Environmental Assessment Checklist

Project Name: Star Ewing Precommercial Thinning
Proposed Implementation Date: May, 2015
Proponent: Stillwater Unit, Northwest Land Office, Montana DNRC
County: Flathead

Type and Purpose of Action

Description of Proposed Action:

The Stillwater Unit of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is proposing the Star Ewing Precommercial Thinning project. The project is located in two areas: the Star Meadow Road west of Whitefish, and near the Ewing Road Gravel Pit, south of Stryker, Montana (refer to Attachments Vicinity Map A-**1** and Project Map A-**2**) and includes the following sections:

Beneficiary	Legal Description	Total Acres	Treated Acres
Common Schools	**Section 24 T33N R24W**	**511**	**53**
Public Buildings	**Section 14 T31N R24W**	**642**	**84**
MSU 2nd Grant			
MSU Morrill			
Eastern College-MSU/Western College-U of M			
Montana Tech			
University of Montana			
School for the Deaf and Blind			
Pine Hills School			
Veterans Home			
Public Land Trust			
Acquired Land			

Objectives of the project include:

- Thin stands to reduce density and improve vigor.
- Reduce susceptibility to bark beetle attack.

Proposed activities include:

Action	Quantity
Proposed Forest Improvement Treatment	# Acres
Pre-commercial Thinning	**137**

Duration of Activities:	4 months
Implementation Period:	Summer of 2015

The lands involved in this proposed project are held in trust by the State of Montana. (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 the beneficiary institutions (Section 77-1-202, MCA).

The DNRC would manage lands involved in this project in accordance with:

- The State Forest Land Management Plan (DNRC 1996),
- Administrative Rules for Forest Management (ARM 36.11.401 through 471),
- The Montana DNRC Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) (DNRC 2010), and
- all other applicable state and federal laws.

Project Development

SCOPING:
Initial reconnaissance and development of the project was started in late winter 2015. Due to lack of interest shown by the public regarding precommercial thinning, no formal scoping process took place. A site visit was made by the DNRC wildlife biologist to assess potential impacts to wildlife habitat.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM (ID):

- Project Leader: Jason Glenn
- Decision Maker: Brian Manning
- Wildlife Biologist: Leah Breidinger
- Hydrologist: Marc Vessar

Internal and external issues and concerns were incorporated into project planning and design and will be implemented in associated contracts.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED: *(Conservation Easements, Army Corps of Engineers, road use permits, etc.)*

- **United States Fish & Wildlife Service-** DNRC is managing the habitats of threatened and endangered species on this project by implementing the Montana DNRC Forested Trust Lands HCP and the associated Incidental Take Permit that was issued by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in February of 2012 under Section 10 of

the Endangered Species Act. The HCP identifies specific conservation strategies for managing the habitats of grizzly bear, Canada lynx, and three fish species: bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and Columbia redband trout. This project complies with the HCP. The HCP can be found at www.dnrc.mt.gov/HCP.

- **Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)-** DNRC is classified as a major open burner by DEQ and is issued a permit from DEQ to conduct burning activities on state lands managed by DNRC. As a major open-burning permit holder, DNRC agrees to comply with the limitations and conditions of the permit.

- **Montana/Idaho Airshed Group-** The DNRC is a member of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group which was formed to minimize or prevent smoke impacts while using fire to accomplish land management objectives and/or fuel hazard reduction (Montana/Idaho Airshed Group 2006). The Group determines the delineation of airsheds and impact zones throughout Idaho and Montana. Airsheds describe those geographical areas that have similar atmospheric conditions, while impact zones describe any area in Montana or Idaho that the Group deems smoke sensitive and/or having an existing air quality problem (Montana/Idaho Airshed Group 2006). 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.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No-Action Alternative: No precommercial thinning would occur.

Action Alternative : Precommercial thin of 137 acres would occur.

Impacts on the Physical Environment

Evaluation of the impacts on the No-Action and Action Alternatives including **direct, secondary, and cumulative** impacts on the Physical Environment.

