

Scoping Notice
Proposed Land Use Authorization on State Trust Lands in the Spencer Mountain Area
November 2, 2012

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is soliciting comments and concerns on a proposed use of State Trust Lands in the Spencer Mountain area near Whitefish, Montana.

The City of Whitefish is proposing to purchase a 10 year land use license to carry out the recreation and revenue goals of the Whitefish State Trust Lands Neighborhood Plan and the Trail Runs Through It Master Plan on approximately 400 acres and a 5.0 mile connector trail of forested State Trust Land owned by the State of Montana.

Through the proposed authorization, the City of Whitefish would:

- authorize and maintain a public right of access for quality non-motorized recreation throughout the proposed 400 acre license area and along the 5.0 mile Connector Trail (*see Figure 1 on reverse*);
- construct, rehabilitate, and reroute trails within the 400 acre License Area
- construct approximately 0.75 miles of trail of the Connector Trail
- conduct regular maintenance activities on the trails within the License Area and along the Connector Trail;
- improve the existing parking area and trailhead at Twin Bridges;
- construct and place trail signs to provide for multi-user experience within the 400 acre License Area and along the Connector Trail;
- reconstruct mountain biking "free-riding" infrastructure to meet appropriate guidelines;
- allow continued revenue generating activities, such as forest management, by the State of Montana;
- allow for non-exclusive and non-commercial recreational uses;
- allow for the development of a long-term recreation plan to provide direction for future area-wide recreation management including improved parking areas, trailheads, and trail systems throughout the area.

The area subject to the transaction is located in the Spencer Mountain area. The area extends south of Highway 93, east of Twin Bridges and K M Ranch Road, and north of K M Ranch Road (Sections 4 [160 acres], 5 [200 acres], 9 [40 acres + 2.2 miles connector trail], 15 [1.8 miles connector trail], 16 [1.0 mile connector trail] in Township 30 North [T30N], Range 22 West [R22W]) (Figure 1).

Funding for the purchase of the 10 year term license would come from private donations and other sources, through Whitefish Legacy Partners, Inc. and Flathead Fat Tires, Inc., Montana non-profit corporations.

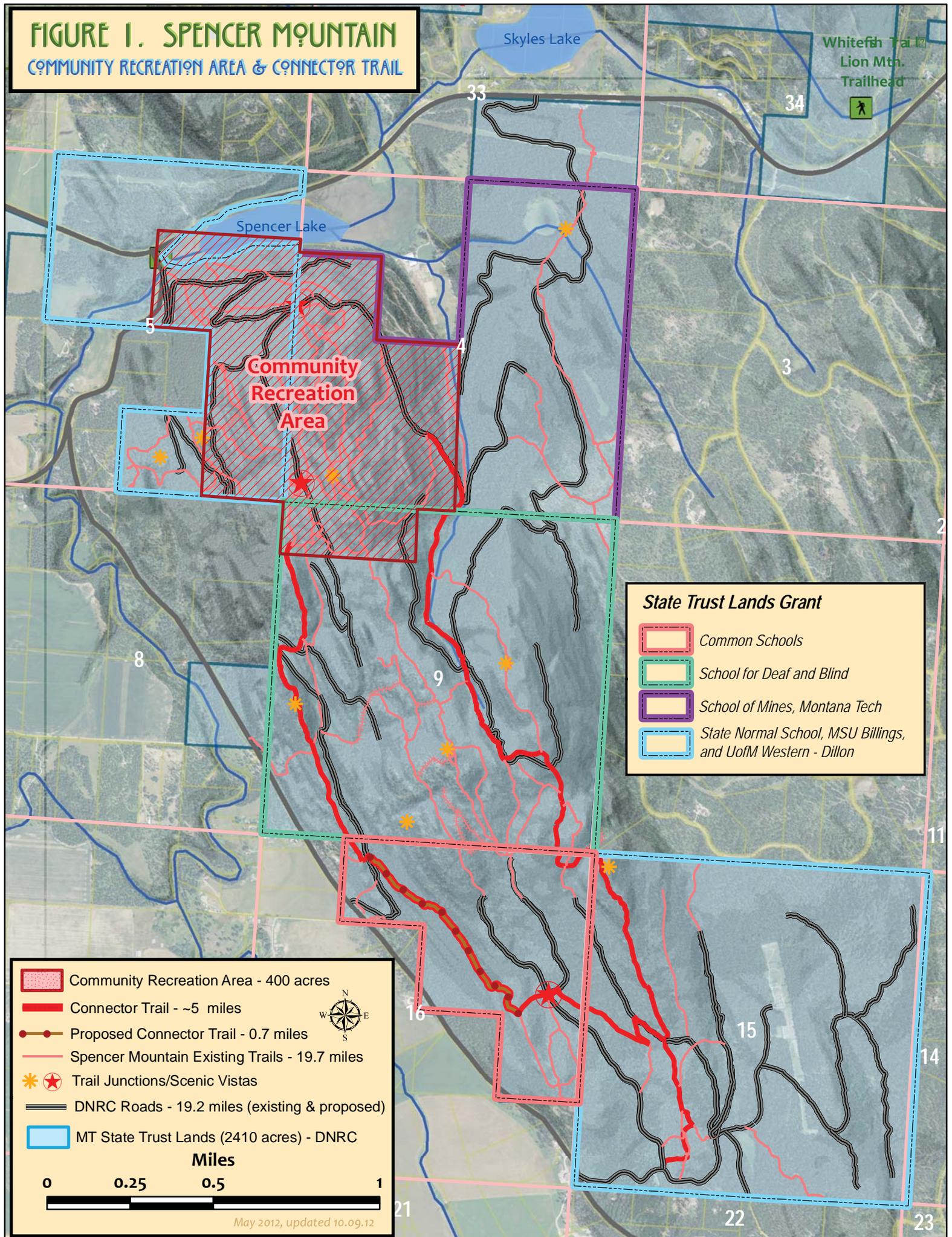
This notice has been sent to you because you are a neighboring land owner or we believe you may have interest in the proposal area. The DNRC is in the initial state of developing this project proposal and would like to receive public comment regarding concerns or issues. In accordance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act, public concerns about the project and potential environmental impacts will be considered and analyzed prior to a final decision on the proposed project.

The comment period will remain open until December 1, 2012. You may submit your concerns relating to this project by mailing or emailing written comments to Greg Poncin, MT DNRC, 655 Timberwolf Parkway, Kalispell, MT 59901-1215, or gponcin@mt.gov. If you have no comments, but would like to be kept on the mailing list for this project, call 406.751.2241 or email that request during this same period. If no response is received, you will no longer remain on the mailing list.

Sincerely,

/s/ Greg Poncin
Kalispell Unit Manager

FIGURE 1. SPENCER MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA & CONNECTOR TRAIL



State Trust Lands Grant

- Common Schools
- School for Deaf and Blind
- School of Mines, Montana Tech
- State Normal School, MSU Billings, and UofM Western - Dillon

- Community Recreation Area - 400 acres
- Connector Trail - ~5 miles
- Proposed Connector Trail - 0.7 miles
- Spencer Mountain Existing Trails - 19.7 miles
- *★ Trail Junctions/Scenic Vistas
- DNRC Roads - 19.2 miles (existing & proposed)
- MT State Trust Lands (2410 acres) - DNRC

Miles

0 0.25 0.5 1

May 2012, updated 10.09.12