

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA
January 21, 9:00 a.m.
Supreme Court Chambers, Mazurek Justice Building
Helena, MT

ACTION ITEMS

- 0125-1 Timber Sales** **APPROVED: 5-0**
A. Pasture North
Benefits: Common Schools
Location: Ravalli County
- B. Squeezer Loop**
Benefits: Common Schools
Location: Lake County
- 0125-2 Easements** **APPROVED: 5-0**
Benefits: Common Schools
Location: Fallon, Park, and Stillwater County
- 0125-3 Request to Adopt Real Estate Management Project Rule Amendments** **APPROVED: 5-0**
Benefits: Common Schools, Public Buildings, Montana State University, MSU Morrill, MSU Eastern/UM Western, Montana Tech, University of Montana, Deaf & Blind School, Pine Hills, Veterans Home, Intensive Behavior Center, and Montana State Hospital
Location: State of Montana
- 0125-4 Request to Adopt Recreational Use Rule Amendments** **APPROVED: 5-0**
Benefits: Common Schools, Public Buildings, Montana State University, MSU Morrill, MSU Eastern/UM Western, Montana Tech, University of Montana, Deaf & Blind School, Pine Hills, Veterans Home, Intensive Behavior Center, and Montana State Hospital
Location: State of Montana

PUBLIC COMMENT

0125-1

TIMBER SALES:

- A. Pasture North
- B. Squeezer Loop

**Land Board Agenda Item
January 21, 2025**

0125-1A Timber Sale: Pasture North

**Location: Ravalli County
Sections 24, 25, and 26 T2N, R19W**

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools

Trust Revenue: \$70,375 (estimated, minimum bid)

Item Summary

Location: The Pasture North Timber Sale is located approximately 5 miles North of Sula, Montana.

Size and Scope: The sale includes 6 harvest units (*440 acres*) of tractor logging.

Volume: The estimated harvest volume is 10,757 tons (*1.4 MMBF*) of mixed conifer sawlogs.

Estimated Return: The minimum bid is \$7.56 per ton for all species except Ponderosa Pine and \$2.00 per ton for Ponderosa Pine, which would generate approximately \$70,375 for the Common Schools Trust and approximately \$31,363 in Forest Improvement fees.

Prescription: This sale would utilize individual tree selection and sanitation harvest prescriptions designed to emulate natural disturbance regimes and address insect and disease issues.

Road Construction/Maintenance: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 0.33 miles of road reconstruction and 5.8 miles of road maintenance.

Access: Access is obtained through the Pasture-Sawdust Reciprocal Access Agreement with the United States Forest Service and an existing easement through private property.

Public Comments: No public comments were received.