VEGETATION:

Vegetation Existing Conditions:

In Star Meadow units 1 and 2, the current cover type is lodgepole pine and the desired future condition is lodgepole pine. In unit 3, the current cover type is western larch/Douglas-fir and the desired future condition is western larch/Douglas-fir. In all 3 units, the stand structure is 2-storied with very scattered overstory western larch and Douglas-fir, and the understory, sapling component is composed of predominately lodgepole pine with small amounts of western larch, Douglas-fir, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. The understory stand density is approximately 3,000 trees per acre, the average diameter at breast height (dbh) is 3-inches and the average height is 30 feet.

In the Ewing units, the current cover type is lodgepole pine and the desired future condition western larch/Douglas-fir. The stand structure is 2-storied with scattered overstory western larch, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine and grand fir and the understory, sapling component is

composed of predominately lodgepole pine, with small amounts of western larch, Douglas-fir, grand fir, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. Unit 4 average dbh is 3.5-inches, the average height is 35 feet and the stand density is 3,500 trees per acre. Unit 5 average dbh is 3.5 inches, the average height is 35 feet and the stand density is 3,000 trees per acre. Unit 6 average dbh is 4 inches, the average height is 35 feet and the stand density is 2,000 trees per acre.

Vegetation	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Noxious Weeds	**x**				**x**				**x**					
Rare Plants	**x**				**x**				**x**					
Vegetative community		**x**				**x**				**x**			**No**	**1**
Old Growth	**x**				**x**				**x**					
Action														
Noxious Weeds	**x**				**x**				**x**					
Rare Plants		**x**			**x**				**x**				**Yes**	**2**
Vegetative community		**x**				**x**				**x**			**No**	**3**
Old Growth	**x**				**x**				**x**					

Comments:

1. Under the No-Action Alternative no thinning would occur. Growth of trees in the proposed units would be expected to slow and lodgepole pine trees in the proposed units may be at higher risk to bark beetle attack due to competition from high stand stocking levels.

2. Several plant species of concern are listed with the Montana Natural Heritage Program as being found in the general vicinity of the project area. These species of concern include: Sparrow's egg Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium passerinum), Scalepod (Idahoa scapigera), Arctic Sweet Coltsfoot (Petasites frigidus var. frigidus), Beck Water-marigold (Bidens beckii), Crested shieldfern (Dryopteris cristata), Adder's Tongue (Ophioglossum pusillum) and Pod Grass (Scheuchzeria palustris). Although none of these species are known to currently exist within any of the proposed units, there is a remote possibility of finding the non-wetland related species within the proposed units.

3. Under the Action Alternative in the Star Meadow units, an average of 2,462 trees per acre will be cut; in the Ewing units, an average of 1,944 trees per acre will be cut to reduce competition and maintain growth and vigor. In the Star Meadow units approximately 538 trees per acre and in the Ewing units, approximately 889 trees per acre will remain after thinning. Long term effects expected from the thinning will be increased growth and vigor, and reduced risk of insect and disease attack.

Vegetation Mitigations:
If any plant species of concern are identified within the units, the instance will be recorded with the Montana Natural Heritage Program and measures will be taken to protect the plants from damage from thinning activities.

SOIL DISTURBANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY:

Soil Disturbance and Productivity Existing Conditions: Landtypes present in the project area are listed as 26C-8, 27-7 and 27-8 in the *Soil Survey of Flathead National Forest Area, Montana*. Soil texture in units ranges from very gravelly silt loam to extremely cobbly loam sand. All landtypes are considered to have a moderate erosion hazard. Existing lands are well vegetated with grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees.

Soil Disturbance and Productivity	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Physical Disturbance (Compaction and Displacement)	X													
Erosion	X													
Nutrient Cycling	X													
Slope Stability	X													
Soil Productivity	X													
Action														
Physical Disturbance (Compaction and Displacement)	X													
Erosion	X													
Nutrient Cycling	X													
Slope Stability	X													
Soil Productivity	X													

Soil Mitigations:
All work must be completed by hand felling. No mechanized felling or yarding has been considered in the Action Alternative.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY:

Water Quality and Quantity Existing Conditions:

The proposed action would not take place within 100 feet of a Class 1, 2 or 3 stream. Additionally, the proposed method would not result in soil disturbance because the work would be completed by hand. All stands would remain fully stocked post treatment resulting in no measureable water yield increase.

