



Department of Energy

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Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

September 9, 2011

In reply refer to: Cecilia Brown; KEWM - 4

To: People Interested in the Proposed Lake County Land Acquisitions under the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Mitigation Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to provide funds to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Tribes) to purchase 172 acres on six parcels of land in Lake County, Montana. In addition, BPA may fund the acquisition of an additional property, the Squeque Lane Property. All of the properties are within the Flathead Reservation boundary. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of these proposed land acquisitions and explain the purposes for them.

The funding will be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for bull trout and and/or westslope cutthroat trout and other salmonids as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse Dam on the South Fork of the Flathead River.

Enclosed you will find maps showing these properties. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of the six properties will be categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that further environmental review of this funding action is not required. This categorical exclusion was approved on September 9, 2011, and has been posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorialexclusions.aspx. Before proceeding with funding the Squeque Lane Property, BPA will complete an environmental review.

When the transactions are complete, the Tribes will own and manage the properties to maintain important fish and wildlife habitat. Conservation easements will be placed on the properties and held by BPA to ensure that the fisheries values and habitat are protected in perpetuity. The Tribes will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property.

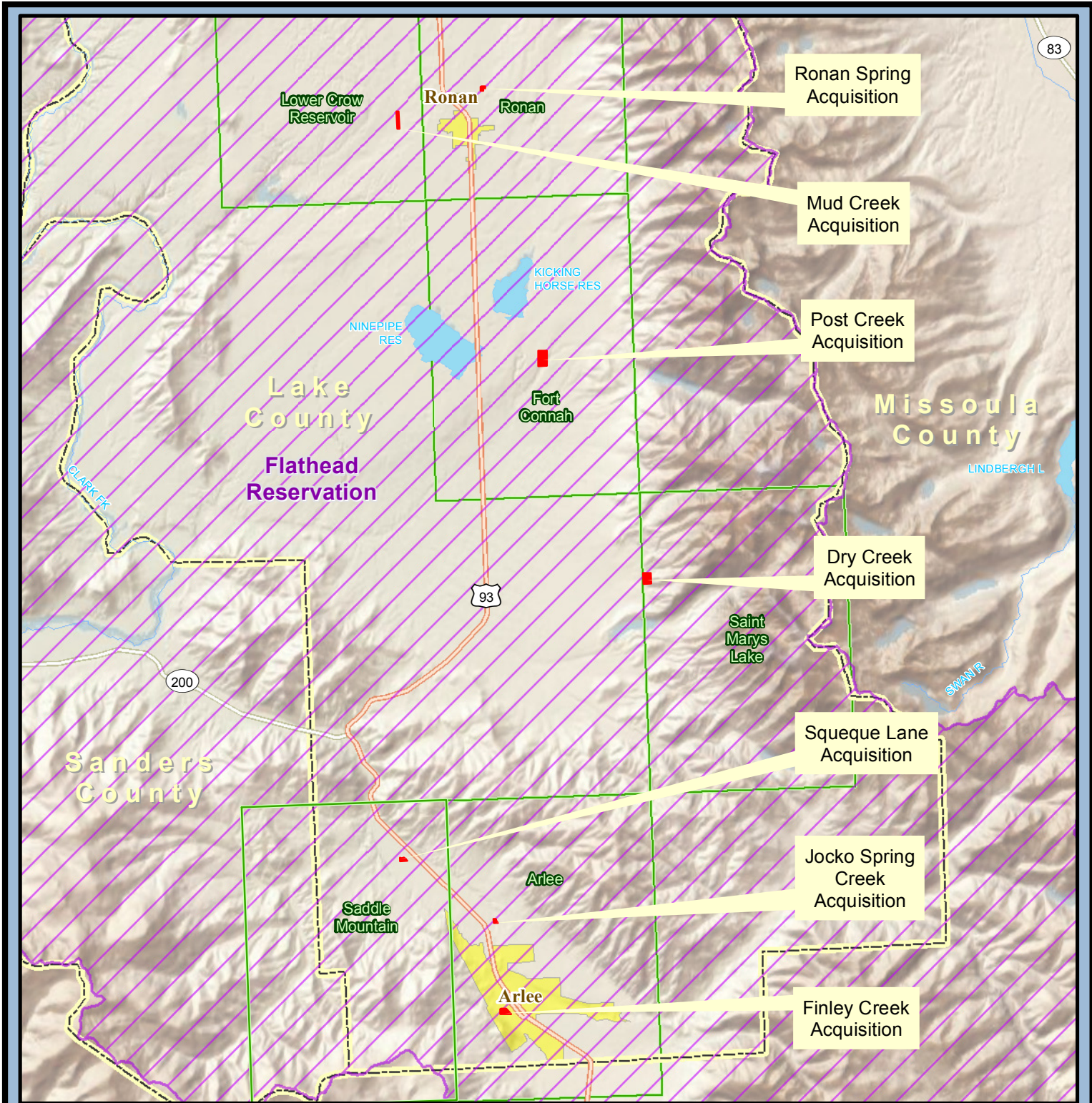
Pending BPA's approval of the management plan, any activities that could damage habitat (such as harvesting of wood products, grazing or livestock or construction of buildings) will be prohibited from occurring on the property. There will be some interim management activities on the properties, such as fence maintenance and the relocation of a residence. The properties have existing water rights for irrigation, stock and domestic use. The water rights will remain with the property and will be transferred to new ownership at the time of sale, but will be protected for conservation purposes in perpetuity.