DNRC Recommendation

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

State Trust Land Vicinity Map

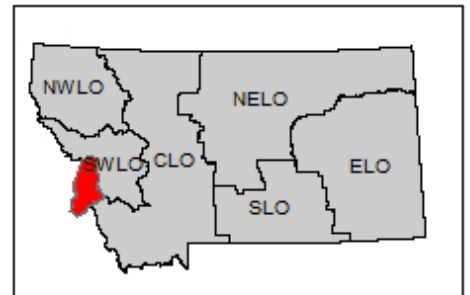
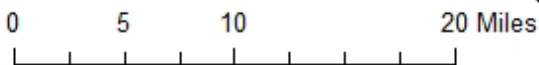
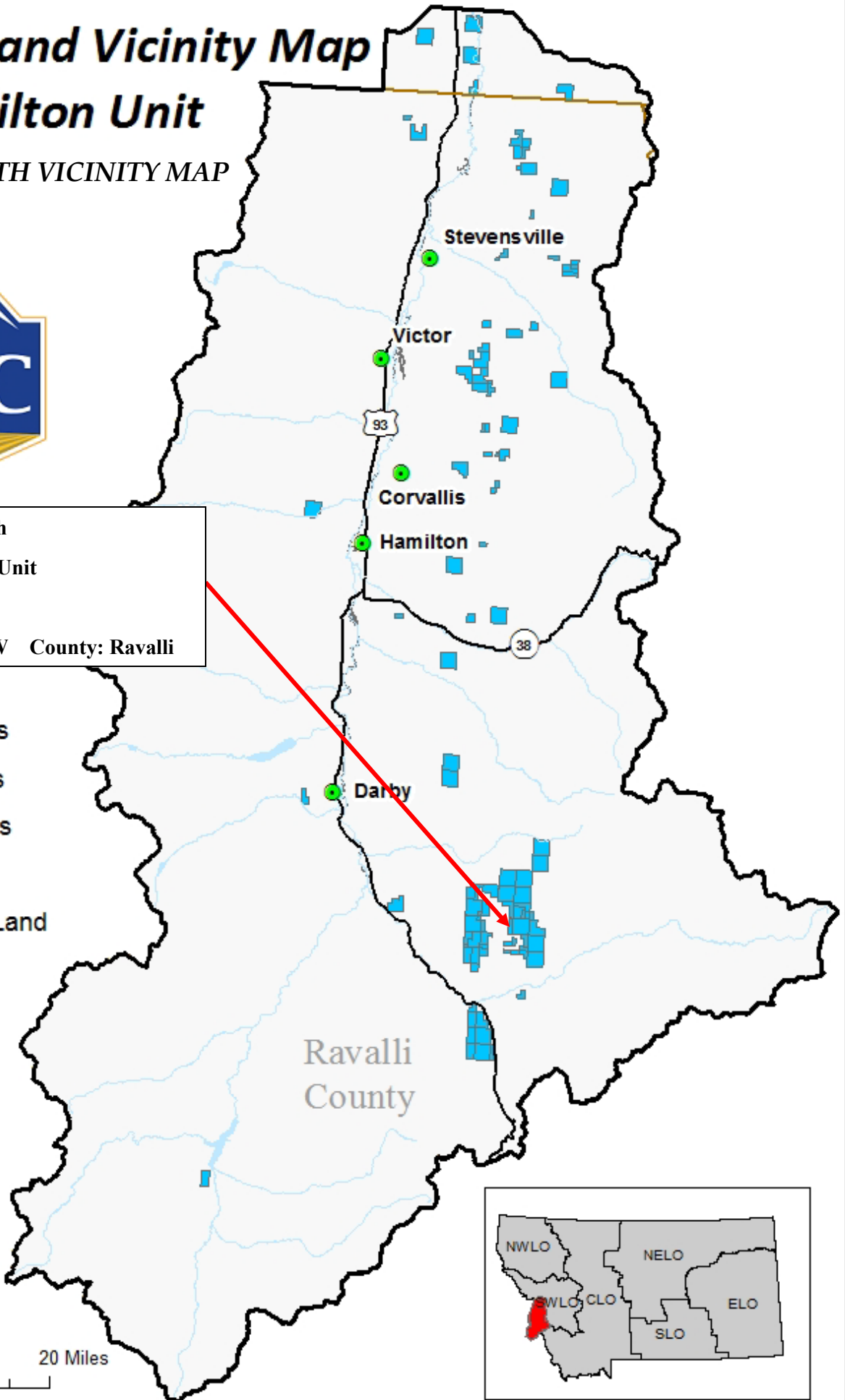
Hamilton Unit

