



490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

April 1, 2026

Scoping Notice

Re: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks land proposal

Dear Interested Party:

Proposed Project Description

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) may be preparing an Environmental Analysis on a proposal to purchase a conservation easement within Lincoln, Mineral, and Sanders counties, Montana. FWP is working with The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Stimson Lumber Company (Stimson) on a proposed project to place 20,824 acres of highly productive timberland under conservation easement (see attached maps).

The proposed conservation easement, to be held by FWP, would ensure the opportunity for landowners to sustainably harvest wood products, preclude residential or commercial development of these timberlands, protect important wildlife habitat and associated key landscape connectivity, and provide permanent, free public access to the incorporated affected property. The U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program and grant funding raised by TPL would be likely funding sources if this proposal were to proceed to completion.

This project would conserve a year-round habitat and a movement corridor for elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and moose as well as critical habitat for bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx, ESA-listed Threatened species. Conservation easement terms would preclude the human-wildlife conflicts that come with residential development of properties within wildlife habitat, especially those with grizzly bears, black bears, and mountain lions. The property currently provides over 6,000 days per year of public hunting access that would be secured in perpetuity under this proposal. The project shares 115 miles of border with U.S. Forest Service and state lands as well as 15 miles of border with privately conserved lands.

Project Objectives

The primary objectives of this conservation easement project include:

- Conserve important fish and wildlife habitat including riparian habitat and movement corridors.
- Provide permanent free public recreational access for public hunting, fishing, and other recreation within the easement footprint.
- Secure public access to public land adjacent to the easement footprint.

- Ensure the opportunity for continued, long term, professional management of forest resources.

Public Involvement and Process

The 30-day comment period will begin on *April 1, 2026*. Please submit either written or e-mailed comments by ***April 30, 2026***, to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Leah Breidinger, Habitat Conservation Biologist
Re: Proposed Conservation Easement
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

lbreidinger@mt.gov

Comments received from this preliminary evaluation will help FWP determine public interest, identify potential issues that would require further analysis, and may provide insight for refining the proposal or for developing and analyzing one or more alternatives. Upon completion of the preliminary evaluation, FWP will determine next steps, which may include conducting an environmental analysis with additional opportunity for public input or taking no further action on the proposed project.

If you have any questions regarding this project or preliminary evaluation process, please contact Leah Breidinger at (406) 751-4573 or via email at lbreidinger@mt.gov.

