

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: SRUL-NWLO-25051 Whitefish Vertical

Proposed Implementation Date: 6/17/2025

Proponent: Joel Anderson, Whitefish Vertical - DNRC

Type and Purpose of Action: SRUL – guided climbing lessons in the Point of Rocks area. Licensee will abide by all stipulations in license after review by biologist and hydrologist.

Location:

Description	Section	Township	Range	Acres
Point of Rocks	31	34N	24W	474
Point of Rocks	33	33N	24W	273

County: Flathead and Lincoln

Category (as identified and written in ARM 36.25.918 (1)(a-o)):

- ☐ (a) lease and license administration including review, inspection, amendments, assignments, renewals, and enforcement of terms and conditions;
- ☐ (b) department review and approval of lease or license modifications, improvements, removal of improvements, and new utility service connections, consistent with applicable regulations;
- ☐ (c) adjustments to the boundaries of existing leases or licenses, consistent with applicable regulations;
- ☐ (d) project planning and design;
- ☐ (e) project evaluation under ARM [36.25.906](#);
- ☐ (f) development of a site selection report under ARM [36.25.907](#);
- ☐ (g) project selection under ARM [36.25.908](#);
- ☐ (h) development of the project management list under ARM [36.25.909](#);
- ☐ (i) marketing of state trust lands proposed for lease, license, or easement;
- ☒ (j) short-term land use licenses, involving no resource extraction or developed uses, and conforming to local permitting and land use regulations;
- ☐ (k) other real estate management activities administered by the bureau on state trust lands that are not in connection to:
 - (i) a department proposal for a sale, exchange, easement, placement of improvement, lease, license, or permit; or
 - (ii) a department review of an application for authorization of a sale, exchange, easement, placement of improvement, lease, license, or permit;
- ☐ (l) department request to amend a local growth policy or zoning regulation;

- ☐ (m) department request to amend or develop a neighborhood plan or extension of services plan;
- ☐ (n) annexation; and
- ☐ (o) land acquisition. Categorical exclusions include activities on state trust lands conducted by others under the authority of the department as well as activities conducted by the department itself.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division, has adopted the above categorical exclusions for real estate activities conducted on state 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) upon sites with high erosion risk. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) where critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species may be affected |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | c) where Native American religious and cultural sites may be affected |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | d) where archaeological sites may be affected |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | e) where historic properties and areas may be affected |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | f) where several related categorically-excluded individual activities may cumulatively result in significant impacts to the human environment because they will either occur closely in 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"/> | g) where the activity would result in a violation of any applicable local, 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 Real Estate Management Project Rules (ARM 36.25.918).

Prepared by: DAN DOBBIN
(Name)

6/13/25
(Date)

Decision by: David A. Ring
(Name) SIGNATURE

STILLWATER UNIT MANAGER
(Title)

DAVE RING
(Signature) NAME

6/12/25
(Date)