PASTURE NORTH VICINITY MAP

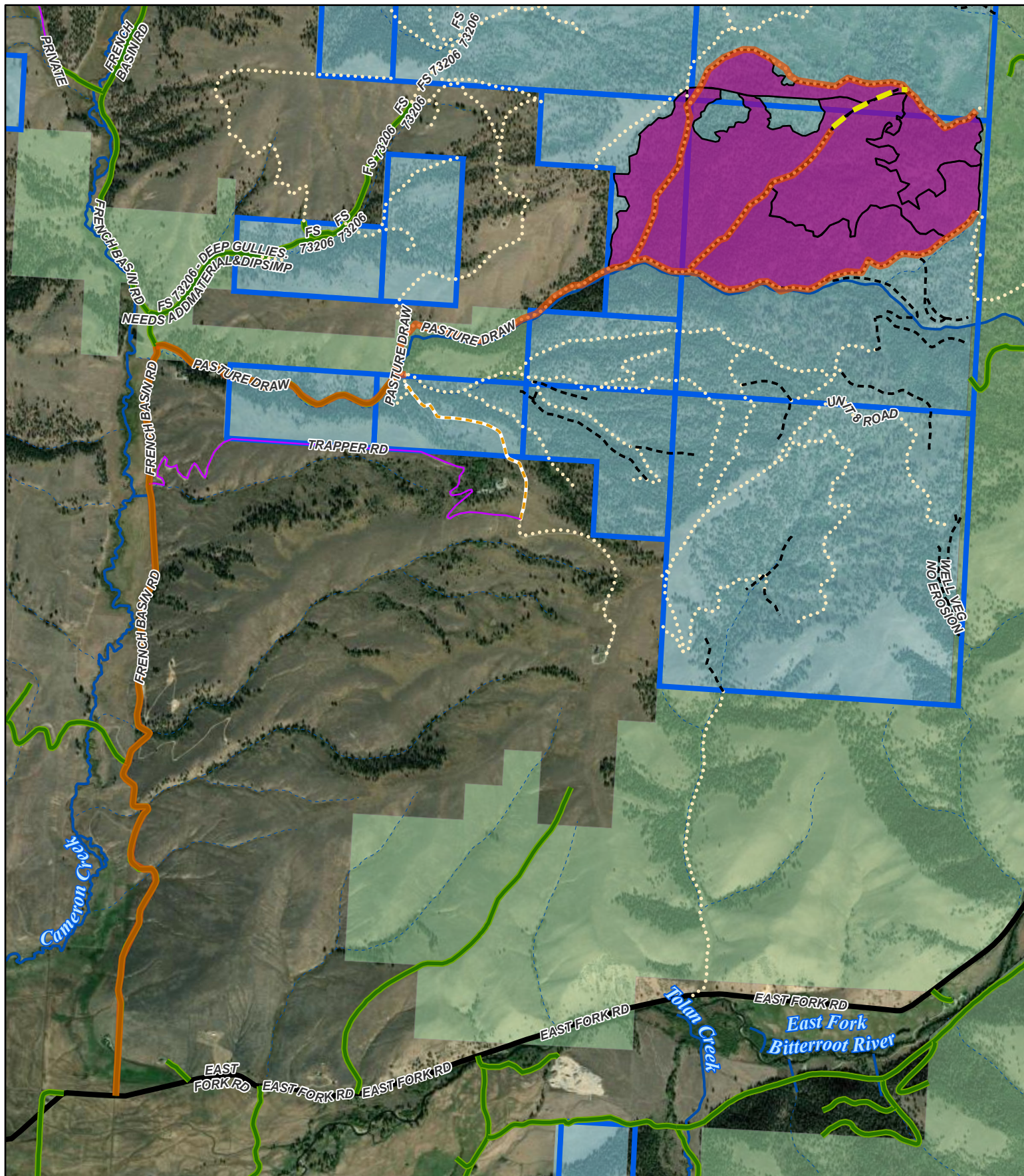


Project Name: Pasture North
Project Location: Hamilton Unit
Section: 24, 25, 26
Township: 2N **Range:** 19W **County:** Ravalli

- Towns
- County Lines
- Major Roads
- Water Bodies
- Rivers
- State Trust Land



Pasture North Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units



Haul Route	Restricted Class A	DNRC Trust Lands
Reconstruction of Existing Road	Restricted Class B	Perennial Stream
FMB_Roads	Abandoned or Reclaimed	Intermittent Stream
Highway	Pvt Access or Admin Site	Harvest Units
Open/Public Roads	Harvest Units	US Forest Service
		Montana State Trust Lands

N

0 0.5 1 Miles

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**Land Board Agenda Item
January 21, 2025**

0125-1B Timber Sale: Squeezer Loop

**Location: Lake County
Sections 15, 16, 20, 22 and 27, T23N, R17W**

Trust Beneficiaries: Common Schools

Trust Revenue: \$285,856 (estimated, minimum bid)

Item Summary

Location: The Squeezer Loop Timber Sale is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Swan Lake, Montana.

Size and Scope: The sale includes 10 harvest units (*500 acres*) of ground-based logging.

Volume: The estimated harvest volume is 18,391 tons (*2.8 MMBF*) of sawlogs.

Estimated Return: The minimum bid is \$16.80 per ton for all species except Ponderosa Pine and \$2.00 per ton for Ponderosa Pine, which would generate approximately \$285,856 for the Common School Trust and approximately \$74,453 in Forest Improvement fees.

Prescription: This sale would utilize a combination of seed tree, shelterwood, individual tree selection, and commercial thinning harvest prescriptions designed to reduce insect and disease issues, reduce fuel loading and promote forest health.

Road Construction/Maintenance: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing 9.5 miles of road maintenance.

Access: Access is obtained through State and county-owned roads.