Sincerely,



Amber Steed
Region One Supervisor

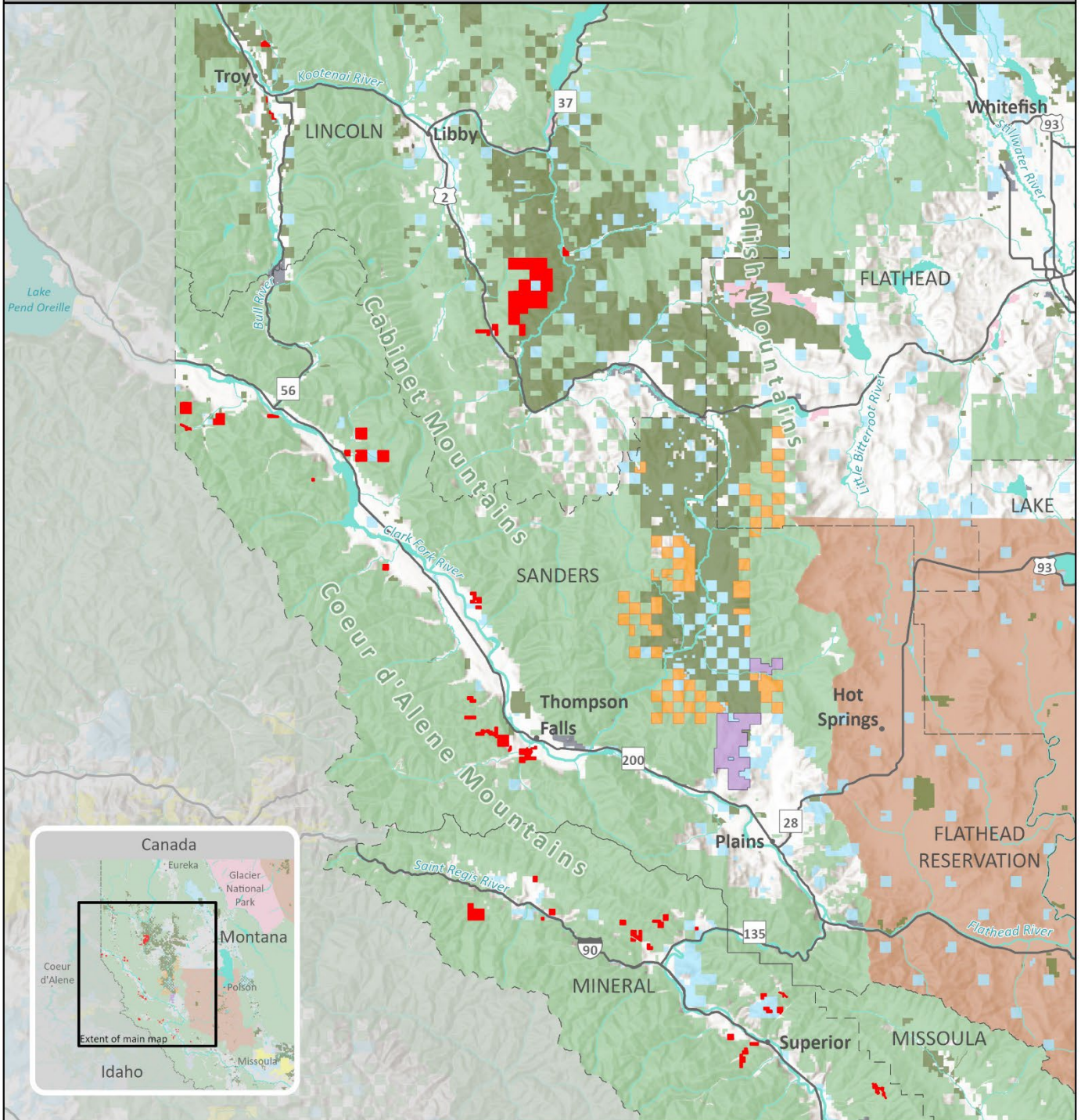


Kendra McKlosky
Region Two Supervisor

Stimson Timberland Legacy Project

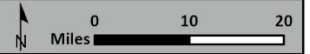
MONTANA FWP

20,824 Acres



■ Proposed Project	Proposed Upper Thompson Conservation Easement	■ US Bureau of Land Management	■ Tribal land
■ Existing Conservation Easement	■ Phase 1	■ US Forest Service	
□ County Boundary	■ Phase 2	■ Other Federal Land	
		■ State	
		■ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	

