CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	**Wood Trusts Reciprocal Access Agreement**
Proposed Implementation Date:	**July 2015**
Proponent:	**Roy E. Wood**
Location:	**Section 16-T2S-R12E**
County:	**Park**

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proposed action is a reciprocal access agreement exchange consisting of a 60-foot wide, non-public, right-of-way easement for all lawful purposes, including utilities. The total length of easement granted to the State would be ~1.5 miles, accessing 640 acres of Common Trust land, the total length of easement granted by the State would be ~2.3 miles, accessing 1,710 acres of private lands. The agreement would require road maintenance and road drainage structure upgrades on ~0.8 miles of existing road and ~0.7 miles of new road construction on the private lands; and road maintenance on ~1.9 miles of existing road and ~0.4 miles of new road construction on State lands.

The purpose of the reciprocal access agreement is to provide a permanent access for all lawful purposes to the State Trust land.

Lands involved in this proposed project are held by the State of Montana in trust for the Common Schools (Enabling Act of February 22, 1889: 1972 Montana Constitution, Article X Section 11). The Board of Land Commissioners and the DNRC are required, by law, to administer these trust lands to produce the largest measure of reasonable and legitimate return over the long run for these beneficiary institutions (Section 77-1-202, MCA).

(See Attachment A - Site Specific maps)

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

A field review was conducted in September 2014, by Roy Wood and DNRC forester Chuck Barone.

Individual scoping notices were sent in June 2015.

Other contacts:

DNRC, Archaeologist, P. Rennie

DNRC, State Access Specialist, N. Kuennen

DNRC, Fisheries Program Specialist, J. Bower

Montana Natural Heritage Program

MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Bassett Hoiness (adjacent landowner)

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

A 124 permit from the MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks would be required for drainage structure replacement.

The Park County Weed Board administers the State weed laws in Park County.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action Alternative: A reciprocal access agreement would not be executed. Current management actions would be maintained.

Action Alternative: A reciprocal access agreement exchange consisting of a 60-foot wide, non-public, right-of-way easement for all lawful purposes, including utilities would be executed.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Soils are a sandy loam with a moderate amount of coarse rock fragments mixed within the soil profile. The soils are low to moderately erosive but can be mitigated with standard drainage practices.

Presently, the existing road on the State parcel receives minimal use from the lessee.

The proposed project would utilize 2.5 miles of the existing road and construct ~1.1 miles of new road on State and private lands. Existing roads would have drainage features and BMP's upgraded where applicable. New road would have grades averaging <10% with maximums of 12% and drainage features constructed. Approximately 300 feet of new road on the State land would be constructed on 45-50% slopes above the 100 foot SMZ equipment restriction zone. Soils tend to be rocky with interspersed bands of rock. The rocky nature of the native material and installation of drainage features would help to reduce any erosion issues and the large buffer to the intermittent stream would provide adequate sediment filtration.

With recommended best management practices and mitigation measures, no significant impacts or cumulative effects are expected to soil resources.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

The proposed project is located within the Peterson/East Peterson Creek drainages, intermittent tributaries to Greeley Creek. Greeley Creek is a second order perennial tributary to the Yellowstone River and supports a fishery. Peterson/East Peterson Creek do not support any fishery. Channel stability for the streams was observed to be good with functional riparian habitats adjacent to the stream network. A current grazing license exists within this watershed on the State land.

The proposed project access route would utilize 2.5 miles of existing road and require 1.1 miles of new road construction on State and private lands. Within the State parcel, 0.4 miles of new road construction would connect the private lands with the existing road. Approximately 300 feet of this segment of new road would be constructed on 45-50% slopes above the 100 foot SMZ equipment restriction zone, leaving adequate sediment filtration. Additional drainage features would be installed at appropriate locations on the road.

Land management activities such as road construction, maintenance and use can potentially increase levels of fine sediment delivery to streams if not properly located, designed, and mitigated. The primary risks to water quality that are associated with the proposed project are the under sized culverts and proximity to the streams on the existing road on the private lands. Risk of erosion and sediment delivery are highest when roads are located in areas with inadequate buffering between streams and other drainage features, on erosive soils, or on steep and/or unstable slopes. A lack of periodic maintenance, inadequate surface drainage features, and use during wet periods or conditions may also contribute to higher risk.

