

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Checkerboard Timber Permit

Proposed Implementation Date: 7/20/2015

Proponent: Checkerboard Cattle Company

Type and Purpose of Action: The Checkerboard Cattle Company is proposing a salvage timber harvest in T09N R10E Section 16. See attached map. Under the proposed timber harvest the DNRC would harvest and sell approximately 95 MBF of green ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir sawlogs and salvage 100 MBF of dead ponderosa pine before it loses all value. This proposed action would generate an estimated \$12,905.75 for the common schools trust (CS) at an estimated appraised stumpage rate of \$20.90 per ton for green sawlogs. Additional activities under the proposed action would include the construction of approximately 1000 feet of temporary road that would be re-contoured and grass seeded at the completion of the project.

The goal of the timber harvest is to restore a semblance of historic condition, create fire resilient ponderosa pine dominated forest, salvage dead and dying ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, and generate revenue for the trust beneficiaries.

Post timber harvest operations could include prescribed burning, slashing, thinning, grass seeding, and herbicide treatment. All slash would be treated to meet state laws and Montana forest management best management practices would be implemented. The proposed project term is 2 years to complete implementation.

Location: T09N R10E S16

County: Meagher

**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                                  |   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a) Sites with high erosion risk.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | c) Municipal watersheds.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | d) The SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | e) State natural area.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | f) Native American religious and cultural sites.  |

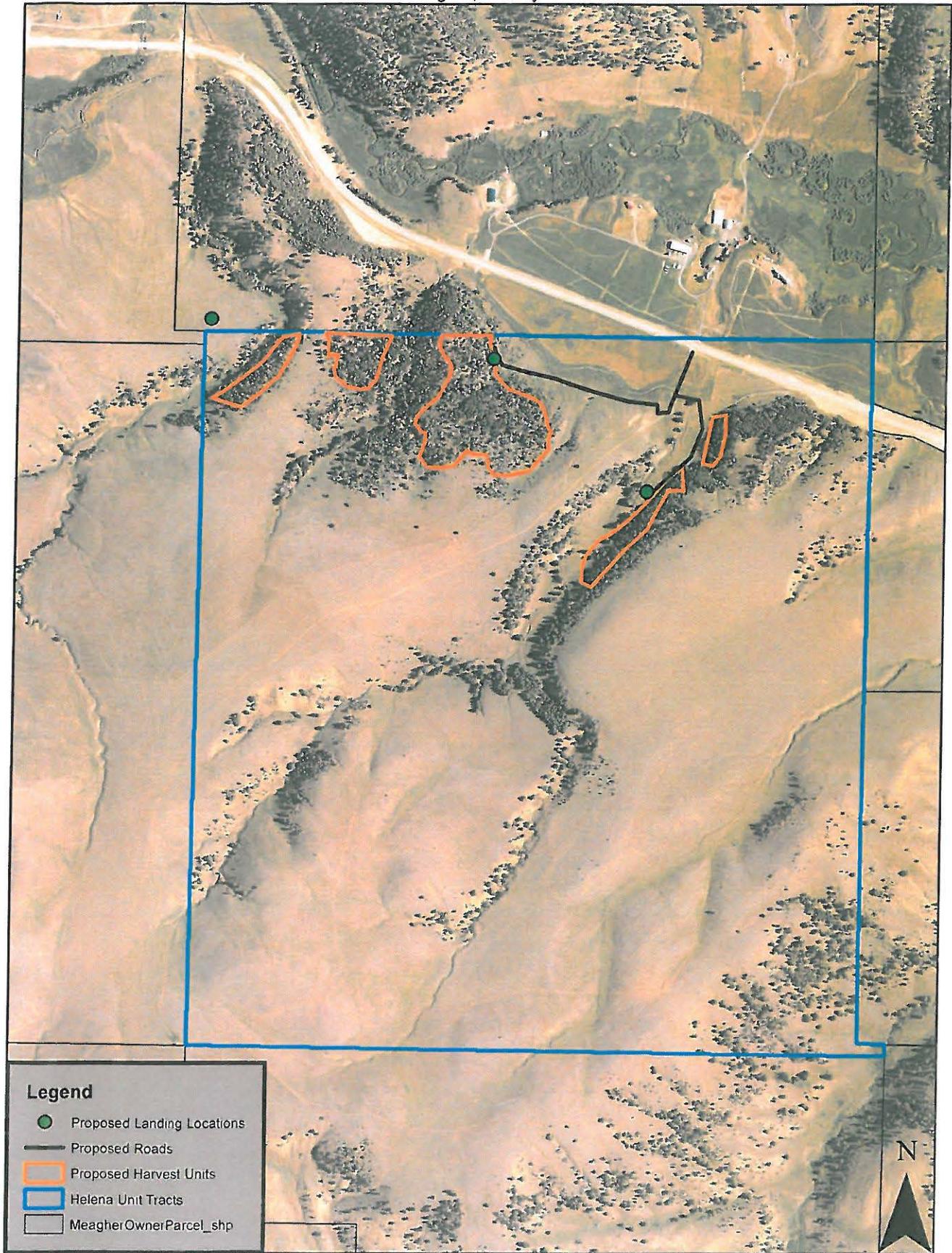
- g) Archaeological sites.
- h) Historic properties and areas.
- i) Several related projects that individually may be subject to categorical exclusion but that may occur at the same time or in the same geographic area. Such related actions may be subject to environmental review even if they are not individually 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 6/9/2015  
 (Name) (Date)

Decision by: James (Andy) Burgoyne \_\_\_\_\_ Helena Unit Manager  
 (Name) (Title)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 6/25/2015  
 (Signature) (Date)

Proposed Checkerboard Timber Permit  
T09N R10E Section10  
Meagher, County Montana



**Legend**

- Proposed Landing Locations
- Proposed Roads
- ▭ Proposed Harvest Units
- ▭ Helena Unit Tracts
- ▭ MeagherOwnerParcel\_shp

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