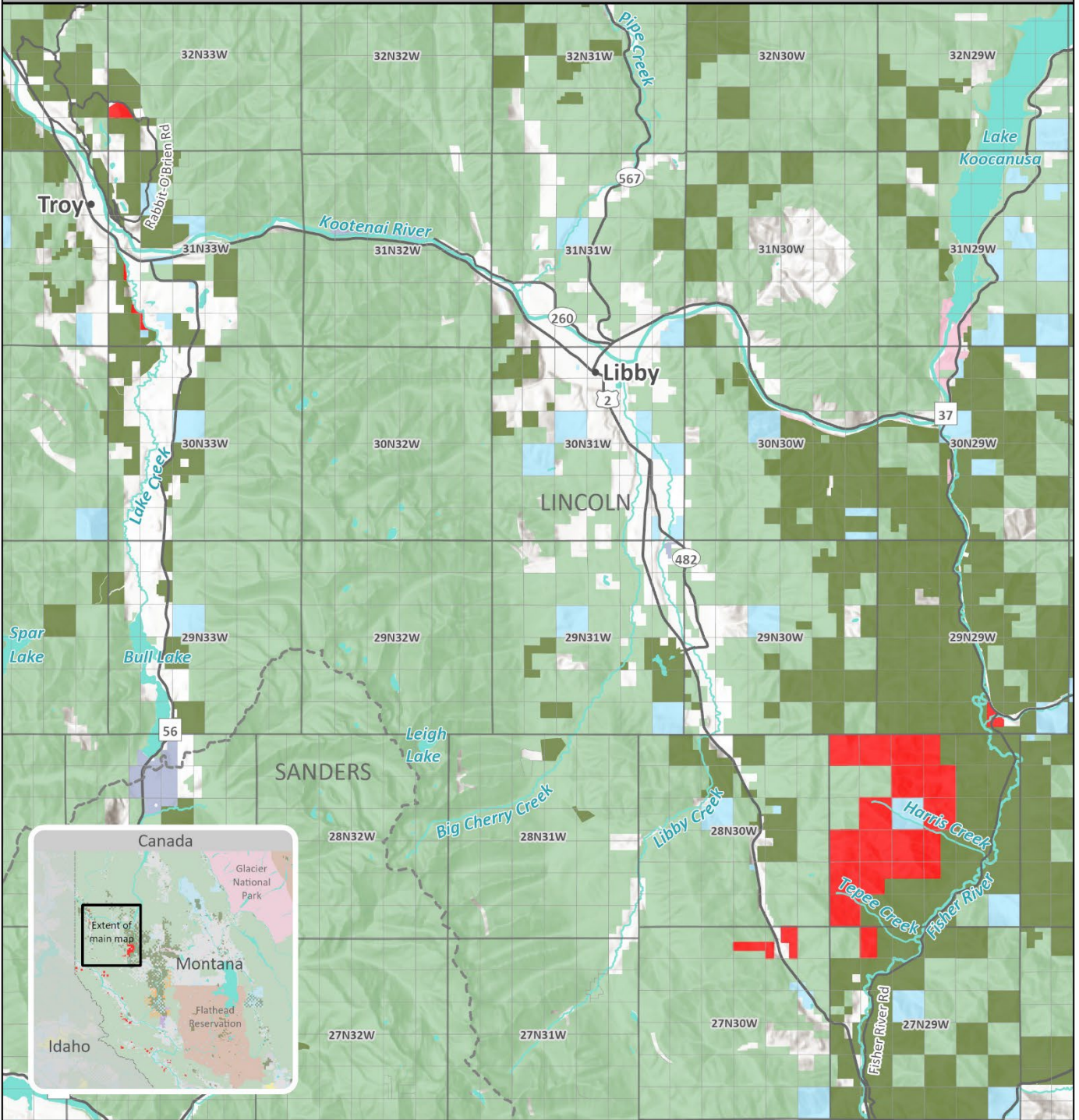
Conservation easement data from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, MT. Background imagery from Esri. All other data from Montana State Library, Helena, MT. Map produced by MFWP Geographic Data Services | 1/9/2026 | #0558859_Overview