The proposed project would replace an undersized culvert in Peterson Creek with an armored ford crossing and an undersized culvert in East Peterson Creek with a culvert of sufficient size to accept a 100 year event. Road drainage features consisting of 18" culverts and rolling dips would be installed to help alleviate any additional drainage issues. A segment of the existing private road located within a riparian area and within the SMZ of Peterson Creek would be avoided with a new road location.

Implementation of appropriate road best management practices and mitigation measures would reduce the risk of sedimentation from the existing and new road; and reduce the risk and severity of soil erosion and potential sediment delivery to the streams and ephemeral drainage features.

With recommended road best management practices and mitigation measures, impacts and cumulative effects to water quality, water yield, watershed conditions, fisheries or any other beneficial uses associated with the watersheds adjacent to the proposed project area or any downstream tributaries are expected to be minimal.

6. AIR QUALITY:
What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

The project would include piling and burning of slash. Localized short duration particulate emissions occur during slash burning. Slash burning is normally conducted in late October through November. The DEQ and the Cooperative Airshed groups regulate particulate emissions during this period. Burning times are coordinated to 1) limit burning periods of acceptable smoke dispersion and 2) to limit the cumulative generation of particulates.

DNRC is a member of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, which coordinates burning activities related to forest management among the group's members in order to minimize impacts from smoke generated by those activities. As a member of the Airshed Group, DNRC agrees to burn only on days approved for good smoke dispersion as determined by the Smoke Management Unit in Missoula, MT.

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the proposed action are expected to be minimal.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

The State parcel is located in the foothill country north of the Absaroka-Beartooth Mountains. Lands occur along the forest/grassland interface in broken ground that includes ridges, draws, benches and rock outcrops. The elevations range from approximately 5,000 feet to 5,800 feet. Forest productivity is rated low to moderate. Past disturbance in the area includes a history of wildfires, grazing activity, timber harvesting and recreational use.

Forested stands within the State parcel occur on northerly aspects and are predominately even aged, single story Douglas-fir cover types. Douglas-fir is indicated as a climax species and dominant seral on the drier slopes with Douglas-fir/Ninebark (Psme/Phma) as the most common habitat type. Forested stands are included in fire group six. Historically, fire was important with low to moderate intensity fires acting as thinning agents. Common species of ground cover include ninebark, spirea, snowberry, pinegrass and elk sedge. The absence of fire, in combination with encroachment, has resulted in overstocked and suppressed stands. These conditions make the stands more susceptible to fire and attack from insects and disease.

The proposed project would utilize 2.5 miles of the existing road and construct ~1.1 miles of new road on State and private lands. The existing 1.95 miles of road on the State parcel would continue to be used and approximately 0.4 miles of new road would be constructed to provide the access from private lands to the north. As there would be no public access granted and State use of the access would be light and sporadic, the proponent would bear the majority of the road and weed maintenance.

Noxious weeds along the access route include hound's tongue and Canada thistle with a small area of spotted knapweed at the beginning of the private access road from the county road. Current uses of the area would continue with the likelihood of increased road use in the future due to utilization of the proposed new access by the proponent. The potential for the spread of noxious weeds would also increase from low to moderate due to increased road use.

Road construction and maintenance activities would directly affect vegetation in these areas. The effect to vegetation would occur along a confined roadway (60 foot right-of-way) and the overall vegetation in the general area would not be affected. The newly exposed areas would have a greater risk of weed infestation.

All disturbed areas would be seeded with a native grass mixture and erosion control features would be installed where needed. Annual road and weed maintenance would be provided by the Proponent and the State on a proportional use basis. No rare plants or cover types have been noted in the project area or State tract.

The DNRC requires the washing of equipment, seeding of disturbed areas and monitoring of disturbed areas to minimize the potential of noxious weeds being introduced.

With implementation of best management practices and recommended mitigation measures, no significant impacts or cumulative effects to vegetative communities are expected from the proposed actions.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

A variety of big game, small mammals, raptors and songbirds potentially use this area. The intermittent streams within the project area do not support any fishery. The project area lies within the MT. Fish, Wildlife and Parks Absaroka Elk Management Unit/Hunting District 560.