If you have any questions regarding these land purchases, or would like to find out more about the pending management plan, please contact Cecilia Brown, BPA Project Manager, at 503-230-3462 or ckbrown@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519, please refer to the CSKT Lake County land acquisitions.




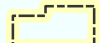

Sincerely,

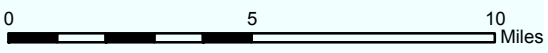
/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, September 9, 2011
Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

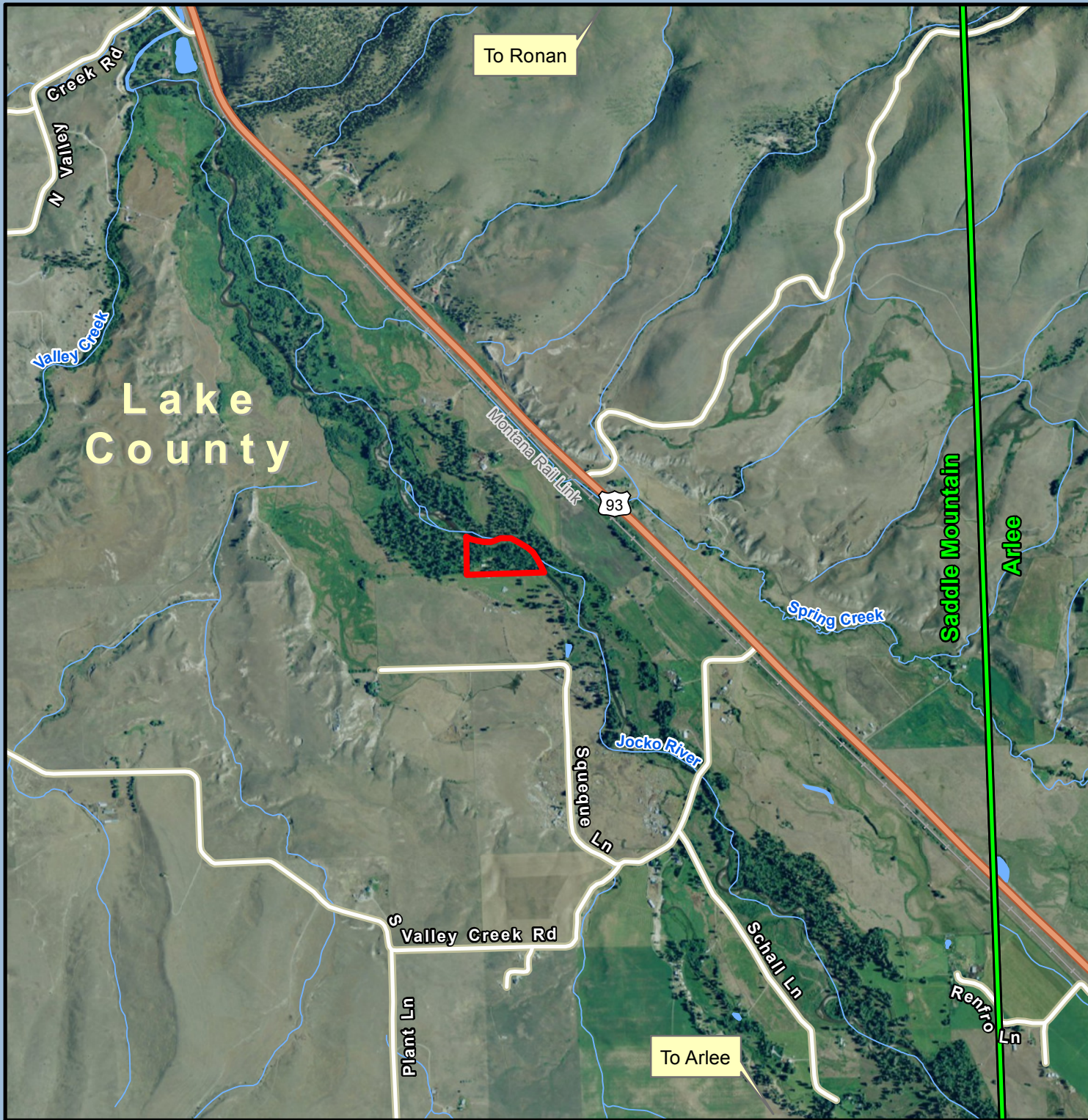
Enclosure:
Maps



Secure and Restore Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Montana - Overview Map



-  Subject Property
-  City Boundary
-  Quad Name and Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Flathead Indian Reservation

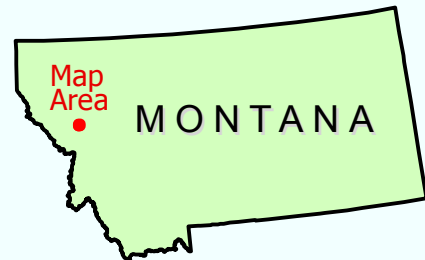
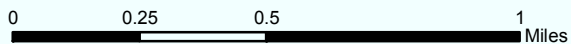


