strictly in alliance with specific days approved by the Montana/Idaho Airshed group and the DEQ. To verify adequate burning conditions, a test burn will be conducted.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES / AESTHETICS / DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Will Alternative result in potential impacts to:	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Historical or Archaeological Sites	X				X				X					
Aesthetics	X				X				X					
Demands on Environmental Resources of Land, Water, or Energy	X				X				X					
Action														
Historical or Archaeological Sites	X				X				X					
Aesthetics	X				X				X					
Demands on Environmental Resources of Land, Water, or Energy	X				X				X					

Comments: Scoping letters were sent to those Tribes that requested to be notified of DNRC timber sales. No response was returned that identified a specific cultural resource issue. A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the

area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search results revealed that 3 cultural or paleontological resources have been identified in the APE, but it should be noted that Class III level inventory work has not been conducted there to date. There are no currently known resources within the harvest areas or associated road systems that would be utilized with this project. These resources were identified based on the overall project area during the scoping process, not specific to areas of operation.

Because the topographic setting and geology suggest a low to moderate likelihood of the presence of cultural or paleontological resources, proposed timber harvest activities are expected to have No Effect to Antiquities. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

Mitigations:

- If sites of cultural or paleontological significance are identified during harvest activities, all project work will be paused. The DRNC staff archaeologist will be notified and determine the next steps prior to operations resuming.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: *List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

- Rollins Area Sanitation Timber Project, 2011

Impacts on the Human Population

Evaluation of the impacts on the proposed action including **direct, secondary, and cumulative** impacts on the Human Population.

Will Alternative result in potential impacts to:	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Health and Human Safety	X				X				X					
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Activities and Production	X				X				X					
Quantity and Distribution of Employment	X				X				X					
Local Tax Base and Tax Revenues	X				X				X					

Will Alternative result in potential impacts to:	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Demand for Government Services	X				X				X					
Access To and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities	X				X				X					
Density and Distribution of population and housing	X				X				X					
Social Structures and Mores	X				X				X					
Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity	X				X				X					
Action														
Health and Human Safety		X				X				X			Y	H-1
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Activities and Production	X				X				X					H-2
Quantity and Distribution of Employment	X				X				X					H-2
Local Tax Base and Tax Revenues	X				X				X					H-2
Demand for Government Services	X				X				X					
Access To and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities	X				X				X					
Density and Distribution of population and housing	X				X				X					
Social Structures and Mores	X				X				X					
Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity	X				X				X					

Comments:

H-1: No unusual safety considerations are associated with the proposed project. Mitigations have been developed for all log hauling to allow for safe travel on shared use of roads

H-2: Due to relatively small size of the proposed timber sale, no measurable direct, indirect, or cumulative effects would be likely.

Mitigations:

- Log Hauling and Timber Harvest Safety signs would be posted in accordance with MT DNRC contract standards and specifications.

Locally Adopted Environmental Plans and Goals: *List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

- N/A

Other Appropriate Social and Economic Circumstances:

Costs, revenues and estimates of return are estimates intended for relative comparison of alternatives. They are not intended to be used as absolute estimates of return. The estimated stumpage is based on comparable sales analysis. This method compares recent sales to find a market value for stumpage. These sales have similar species, quality, average diameter, product mix, terrain, date of sale, distance from mills, road building and logging systems, terms of sale, or anything that could affect a buyer's willingness to pay.

No Action: The No Action alternative would not generate any return to the trust at this time.

Action: The timber harvest would generate additional revenue for the Common Schools and Montana Tech Trust. The estimated return to the trust for the proposed harvest is \$648,116.00 based on an estimated harvest of 3.709 million board feet (23,147 tons) and an overall stumpage value of \$28.00 per ton. Costs, revenues, and estimates of return are estimates intended for relative comparison of alternatives, they are not intended to be used as absolute estimates of return.

References

DNRC 1996. State forest land management plan: final environmental impact statement (and appendixes). Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forest Management Bureau, Missoula, Montana.

DNRC. 2010. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan: Final EIS, Volume II, Forest Management Bureau, Missoula, Montana.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects that are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?

No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?

Yes

Environmental Assessment Checklist Prepared By:

Name: Alex Golden

Title: Management Forester
Date: June 19th , 2026

Finding

Alternative Selected

Action Alternative

Significance of Potential Impacts

I find that the impacts of the proposed action alternative as described in this Environmental Assessment are not significant. This Environmental Analysis has been completed for the Mount Johns Timber Sale. After a thorough review of the EA, project file, responses/discussions with Department and outside specialists, Department policies, standards, and guidelines, the State Land Management Rules, and the HCP rules, I have made the decision to choose the action alternative. I believe this EA has provided a good approximation of what this project would accomplish. Harvesting timber from the project area would remove diseased and dying trees from the area, improve the health and vigor of the remaining trees, mimic natural disturbance patterns, and help move the forest towards more historic stand conditions. Management activities would also help reduce fuel loading and continuity in the WUI, as well as generate revenue for the Common Schools and Montana Tech trusts.