There would be no human development that would decrease linkage value and proposed activities would not impede wildlife movements across the landscape, valleys or mountain ranges.

No direct and indirect effects to habitat security for wildlife would be anticipated due to the loss of cover. No direct and indirect effects to habitat linkage or use of the area as a movement corridor would be anticipated. Negligible cumulative effects to habitat security, habitat linkage and movement corridors for wildlife would be anticipated.

Due to the small size of the project, the availability of adequate habitat on adjacent lands and within the affected landscape, and additional recommended mitigation measures, adverse direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to wildlife as a result of the proposed actions are expected to be negligible. No direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to the fisheries within the watersheds are expected as a result of implementing the proposed actions.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:
Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

The intermittent streams within the project area do not support any cold-water fishery. Greeley Creek drainage supports a population of Yellowstone Cutthroat trout. Due to the proposed location of the road, relatively gentle topography, and distance from any cold-water fishery, the proposed project should not adversely affect fisheries habitats.

The project area lies approximately 21 miles north of the GYE grizzly bear recovery zone, and approximately 7 miles north of what would be considered occupied habitat. It is possible that a few grizzly bears may periodically use the general area as part of their home ranges during the non-denning seasons. Cover and habitat connectivity associated with riparian areas would not be altered. Ample amounts of hiding cover and connected mature forest patches would remain in the project area, which would maintain suitable cover conditions for grizzly bears, should they occasionally use the area. Adverse direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to grizzly bears as a result of this project are expected to be negligible.

While the current forest cover types within the project area are considered suitable for use by lynx, they typically do not contain high horizontal cover comprised of subalpine and spruce bows. Thus, even considering the limited presence of several habitat attributes within the project area that are known to be important for lynx and snowshoe hares, habitat in this area is likely best suited as travel habitat or matrix habitat that would facilitate movement, linkage, and provide habitat for secondary prey species such as red squirrels. The amount of habitat that would be affected is a relatively small amount in the context of an average lynx home range size; associated habitat effects (if any) would be temporary; present amounts of suitable habitat would remain in the project area and surrounding area and habitat connectivity and linkage would not be altered by the project. Adverse direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to lynx as a result of this project are expected to be minimal.

No known gray wolf denning or rendezvous sites occur within 1 mile of the project area. However, wolves may occasionally use the project area. Minimal risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects that would result in harm to wolves would be anticipated.

The proposed project area falls within the range of wolverines. The DNRC is not aware of any specific observations of wolverines associated with the proposed project area, however, periodic or transient use of the proposed project area could occur. Activities associated with this proposal are expected to have minimal effect on wolverines.

Sagebrush semi-desert habitats suitable for use by Sage Grouse do occur within one mile of the project area. No leks are known to occur within one mile of the proposed project or access route. Should sage grouse be present in the vicinity of the project area, any effects to habitat or disturbance-related effects would be expected to be minimal, due to the late start-up date of road construction activities (i.e., post June 15), and preferred sagebrush habitat would not be altered. Impacts to Sage Grouse would not be anticipated.

No other threatened/endangered species, sensitive species or species of special concern have been documented within the proposed project area.

No adverse impacts are expected to threatened/endangered species, sensitive species or species of special concern.

(See Attachment E –CLO Checklist for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species)

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

There are no cultural resource concerns associated with this proposed project. No measurable direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

11. AESTHETICS:
Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

The project area is not visible to populated areas. Due to the topography, tree canopy cover, location, size and nature of proposed action, impacts concerning aesthetics are not expected.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

No measurable direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on resources of land, water, air or energy are anticipated.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:
List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

Peterson Creek Limited Access Timber Sale Environmental Assessment (July 2002).
Final HCP/EIS (USFWS/DNRC) (September 2011).

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

None.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

No measurable direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:
Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

No measurable impact to quantity and distribution of jobs is anticipated as a result of this proposal.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:
Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

No measurable direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to local and state tax base and revenues are anticipated.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:
Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

No measurable direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts related to demand for government services are anticipated.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

The DNRC adopted the State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP), Administrative Rules for Forest Management (ARM 36.11.401 through 450) and the Administrative Rules for State Land Surface Management (ARM 36.25.101 through 36.25.817), applicable to management activities on school trust lands.