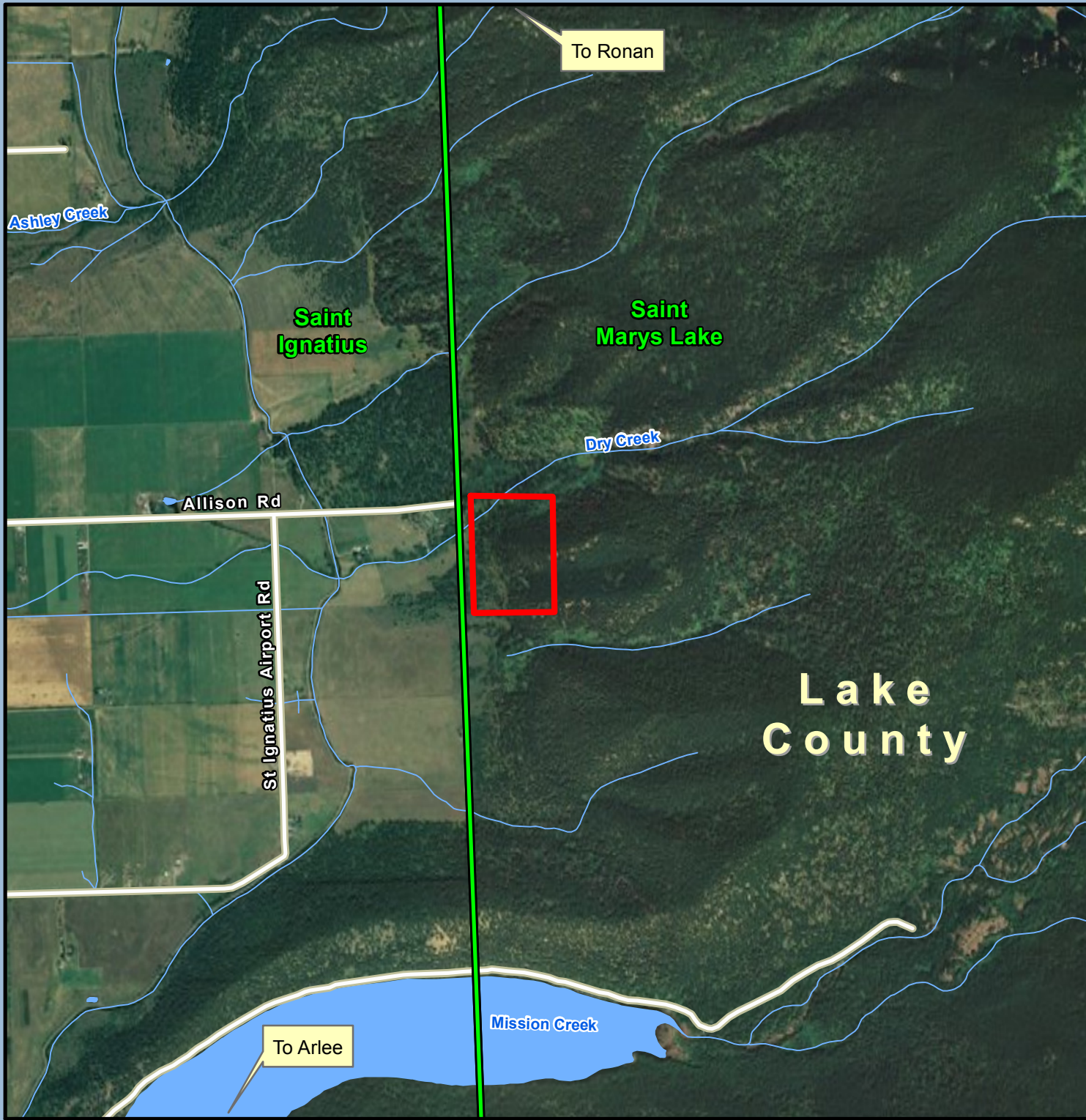


Squeque Lane Acquisition

Flathead Reservation - Saddle Mountain Quadrangle
(10 Acres)



-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary

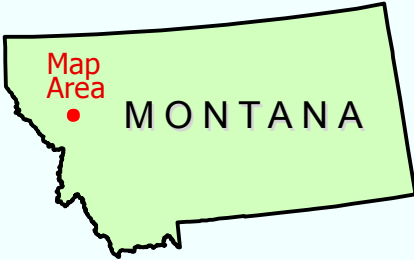
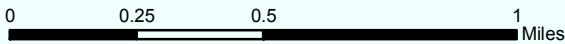