Water Quality & Quantity	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Water Quality	X													
Water Quantity	X													

Water Quality & Quantity	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Action														
Water Quality	X													
Water Quantity	X													

FISHERIES:

Fisheries Existing Conditions: No fish bearing streams are within 100 feet of the proposed project.

No-Action: No direct or indirect impacts would occur to affected fish species or fisheries resources. Cumulative effects (other related past and present factors; other future, related actions) would continue to occur.

Action Alternative (see Fisheries table below):

Fisheries	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Sediment	X													
Flow Regimes	X													
Woody Debris	X													
Stream Shading	X													
Stream Temperature	X													
Connectivity	X													
Populations	X													
Action														
Sediment	X													
Flow Regimes	X													
Woody Debris	X													
Stream Shading	X													
Stream Temperature	X													
Connectivity	X													
Populations	X													

WILDLIFE:

No-Action: No activities associated with the precommercial thin would occur. Thus no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to terrestrial wildlife species would be anticipated.

Action Alternative (see Wildlife table below):

Wildlife	Impact												Can Impact be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Threatened and Endangered Species														
Grizzly bear *(Ursus arctos)* Habitat: Recovery areas, security from human activity		X				X				X			Y	1
Canada lynx (*Felix lynx)* Habitat: Subalpine fir habitat types, dense sapling, old forest, deep snow zone		X				X				X			Y	2
Wolverine *(Gulo gulo)*	X				X				X					
Sensitive Species														
Bald eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* Habitat: Late-successional forest more than 1 mile from open water		X				X			X				Y	3
Black-backed woodpecker *(Picoides arcticus)* Habitat: Mature to old burned or beetle-infested forest	X				X				X					
Coeur d'Alene salamander *(Plethodon idahoensis)* Habitat: Waterfall spray zones, talus near cascading streams	X				X				X					
Columbian sharp-tailed grouse *(Tympanuchus Phasianellus columbianus)* Habitat: Grassland, shrubland, riparian, agriculture	X				X				X					

Wildlife	Impact												Can Impact be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Common loon *(Gavia immer)* Habitat: Cold mountain lakes, nest in emergent vegetation	X				X				X					
Fisher *(Martes pennanti)* Habitat: Dense mature to old forest less than 6,000 feet in elevation and riparian	X				X				X					
Flammulated owl *(Otus flammeolus)* Habitat: Late-successional ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forest	X				X				X					
Gray Wolf *(Canis lupus)* Habitat: Ample big game populations, security from human activities		X				X				X			Y	4
Harlequin duck *(Histrionicus histrionicus)* Habitat: White-water streams, boulder and cobble substrates	X				X				X					
Northern bog lemming *(Synaptomys borealis)* Habitat: Sphagnum meadows, bogs, fens with thick moss mats	X				X				X					
Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* Habitat: Cliff features near open foraging areas and/or wetlands	X				X				X					
Pileated woodpecker *(Dryocopus pileatus)*	X				X				X					

Wildlife	Impact												Can Impact be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Habitat: Late-successional ponderosa pine and larch-fir forest														
Townsend's big-eared bat *(Plecotus townsendii)* Habitat: Caves, caverns, old mines	**X**				**X**				**X**					
Big Game Species														
Elk	**X**				**X**				**X**					
Whitetail	**X**				**X**				**X**					
Mule Deer	**X**				**X**				**X**					
Other														

Comments:

1. Portions of the Project Area are located in grizzly bear recovery zone habitat and non-recovery zone occupied habitat associated with the NCDE (Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, *USFWS 1993*, *Wittinger 2002*). The proposed precommercial thin would reduce grizzly bear cover for 10-20 years in approximately 137 acres. However, these acres would continue to provide hiding cover after the thinning is complete considering that at least 40% conifer canopy cover would be retained. The proposed activities may occur during an approximately 4-month contract period in the summer and timing restrictions would be in effect on the Star Meadows Units from April 1 – June 15 to provide security for grizzly bears in the spring. Riparian habitat and wet meadows, which are frequently used by bears at low elevations, would not be affected by the proposed activities.

