TP # 13396

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name Upper Willow Post & Rails Proposed Implementation Date: 10/92

Proponent Montana Department of State Lands

Type and Purpose of Action The proposed action is the sale of 4 blocks of post, rail and grapestake material. The blocks vary in size from 3 acres to 7.7 acres. The total acreage is 20.7 acres. This is a thinning operation and all unmerchantable material will be cut and piled for burning. A spacing of 8 to 10 feet will be used for the crop trees. The existing stand of trees are 70-80 years old, overstocked and stagnated. The objectives of the proposed project are to improve the health of the leave stand and to retain the best crop trees.

Location SW¼SW¼ Section 17 T8N R15W County Granite

N = Not present or No Impact will occur

Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts)

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[N]
2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminent levels, or degradation of water quality?	[N]
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[Y] see attachment
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N]
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there significant use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[Y] see attachment
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N]
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N]
8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[N]
9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N]

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IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N]
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N]
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so estimated number	[Y] see attachment
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will significant traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[N]
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N]
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[N]
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N]
19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
21. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N]

22. Alternatives Considered The No Action option would leave the timber in its present condition, stagnated and overcrowded. This option would also postpone the income from the 20 acres of land involved with this proposal.

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23. Public Involvement, Agencies, Groups or Individuals contacted

Bill Sprauer - USFS

Dan Hook - Dept. of Fish Wilklife & Parks

24. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction, List of Permits Needed.

Road Use Permit - USFS Philipsburg District

25. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts.

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

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

EA Checklist Prepared By: Fred E. Staedler Title Anaconda Unit Manager

Approved By: Robert H. Stow Forests & Lands Program Mgr.

name title

Robert H. Stow

signature

September 23, 1992

TO: Bob Storer, Asst. Area Manager
FROM: Fred Staedler, Anaconda Unit Manager
RE: UPPER WILLOW CREEK POST AND RAIL SALES

Checklist Environmental Assessment
Upper Willow Creek Post and Rail Sales
SW¼SW¼ Section 17 T8N R15W

3) Air Quality; Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones? (Class I airsheds)

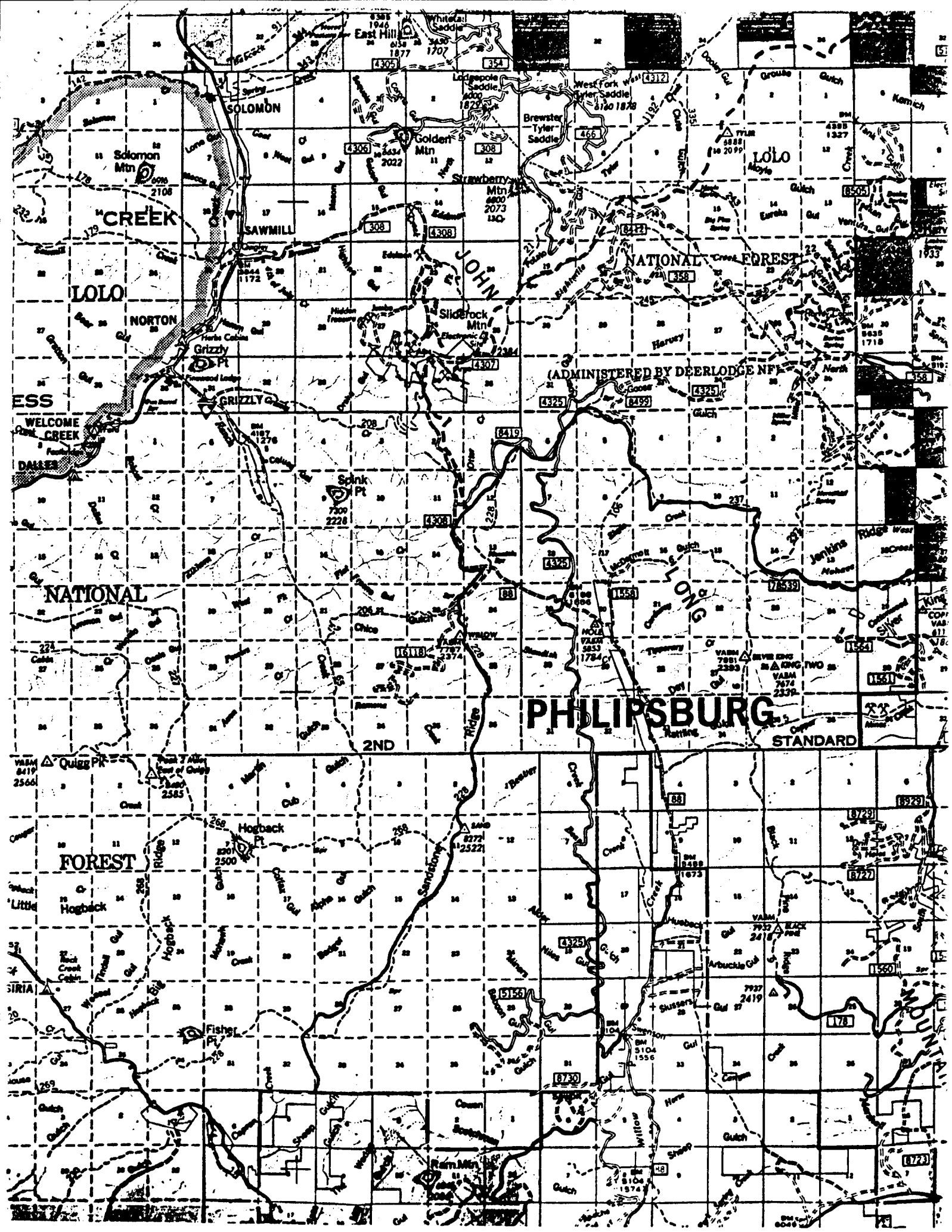
A small amount of particulate matter will be generated during pile burning. In order to reduce the affect of this action, the piles will be burned on days of good to excellent ventilation and all airshed restrictions will be complied with. The State will do the burning to insure air quality concerns are addressed. RHS