Montana DNRC Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:
Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

The proposed project would not affect the existing access for the general public. There presently is no public access to the State parcel and there would be no public access granted under the proposed reciprocal access agreement. Persons having legal access to the parcel and possessing a valid state lands general recreational use license or FWP conservation license may conduct specific recreational activities on the State tract.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

No measurable impact to density and distribution of population and housing is anticipated.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

No measurable disruption of social structures and mores is anticipated.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

No impact to cultural uniqueness and diversity is anticipated.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Costs, revenues, and estimates of return are estimates intended for relative comparison of alternatives. They are not intended to be used as absolute estimates of return.

The return to the trust would be a permanent access for all lawful purposes to Common State Trust land that presently has no legal access. All initial costs (road construction excess, land value excess, etc.) would be the responsibility of the Proponent.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Chuck Barone	Date: July 28, 2015
	Title: Bozeman Unit Forester	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Action Alternative: A reciprocal access agreement exchange consisting of a 60-foot wide, non-public, right-of-way easement for all lawful purposes, including utilities would be executed.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

I have determined that none of the anticipated environmental impacts outlined in the EA are significant according to the criteria outlined in *ARM 36.2.524.* I find that no impacts are regarded as severe, enduring, geographically widespread, or frequent. Further, I find that the quantity and quality of various resources, including any that may be considered unique or fragile, will not be adversely affected to a significant degree. I find no precedent for future actions that would cause significant impacts, and I find no conflict with local, State, or Federal laws, requirements, or formal plans. In summary, I find that the identified adverse impacts will be avoided, controlled, or mitigated by the design of the project to the extent that the impacts are not significant. Furthermore, I find that this agreement meets the Trust land Management Divisions goals of acquiring permanent legal access to land that currently is in accessable.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

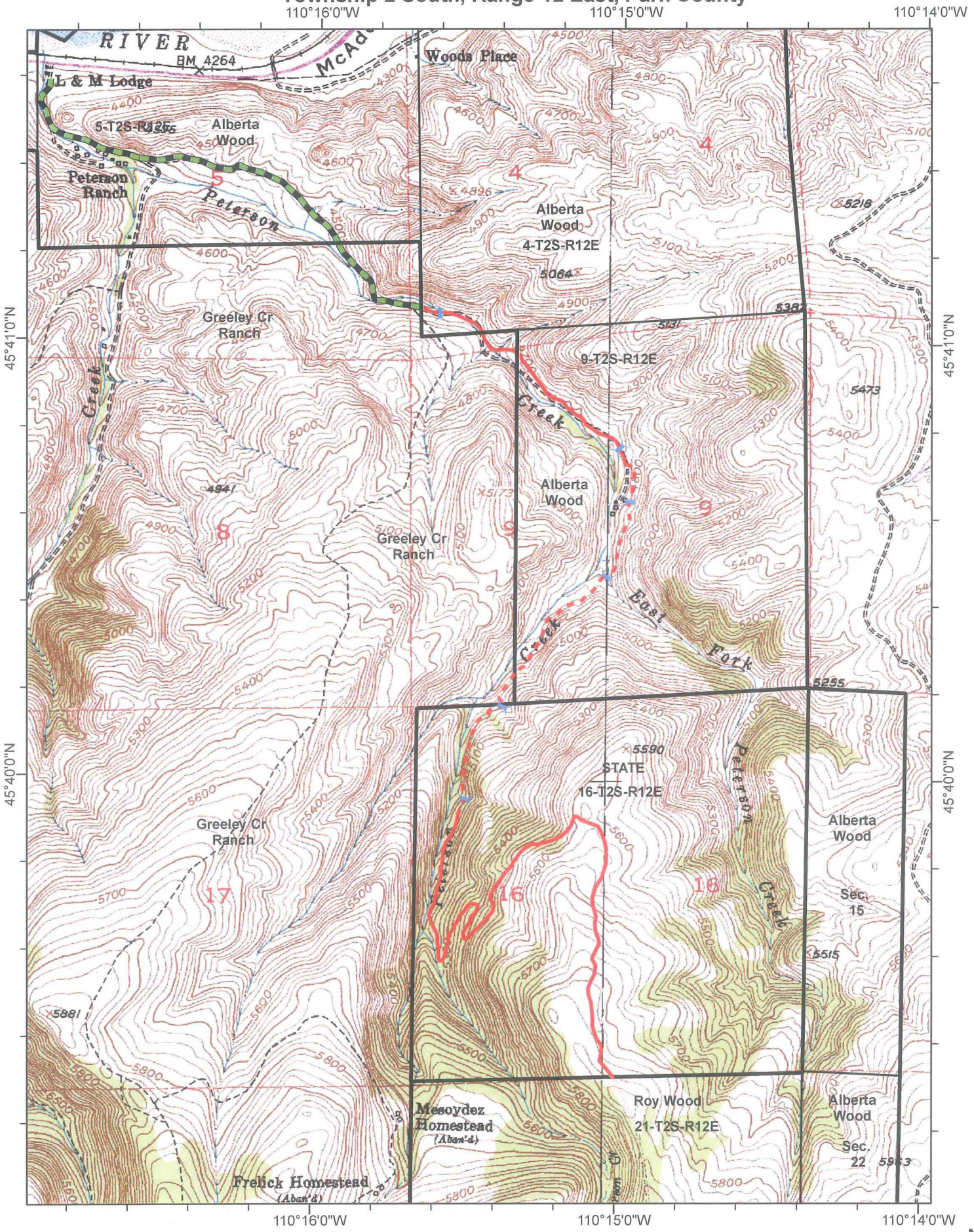
[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA	[X]	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Craig Campbell	
	Title: Bozeman Unit Manager	
Signature: Craig Campbell/s/		**Date:** 7/29/2015