2. The proposed precommercial thin would affect a total of 137 acres of suitable lynx habitat including 69 acres of lynx summer forage habitat, which consists of dense young sapling stands, and 68 acres of habitat categorized as other suitable habitat for lynx use, which contain minimal vegetation attributes necessary for lynx use (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*). After the thinning occurs, these stands would retain at least 40% canopy cover of conifers and would remain suitable for lynx use. However, sapling density would be reduced and all stands currently providing summer forage habitat would be considered other suitable habitat following project completion and these stands would likely support fewer snowshoe hares, the primary prey of lynx. To reduce adverse effect to lynx, an 11-acre patch of lynx summer forage habitat would be retained unthinned until the stand reaches the sawtimber size class (≥ 9 inches dbh). Additionally, all shade tolerant trees that do not interfere with desired crop trees would be retained.

3. The Project Area is located within the home range of a pair of bald eagles nesting on Upper Stillwater Lake. However, the proposed precommercial thinning units are located outside of frequently used areas near the lake and considering that Highway 93 and a railroad are between the nest and the harvest units, the proposed activities are unlikely to disturb nesting bald eagles. Additionally, snags and large emergent trees which are used as perch sites would not be affected by the proposed activities.

4. The 2013 home range of the Tom Meier Pack is located in the vicinity of the Project Area (*MFWP wolf pack data, 2013*). Disturbance associated with forest management activities at den and rendezvous locations can adversely affect wolves; however, timing restrictions would apply if den or rendezvous sites are documented (*ARM 33.11.430(1)(a)(b)*).

Wildlife Mitigations:

- If a threatened or endangered species is encountered, consult a DNRC biologist immediately. Similarly, if undocumented nesting raptors or wolf dens are encountered within 1 mile of the Project Area, a DNRC biologist would be contacted.
- Prohibit contractors and purchasers conducting contract operations from carrying firearms while on duty as per *ARM 36.11.444(2)* and *GB-PR2* (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*).
- Contractors will adhere to food storage and sanitation requirements as described in the timber sale contract. Ensure that all attractants such as food, garbage, and petroleum products are stored in a bear-resistant manner.
- Spring timing restrictions apply on the Star Meadow Units from April 1- June 15th as per GB-NR3 to provide security for grizzly bears (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*).
- Retain an 11-acre patch of suitable lynx habitat unthinned until the stand reaches sawtimber size class as per *LY-LM3* (*USFWS and DNRC 2010*).
- Restrict public access at all times on any restricted roads that are opened for the precommercial thin.
- Retain all snags and consider creating scattered brush piles to increase habitat quality for snowshoe hares.

Literature Cited:

Wittinger, W.T. 2002. Grizzly bear distribution outside of recovery zones. Unpublished memorandum on file at U.S. Forest Service, Region 1, Missoula, Montana.

USFWS. 1993. Grizzly bear recovery plan. Missoula, Montana. 181 pp.

USFWS and DNRC. 2010. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forested Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volumes I and II. U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, Denver, Colorado, and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Missoula, MT. September 2010.

DFWP 2013. 2013 Montana wolf pack locations. Individual GIS data layer. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Helena, MT.

AIR QUALITY:

Air Quality	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Smoke	x				x				x					
Dust	x				x				x					
Action														
Smoke		x				x			x				**Yes**	**1**

Air Quality	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Dust	x				x				x					

Comments:

1. Slash from approximately 10 acres would be hand piled and burned. Smoke from a minimal number of piles would not be expected to have an adverse effect.

Air Quality Mitigations:
The project is located in Airshed 2. Burning within the project area would be short in duration and would be conducted on days when conditions favor good to excellent ventilation and smoke dispersion as determined by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and approved for burning by the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES / AESTHETICS / DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Will Alternative result in potential impacts to:	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Historical or Archaeological Sites	x				x				x					
Aesthetics	x				x				x					
Demands on Environmental Resources of Land, Water, or Energy	x				x				x				N/A	
Action														
Historical or Archaeological Sites		x			x				x				Yes	1
Aesthetics		x				x			x				Yes	2
Demands on Environmental Resources of Land, Water, or Energy	x				x				x				N/A	

Comments:
1. One historical/archaeological site, a blasting powder cache, is listed in State records as existing in the north half of section 24. Documentation of the exact location is not known. Due to the low impact nature of hand thinning, damage to the cache from thinning activities is unlikely.

