

NASTL
2024

RECREATION ON MONTANA TRUST LANDS

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Northwestern Land Office



HISTORY

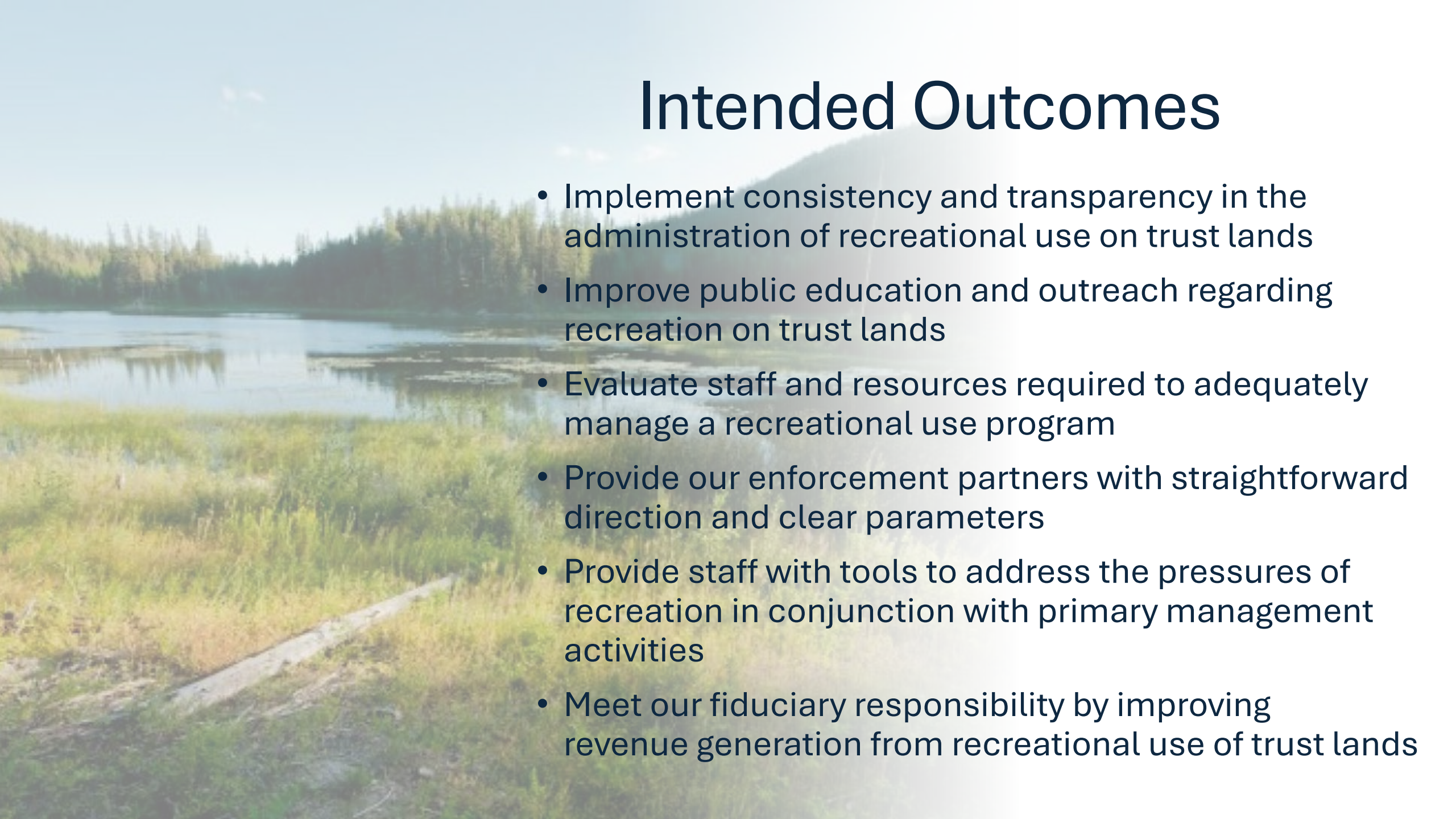
- Pre-1990s
 - Legally accessible, unleased state trust lands open to public recreational uses
- 1990s Legislative Changes
 - General recreational use licensing
 - Special recreational use licensing
 - Spending authority
 - Enforcement
- 2007 Agreement with MT-FWP

Recent Changes

- Public Recreational Use Coordinator
- Program Assessment and 5-year Plan
 - Assess the current state of recreational use and available resources
 - Address need for increased program management and clear direction
 - Plan Objectives:
 - Education and Outreach
 - Understand current staff and resources related to recreational use of trust lands
 - Develop policies, procedures, and regulations
 - Coordinate engagement with land management partners

