

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Sheep Creek Timber Permit

Proposed Implementation Date: 7/2/2018

Proponent: DNRC Helena Unit

Type and Purpose of Action:

The DNRC Helena Unit is proposing to Sheep Creek Timber Permit to harvest approximately 80 MBF of Ponderosa and 20 MBF Douglas-fir. The Goals of the Sheep Creek Timber Permit is to meet obligations to the DNRC's Annual Cut as defined by the Sustained Yield Calculation for the Helena Unit and generate revenue for the Common School Trust. Access to this tract is controlled by the adjacent private landowner and this permit is planned to be done in conjunction with harvest on adjacent private land. In addition to timber harvest, slash burning, and landing site construction, and herbicide spraying would occur under this permit.

Location: 16N 1W 16

County: Cascade County

**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

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- 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

- YES       NO      a) Sites with high erosion risk.
- YES       NO      b) Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS.
- YES       NO      c) Municipal watersheds.
- YES       NO      d) The SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures.
- YES       NO      e) State natural area.
- YES       NO      f) Native American religious and cultural sites.
- YES       NO      g) Archaeological sites.
- YES       NO      h) Historic properties and areas.
- YES       NO      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.
- YES       NO      j) Violations of any applicable state or federal laws or regulations.

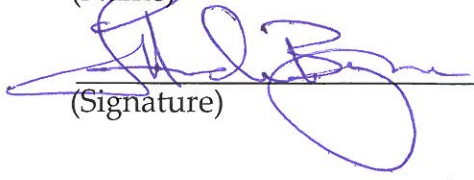
The project listed above meets the definition of the indicated categorical exclusion, including specified conditions and extraordinary circumstances, as provided in the Forest Management Rules (ARM 36.11.447).

Prepared by: Devin Healy  
(Name)

7/2/18  
(Date)

Decision by: Andy Burgoyne  
(Name)

HL Manager  
(Title)

  
(Signature)

7/2/18  
(Date)