2. Tree cutting and resulting slash within the units will be noticeable from open roads. The change to the visual aesthetic will be very minor. The slash produced from thinning would start to break down and decompose within a few years.

Mitigations:
1. If the location of the powder cache were to be identified during thinning activities, work at the site would cease until the Contract Liason could inspect and document the site. Work could resume after a site specific plan were developed to continue thinning without damaging the site.

2. Damaged and diseased trees would be targeted for cutting, generally leaving healthy, more aesthetically pleasing trees. Slash would be hand piled within 100 feet of the paved Star Meadow Road. Throughout all units slash would be bucked and lopped to within 18 inches of the ground to ensure rapid decomposition.

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.*

- Mystery Fish Timber Sale Environmental Assessment (EA) (April 2012)
- Ewing Central Timber Sale Checklist Environmental Assessment (CEA) (January 2013)

Impacts on the Human Population

Evaluation of the impacts on the proposed action including **direct, secondary, and cumulative** impacts on the Human Population.

Will Alternative result in potential impacts to:	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
No-Action														
Health and Human Safety	x				x				x					
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Activities and Production	x				x				x					
Quantity and Distribution of Employment	x				x				x					
Local Tax Base and Tax Revenues	x				x				x					
Demand for Government Services	x				x				x					
Access To and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities	x				x				x					
Density and Distribution of population and housing	x				x				x					

Will Alternative result in potential impacts to:	Impact												Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Number
	Direct				Secondary				Cumulative					
	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High	No	Low	Mod	High		
Social Structures and Mores	x				x				x					
Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity	x				x				x					
Action														
Health and Human Safety	x				x				x					
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Activities and Production	x				x				x					
Quantity and Distribution of Employment	x				x				x					
Local Tax Base and Tax Revenues	x				x				x					
Demand for Government Services	x				x				x					
Access To and Quality of Recreational and Wilderness Activities	x				x				x					
Density and Distribution of population and housing	x				x				x					
Social Structures and Mores	x				x				x					
Cultural Uniqueness and Diversity	x				x				x					

Comments: N/A

Mitigations: N/A

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.*

- N/A

Other Appropriate Social and Economic Circumstances:
No immediate return to the trust would result from either alternative. No other potential uses of the trust other than current uses have been identified at this time.

References

DNRC. 1996. State forest land management plan: final environmental impact statement (and appendixes). Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Forest Management Bureau, Missoula, Montana.

DNRC. 2010. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forested State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan: Final EIS, Volume II, Forest Management Bureau, Missoula, Montana.

Martinson, A. H. and W. J. Basko. 1998. Soil Survey of Flathead National Forest Area, Montana. USDA Forest Service, Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, Montana.

Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP). 2013. Plant species of concern report. Available online at: http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/. Last Accessed March 16, 2015.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects that are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?
No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?
No

Environmental Assessment Checklist Prepared By:

Name: Jason Glenn
Title: Management Forester
Date: March 24, 2015

Finding

Alternative Selected

Following a thorough review of the EAC and Department policies and rules, the decision has been made to select the Action Alternative. The Action Alternative meets the intent of the project objectives as stated in Section I – *Type and Purpose of Action*. Specifically the project would:

- Conduct a pre-commercial thinning on 137 acres of sapling size trees to maintain tree growth and vigor and reduce susceptibility to Bark Beetle attack.

Significance of Potential Impacts

The identified resource management concerns have been fully addressed in the environmental analysis that was conducted. Specific project design features and various recommendations of the resource management specialists have been implemented to ensure that this project will fall within the limits of acceptable environmental change. Taken individually and cumulatively, the proposed activities are common practices, and no project activities will be conducted on important fragile or unique sites. I find there will be no significant impacts to the human environment as a result of implementing the Action Alternative. In summary, I find that the identified adverse impacts will be controlled, mitigated, or avoided by the design of the project to the extent that the impacts are not significant.

