

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR  
DNRC REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY**

Project Name: Response Task Force Exercise

Proposed Implementation Date: August 17-21, 2020

Proponent: Malmstrom USAF

Type and Purpose of Action: Multi agency joint exercise training surrounding Launch Facility India-11, which is located within a tract of State Trust Lands.

Location: T20N-R2E-Sections 17 & 20

County: Cascade

**Category (refer to ARM 36.25.918 (1)(a-o) for additional detail):**

- a)  Lease and License Administration
- b)  Review of Lease and License Modification
- c)  Boundary Adjustments to Existing Leases
- d)  Project Planning and Design
- e)  Project Evaluation under **ARM 36.25.906**
- f)  Development of a Site Selection Report under **ARM 36.25.907**
  - i. **See Attachment A.**
- g)  Project Selection under **ARM 36.25.908**
- h)  Development of the Project Management List under **ARM 36.25.909**
- i)  Marketing of State Trust Lands Proposed for lease, license, or easement
- j)  Short-term land use licenses, involving no resource extraction or developed uses, and conforming to local permitting and land use regulations
- k)  Other RE Management Activities Administered by the Bureau on State Trust Lands that are not in connection to:
  - i. A Department Proposal for a Sale, Exchange, Easement, Placement of Improvement, Lease, License, or Permit; or
  - ii. A Department Review of an Application for Authorization of a Sale, Exchange, Easement, Placement of Improvement, Lease, License, or Permit
- l)  Department Request to Amend a Local Growth Policy or Zoning Regulation
- m)  Department Request to Amend or Develop a Neighborhood Plan or Extension of Services Plan
- n)  Annexation
- o)  Land Acquisition

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division, has adopted the above categorical exclusions for real estate activities conducted on state 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

- a) upon sites with high erosion risk.
- b) where critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species may be affected
- c) where Native American religious and cultural sites may be affected
- d) where archaeological sites may be affected
- e) where historic properties and areas may be affected
- f) where several related categorically-excluded individual activities may cumulatively result in significant impacts to the human environment because they will either occur closely in 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
- g) where the activity would result in a violation of any applicable local, state, or federal laws or regulations

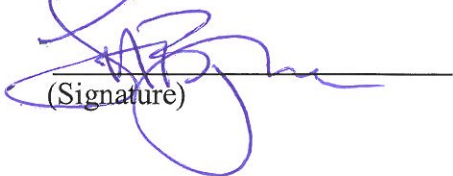
The project listed above meets the definition of the indicated categorical exclusion, including specified conditions and extraordinary circumstances, as provided in the Real Estate Management Project Rules (ARM 36.25.918).

Prepared by: Heidi Crum  
(Name)

7/29/20  
(Date)

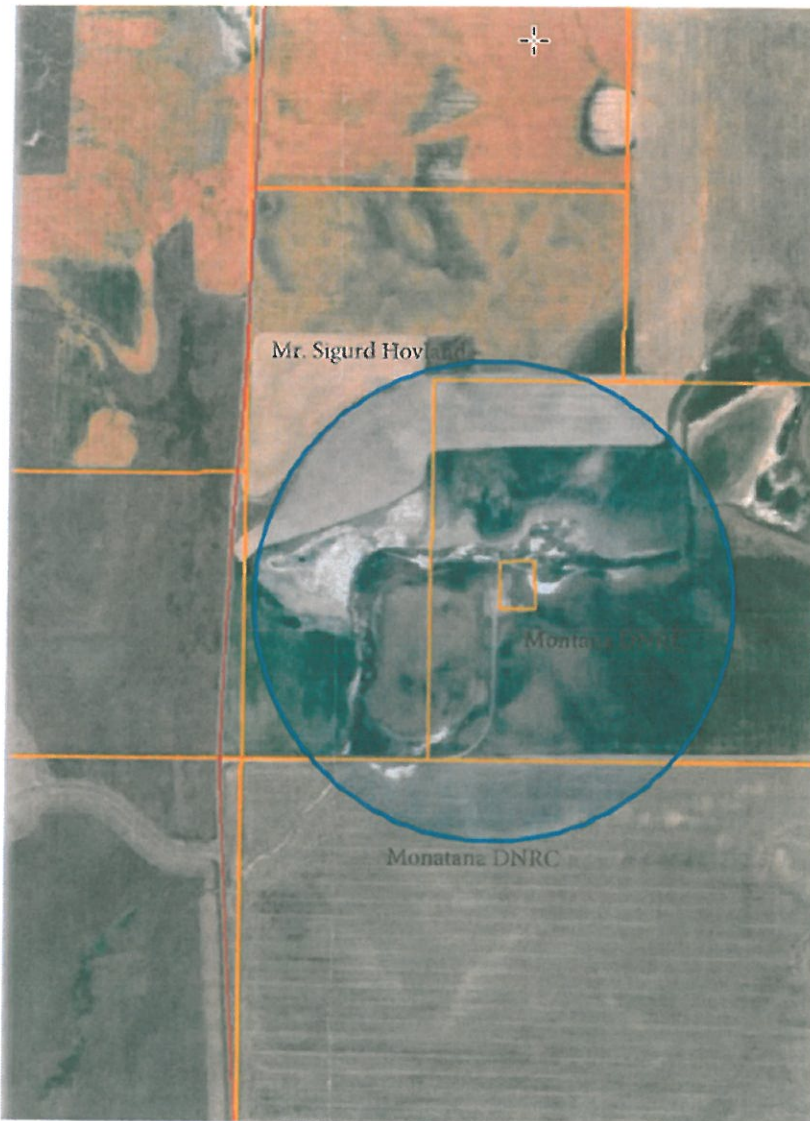
Decision by: Andy Burgoyne  
(Name)

Trust Land Program Manager  
(Title) *CLO*

  
(Signature)

8/3/20  
(Date)

## Attachment A



The blue circle is the perimeter around the missile silo which would be used for the project. Most of the State Trust Land within the project circle has been farmed. The remainder is wetlands, which will not be entered during this project.

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that no cultural or paleontological resources have been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological consideration is recommended for this proposed development.

A search on Montana Natural Heritage Program website indicated five species of concern habitat polygons overlap into the project area on State Trust Lands. However, the nearest point observations for any of these species is 0.9 miles away from the project area. The short time of the project should have no impact on these species of concern.