

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	CS&KT Land Exchange (Combined)
Proposed Implementation Date:	Summer I 2010
Proponent:	CS&KT and the Montana D.N.R.C.
Location: CS&KT	South Proposal - Portion (397.82 ac) of Section 1, T14N-R9W as follows; Lots 1-4, S2S2, N2SW, S2SW; less a 20 acre tract located in NESW and SENW. Portion (116 ac) of Section 2, T14N-R9W as follows; Lots 1 & 2, SWNE less a right-of-way. North Proposal - SW1/4NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, & GOVERNMENT LOTS 1 & 2, W1/2SE1/4, GOVERNMENT LOTS 3 & 4, SE1/4SW1/4, Section 24, T25N-R23W, (474.6 ac); All, Section 25, T25N-R23W, (631.8 ac); GOVERNMENT LOTS 1, 2, 3 & 4, Section 36, T25N-R23W, (162.45 ac); LOTS 1, 2, 3 & 4, E1/2NW1/4, E1/2SW1/4 & SE1/4, Section 19, T25N-R22W, (473.8 ac); SW1/4SW1/4, Section 20, T25N-R22W, (40 ac); W1/2, Section 29, T25N-R22W, (320 ac); W1/2, NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4, Section 30, T25N-R22W, (554.8 ac);
Location: DNRC	South Proposal - All (640 ac) of Section 36, T17N-R18W (Jocko Lands) North Proposal - ALL, Section 36, T25N-R25W, (611.98 ac); N1/2, NE1/4SW1/4, SE1/4, Section 16, T24N-R24W, (520 ac); ALL, Section 36, T24N-R25W, (640 ac); (Nirada Lands)
County:	Flathead, Sanders, Lake, & Lewis and Clark Counties

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proposal is the exchange of property between the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (D.N.R.C.) and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CS&KT). The intent of the land exchange is to consolidate ownership and to move DNRC property (school trust lands) to areas outside the Flathead Indian Reservation.

This exchange involves two proposals (North and South). Although the land exchange takes place in two distinct geographic locations, the exchange proposals were combined to allow greater flexibility to balance appraised property values without creating additional land subdivision inconsistent with the purposes of the exchange. The following environmental analysis is tiered by location (North proposal and South proposal) to determine the potential environmental impacts of the combined land exchange proposal.

South Proposal: D.N.R.C. currently owns section 36 Township 17 N, Range 18 W, 640 acres (school trust land) located within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation. The CS&KT owns approximately 514 acres of forested land adjacent to D.N.R.C. holdings north of Lincoln, MT. (Portions of Section 1 and 2, Township 14 N, Range 9 W). These holdings would be exchanged (see south exchange maps).

North Proposal: D.N.R.C. currently owns sections listed above totaling 1772 acres, located within the Lozeau Special Management area, and within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation. The CS&KT own approximately 2657 acres of mostly grazing land north of Nirada, in parts of the sections identified above. These holdings would be exchanged (see north exchange maps).

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

South Proposal

The CS&KT started the process for this exchange in August 2007. The land the CS&KT was most interested in trading was located within the boundaries of the reservation and located within the area they have designated

as tribal Wilderness and tribal Primitive areas. On March 6th 2008 the Tribal Council approved a resolution for the purchase of properties in Lincoln, Montana. An application was made to the D.N.R.C. in June 11th of 2008. A preliminary review was conducted in July and August of 2008.

On April 20, 2009 the Director of D.N.R.C. granted preliminary approval to proceed with the public scoping of the land exchange proposal. A legal notice requesting public comment was solicited 9/18/08 through 9/25/08 in the Blackfoot Valley Dispatch, Lake County Leader, and Helena Independent Record. Comments on the project were received by October 17th, 2008 and sent to either CS&KT or DNRC. Other groups scoped for this land exchange included landowners adjacent to the land proposed for exchange, DNRC staff, appropriate state legislators and their staff, County Commissioners, other state and federal agencies and other special interest group organizations. Please refer to the project file for a complete list of groups scoped. Notice of Public hearings in Lincoln, Kalispell, Ronan and Plains were published in the Helena Independent Record, the Blackfoot Valley Dispatch the Char-Koosta Newspaper the Sanders County Ledger and the Kalispell Interlake. These hearings were conducted on March 2nd, 3rd 4th and 10th and comments received have been incorporated into the environmental assessment. Written comments were accepted through Friday March 12, 2010.