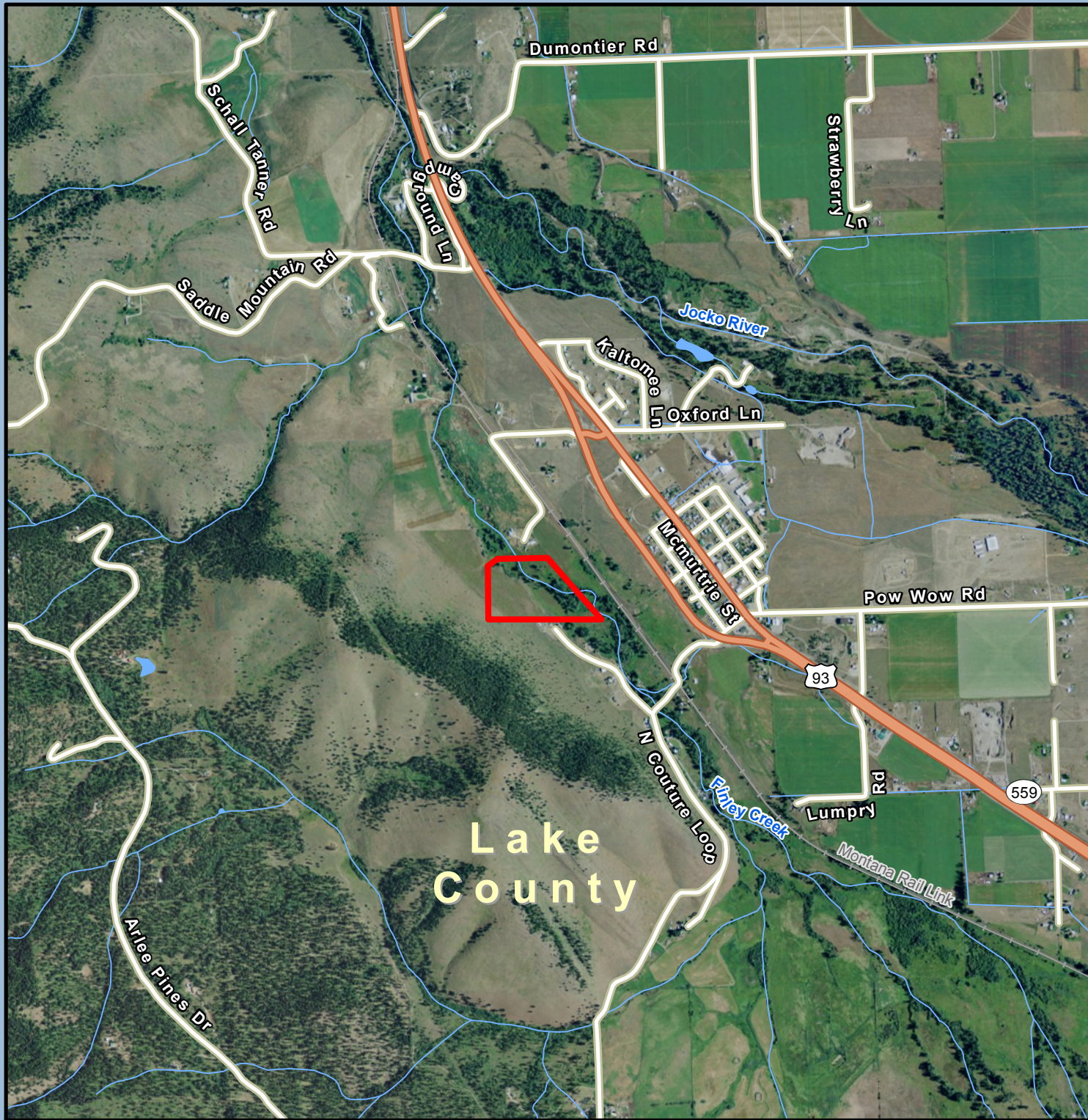


Dry Creek Acquisition


Flathead Reservation - Saint Marys Lake Quadrangle
(43 Acres)

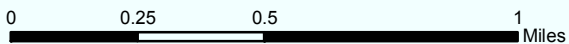
-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary

