

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Garrison Mudd Letter Permit
Proposed Implementation Date:	May 2015
Proponent:	Teresa and Jay Garrison along with the Department of Natural Resource and Conservation, Northwest Land Office, Plains Unit
Location:	S12 T22N R27W
County:	Sanders

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

At the request of the cabin lessees, Teresa and Jay Garrison, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Plains Unit, proposes to harvest approximately 10 thousand board feet of timber on two cabin lease lots on trust lands located along Mudd Creek in the Little Thompson River Drainage. The total project area is 1.8 acres.

Proposed Project Objectives Include:

- Remove Engelmann spruce to reduce the potential for blowdown.
- Thin Douglas-fir and western larch to improve the stand health.

Lands involved in this proposed project area are held by the State of Montana in trust for the support for specific beneficiary institutions such as the Common Schools Trust Grant, and other state institutions (Enabling Act of February 22, 1889: 1972 Montana Constitution, Article 1 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). DNRC would manage lands involved in this project in accordance with the State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP: DNRC 1996) and the Administrative Rules for Forest Management (Rules: ARM 36.11.401 through 456) as well as other applicable state and federal laws.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

The project was discussed internally within the Plains Unit of the DNRC.

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

Montana/Idaho Airshed Group-The DNRC is a member of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group which was formed to coordinate burning activities among members in order to minimize or prevent smoke impacts while using fire to accomplish land management objectives and/or fuel hazard reduction. 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.

DNRC Forestry Division- An alternative practice will need to be obtained to remove more trees in the SMZ than allowed under the SMZ Laws.

3. ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT:

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there would be no management activities taking place.

Action Alternative: There will be trees harvested on two lease lots that cover 1.8 acres.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i> |
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4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

There will be harvesting within the SMZ of approximately 400 ft on Mudd Creek. There will be no equipment allowed within the SMZ. So due to the small scale of the project and no equipment allowed in the SMZ, no impacts are expected.

6. AIR QUALITY:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

The SMZ harvest will remove more trees than allowed under the SMZ Laws. The removal of trees will be on the north side of the creek so the majority of the shade cover for the stream will be left undisturbed. Submerchantable trees and shrubs will be left in the harvested SMZ. No equipment will be operated within the boundary of the SMZ. Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

11. AESTHETICS:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

None

<p style="text-align: center;">IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i>
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14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Due to the small scale of this project no impacts are expected.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Tyrell Colombo	Date: 04/7/15
	Title: Management Forester	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

The Action Alternative is selected for implementation.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

No significant impacts have been identified as a result of implementing the action alternative.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

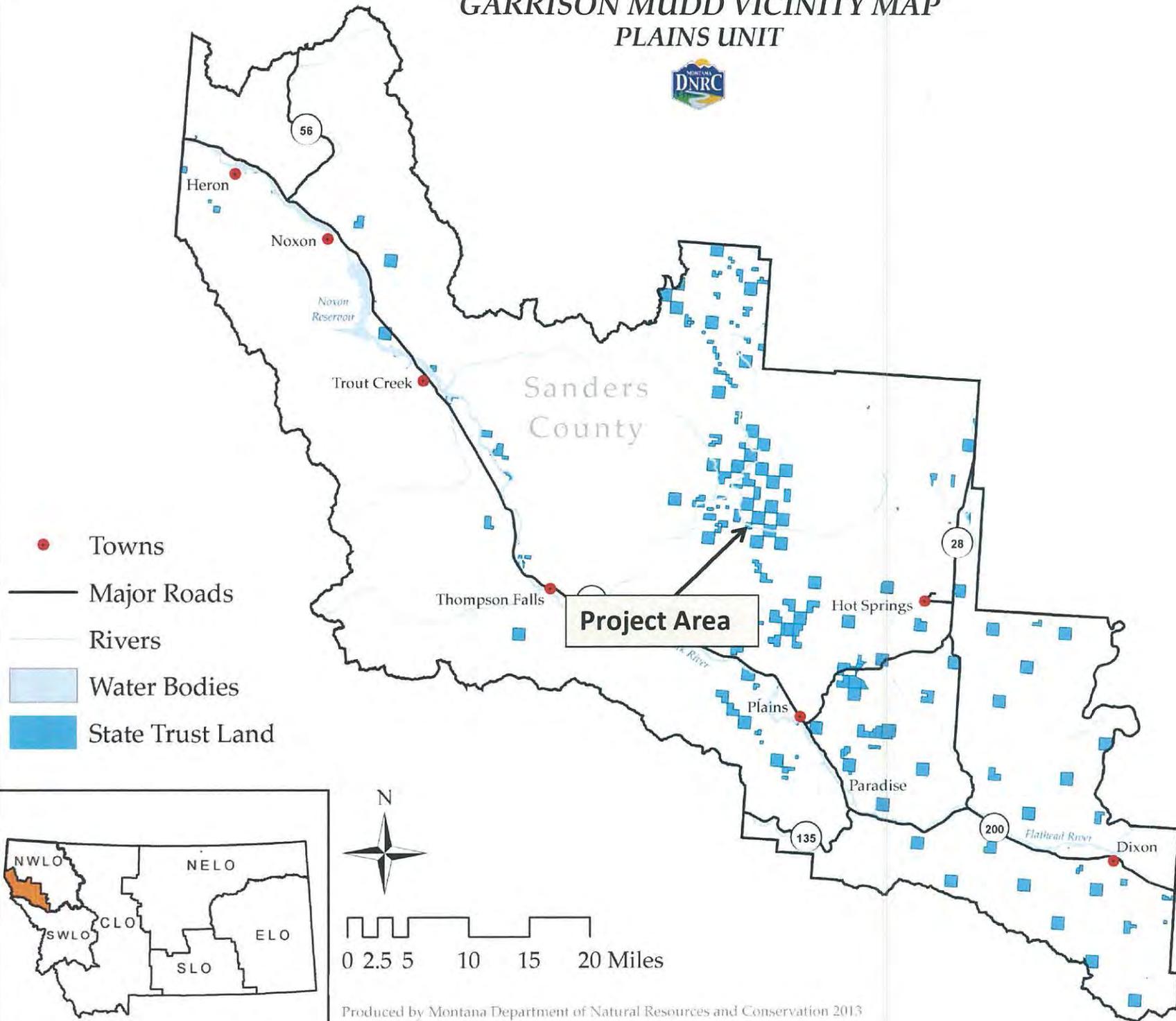
More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: David M. Olsen
	Title: Plains Unit Manager
Signature: <i>David M. Olsen</i>	Date: 5/18/2015

