Forested State Trust Lands: A Geographic Manifestation of Democracy

Presented by:
Sonya Germann
Forest Management Bureau Chief
What are we going to talk about today?

- Origin and Purpose of State Trust Lands
- Overview of Trust Land Management Division
- Overview of Forest Management Program
Origin and Purpose of State Trust Lands
Origin and Purpose of State Trust Lands

1783 End of Revolutionary War

Credit: Smithsonian
Origin and Purpose of State Trust Lands

1783 End of Revolutionary War
1785 General Land Ordinance
1787 Northwest Ordinance

Credit: Smithsonian
### Origin and Purpose of State Trust Lands

**Township Governance**

- **9.66 km X 9.66 km**
- **93.24 km²**
- **9,324 ha**
- **36 – 260 ha** ‘sections’

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Origin and Purpose of State Trust Lands

Agricultural Lands
Lewistown, Montana

Credit: Sonya Germann
Origin and Purpose of State Trust Lands

1783 End of Revolutionary War
1785 General Land Ordinance
1787 Northwest Ordinance

1889 Montana Statehood Enabling Act

Credit: Montana Genealogy

Credit: Derek Baker
Overview of Trust Land Management Division
Overview of Trust Land Management Division

Trust Land Management Division

Montana State Trust Lands

- Interstate
- U.S. Route
- Major Lakes and Rivers
- Montana State Trust Lands
- Montana State Boundary

Prepared by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation July 2010
Overview of Trust Land Management Division

Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board)

- Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
- Superintendent of Public Instruction
Trust Beneficiaries

- Common Schools
- The University of Montana
- Montana State University – Morrill Grant
- Montana State University – Second Grant
- Montana Tech of The University of Montana
- State Normal School (Montana State University – Billings and The University of Montana – Western)
- Public Buildings
- Veterans Home
- School for the Deaf and Blind
- State Reform School (Pine Hills)
- Montana Developmental Center
- Montana State Hospital
- Public Navigable Rivers
- Acquired Lands

Source: Trust Land Management Division Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report
Overview of Trust Land Management Division

Trust Land Management Division Programs

- Agriculture and Grazing
- Minerals
- Real Estate
- Forest Management
231,584 ha of scattered lands

Scattered lands present challenges:

- Road access
- Adjacent properties

62,486 ha of blocked lands

Blocked lands allow for more effective management:

- Easy road access
- Larger scale projects
Overview of Forest Management Program
Forest Management Program

“Sustainably manage Montana’s forest trust lands to maximize long-term revenue while promoting healthy and diverse forests.”
Forest Management Program

- Manage approximately 300,000 hectares of forest land

- 80% Available for Management
- 15% Unmanageable
- 5% Non-Commercial
Overview of Forest Management Program

40 Foresters
10 Managers and Planners
4 Wildlife Biologists
4 Forest Hydrologists
1 Soil Scientist/Geologist
1 Economist

Operating budget of $6 Million/year
Guiding Policies

- Annual Sustainable Yield
- State Forest Land Management Plan
- Administrative Rules for Forest Management
- Montana DNRC Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan
- Montana Environmental Policy Act
Annual Sustainable Yield

- Calculation determines the amount of timber that can be harvested annually on a sustainable basis while taking into account important ecological commitments contained in policies.
Annual Sustainable Yield

- Required to recalculate at least every 10 years.
- Recalculated and approved by Land Board in 2011 to be 135,920 m³.
- Montana Statute states that the annual sustainable yield constitutes the DNRC’s timber sale requirement.
Philosophy: “Best way to produce long-term revenue for the trusts is to manage intensively for healthy and biologically diverse forests.”
Administrative Rules for Forest Management

- Provide specific standards and measures under which the DNRC implements the intent of the State Forest Land Management Plan.
Overview of Forest Management Program

Administrative Rules for Forest Management

- Biodiversity
- Silviculture
- Watershed
- Fisheries
- Wildlife
Overview of Forest Management Program

Montana DNRC Forested State Trust Lands
Habitat Conservation

Legend:
- Major City
- Major Road
- DNRC Land Office Boundary
- DNRC Administrative Unit Boundary
- DNRC Land not included in HCP
- HCP Project Area

Area of Interest

Prepared by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Montana Environmental Policy Act

- Look before you leap policy.
- State agencies must consider effects of decision.
- State agencies must ensure public is informed of and participates in decision-making.
Contributions of Forest Management Program

- Provides sustainable revenue to the Montana’s schools
- Provides consistent contributions to regional forest economy
- Provide other important contributions
Overview of Forest Management Program

DNRC Timber Harvest Over Time

Source: Montana Return on Assets 2010, Trust Land Management System database
Revenue Generation – Gross Revenue (U.S.)

- **FY 2007**: $0
- **FY 2008**: $2,000,000
- **FY 2009**: $4,000,000
- **FY 2010**: $6,000,000
- **FY 2011**: $8,000,000

- **Revenue Sources**:
  - Timber Sales Sold
  - Forest Improvement Fees
Timber harvest on State trust lands provide a consistent timber supply to mills.

Timber harvest provide jobs in the forest products industry.
Overview of Forest Management Program

DNRC Timber Harvest Over Time

Source: Montana Return on Assets 2010, Trust Land Management System database
Montana Timber Harvest Volume

Source: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, The University of Montana; U.S. Forest Service Region One.
Overview of Forest Management Program

Share of Timberland by Ownership Class

- National Forest: 62%
- Private: 30%
- Bureau of Land Management: 4%
- State: 4%

Source: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2012
Overview of Forest Management Program

Share of Timber Harvest by Ownership Class

Source: Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 2012
Overview of Forest Management Program

Translates into jobs...

- According to Bureau of Business and Economic Research approximately 10 jobs are created for every 2,360 m$^3$. 
Overview of Forest Management Program

Jobs resulting from forested State trust land timber sales

Direct Employment...
Provides other important contributions:

- Water quality
- Habitat for wildlife and fisheries
- Recreational opportunities
- Open space
Questions?