

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Six Mile PCT

Proposed Implementation Date: April 1, 2020

Proponent: DNRC - Trust Lands Management Division

Type and Purpose of Action: Precommercial thinning on 12 acres of overstocked Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. Regeneration will be thinned in order to promote growth of remaining trees and reduce susceptibility of stand to disease and insect infestation.

Location: Section 14 T15N R22W

County: Missoula

**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

- are soil type, slope, and activity.
  - Consult with Area Hydrologist/Soil Scientist to determine if your project is likely to contribute to unacceptable levels of erosion.
- 2) **federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS [ARM 36.11.447(2)(b)].**
- Determine if federally listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species or critical habitat is present. *Presence of a species or critical habitat does not alone preclude your project from categorical exclusion.* Federally listed T&E species include grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and bull trout. Critical habitat has been designated for Canada lynx and bull trout.
  - Consider local agreements (e.g. Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement).
  - Determine if your project area contains components important to habitat for listed T&E species (lynx habitat, dens, etc).
  - Consult with Area Wildlife Biologists and/or Fisheries Biologists to determine if your project is likely to have adverse effects to federally listed T&E species and or critical habitat.
- 3) **within municipal watersheds [ARM 36.11.447(2)(c)].**
- Determine if your project occurs within a municipal watershed.
  - Consult with Area Hydrologist to determine if your project is likely to have adverse effects to water quality or quantity within the watershed.
- 4) **the SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures [ARM 36.11.447(2)(d)].**
- Determine if your project occurs within the SMZ of a fish bearing stream or lake.
  - Consult with Area Hydrologist or Fisheries Biologist to determine if your project is likely to have adverse effects on fisheries.
- 5) **state natural area [ARM 36.11.447(2)(e)],**
- 6) **Native American religious and cultural sites [ARM 36.11.447(2)(f)],**
- 7) **archaeological sites [ARM 36.11.447(2)(g)], or**
- 8) **historic properties and areas [ARM 36.11.447(2)(h)].**
- Determine if your project occurs in or near one of these areas or sites (ARM 36.11.447(2)(e through h).
  - Consult DNRC archeologist with map of proposed harvest unit and road building to determine if your project is likely to have adverse effects to these sites or areas.
- 9) **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 [ARM 36.11.447(2)(i)].**
- Determine if your project occurs near other related projects.
  - If assessment of cumulative effects raises questions on an otherwise low risk project, do an EA checklist to determine the potential for significant impacts.
- 10) **Violations of any applicable state or federal laws or regulations [ARM 36.11.447(2)(j)].**
- Determine if your project violates state or federal laws (i.e. Forest Management Rules, SMZ Law, BMPs, Clean Air Act, etc.).

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: Lauren Converse  
(Name)

1/27/2020  
(Date)

Decision by: Amy Helena  
(Name)

Forest Management Supervisor  
(Title)

  
(Signature)

1/27/20  
(Date)