

THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GOVERNOR GREG GIANFORTE



DNRC DIRECTOR AMANDA KASTER

DNRC – EASTERN LAND OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1794
MILES CITY, MT 59301

July 22, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is seeking comments on a proposed land exchange involving state trust lands and private lands located in McCone County. This exchange is located approximately 22 miles north of Circle, Montana.

Under this proposal, DNRC and 4-B Properties LLC would exchange approximately 600 acres of legally inaccessible state trust land for approximately 480 acres of private land, including 320 acres with legal access and 160 acres with administrative access. An appraisal conducted in March of 2026 determined the value of the state trust land to be \$417,500 and the value of the 4-B Properties land to be \$587,500.

This land exchange is being processed under the prior land exchange policy dated March 21, 1994, and revised in December 2004, as it was nominated before adoption of the current policy. The purpose of the proposed land exchange is to increase revenue potential, provide additional public access to state trust land, and improve management flexibility for both the state trust land and the private landowner. If completed, the proposed exchange is anticipated to generate additional income for the Common Schools Trust (K-12 public schools). Additional information on this land exchange can be found on the department's website at:
<https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/land-transactions-easements/land-exchanges>.

DNRC will hold a public hearing to solicit public comments on the proposed 4-B Properties/DNRC Land Exchange. The hearing will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at the Circle Senior Citizen Center, 210 West Main Street, Circle, MT 59215.

Public comment is accepted at the public hearing, via mail, or by email. Written comments may be submitted until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 .

Submit all written comments to:

Scott Aye
DNRC Eastern Land Office
P.O. Box 1794



DNRC.MT.GOV

Miles City, MT 59301
406-232-2034
Email: DNRCLandExchangePublic@mt.gov

Respectfully,

Scott Aye
State Trust Land Program Manager
DNRC Eastern Land Office

cc: Land Exchange File 2007
Eastern Land Office