Need for Further Environmental Analysis

☐

EIS,

☐

More Detailed EA

☒

No Further Analysis

Environmental Assessment Checklist Approved By:

Name: David M. Poukish

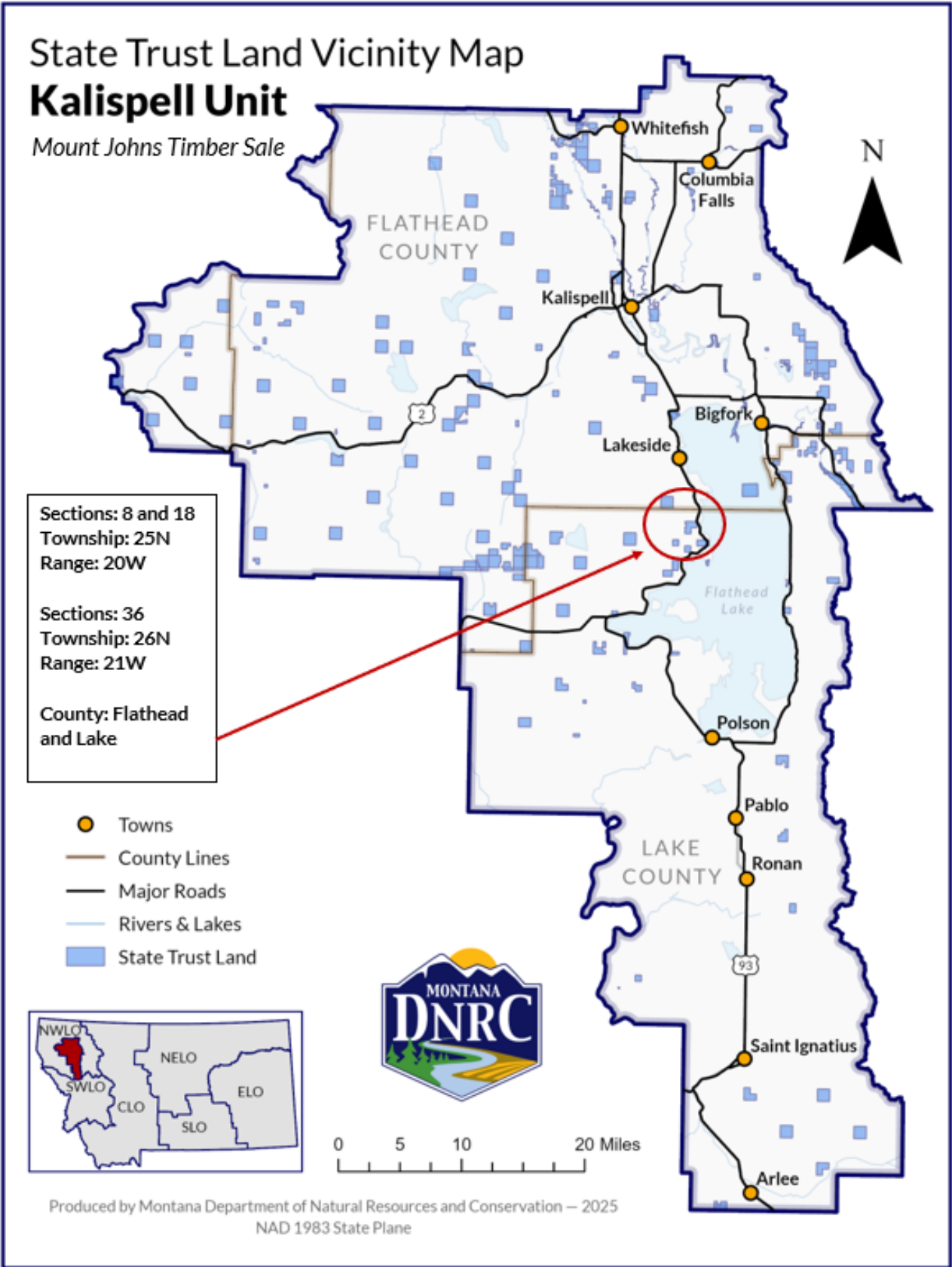
Title: Kalispell Unit Manager

Date: August 9, 2026

Signature: /s/ David M. Poukish

Attachment A - Maps

A-1: Timber Sale Vicinity Map



A-2: Timber Sale Harvest Units