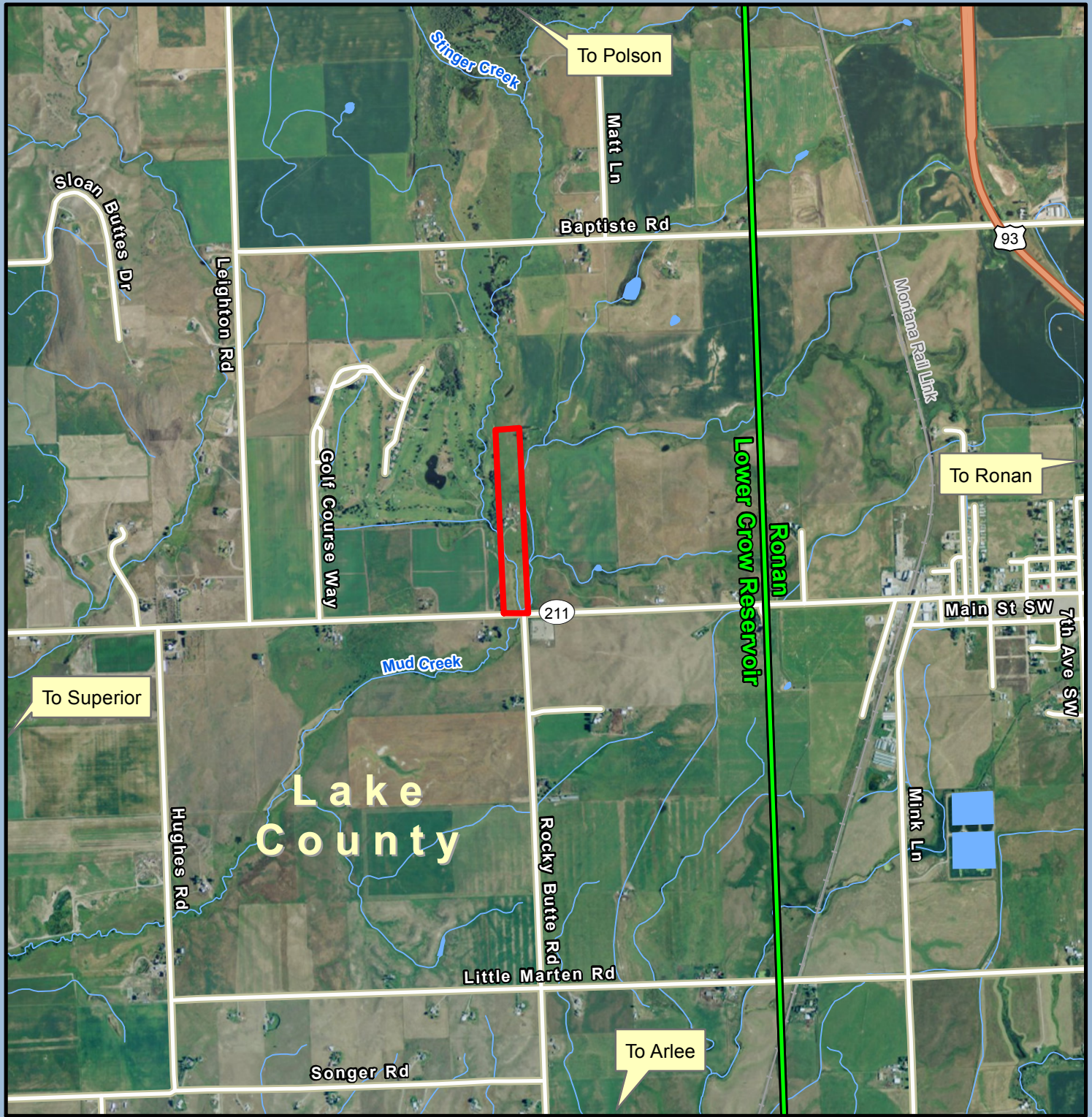




Finley Creek Acquisition
 Flathead Reservation - Arlee Quadrangle
 (24 Acres)



 Subject Property

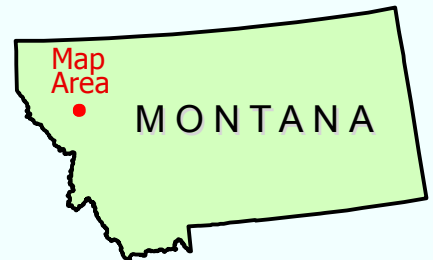
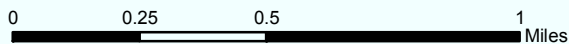