Stimson Timberland Legacy Project

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Map Area 1 of 3



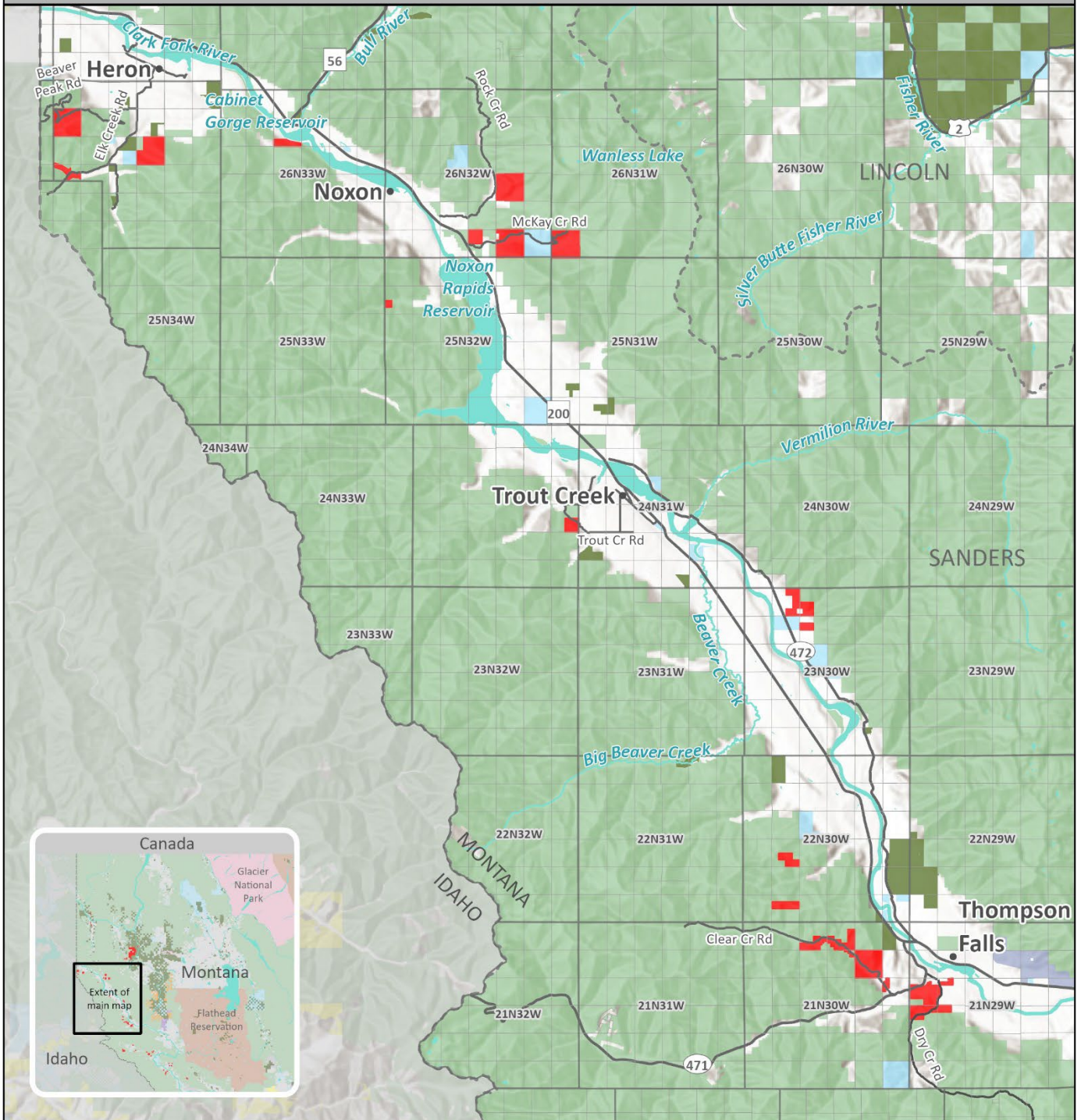
Conservation easement data from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, MT. Background imagery from Esri.
 All other data from Montana State Library, Helena, MT. Map produced by MFWP Geographic Data Services | 1/9/2026 | #0558859_MapArea1