North Proposal:

The CS&KT started the process for this exchange in August 2007. The land the CS&KT was most interested in trading was located within the boundaries of the reservation and located within the area they have designated as tribal special management areas. On March 6th 2008 the Tribal Council approved a resolution for the purchase of properties in Lincoln, Montana. An application was made to the D.N.R.C. in June 11th of 2008. A preliminary review was conducted in July and August of 2008.

On April 20, 2009 the Director of D.N.R.C. granted preliminary approval to proceed with the public scoping of the land exchange proposal. A legal notice requesting public comment was solicited 7/08/09 through 7/18/09 in the Daily Interlake, Lake County Leader, Sanders County Ledger and the Char-Koosta newspapers. Comments on the project were to be received by July 31, 2009 and sent to either CS&KT or DNRC. Other groups scoped for this land exchange during this time period included landowners adjacent to the land proposed for exchange, DNRC staff, appropriate state legislators and their staff, County Commissioners, other state and federal agencies and other special interest group organizations. Please refer to the project file for a complete list of groups scoped. Notice of Public hearings in Ronan, Kalispell, and Plains were published in the Helena Independent Record, The Sanders County Ledger, Daily Interlake, Lake County Leader, and the Char-Koosta newspapers. These hearings were conducted on March 2, 3, 4, & 10, 2010 and comments received have been incorporated into the environmental assessment. Written comments were accepted through Friday March 12, 2010.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

NONE

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

- 1) ACTION- Proceed with the land exchange with the CS&KT.
- 2) NO ACTION- Do not proceed with the land exchange with the CS&KT.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i>

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Combined Proposal

NONE

As land will be exchanged, no change to the geology, soil quality, stability and moisture would occur. Future activities on DNRC lands would be subject to MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko and Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Combined Proposal

NONE

As land will be exchanged, no change to the water quality, quantity, and distribution would occur. Future activities upon DNRC lands would be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko and Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Combined Proposal

NONE

As land will be exchanged, no change to the air quality would occur. There would not be any pollutants or particulate matter formed by this exchange. Future activities upon DNRC lands would be examined under MEPA, follow DNRC regulations, and would abide the Federal Clean Air and Water Act. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko and Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

NONE

South Proposal

As land will be exchanged, no change to the vegetative communities would occur. According to the Montana Natural Heritage Program, the bush morning glory, *Ipomoea leptophylla* is present on the parcels located north of Lincoln (Lewis Clark County). Overall, there would be no cumulative effects to vegetation. Future activities upon DNRC lands would be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

North Proposal

As land will be exchanged, no change to the vegetative communities would occur. According to the Montana Natural Heritage Program, Spalding's Campion (*Silene spaldingii*) is present in the vicinity, including on some of the CS&KT parcels involved with the exchange proposal. Overall, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to vegetation. Future activities upon DNRC lands would be examined under MEPA and activities on tribal lands would likely involve NEPA review. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer

the Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

NONE

South Proposal

As land will be exchanged, no change to the terrestrial, avian, and aquatic communities would occur. There are streams in the immediate area, but this project would not disturb aquatic habitats. Overall, there would be no effects to terrestrial or avian habitats.

Future activities upon DNRC lands would be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

North Proposal

As land would be exchanged, no change to the terrestrial, avian, and aquatic communities would occur. Several perennial and intermittent streams exist in the project area, but this project would not disturb aquatic habitats or fisheries resources. Overall, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to terrestrial, aquatic, or avian habitats. Future activities on DNRC lands will be examined under MEPA and activities on tribal lands would likely involve NEPA review. . If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer the Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

South Proposal

The affected DNRC parcel (section 36, T 17 N R 18 W) is located within the South Fork Jocko Tribal Primitive Area and has experienced little management in recent years. The parcel is located within the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear recovery area, and contains approximately 565 acres of suitable lynx habitat (Stand Level Inventory database, 20080908 release). Grizzly bears, lynx, wolverine, and fishers have all been encountered within a 7 mile radius of the parcel (Natural Heritage Database). Thus, the affected parcel is located in an area of importance to these forest carnivores. Additionally, the affected parcel is part of an important elk migration corridor from the Mission Mountains to the Mission Valley for elk winter range (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks elk99 GIS layer).