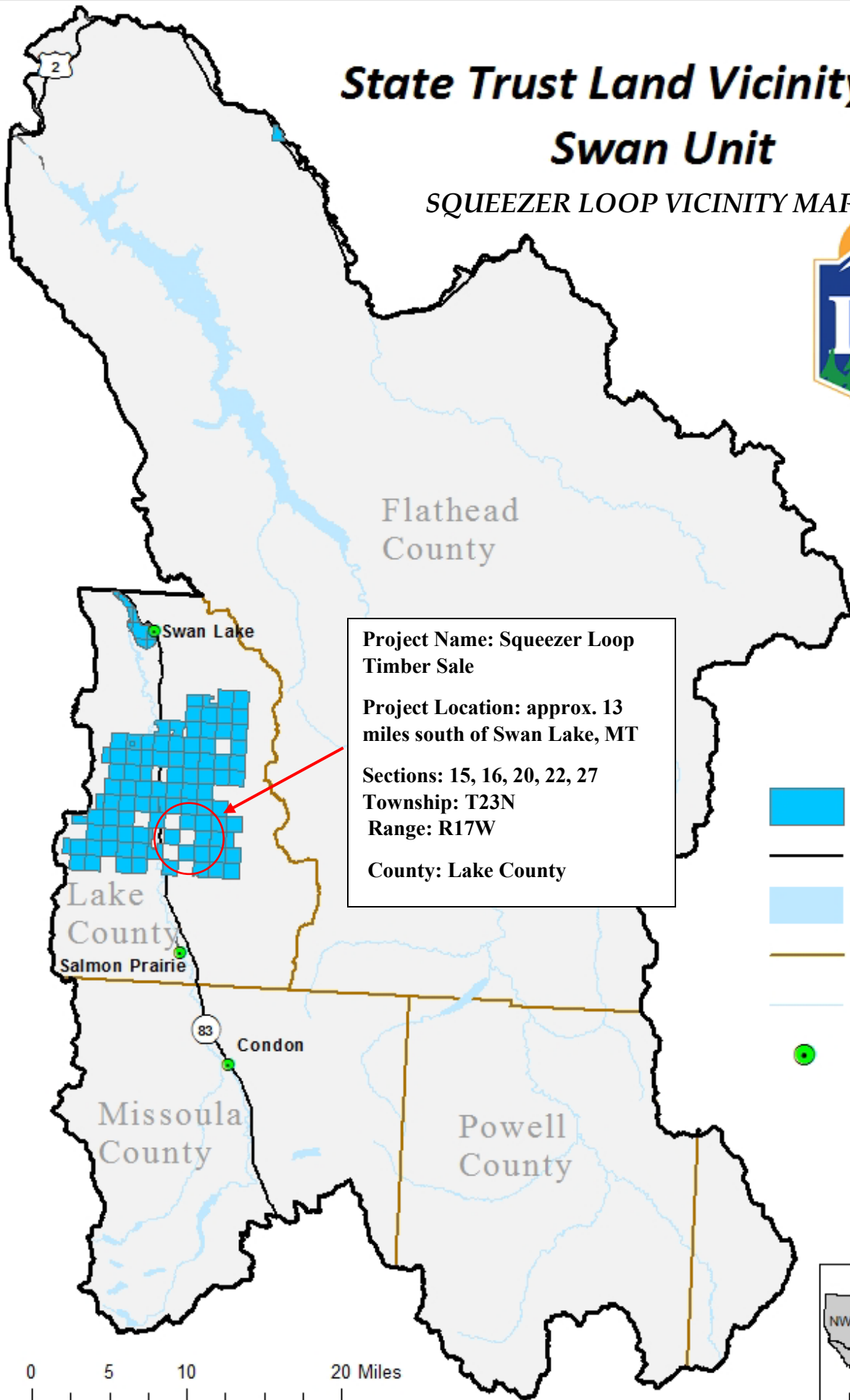
Public Comments: This timber sale is covered under the Squeezer Meadow Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Twenty public comments were received during the scoping of the Squeezer Meadow EIS and an additional five individuals indicated that they had no comments but would like to stay informed during project development. Nine comments expressed general support for the project, six comments were neutral, and five comments were opposed to the project. Commenters expressed concern about wildlife, silviculture, hydrology and soils, roads and traffic, fisheries, climate change, visual aesthetics, air quality, cultural resources, and economics. All public comments and concerns were considered and addressed in the Squeezer Meadow Final EIS.