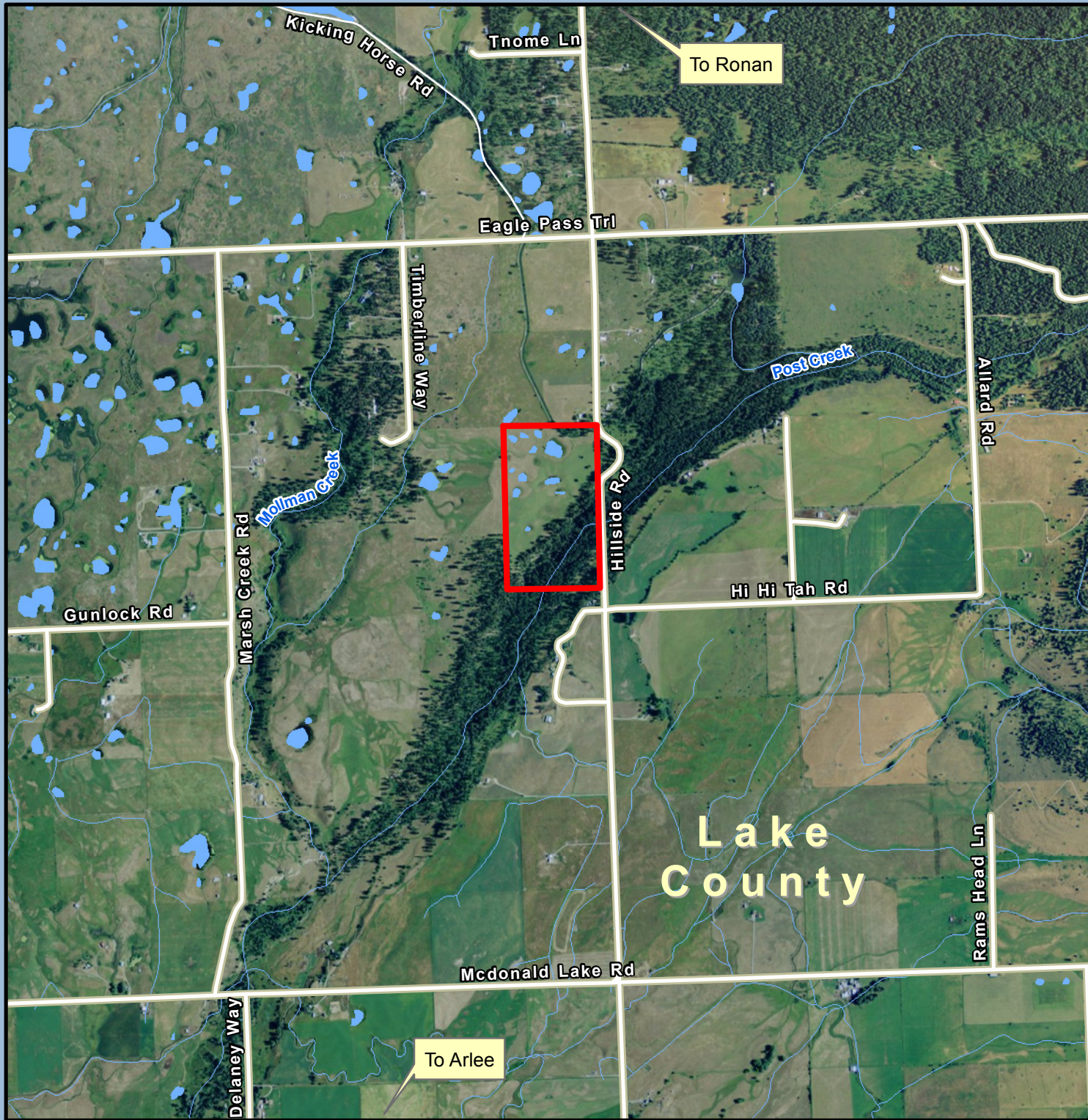


Mud Creek Acquisition

Flathead Reservation - Lower Crow Reservoir Quadrangle
(20 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary



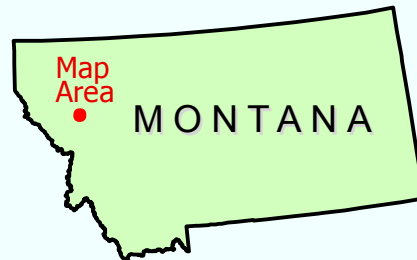
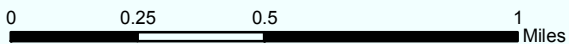


Post Creek Acquisition

Flathead Reservation - Fort Connah Quadrangle
(70 Acres)




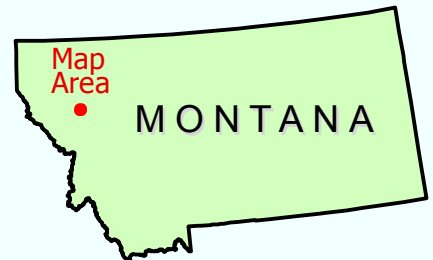
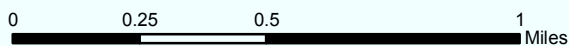
Subject Property