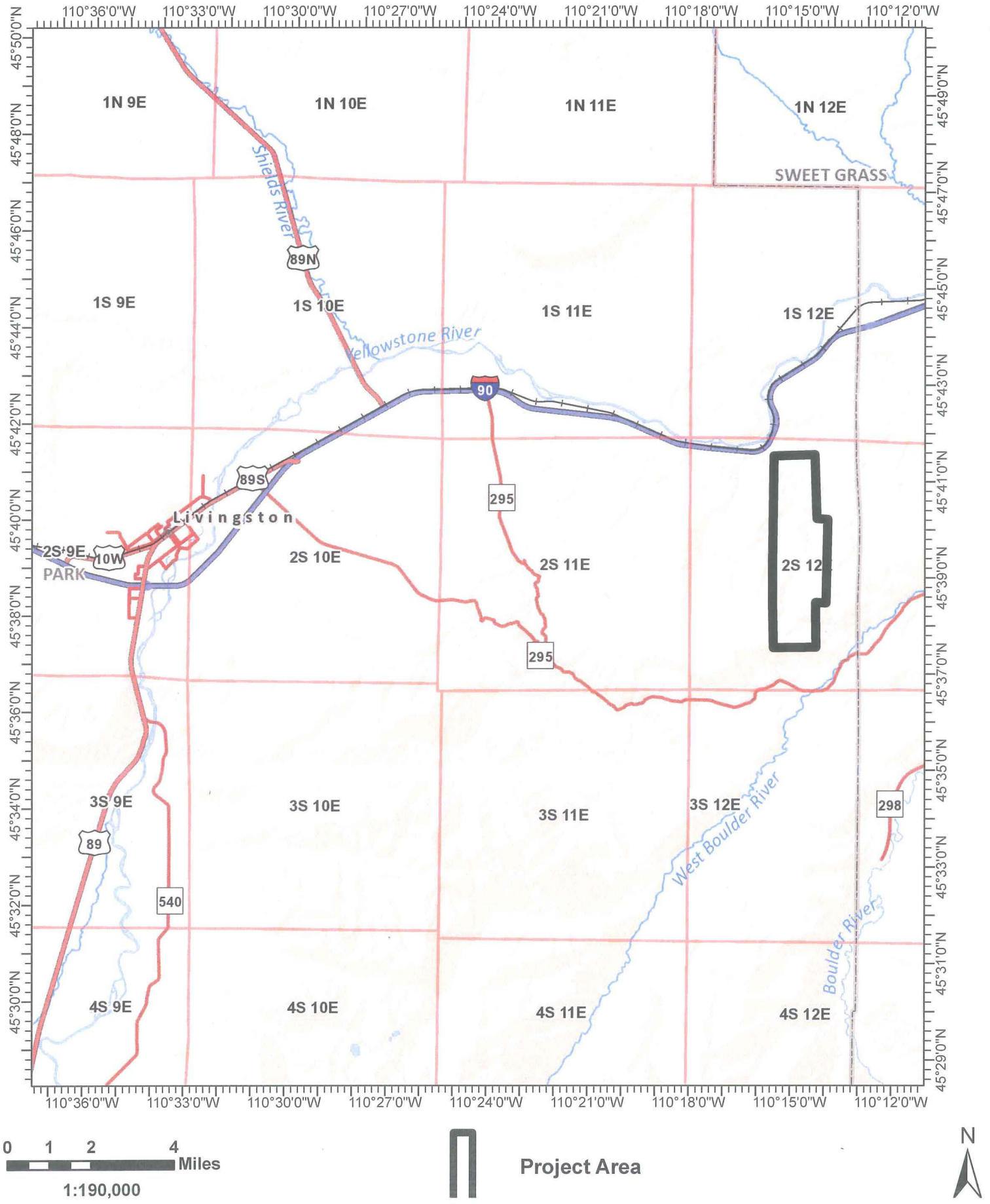
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Vicinity Map/Site Specific Map
Attachment E - CLO Checklist for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species