DNRC Recommendation

The DNRC recommends the Land Board directs the DNRC to sell the Squeezer Loop Timber Sale.

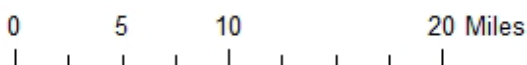
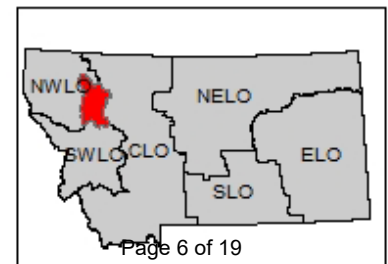
State Trust Land Vicinity Map Swan Unit

SQUEEZER LOOP VICINITY MAP

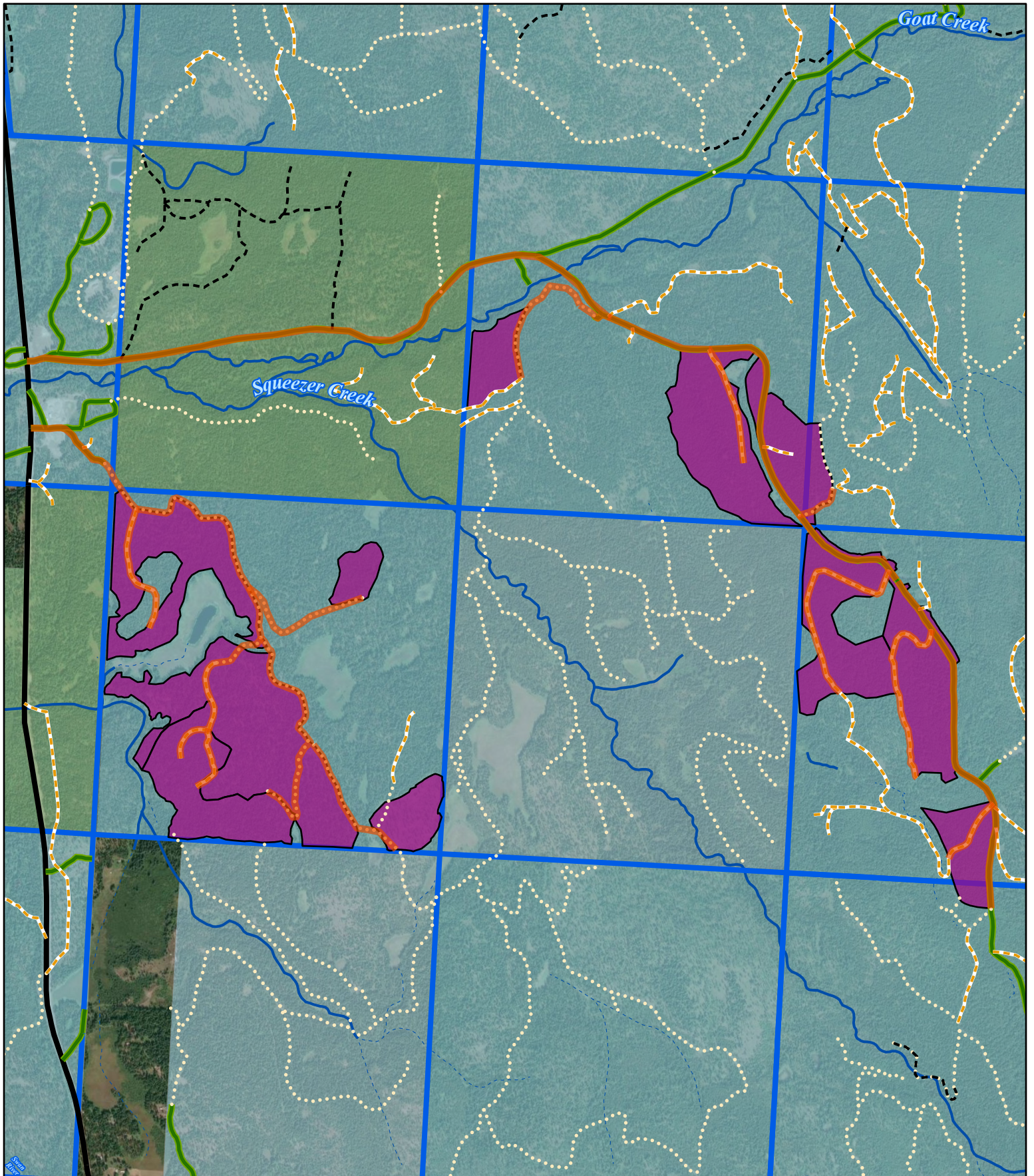


Project Name: Squeezer Loop Timber Sale
Project Location: approx. 13 miles south of Swan Lake, MT
Sections: 15, 16, 20, 22, 27
Township: T23N
Range: R17W
County: Lake County