The affected parcel currently owned by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (portions of sections 1 and 2, T 14 N R 9 W), was most recently owned by The Nature Conservancy, and previously Plum Creek Timber Company. This affected parcel was extensively managed by Plum Creek. Additionally, the parcel is located within the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear recovery area, likely contains lynx habitat, and is immediately adjacent to federally designated lynx critical habitat. Grizzly bears, lynx, and gray wolves have repeatedly been observed in the vicinity of the parcel (Natural Heritage Database). The parcel also contains elk winter range and calving habitat (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks elk99 GIS layer).

The proposed action would exchange the DNRC parcel for the CS&KT parcels. Similar wildlife species would be affected, with the exchange enabling DNRC to more actively manage its land base. Under the proposed action, DNRC forest management activities would still be guided by the Forest Management Rules, and would still be operating under guidelines directed by occurring within the grizzly bear recovery area and lynx habitat. Also, future DNRC activities would be subject to MEPA review. As a result, there would likely be low risk of direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to wildlife from the proposed action.

If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

North Proposal

The affected DNRC and CS&KT parcels are outside of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear recovery area and the “occupied habitat” area as mapped by grizzly bear researchers and managers to address increased sightings and encounters of grizzly bears in habitats outside of recovery zones (Wittinger, 2002). Little or no use by grizzly bears would be anticipated, and no changes in use or available habitats would be anticipated under either alternative. Some potential Canada lynx habitats exist on approximately 575 acres of DNRC-managed lands, however nearly 44% of those habitats are temporarily unsuitable due to recent wildfires. Limited or no Canada lynx habitats exist on the CS&KT parcels. Collectively no changes in existing Canada lynx habitats would be anticipated under either alternative.

Flammulated owl habitats exist on both DNRC-managed and CS&KT-managed lands and some level of use could be anticipated. Additionally some potential pileated woodpecker and black-backed habitats exist on some of the DNRC-managed parcels; some use by these species is likely. Some of the CS&KT parcels are within the annual home range of the Salish wolf pack, and some use of the area is likely. Habitats are not present for any of the other DNRC-listed sensitive species and presence of these species is not anticipated. In general, habitats exist for similar species across all parcels being considered in the land exchange. Under the proposed action, DNRC forest management activities would still be guided by the Forest Management Rules and would be subject to MEPA review and activities on tribal lands would likely involve NEPA review. As land would be exchanged, no change to the terrestrial, avian, and aquatic communities would occur. Overall, there would be no effects to terrestrial or avian habitats.

If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer the Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

NONE

South Proposal

As land will be exchanged, no change to these sites would occur.

Future activities upon DNRC lands will be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

North Proposal

As land will be exchanged, no change to these sites will occur.

Future activities upon DNRC lands will be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer the Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

NONE

South Proposal

As land will be exchanged, no immediate change to the existing aesthetics would be noticeable. Through future treatments, it is likely that the current CS&KT land in this exchange would begin to appear much more like the surrounding state-owned forested land. Consolidating lands would reduce the need for vegetative treatments to use artificial land survey boundaries and allow greater opportunities for use of natural breaks in topography.

Future activities upon DNRC lands would be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

North Proposal

As land will be exchanged, no immediate change to the existing aesthetics would be noticeable. Consolidating lands would reduce the need for vegetative treatments to use artificial land survey boundaries and allow greater opportunities for use of natural breaks in topography.

Future activities upon DNRC lands will be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer the Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Combined Proposal

NONE

As land will be exchanged, no change to these sites would occur. This land exchange would enable future actions by the DNRC to have improved road access.

Future activities upon DNRC lands would be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko and Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

13. 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.

South Proposal

NONE

North Proposal

MINOR

A Phase I Environmental Assessment Report was prepared by PBS&J for DNRC in December 2009 to review the CSKT properties to the north of Nirada. In response to questions about possible groundwater contamination related to an old mining operation, PBS&J undertook a Phase II water and streambed sampling study, which concluded there are minor impacts to water quality (below water quality standards).