Recent Changes

- Modified Licensing
 - Single license required for recreation on state lands
 - Trust Lands
 - Fishing Access Sites
 - Wildlife Management Areas
 - DNRC receives a portion of every license sold
 - Year 1 = \$2.1M, 53% increase in annual revenue
- Enforcement
 - Violations are now criminal misdemeanors
 - Amended Agreement with MT-FWP



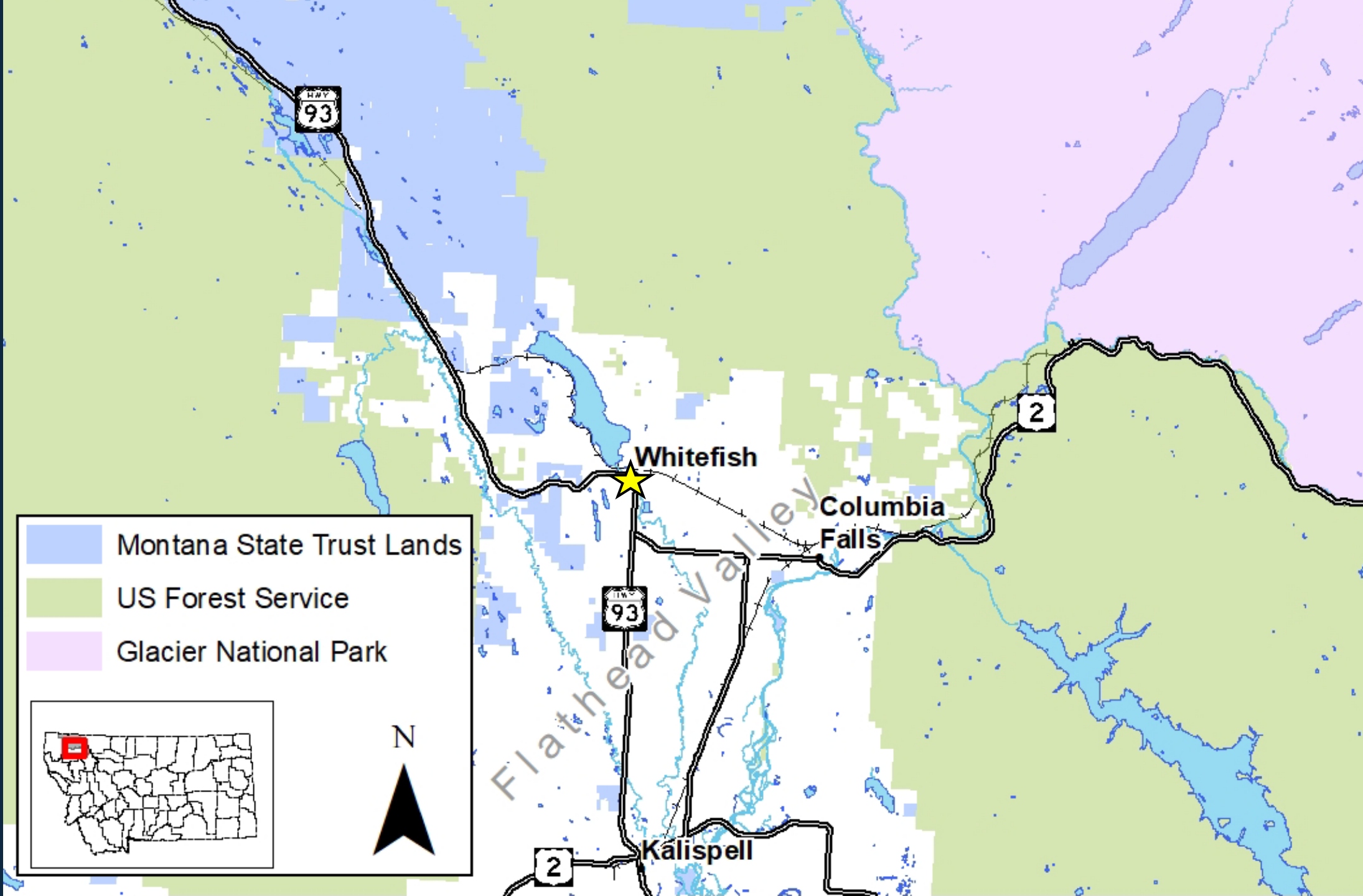
Intended Outcomes

- Implement consistency and transparency in the administration of recreational use on trust lands
- Improve public education and outreach regarding recreation on trust lands
- Evaluate staff and resources required to adequately manage a recreational use program
- Provide our enforcement partners with straightforward direction and clear parameters
- Provide staff with tools to address the pressures of recreation in conjunction with primary management activities
- Meet our fiduciary responsibility by improving revenue generation from recreational use of trust lands