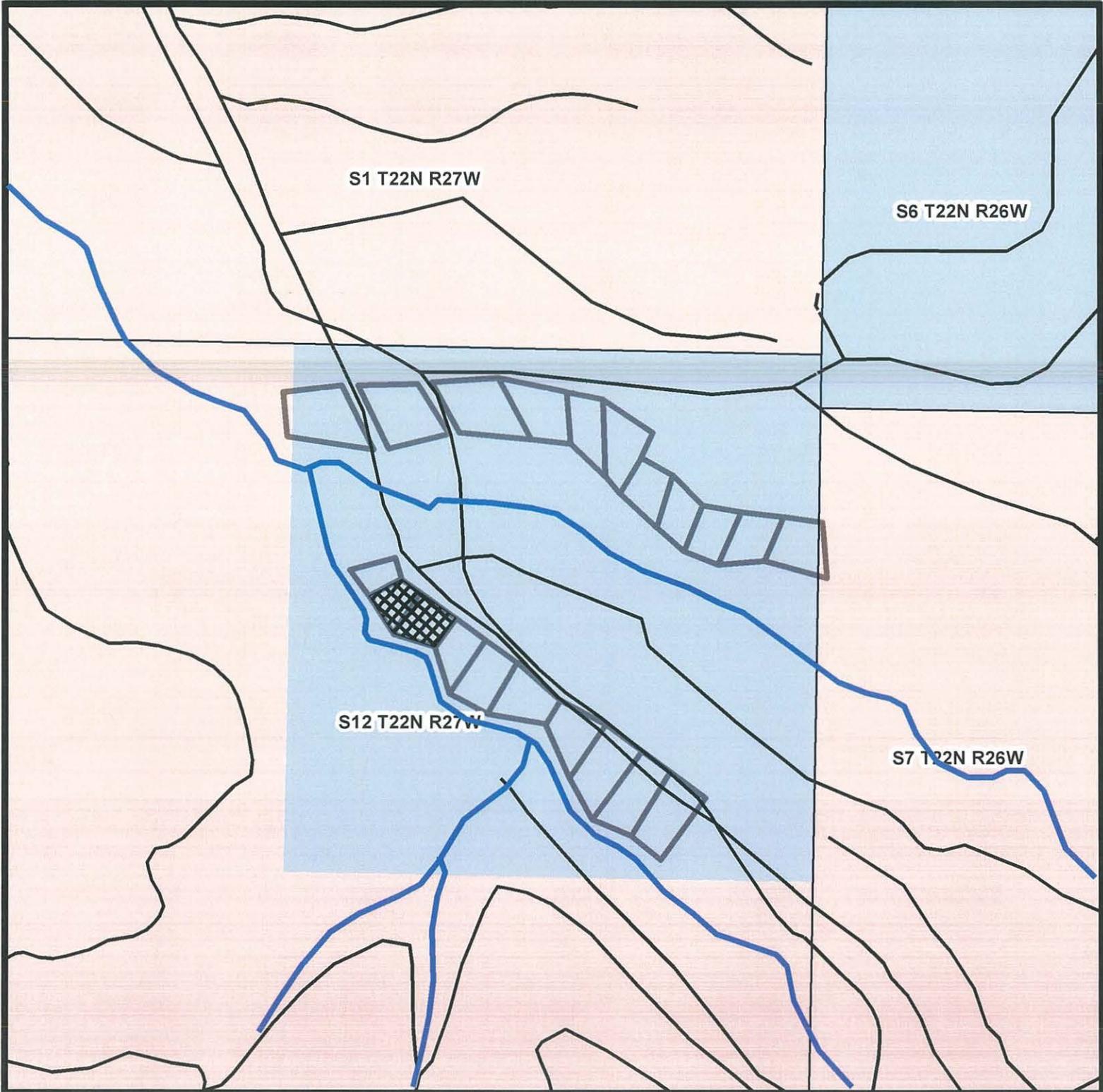
Attachment A:
Projects Maps

GARRISON MUDD VICINITY MAP PLAINS UNIT



Produced by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation 2013
Datum: NAD 1983 Montana State Plane

Garrison Mudd Letter Permit Project Area



Legend

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Roads | Ownership - General |
| Project Area | Ownership |
| Lease Lots | MT DNRC |
| | Plum Creek |

Montana DNRC
Northwestern Land Office
Timber-tfc4/15