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i> |
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14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

NONE

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Combined Proposal

The proposed land exchange would accommodate more efficient use of the land. It would reduce the need for identification of a lengthy property boundary. It would reduce potential land use conflicts.

All future activities upon DNRC lands would be examined under MEPA. If the exchange occurs the CSKT intends to transfer ownership of the Jocko and Nirada property to the United States to be managed in trust for the tribes. Actions of the United States would then be subject to NEPA.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

Combined Proposal

NONE

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

South Proposal

MINOR

There would be a minor reduction in tax revenues to Lewis and Clark County as a result of the reduction in private land ownership. 2008 Tax records for Lewis and Clark County indicate that \$605.15 was the tax revenue for the parcels outside of Lincoln. The Jocko parcel will be taxable for a brief period within Lake County and then return to tax exempt status when it is conveyed to the United States of America to be managed in trust for the Tribes. There would be no long term change in taxable status.

North Proposal

MINOR

There will be a minor reduction in tax revenues to Lake and Flathead County as a result of the reduction in private land ownership. 2008 Tax records for Lake County indicate that \$1,169.14 was the tax revenue, and for Flathead County the tax revenue was \$781.52 for the parcels north of Nirada. The DNRC parcels (3) will be taxable for a brief period within Lake and Flathead County and then return to tax exempt status when they are conveyed to the United States of America in trust for the Tribes. There would be no long term change in taxable status.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

South Proposal

MINOR

The land exchange would compliment wildland fire protection responsibilities. CS&KT lands at Lincoln are protected by DNRC. DNRC lands in the Jocko are protected by the tribe. The exchange of property would result in the landowner also being responsible for wildland fire suppression.

The Lincoln properties are approximately 130 miles from tribal headquarters and are within 5 miles of a DNRC administrative site. The Jocko property is within the reservation and is approximately 60 miles from the nearest DNRC administrative site.

Exchange of lands is likely to result in a minor reduction in administrative time and expense to manage the lands.

North Proposal

MINOR

The land exchange would compliment wildland fire protection responsibilities. CS&KT lands at Nirada are protected by DNRC. DNRC lands in the Nirada area are protected by the tribe. The exchange of property would result in the landowner also being responsible for wildland fire suppression.

Exchange of lands is likely to result in a minor reduction in administrative time and expense to manage the lands.

19. 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.

South Proposal

The land in this exchange that is currently owned by the CS&KT (Lincoln properties) is expected to contribute greater long- term income to the State Common School Trust when compared to the lands proposed for disposal. The Lincoln properties would consolidate existing school trust holdings and add to the Lincoln State Forest. All actions would be under the guidance of the School Trust Land Mandate, MEPA, the State Forest Land Management Plan, Montana Codes Annotated (MCA) and the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM's). Elimination of the isolated school trust parcel in the south fork of the Jocko would eliminate conflicting use of an area designated as a tribal primitive area.

North Proposal

The land in this exchange that is currently owned by the CS&KT (Nirada properties) is expected to contribute greater long- term income to the State Common School Trust when compared to the lands proposed for disposal. The Nirada properties would consolidate existing school trust holdings. All actions would be under the guidance of the School Trust Land Mandate, MEPA, the State Forest Land Management Plan, Montana Codes Annotated (MCA) and the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM's). Elimination of the isolated school trust parcel in the Nirada area would eliminate conflicting use of an area designated as a tribal special management area.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

South Proposal

The land exchange would result in an improvement in public access. The Lincoln property is adjacent to a county road and is consolidated with existing school trust land. The exchange dramatically reduces the length of state-private property boundary, thereby reducing the potential for trespass. The school trust land in Lake County (Jocko parcel) is within an area where travel is restricted to tribal members only. No such restriction would apply to the Lincoln properties and therefore the exchange would increase the acreage of publically accessible school trust lands.