ATTACHMENT A - Wood Trusts RAA
Township 2 South, Range 12 East, Park County



ATTACHMENT A
Vicinity Map
Wood Trusts Reciprocal Access Agreement
Township 2 South, Range 12 East, Park County



ATTACHMENT E

WOOD TRUSTS RECIPROCAL ACCESS AGREEMENT
CHECKLIST FOR ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND SENSITIVE SPEICES
CENTRAL LAND OFFICE

Prepared by Chuck Barone July 20, 2015

Threatened and Endangered Species	**Potential for Impacts and Rationale** [Y/N] Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures N = Not Present or No Impact is Likely to Occur Y = Impacts May Occur (Explain Below)
Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) Habitat: dense spruce/fir forest supporting snowshoe hares.	[N] The proposed project area is located along the fringes of preferred lynx habitat. However, habitats high in coarse woody debris that are preferred for denning, and large acreages of dense conifer regeneration at high elevations that are preferred for foraging are not present in the project area. Lynx habitat is marginal due to naturally induced fragmentation, and the high level of interspersion of native grassland habitat and dry forest types. While the current forest cover types within the project area are considered suitable for use by lynx, they typically do not contain high horizontal cover comprised of subalpine and spruce bows. Thus, even considering the limited presence of several habitat attributes within the project area that are known to be important for lynx and snowshoe hares (e.g. dense overstory canopy, dense shrubs and downed logs), habitat in this area is likely best suited as travel habitat or matrix habitat that would facilitate movement, linkage, and provide habitat for secondary prey species such as red squirrels. The amount of habitat that would be affected is a relatively small amount in

	the context of an average lynx home range size; associated habitat effects (if any) would be temporary; present amounts of suitable habitat would remain in the project area and surrounding area and habitat connectivity and linkage would not be altered by the project. Adverse direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to lynx as a result of this project are expected to be minimal.
Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) Habitat: recovery areas, security from human activity	[N] The project area lies approximately 21 miles north of the GYE grizzly bear recovery zone, and approximately 7 miles north of what would be considered occupied habitat. Grizzly bear use of the area may occur, however, the project area is currently considered outside of occupied habitat (Interagency Occupied Habitat Map, September 2002). Potential riparian habitat for grizzly bears is present within the project area but is marginal. Human access levels are presently low due to the private access. Approximately 1.1 miles of new road would be constructed to minimum standard to connect the proposed reciprocal access. Road construction and reconstruction activities would not occur from March 15 - June 15. The potential for any measurable increases in bear-human conflicts following the project activities are expected to be low. Adverse direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to bears as a result of this project are expected to be minimal.

