CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Jefferson County Noxious Weed Management

Proposed Implementation Date: Summer 2020 Through Summer 2023

Proponent: DNRC Helena Unit

Type and Purpose of Action: The DNRC Helena Unit is proposing to manage noxious weeds in accordance with MCA 7-22-2101 Through 7-22-2154. Noxious weed species to be treated with herbicide include but are not limited those listed on the State of Montana Noxious weed list. Herbicides will be applied by a qualified applicator or operator, according to EPA label requirements and during appropriate weather conditions for chemical application.

Location: 7N4W 36, 8N3W 16

County: Jefferson 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
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: Devin Healy (Name) 6/17/2020 (Date)

Decision by: Heidi Crum (Name) Helena Unit Manager (Title)

Heidi Crum (Signature) 6/17/20 (Date)