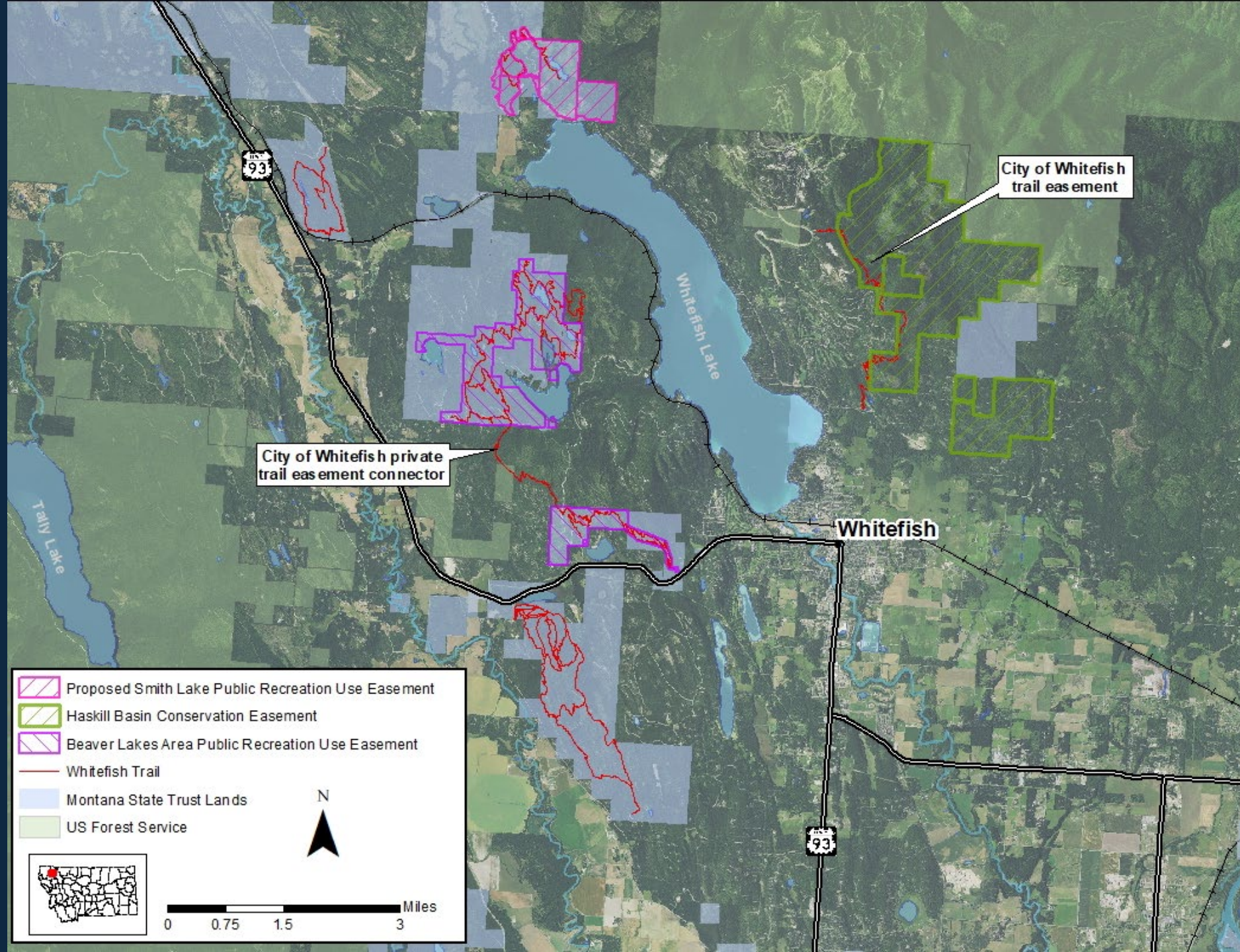
Easements for Recreational Use

- Granted to public entities for public purpose
- City, County, State Parks
- Trail corridors
- Large-scale Public Recreational Use Easements









Public Recreation Use Easements

- Principal Rights Granted
 - Public access in perpetuity and regardless of subsequent ownership
 - Construct and maintain a network of trails, trailheads, and other amenities
 - Manage recreational users on the trail system
 - Residential and commercial development rights
 - Expanded participation in DNRC management activities to minimize negative impacts on the recreational user experience
- DNRC reserves rights to all other activities including forest management, minerals, utilities, and grants of access



Challenges

- Developing partnerships
- Finding common ground and mutually-acceptable terms
- Ongoing management of recreational use and user conflict
- Greater complexity in forest management
- Managing public expectations
- Maintaining relationships



Ultimately, these authorizations:

- ❖ Ensure the trust beneficiaries receive full value for the public recreational use
- ❖ Facilitate collaboration with the community on common interests
- ❖ Enlist community partners in managing recreational use
- ❖ Retain opportunities for additional revenue generation



Questions?

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