DNRC Sensitive Species	[Y/N] Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures N = Not Present or No Impact is Likely to Occur Y = Impacts May Occur (Explain Below)
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Habitat: late-successional forest <1 mile from open water	[N] Bald Eagles have been documented in the Yellowstone River Basin ~2 miles to the north but not within the project area. (MNHP/FWP Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). No bald eagle nests, feeding areas, roosting areas or suitable nesting habitat occur within 1 mile of the project area. Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to bald eagles would be anticipated.
Black-Backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) Habitat: mature to old burned forest	[N] No recent burns within the last 5 years have occured on the project area or within 1 mile of the project area. However, stands found within the proposed project area are presently experiencing some insect activity and could attract birds (MNHP/FWP Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). No direct, indirect or cumulative effects to black-backed woodpeckers would be anticipated.
Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludoviscianus*) Habitat: Prairie, shortgrass prairie, badlands	[N] Black-tailed prairie dogs have not been documented in the project area or surrounding (MNHP/FWP Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). No grassland habitat suitable for use by black-tailed prairie dogs occurs in or near the project area. Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to prairie dogs would be anticipated.
Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) Habitat: late-successional ponderosa pine and Doug.-fir forest	[N] The project area occurs on the fringe of the distribution of flammulated owls in Montana, and warm forest types suitable for use by flammulated owls do not occur in or near the project area (MNHP/FWP

	Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to flammulated owls would be anticipated.
Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) Habitat: ample big game pops., security from human activity	[N] No known denning or rendezvous sites occur within 1 mile of the project area. However, wolves may occasionally use the project area and occasional sightings have been noted in the area. Minimal risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects that would result in harm to wolves would be anticipated. If wolves or an active den site were detected in the immediate area, a DNRC biologist would be consulted. Appropriate mitigations would be developed and applied prior to resuming activities.
Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) Habitat: sagebrush semi-desert	[N] No occurrence records for greater sage grouse exist for the project area (MNHP/FWP Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). Sagebrush semi-desert habitats suitable for use by Sage Grouse do occur within one mile of the project area. No leks are known to occur within one mile of the proposed project or access route. Should sage grouse be present in the vicinity of the project area, any effects to habitat or disturbance-related effects would be expected to be minimal, due to the late start-up date of road construction activities (i.e., post June 15), and preferred sagebrush habitat would not be altered. Impacts to Sage Grouse would not be anticipated. Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to greater sage grouse would be anticipated.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) Habitat: white-water streams, boulder and cobble substrates	[N] No known streams supporting harlequin ducks occur within or near the project area, and no recent observations have been reported for the general area (MNHP/FWP Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). No direct, indirect or cumulative effects to harlequin ducks would be anticipated.
Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) Habitat: short-grass prairie, alkaline flats, prairie dog towns	[N] No grassland habitat suitable for use by mountain plovers occurs within or near the project area (MNHP/FWP Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to mountain plovers would be anticipated.
Northern Bog Lemming (*Synaptomys borealis*) Habitat: sphagnum meadows, bogs, fens with thick moss mats	[N] No sphagnum meadows, bogs or fens occur within or near the project area, and the project area occurs outside of the known distribution of northern bog lemmings in Montana (MNHP/FWP Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). No direct, indirect or cumulative effects to bog lemmings would be anticipated.
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Habitat: cliff features near open foraging areas and/or wetlands	[N] No cliff features or suitable foraging areas occur within 0.75 miles of the project area, and no known nest sites occur within or near the project area. Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to peregrine falcons would be anticipated.
Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) Habitat: late-successional ponderosa pine and larch-fir forest	[N] The project area occurs outside of the normal distribution of pileated woodpeckers in Montana (MNHP/FWP Montana Field Guide -- search 7/15, and MNHP 2015). Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to pileated woodpeckers would be anticipated.

Townsend's Big-Eared Bat (*Plecotus townsendii*) Habitat: caves, caverns, old mines	[N] No caves, caverns, or old mines suitable for use by bats are known to occur within 1 mile of the project area. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects to Townsend's big-eared bats would be anticipated.

*Montana National Heritage Program/ FWP Montana Field Guide 2015. National Heritage Tracker 2015.