

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Warren Creek Concrete Culvert Removal

Proposed Implementation Date: October 1, 2015

Proponent: Gordon Murphy and DNRC

Type and Purpose of Action: This action will meet the requirements of Rule 36.11.447 as a Categorical Exclusion where the action is for modification of culvert on a fish bearing stream that does not affect T&E species, is not high erosion risk and is minor in scale and potential for impact. The stream supports west-slope cutthroat trout but is not identified as a bull trout stream.

The proposed action is to remove an older culvert that is partially restricting flows and fish passage. The existing culvert segments have become disjointed and minor, but chronic sediment is delivered to the stream. The culvert removal would improve the channel flow characteristics and restore a natural stream cross-section that will reduce sediment and provide for fish passage at all life stages. There would be a short term spike in sediment during removal, that would quickly subside and there would be a long term benefit to water quality and fisheries based on implementation of BMP's and all requirements of 124 permit.

The contractor is trained and accomplished with stream channel restoration projects.

Location: SW4NW4 Section 36, T15N, R12W

County: Powell

**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.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | g) Archaeological sites.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | h) Historic properties and areas.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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: Kristen Baker-Dickinson  
(Name)

9/16/2015  
(Date)

Decision by: Robert H. Storer  
(Name)

Trust Lands Pgm Mgr. SWLO  
(Title)

  
(Signature)

9/17/15  
(Date)