CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Murray Lake Blowdown

Proposed Implementation Date: February 2020

Proponent: Montana DRC - Stillwater Unit

Type and Purpose of Action: This project will salvage roughly 20 loads of blown down timber near Murray Lake in the Stillwater State Forest. This will capture the commercial value of the fallen timber and generate revenue for the MSU Second Grant and the Public Buildings Trusts. Harvesting will likely take place between February 2020 until June 2020. The timber will be processed and skidded to designated landings and will be hauled out when conditions allow.

Location: T31N, R22W Sections 18 and 19

County: Flathead

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:

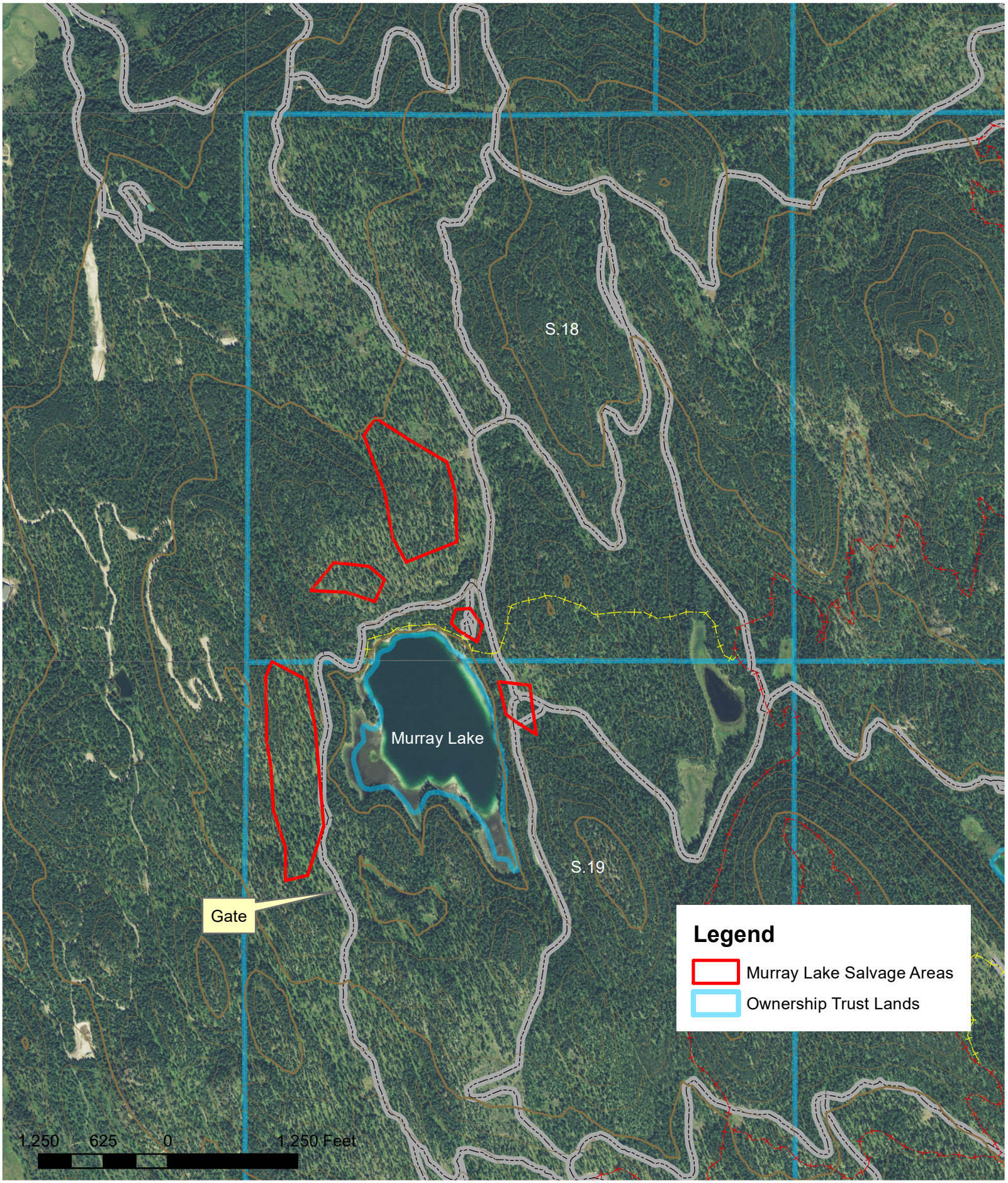
Will the proposed action affect one or more of the following resources, species or situations in the project area? If the resource, species, or situation is present, but project design avoids potential adverse effects on the resource, the answer is "No". One "Yes" answer indicates that Categorical Exclusion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

YES	NO	
☐	☒	a) Sites with high erosion risk.
☐	☒	b) Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS.
☐	☒	c) Municipal watersheds.
☐	☒	d) The SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures.
☐	☒	e) State natural area.
☐	☒	f) Native American religious and cultural sites.
☐	☒	g) Archaeological sites.
☐	☒	h) Historic properties and areas.
☐	☒	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.
☐	☒	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: Tye Sundt (Name) 2/5/2020 (Date)

Decision by: David A. Ring (Name) Unit Manager (Title)

David A Ring (Signature) 2/10/20 (Date)

Murray Lake Blowdown Salvage
T31N, R22W Sections 18 and 19