

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Molly McGuires Timber Permit

Proposed Implementation Date: 4/30/2017

Proponent: DNRC Helena Unit

Type and Purpose of Action: The DNRC Helena Unit is proposing a timber salvage in T11N R6E Section 36. See attached map. Under the proposed timber salvage the DNRC would salvage and sell approximately 250 MBF of Douglas-fir and harvest approximately 50 MBF of Ponderosa Pine and Douglas-fir sawlogs. Firewood and pulp may be removed in addition to sawlogs. The goals of the project is to capture the economic value, reduce Douglas-fir encroachment into sagebrush rangeland, encourage aspen regeneration, and remove western spruce budworm and Douglas-fir beetle infested trees, and to preserve regeneration from becoming denuded due to the western spruce budworm. The proposed project if implemented would generate an estimated \$7,237.50 for the common schools trust (CS), and additional \$2,137.50 would be generated in Forest Improvement Fees. Additional activities would include the placement of a log crossing of a dry draw, crossing class III streams and construction of approximately 1.3 miles of temporary road that would be reclaimed and grass seeded at the completion of the project.

Location: T11N R 6E Section 36

County: Meagher

Category (refer to ARM 36.11.447 (3)(a) through (w) for additional detail):

- a) Temporary Uses of Land with Negligible Effects
- b) Plans and Policies
- c) Leases and Licenses
- d) Acquisition of Land or Interest in Land
- e) Road Maintenance and Repair
- f) Bridges and Culverts
- g) Crossing Class 3 Streams
- h) Temporary Road Use Permits
- i) Road Closure
- j) Material Stockpiles
- k) Backfilling
- l) Gathering Forest Products for Personal Use
- m) Regeneration
- n) Nursery Operations
- o) Water Wells
- p) Herbicides and Pesticides
- q) Other Hazardous Materials
- r) Fences
- s) Waterlines

- t) Removal of Small Trees
- u) Removal of Hazardous Trees
- v) Cone Collection
- w) Timber Harvest (<100 MBF green or 500 MBF salvage)


By process of the adoption of the Forest Management Rules on February 27, 2003, pursuant to ARM 36.2.523(5)(a), the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division, has adopted the above categorical exclusions for activities conducted on state forested trust lands. "Categorical Exclusion" refers to a type of action that does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS unless extraordinary circumstances occur (ARM 36.2.522(5)).

Extraordinary Circumstances:


Will the proposed action affect one or more of the following resources, species or situations in the project area? If the resource, species, or situation is present, but project design avoids potential adverse effects on the resource, the answer is "No". One "Yes" answer indicates that Categorical Exclusion is not appropriate for the project, and an EA or EIS must be conducted.

- | YES | NO | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a) Sites with high erosion risk. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | c) Municipal watersheds. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | d) The SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | e) State natural area. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | f) Native American religious and cultural sites. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | g) Archaeological sites. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | h) Historic properties and areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | i) Several related projects that individually may be subject to categorical exclusion but that may occur at the same time or in the same geographic area. Such related actions may be subject to environmental review even if they are not individually subject to review. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | j) Violations of any applicable state or federal laws or regulations. |

The project listed above meets the definition of the indicated categorical exclusion, including specified conditions and extraordinary circumstances, as provided in the Forest Management Rules (ARM 36.11.447).

Prepared by:  3/29/2017
 (Name) (Date)

Decision by: MARTIN BALUKAS
(Name)


(Signature)

TRUST LAND PROGRAM MANAGER
(Title)

3/29/17
(Date)