

# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Weeksville 612

Proposed Implementation Date: May, 2020

Proponent: DNRC, Northwest Land Office; Plains Unit

Type and Purpose of Action: The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) proposes to sell approximately 1,625 tons (250 MBF) of timber in the Weeksville Creek area, Section 36, T20 North, R27 West, approximately 7 air miles north west of Plains, Montana. This action would produce estimated revenue of \$34,580 for the Common Schools (C.S.) Trust Grant; and \$7,426 in Forest Improvement funds. Under the proposed action, DNRC would harvest and effectively maximize the value of timber before old age, disease, and canopy encroachment further increase. (See Attachment 1, Vicinity and Project Maps).

Location: Section 36, T21N, R27W

County: Sanders

**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 ( $\leq 500$  MBF)

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: Jeffrey P. Hansen \_\_\_\_\_ 4/08/2020  
(Name) (Date)

Decision by: David Olsen \_\_\_\_\_ Plains Unit Manager  
(Name) (Title)

/s/ David M Olsen \_\_\_\_\_ 4/08/2020  
(Signature) (Date)