Need for Further Environmental Analysis

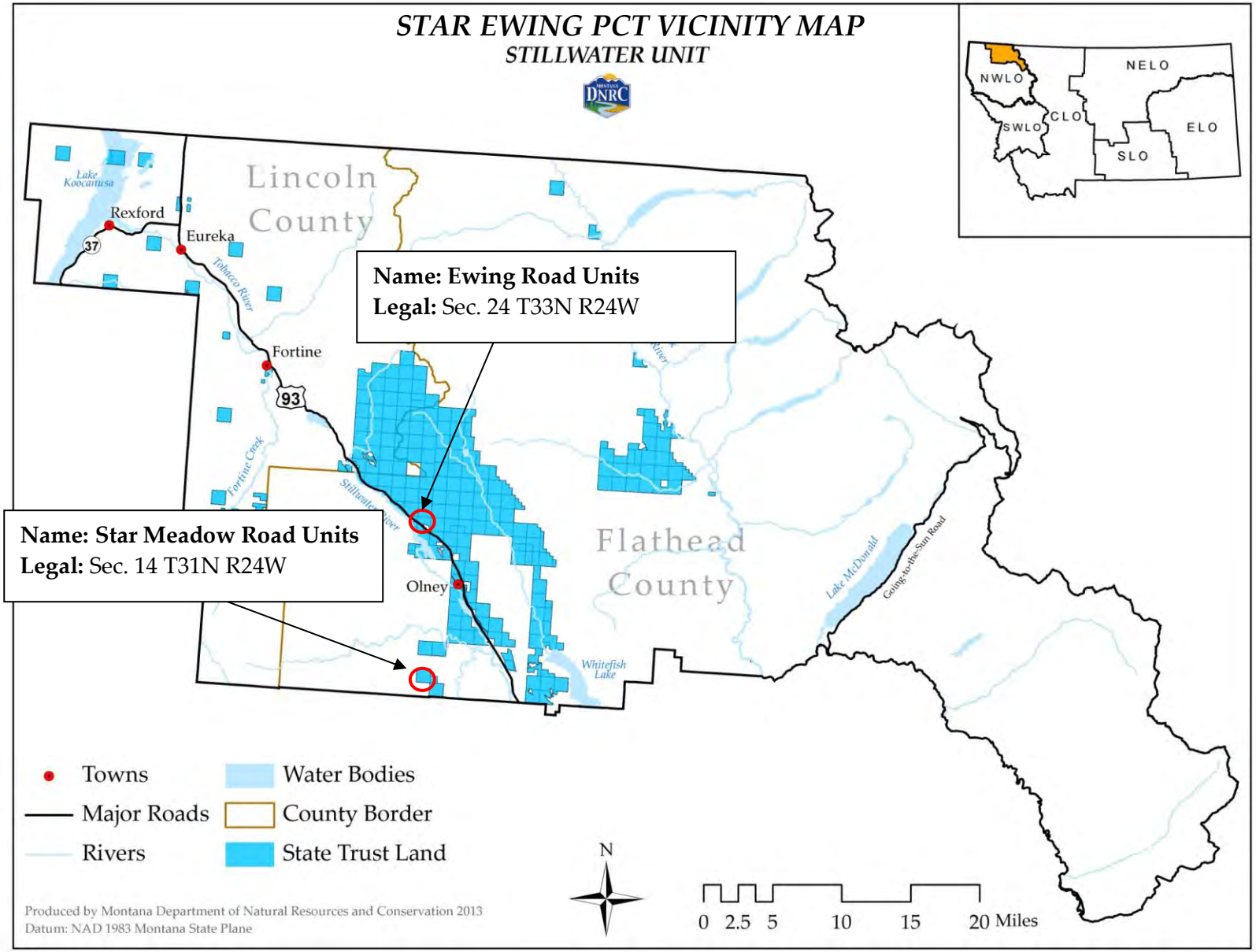
[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA	[X]	No Further Analysis

Environmental Assessment Checklist Approved By:

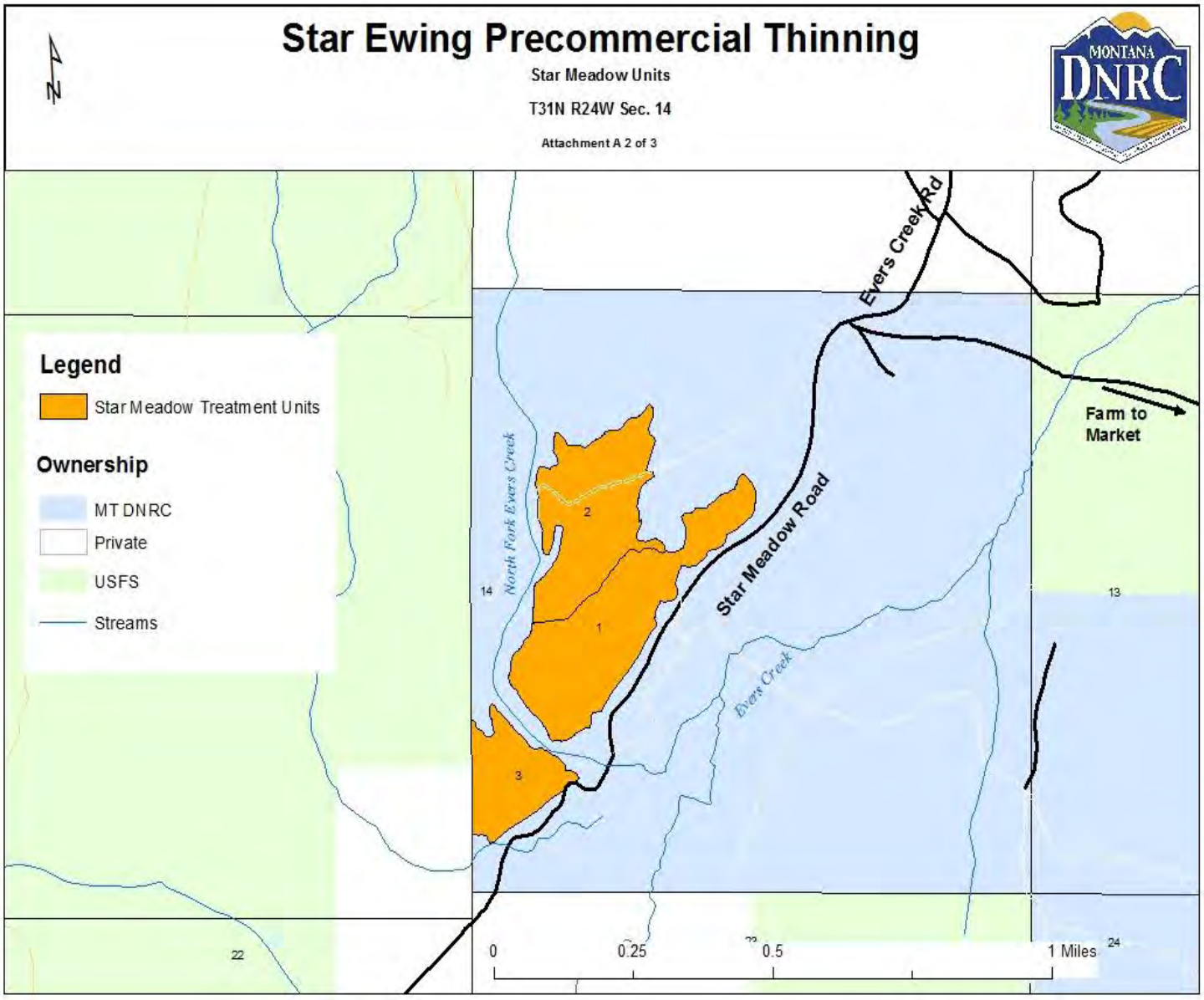
Name: Brian Manning
Title: Unit Manager
Date: March 26, 2015
Signature: */s/ Brian Manning*

