

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

PHONE: (406) 542-4201
FAX: (406) 542-5807



February 14, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is beginning an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the potential sale of a parcel of Capitol Buildings Trust Land located approximately two miles north of Superior, MT, within Mineral County. This parcel has been nominated for sale by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 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. The funds generated from sales are then used to purchase property that is blocked or contiguous to state land, has legal access and provides recreational opportunities, has potential for increased Trust revenue, and consequently is more efficient to manage. The statute placed limits on the amount of Trust Land that can be sold under the Land Banking process. DNRC can sell no more than 250,000 acres and 75% of those acres need to be isolated parcels.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is considering the sale of the following parcel of land:

- A parcel of land located approximately two miles north of Superior, MT, is described as portions of SE4SW4 and SW4SE4 of Section 14, Township 17 North – Range 26 West, containing ≈12 acres. This parcel is currently leased by the DEQ as a repository to safely consolidate mine wastes from various locations within the Flat Creek/IMM Superfund site. Prior to construction of the repository, the site was forested, and does have public access.

The MEPA analysis will be conducted, and presented to the Board of Land Commissioners (Board) for preliminary approval. If approval is received from the Board, the Department will then conduct appraisals to determine an estimated value and recommended minimum bid price for the parcel proposed for sale. The parcel will then be brought back before the Board to establish the minimum acceptable bid and to secure approval to proceed with the sale process.

By this letter, DNRC is requesting comments under the Montana Environmental Policy Act regarding the possible sale of the above described parcel in Mineral County. Comments on the sale of this parcel will be considered if received no later than March 16, 2012, and may be sent to:



Comments may be made by e-mail at [redacted]

Additional information on the land banking program can also be found at

http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/trust/land_banking/default.asp#about. [redacted]

