

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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SOUTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE  
1401 27th Avenue  
Missoula, Montana 59804-3199

March 10, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is beginning an Environmental Assessment (EA) on a parcel of Trust land located approximately two miles west of Huson, MT and a parcel of Trust land located approximately two miles north of Huson, MT, within Missoula County. These parcels have been nominated for sale by the Department through the Land Banking program (MCA 77-2-361 through 77-2-367 passed by the 2003 State Legislature). The general intent of the Land Banking program is for the state to dispose of scattered parcels of land that do not have legal access, generate substantially less income for the trust than their relative value or are difficult for DNRC to manage. Proceeds from land sales are then used to acquire new land that provides a greater rate of return to the Trust, as well as meeting other statutory and administrative rule guidelines. The land banking statutes allow DNRC to sell up to 100,000 acres of Trust land prior to an evaluation of the merits of the program by the Legislature in 2009. The program also requires that DNRC acquire new property before it sells more than 20,000 acres.

The parcel of land located approximately two miles west of Huson, MT is described as the SW1/4 of Section 22, Township 15 North – Range 22 West, containing 160 acres. This parcel is primarily forested and does not have legal public access. The parcel of land located approximately two miles north of Huson, MT is described as the NE1/4NE1/4 of Section 14, Township 15 North – Range 22 West, containing 40 acres. This parcel is primarily forested and has legal public access via a County Road.

We are currently conducting an analysis under the Montana Environmental Policy Act of the impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed land sale. This analysis is to be completed prior to presenting the proposal to the Board of Land Commissioners (Board) for preliminary approval. If approval is received from the Board, the Department will then conduct an appraisal to determine an estimated value and recommended minimum bid price for sale. The proposal will then be brought back before the Board to establish the minimum acceptable bid for the parcel and approval to proceed with the sale process.

DNRC is contacting you as a part of the public scoping process for the Environmental Assessment, and would appreciate any comments you may have regarding the proposed sale of this parcel. Comments **will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2008** and should be sent to:

Liz Mullins, Land Use Planner  
DNRC Southwestern Land Office  
1401 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Missoula, MT 59804  
[lmullins@mt.gov](mailto:lmullins@mt.gov)

Additional information on the land banking program can also be found at [http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/trust/land\\_banking/default.asp#about](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/trust/land_banking/default.asp#about). Please feel free to contact me at (406) 542-4345 or [lmullins@mt.gov](mailto:lmullins@mt.gov) with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Mullins".

Liz Mullins, DNRC  
Land Use Planner

**RECEIVED**

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POLICY OFFICE