- State Trust Land
- Major Roads
- Water Bodies
- County Lines
- Rivers
- Towns



Squeezer Loop Timber Sale Haul Route and Harvest Units



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Haul Route | Restricted Class B | Perennial Stream |
| FMB_Roads | Abandoned or Reclaimed | Intermittent Stream |
| Highway | Harvest Units | US Forest Service |
| Open/Public Roads | Harvest Units | State of Montana Misc. |
| Restricted Class A | DNR Trust Lands | Montana State Trust Lands |

N

0
0.25
0.5

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Miles

0125-2

EASEMENTS

**Land Board Agenda Item
January 21, 2025**

0125-2 Easements

Location: Fallon, Park, and Stillwater County

Trust Benefits: Common Schools

Trust Revenue: \$5,978

Item Table of Contents

Applicant	Right-of-Way Purpose	Term	Page(s)
Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative	Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	10
Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association Inc.	Fiber Optic Cable	Permanent	12

APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

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

Application No.: 19725
R/W Purpose: Buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 0.49
Compensation: \$294.00
Legal Description: 16-foot strip through SW4NW4 and NW4NW4, Sec. 12, Twp. 6N,
Rge. 56E, Fallon County
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

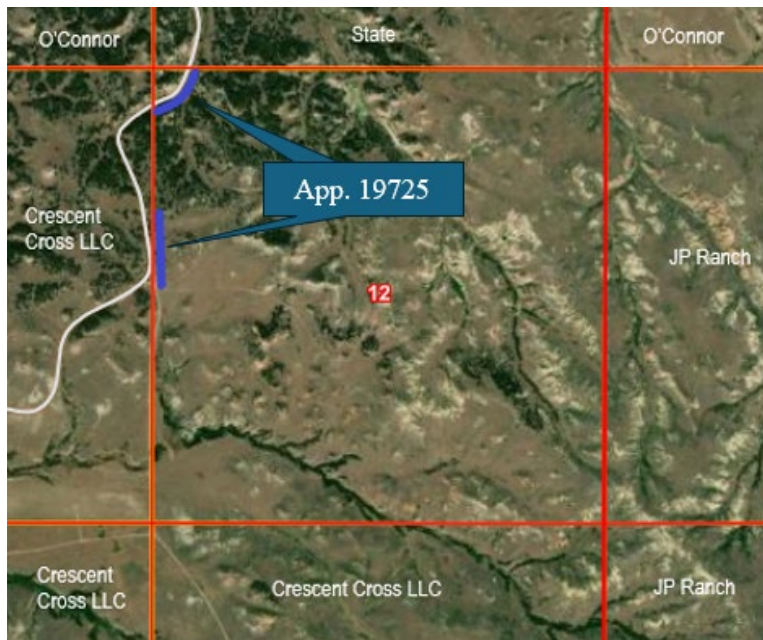
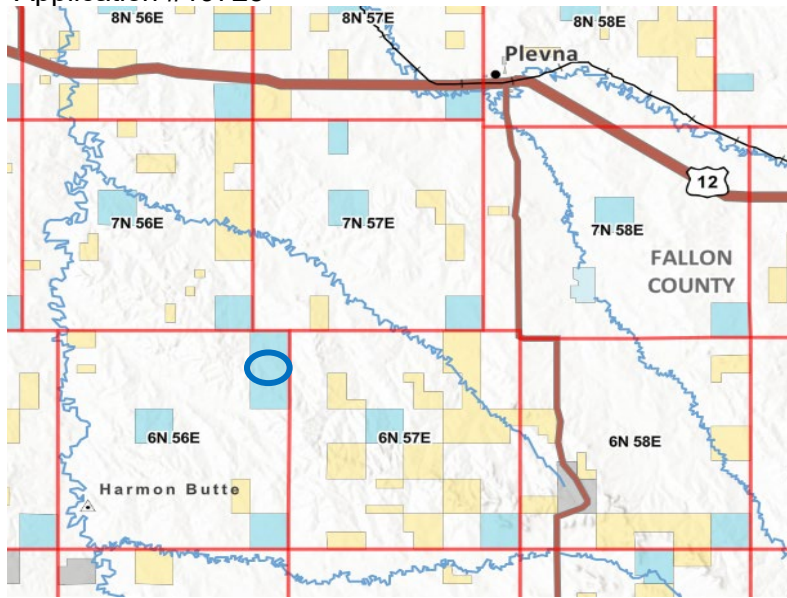
Item Summary

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 Fallon 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 Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative.