North Proposal

The land exchange would result in an improvement in public access. The acquired land is adjacent to a county road and is consolidated with existing trust land. The exchange dramatically reduces the length of state-private property boundary, thereby reducing the potential for trespass. The school trust lands in Lake and Flathead County (Nirada parcels) are within an area where travel is restricted to tribal members only. No such restriction would apply to the parcels to be acquired north of Nirada.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

Combined Proposal

NONE

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Combined Proposal

MINOR

The exchange of school trust land in the Jocko and Nirada areas will consolidate tribal land holdings within an area identified as important culturally and with tribal primitive and wilderness values

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

South Proposal

MINOR

The exchange of school trust land in the Jocko would consolidate tribal land holdings within an area identified as important culturally and with tribal primitive and wilderness values. The exchange also blocks up school trust ownership within the Lincoln State Forest (77-5-102(7) MCA).

North Proposal

MINOR

The exchange of school trust land in the Tribe Special Management area will consolidate tribal land holdings within an area identified as important culturally and with tribal primitive and wilderness values.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Combined Proposal

DNRC has conducted an analysis of the land exchange proposal and has determined that the exchange is likely to result in greater long term returns to the school trust.

No Action

Future income from school trust land in the Jocko and Nirada areas would be generated from timber sales and grazing license fees on the property in the Nirada area. The Jocko property is restricted for any timber harvest. The projected income rate of return for the school trust land in the Jocko and Nirada areas over a 60 year accounting period would be 0.26%.

Action

Future income from Tribal lands acquired in the North Lincoln and Nirada areas would be generated from timber sales and grazing license fees on the North Lincoln property; and by grazing leases on property in the Nirada area. There are no timber harvest restrictions on the property the State would receive from the Tribe. The projected income rate of return for the Tribal lands acquired in the North Lincoln and Nirada areas over a 60 year accounting period would be 0.32%.

The income return on the land the school trust would receive in the exchange is better than the land exchange to the Tribe, and meets the Land Exchange criteria of equal or greater income to the trust.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: David M. Poukish & Michael Collins	Date: 3/15/2010
	Title: Clearwater Unit Manager & NWLO Trust Land Resource Manager	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

We hereby select the proposed combined North and South exchange of property (Action Alternative as described in Section 1). This alternative best meets the objectives of the land exchange proposal; namely consolidation of school trust lands and relocation of trust land ownership to areas outside the reservation.

As described in the EA, this exchange will result in less property boundary, will provide increased opportunities for management actions to follow natural terrain features rather than property boundaries, The exchange will increase public access opportunities to school trust lands, and will improve management efficiency by uniting land ownership and fire protection responsibility under one agency and decreasing travel distances from administrative sites.

The exchange will have a positive impact on the protection of cultural values of important to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Implementation of the land exchange proposal will not result in significant environmental impacts. Results of public scoping, advertisement in major newspapers, and 5 public hearings showed very little controversy associated with this project.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS
 More Detailed EA
 No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Anthony L. Liane	
	Title: Area Manager Southwestern Land Office	
Signature: /S/ Anthony L. Liane		Date: 3/25/2010

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Robert Sandman	
	Title: Area Manager Northwestern Land Office	
Signature: /S/ Robert Sandman		Date: 3/29/2010

Montana DNRC Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Land Exchange Proposal

