

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



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Initial Proposal Island Lake and Johnson's Draw Timber Sales March 5th, 2025

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Libby Unit is proposing to harvest timber on the following state-owned parcels:

Sec. 36, T29N, R27W (Island Lake) Sec. 36, T30N, R30W (Johnson's Draw)

The Island Lake parcel is located approximately 55 miles southeast of Libby, MT within the Island Creek drainage. The Johnson's Draw parcel is located within the Kootenai and Fisher River drainages approximately 9 miles southeast of Libby, MT.

The primary objectives of the proposed projects are to:

- Sell approximately 4.5-5.5 million board feet (MMBF) of timber to generate revenue for the Common Schools Trust.
- Promote the development of historic stand conditions while improving stand health and vigor.
- Reduce fuels and the related risk for a wildfire

An estimated 2.5-3 MMBF would be harvested on the Island Lake parcel from approximately 609 acres. To access timber on this parcel, approximately 0.5 miles of new temporary roads would be constructed, and 8 miles of existing road would be maintained. An estimated 2-2.5 MMBF would be harvested on the Johnson's Draw parcel from approximately 320 acres. To access this parcel, approximately 1.5 - 2 miles of new road would be constructed and 13.5 miles of existing road would be maintained.

A combination of ground-based and cable-based logging systems would be utilized across the proposed projects. Silvicultural harvest treatments for the proposed projects would include seed tree, shelterwood, overstory removal, or commercial thinning. The proposed harvests would contribute to the DNRC's sustained yield as mandated by state statute 77-5-222.

Machine piling and scarification, slash burning, weed spraying, hand planting tree seedlings, and pre-commercial thinning may also occur under the proposed action. Harvest activities could begin during 2026.

The DNRC is in the scoping phase of the project environmental assessment, so all volumes, acreages and road distances are preliminary estimates. In preparation for this project, specialists such as wildlife biologists, hydrologists, soil scientists and archeologists will be consulted.

The Montana DNRC invites written comments and suggestions concerning this proposal. Please respond by **5:00 PM on April 7th, 2025**, to:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Libby Unit
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Lincoln
County

Project: Johnson's Draw
Sec. 36, T30N R30W - Lincoln

Project: Island Lake
Sec. 36, T29N R27W - Lincoln