Application #19725



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

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

Application No.: 19726
R/W Purpose: Buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: Ok
Acreage: 0.57
Compensation: \$684.00
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through SE4NE4 and NE4NE4,
Sec. 16, Twp. 2S, Rge. 19E, Stillwater County
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

Item Summary

Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association Inc. 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 the Reedpoint exchange. These improvements will offer state-of-the-art telecommunications toll and distribution facilities, as well as future growth capabilities for the community. 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 #19726



APPLICANTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY INFORMATION

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

Application No.: 19727
R/W Purpose: Buried fiber optic cable
Lessee Agreement: ok
Acreage: 1.00
Compensation: \$5,000.00
Legal Description: 20-foot strip through E2SE4, Sec. 16, Twp. 1S, Rge. 10E,
Park County
Trust Beneficiary: Common Schools

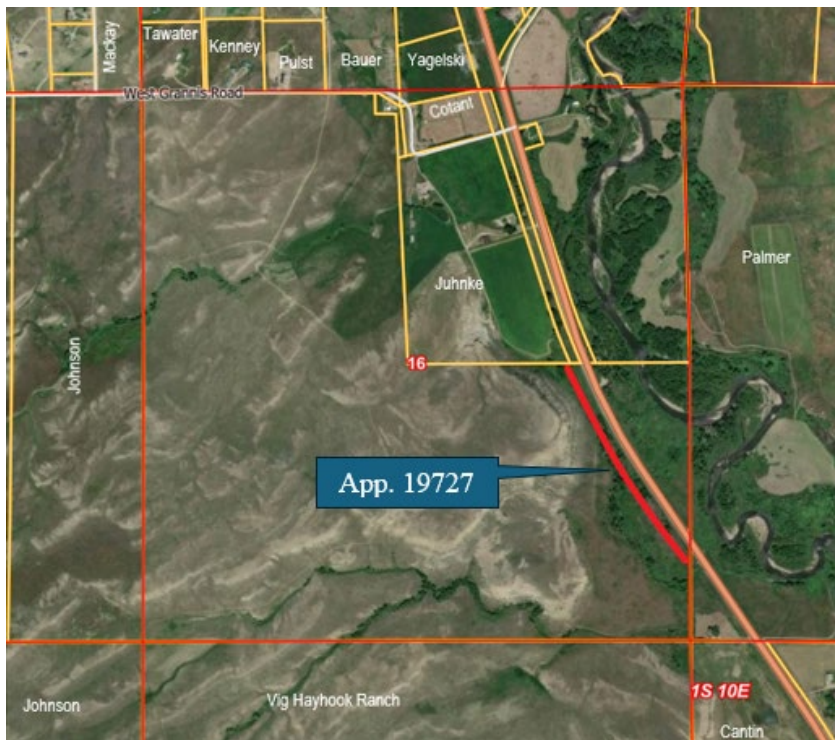
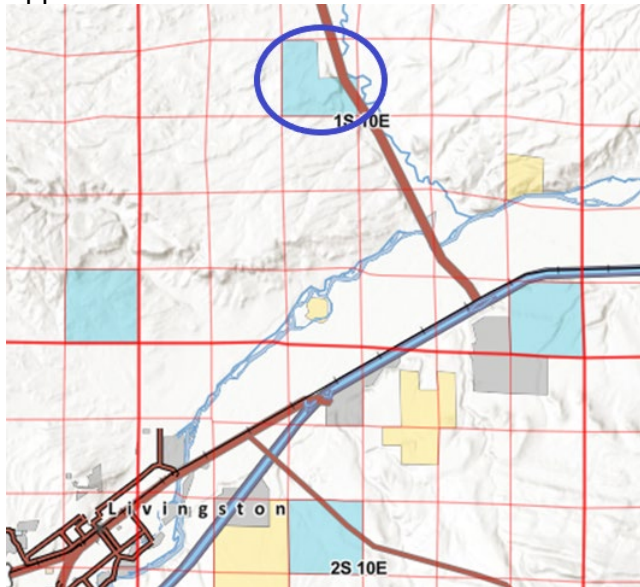
Item Summary

Continuation of Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association applications.