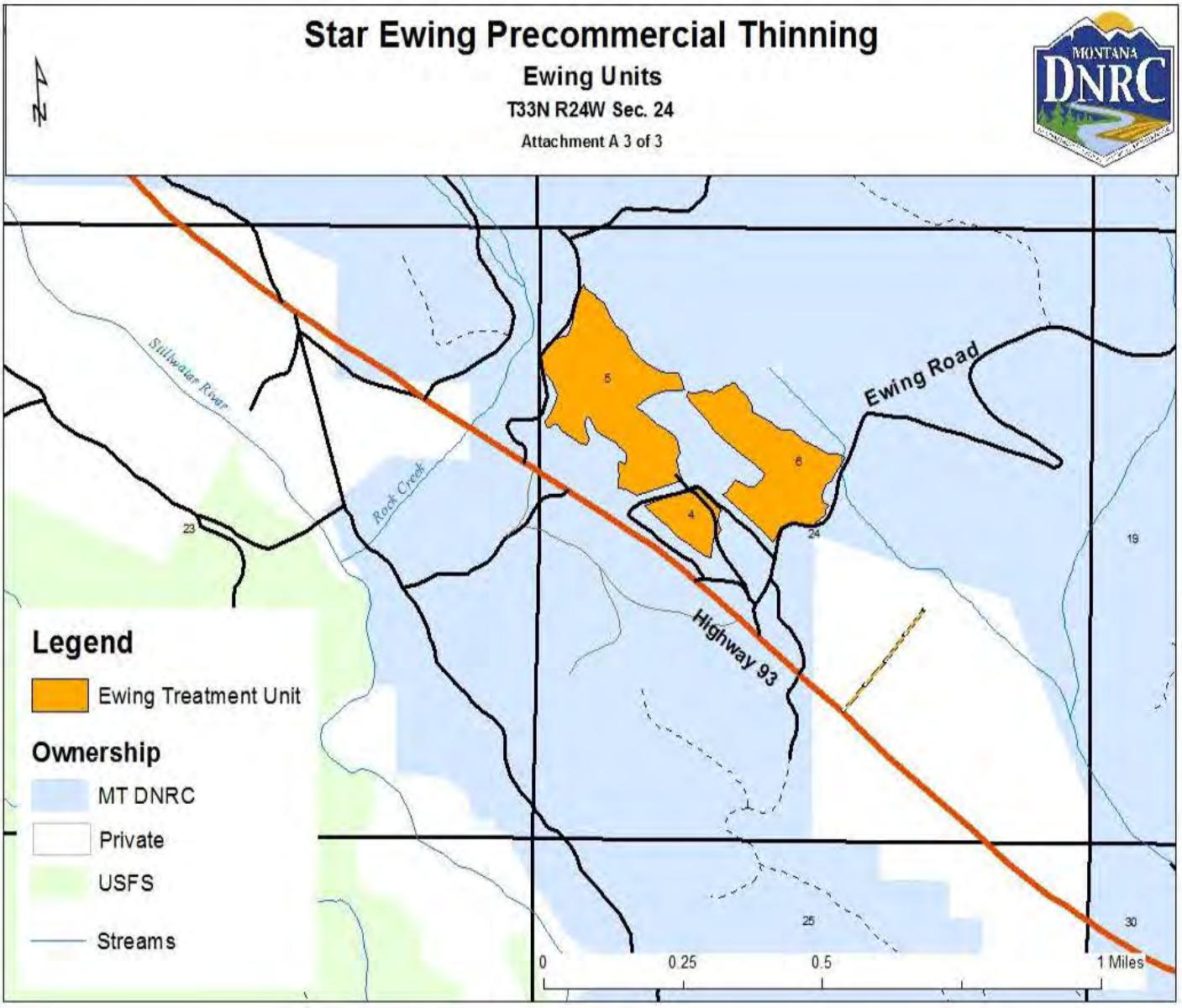
Attachment A- Maps

A-1: Timber Sale Vicinity Map



A-2: Precommercial Thinning Units




Star Ewing Precommercial Thinning
Ewing Units
T33N R24W Sec. 24
Attachment A 3 of 3
N
MONTANA
DNRC
Stillwater River
Rock Creek
Ewing Road
Highway 93
5
6
4
23
24
19
25
30
Legend
Ewing Treatment Unit
Ownership
MT DNRC
Private
USFS
Streams
0
0.25
0.5
1 Miles