



DNRC – Southwestern Land Office
1401 27th Ave
Missoula, MT 59804

April 2, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is soliciting input regarding a proposed land exchange involving state owned trust lands and private lands located in Missoula County. This exchange is located approximately 6 miles south of Missoula, Montana.

Under the proposal, the DNRC and MPG Ranch (MPG) would exchange approximately 1,804.85 acres of legally inaccessible state trust land for approximately 8,139.94 acres of legally accessible private forest lands that MPG would acquire from the Montana Checkerboard LLC which is managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Legal descriptions of the land being considered can be found at:

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/land-transactions-easements/land-exchanges>. State trust lands are managed under specific constitutional and statutory requirements to maximize revenue for trust beneficiaries and often have multiple uses with different rules and regulations than general public lands. The trust beneficiaries for these parcels are Capitol Buildings and Common Schools.

The purpose of the proposed land exchange is to trade out of 1,804.85 legally inaccessible state-owned trust lands for approximately 8,139.94 acres of legally accessible parcels. This proposed land exchange meets the state land exchange criteria that can be seen <https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/land-transactions-easements/land-exchanges>.

Please review the proposed land exchange and provide any comments or concerns by 5:00 PM, Friday, May 1, 2026. If additional information is needed, please contact the DNRC Southwestern Land Office.

Submit all comments or concerns to:



Sierra Farmer
DNRC Southwestern Land Office
406-542-4261
DNRCLandExchangePublic@mt.gov

Sincerely,

Sierra Farmer
Area Manager
DNRC Southwestern Land Office
Forestry & Trust Lands Division