DNRC Recommendation

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

Application #19727



0125-3

REQUEST TO ADOPT REAL ESTATE
MANAGEMENT PROJECT RULE
AMENDMENTS

**Land Board Agenda Item
January 21, 2025**

0125-3 Request to Adopt Real Estate Management Project Rule Amendments

Location: State of Montana

Trust Benefits: Common Schools, Public Buildings, Montana State University, MSU Morrill, MSU Eastern/UM Western, Montana Tech, University of Montana, Deaf & Blind School, Pine Hills, Veterans Home, Intensive Behavior Center, and Montana State Hospital

Trust Revenue: Unknown

Item Summary

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Forestry and Trust Land Division requests Land Board approval of the adoption notice to amend Real Estate Management Projects rules, ARM 36.25.901(30) and ARM 36.25.903(3). This subchapter of rules was created with guidance from the 2005 Final Real Estate Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The rules are set to expire on July 18, 2025, potentially leaving the Real Estate Management Bureau with diminished guidance and authority for fulfilling its mandate to generate revenue to the trust beneficiaries. The primary goals of the proposed rule amendments are to remove the expiration date and to clarify the definition of residential use making it more consistent with statute.

The Land Board approved the request to proceed with rulemaking to amend the Real Estate Management Projects rules and to file the proposal notice for the drafted rules at the September 16, 2024, meeting.

The Department notified interested parties and scoped for public comment on the proposed amendments through the Montana Administrative Procedures Act and consistent with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). A hearing was held on November 7, 2024, at the DNRC headquarters office in Helena, and attendance was available via zoom. No public comments were received at the hearing. The 30-day public comment period was open through November 7, 2024. There were no public comments received during this period.

No environmental impacts were identified by the public through the MEPA scoping process. The Department has completed a checklist Environmental Assessment for the rulemaking. The preferred action is adoption of the rule amendments.

If approved, the adoption notice will be filed with the Secretary of State's office and the rule amendments will become effective upon publication within the Montana Administrative Register.

DNRC Recommendation

The DNRC recommends Land Board approval of the adoption notice to amend the Real Estate Management Projects rules.

0125-4

REQUEST TO ADOPT RECREATIONAL USE
RULE AMENDMENTS

**Land Board Agenda Item
January 21, 2025**

0125-4 Request to Adopt Recreational Use Rule Amendments

Location: State of Montana

Trust Benefits: Common Schools, Public Buildings, Montana State University, MSU Morrill, MSU Eastern/UM Western, Montana Tech, University of Montana, Deaf & Blind School, Pine Hills, Veterans Home, Intensive Behavior Center, and Montana State Hospital

Trust Revenue: Unknown

Item Summary

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Forestry and Trust Lands Division requests Land Board approval of the adoption notice to amend recreational use rules (ARM 36.25.145, 36.25.146, 36.25.149, 36.25.150, 36.25.152, 36.25.157, 36.25.158, 36.25.159). This rulemaking is necessary to align administrative rules with applicable statute, and to adopt food storage requirements for public safety in grizzly bear habitat.

The Land Board approved the request to proceed with rulemaking to amend recreational use rules, and to file the proposal notice for the drafted rules at the August 19, 2024, meeting.

The Department notified interested parties and scoped for public comment on the proposed amendments through the Montana Administrative Procedures Act and consistent with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). A hearing was held on September 26, 2024, at the DNRC headquarters office in Helena, and attendance was available via zoom. No public comments were received at the hearing. The public comment period was open through October 4, 2024. The Department received one written comment from Montana, Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The comment requested a language change for clarity and did not change the meaning of the rule. The Department worked with FWP to clarify the language as amended in the attached adoption notice.

No environmental impacts were identified by the public through the MEPA scoping process. The Department has completed a checklist Environmental Assessment for the rulemaking. The preferred action is adoption of the rule amendments.

If approved, the adoption notice will be filed with the Secretary of State's office and the rule amendments will become effective upon publication within the Montana Administrative Register.

DNRC Recommendation

The DNRC recommends Land Board approval of the adoption notice to amend recreational use rules.