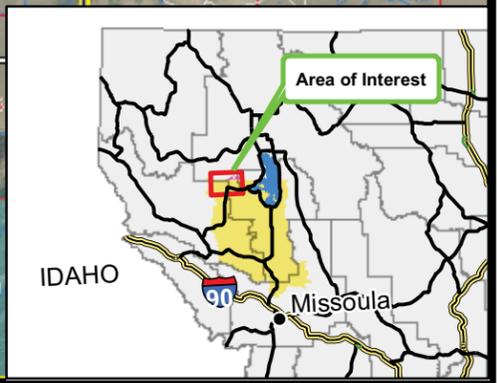
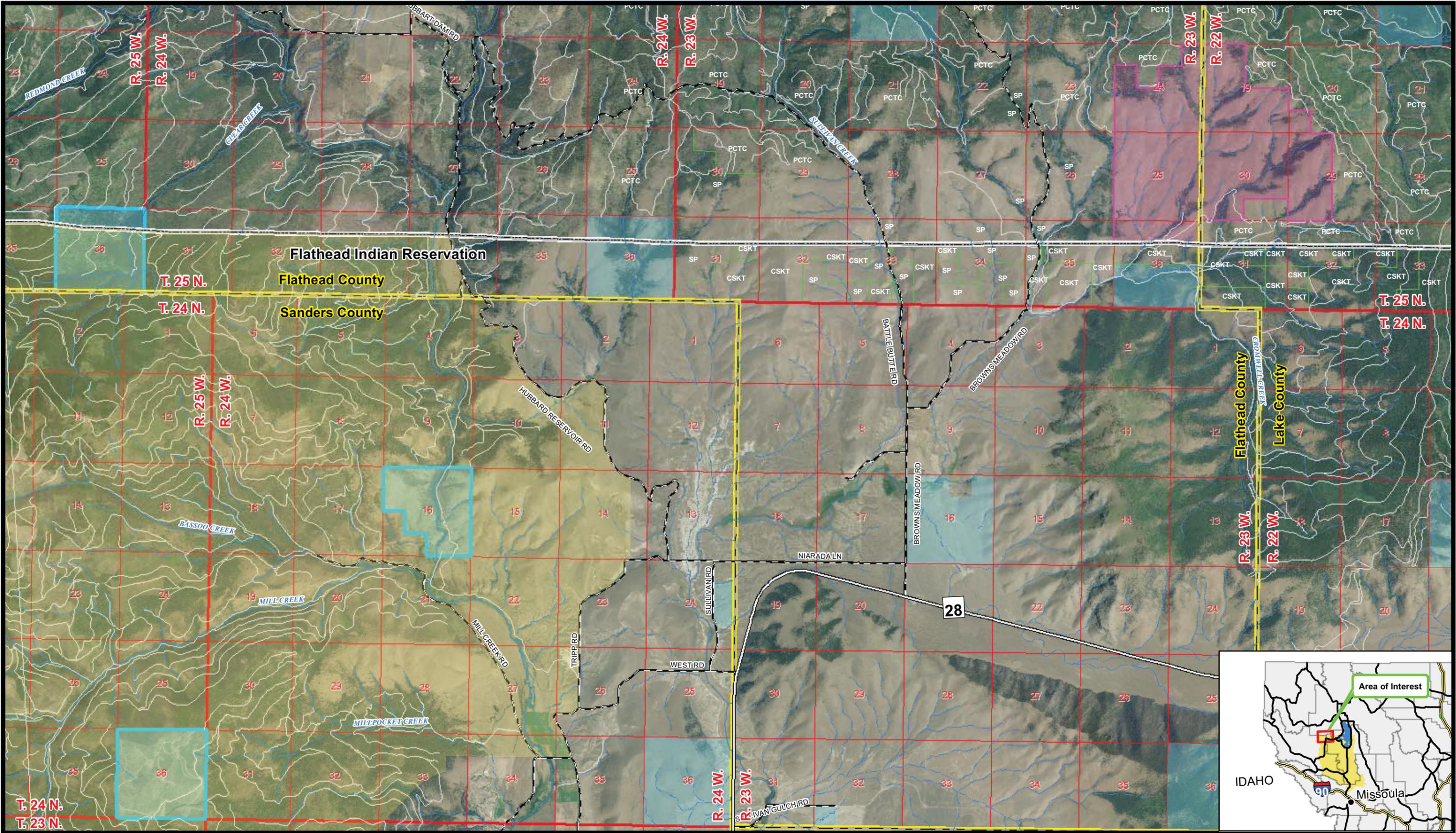
CSKT_parcles_round1	Reservation Boundary	County Road	Intermittent
DNRC Trade Parcels	County Line	Highway	Perennial
Current DNRC Ownership	Sections	Other Roads	
Taxlot Lines	Townships		
Lozeau Primitive Area			

CSKT Parcels = 2,632.75 acres (GIS acres)
DNRC Parcels = 1,771.98 acres (TLMS acres)