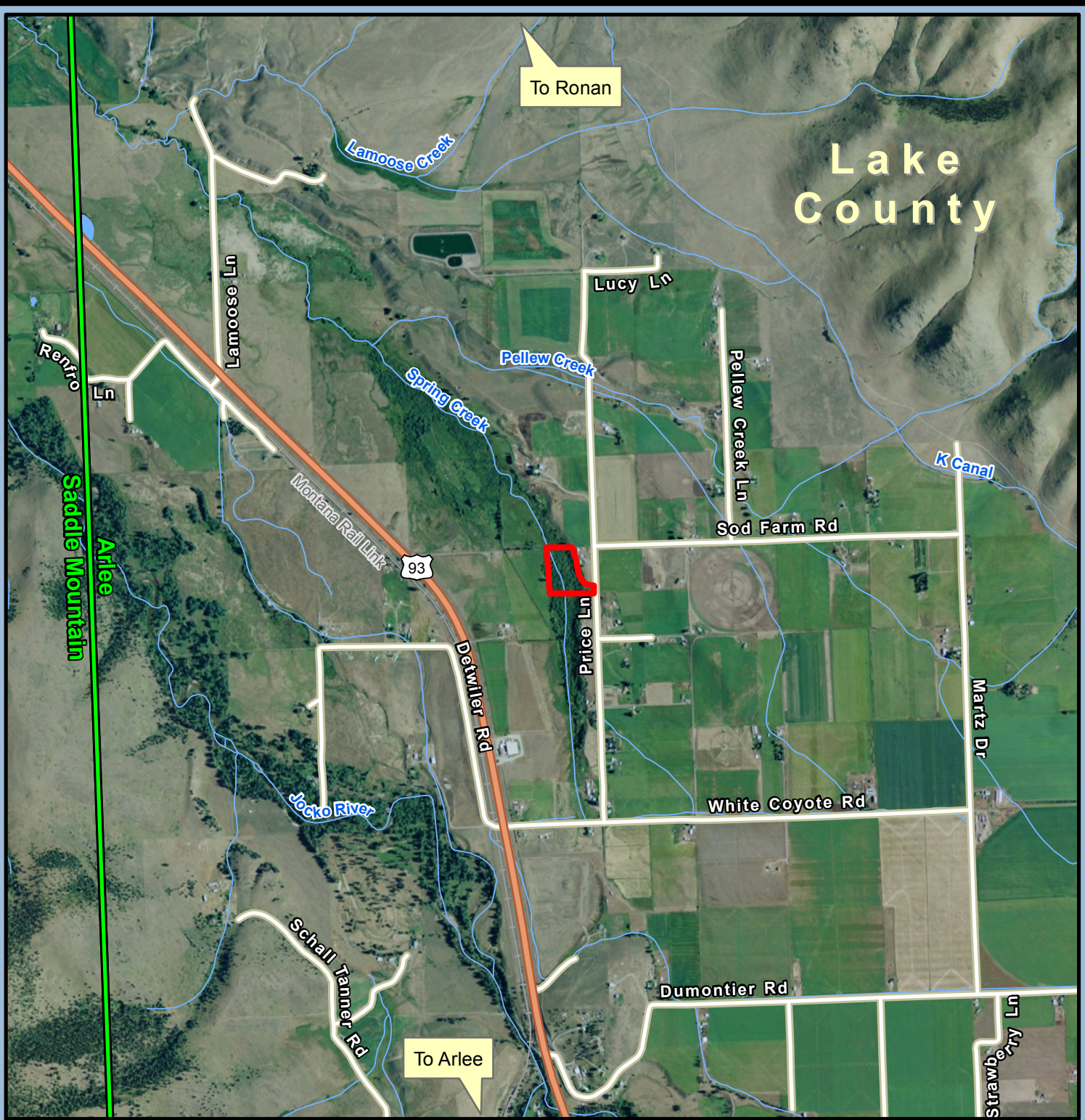






Ronan Spring Acquisition
 Flathead Reservation - Ronan Quadrangle
 (8 Acres)

 Subject Property





Jocko Spring Creek Acquisition
 Flathead Reservation - Arlee Quadrangle
 (8 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary

