CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	**Keno Creek Easement Grant from the MT. DNRC to the BLM.**
Proposed Implementation Date:	**2011**
Proponent:	**Bureau of Land Management**
Location:	**Sec. 36 T.13N., R.14W. P.M.M.**
County:	**Missoula**

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

This project is to analyze the granting of an easement on existing roads on school trust land within Section 36, T.13N., R.14W. P.M.M., to the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This action is in accordance with existing procedures outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Montana DNRC and the BLM. The acquisition of these road easements by the BLM would give them the full use of the roads to access BLM property. The roads in question were built by the DNRC during the Elk 36 Timber Sale (TS-1445). The construction and use of these roads was analyzed as part of an Environmental Assessment completed in February 2002.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The project has been scoped internally within DNRC; no public scoping was deemed to be warranted. This project is in accordance with an existing procedures outlined in the MOU that both the DNRC and BLM have signed.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

NONE

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action

No grant of road easements would occur at this time.

Action Alternative

This project would grant an easement to the BLM. The grant would be done in accordance with the MOU that the DNRC and the BLM have signed.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:
Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002.

6. AIR QUALITY:
What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

NONE – No pollutants or particulate matter will be created.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:
Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002. Concerns over Canada Lynx and potential habitat are being monitored on DNRC lands. The existing roads, and the areas that they go through, have been harvested recently under the Elk 36 T.S.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002.

11. AESTHETICS:
Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002. The roads to be included in this contract have been built. Given the current condition, no change will occur.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002. There may be future uses of these roads, but as part of current law, all potential effects will be analyzed under the National Environmental Protection Act or the Montana Environmental Protection Act.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:
List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

Elk 36 Timber Sale (TS-1445), February 2002 – Montana DNRC

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002. No changes that would effect human health or safety are expected.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

NONE

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:
Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

NONE

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:
Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

NONE

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:
Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

NONE – Only a small amount of time will be needed to continue this project. Effects to governmental services will be minimal.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:
Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

NONE – Please see the Elk 36 Timber Sale EA, February 2002. No effect is planned to be different for recreational use within the tract or on adjacent lands.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

NONE

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

NONE

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

NONE

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

There will be a payment to the Common Schools trust in the amount of $14,677. This payment will be balanced against other state acquisitions of access rights across the BLM.
BLM will gain permanent access to their ownership, allowing for increase and more efficient land management thereby increasing timber harvesting opportunities. There is little to no practicable opportunity for uses outside of resource management for this area due to terrain and lack of year-round motorized access.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name: Craig V. Nelson**	**Date: October 20, 2011**
	Title: Supervisory Forester, Clearwater Unit	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Action Alternative

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:
No Significant impacts are expected due to this action

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐ EIS ☐ More Detailed EA ☒ No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:** David M. Poukish	
	Title: Clearwater Unit Manager	
Signature: David M. Poukish		**Date:** 10-17-11