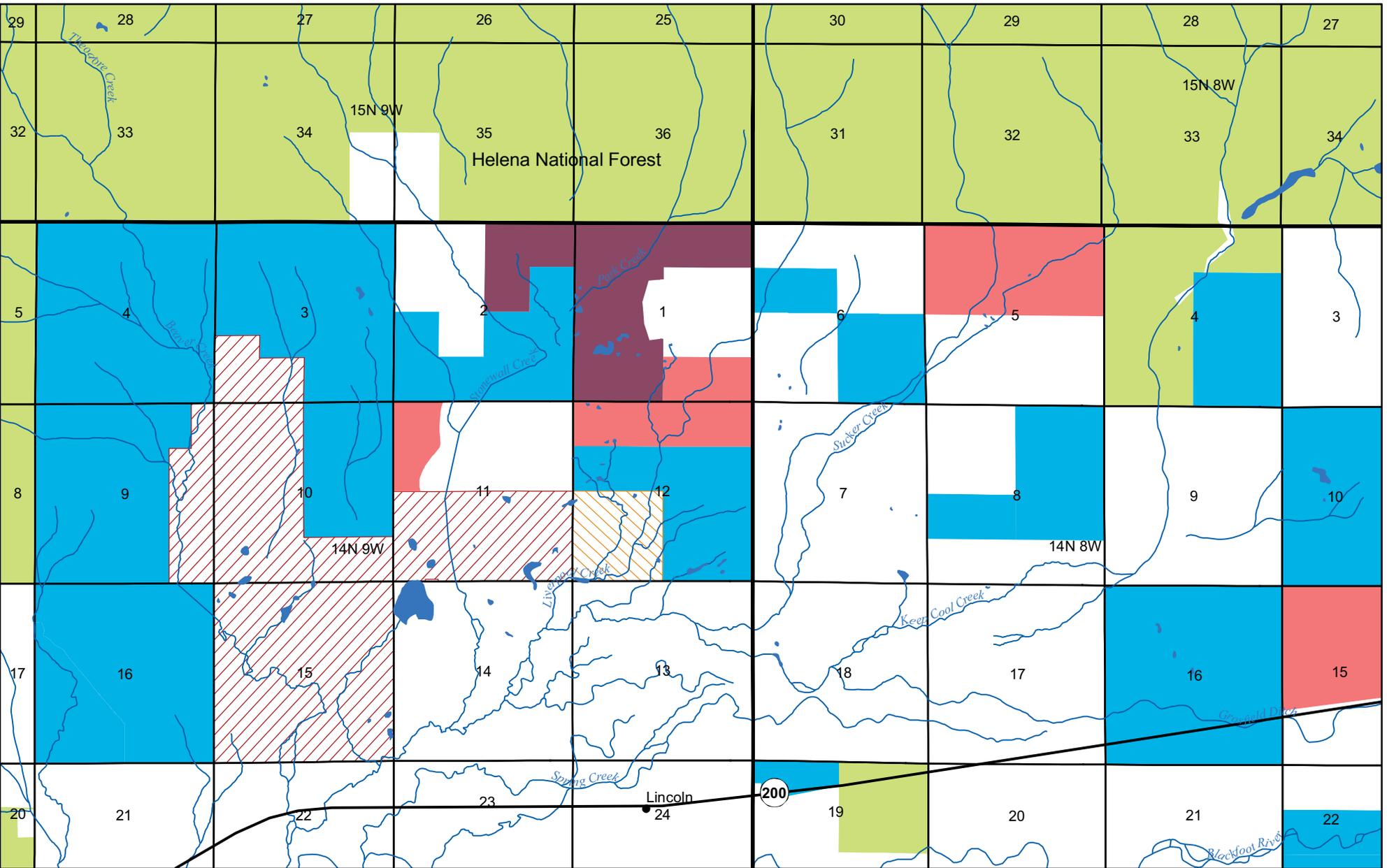
Map revised
March 25, 2010

1:63,360
1 inch = 1 miles

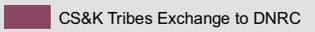
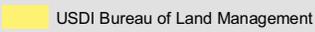
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CS&K Tribes Exchange to MT DNRC