Stimson Timberland Legacy Project

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Map Area 2 of 3



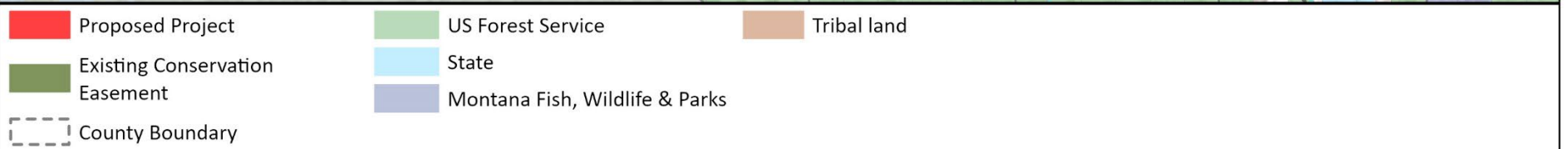
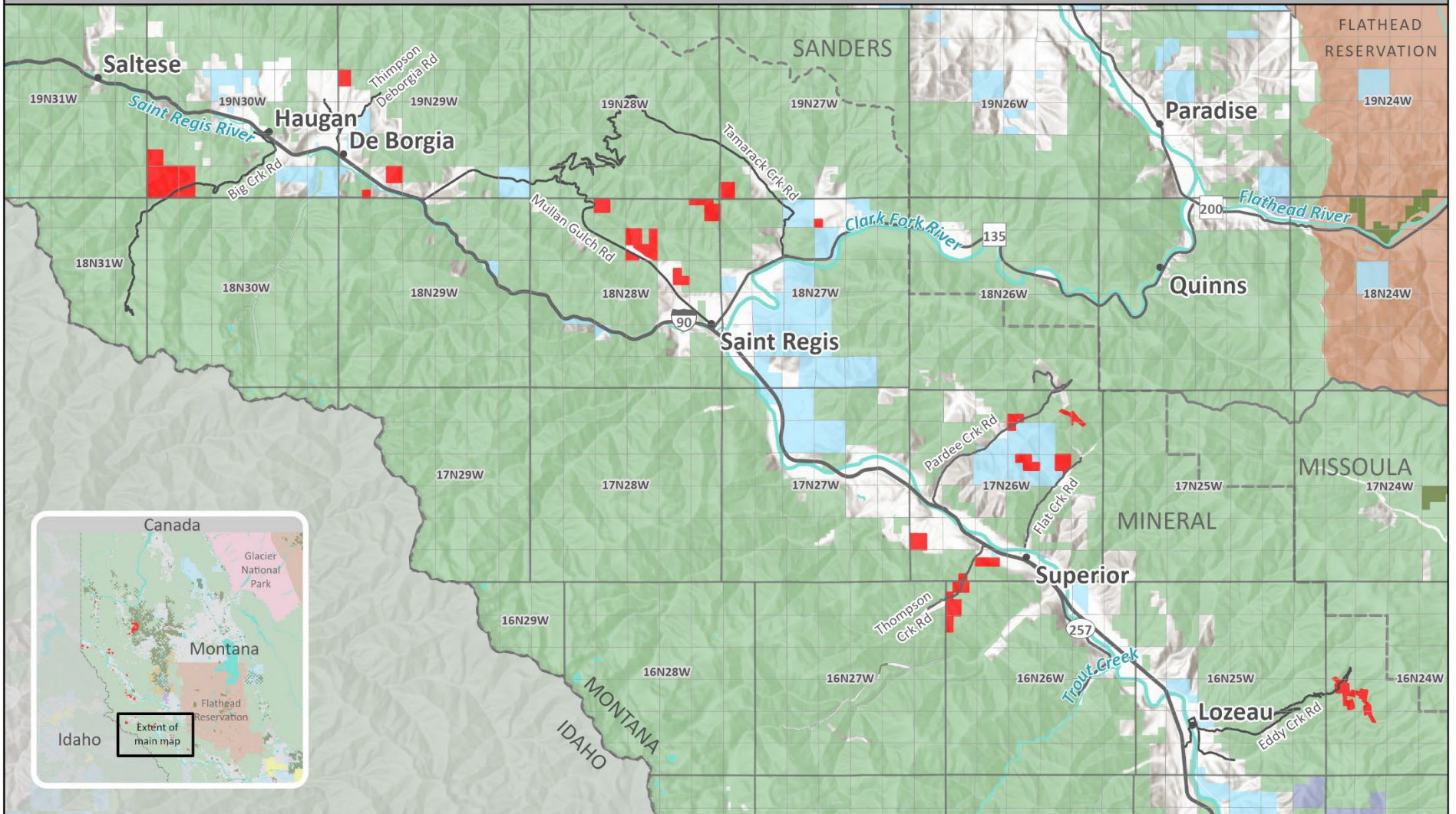
Conservation easement data from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, MT. Background imagery from Esri.
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Stimson Timberland Legacy Project

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Map Area 3 of 3



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