

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

## STATE OF MONTANA

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December 14, 2022

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 School Trust Land located southeast of Hamilton, MT, within Ravalli County. This parcel has been nominated for sale by the Lessee through the state 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 Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is considering the sale of the following parcel of land: S2SW4 of Section 16, Township 5 North, Range 20 West. The parcel is located approximately 5 miles southeast of the town of Hamilton, Montana. The tract contains approximately 80 acres. This parcel is primarily grassland and does not have legal public access. A preliminary parcel evaluation indicates this tract generates a substantially lower rate of return than most other state trust lands.

A Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) analysis will be conducted and presented to the Board of Land Commissioners (Board) for preliminary approval. If approved by the Board, the Department will then conduct an appraisal 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 for the parcel, and for 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 property located in Ravalli County. Comments on the sale of the parcel will be considered if received no later than Friday, January 20, 2023 by 5 p.m. and may be sent to: Liz Mullins, Land Use Planner, DNRC Southwestern Land Office, 1401 27th Avenue, Missoula, MT., 59804 or [lmullins@mt.gov](mailto:lmullins@mt.gov).

Additional information on the DNRC land banking program can be found at;

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/trust/real-estate/land-banking>

Please feel free to contact me at (406) 542-4345 or [lmullins@mt.gov](mailto:lmullins@mt.gov) or Thayer Jacques, Hamilton Unit Forester at (406) 363-1585 or [tjacques@mt.gov](mailto:tjacques@mt.gov) with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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

Liz Mullins, DNRC  
Land Use Planner

cc: Deidra Kloberdanz, Real Estate Specialist  
Thayer Jacques, Hamilton Unit Forester