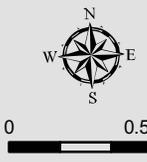


Legend

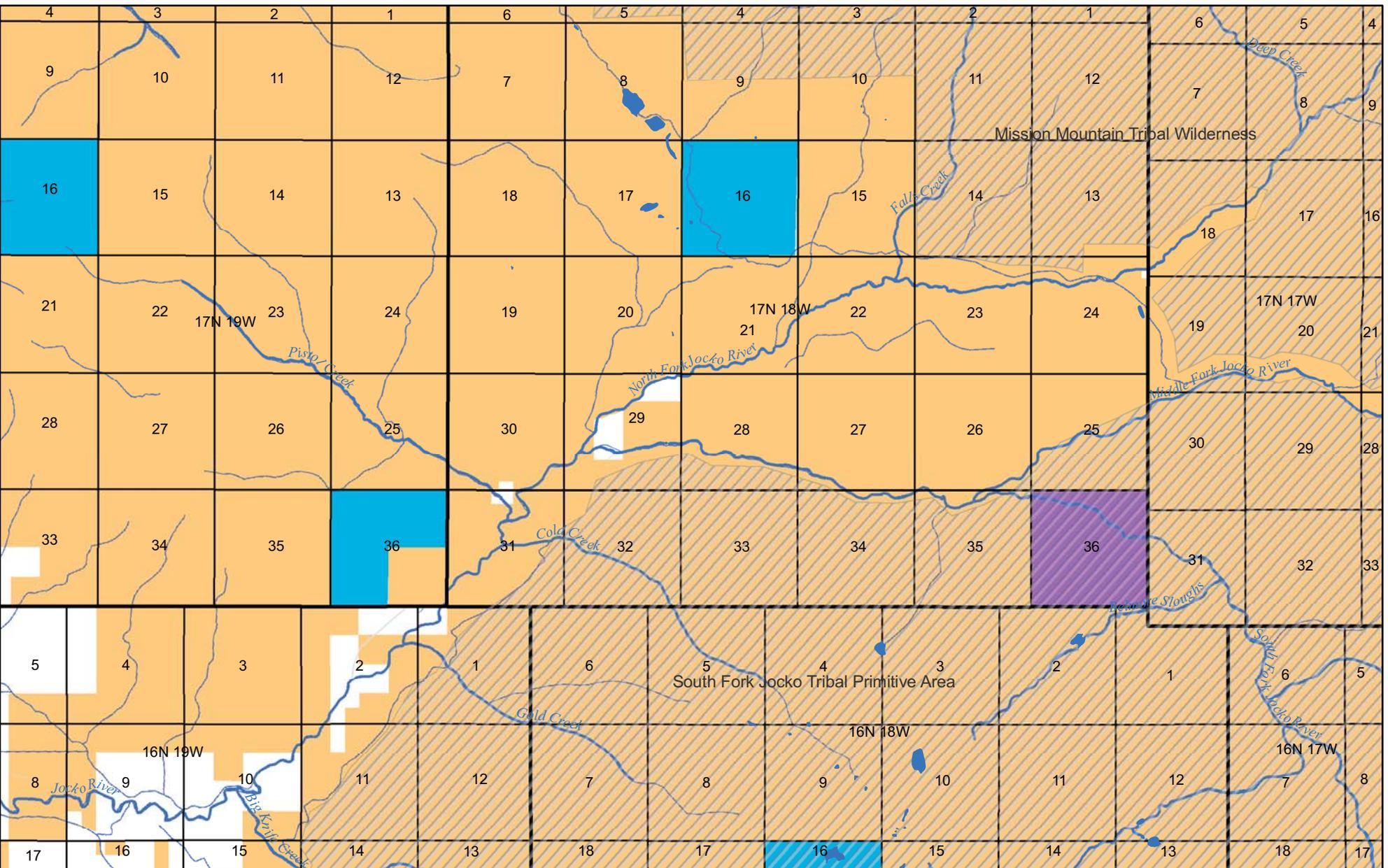
 TNC Ownership	 USDA Forest Service
 CS&K Tribes Exchange to DNRC	 USDI Bureau of Land Management
 Five Valleys Land Trust Easement	 MT State Trust Land
 US Fish & Wildlife Service Easement	 Private Land or Other Owner

Forest Management Bureau
Technical Services Section/dr
February 2009

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



MT DNRC Exchange to CS&K Tribes



Legend

- MT DNRC Exchange to CS&K Tribe
- Tribal Ownership
- Wilderness or Primitive Area
- MT State Trust Land
- Private Ownership

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0 0.5 1 2 Miles