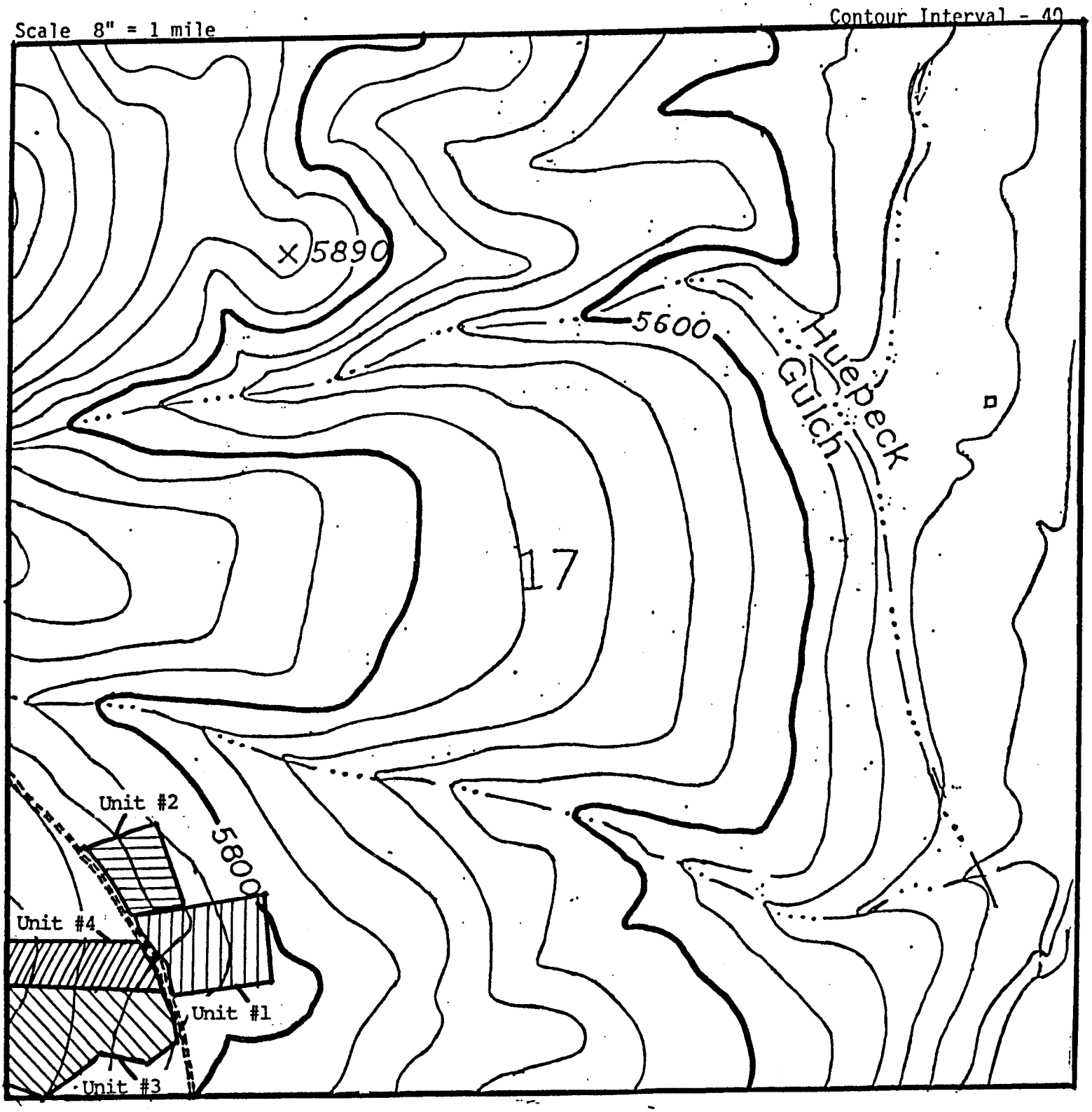
5) Terrestrial, Avian and Aquatic life and habitats; Is there significant use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?

This area is used by elk, mule deer, and bears. No significant impact is anticipated. Fred called Don Hook. Don said the extent of the Jobs (20.7 acres) and the treatment (thinning) is a minor action. RHS

13) Quantity and distribution of employment; will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so estimate number.

If this proposal is implemented temporary employment for 4 to 8 people.


East Hill
Whitetail Saddle
Lodgepole Saddle
West Fork Tyler Saddle
Brewster Tyler Saddle
SOLOMON
Golden Mtn
Solomon Mtn
Strawberry Mtn
CREEK
SAWMILL
LOLO
NATIONAL
FOREST
JOHN
NORTON
Slidrock Mtn
Grizzly Pt
(ADMINISTERED BY DEERLODGE NF)
GRIZZLY
WELCOME CREEK
DALLES
Spink Pt
NATIONAL
LONG
Jenkins
PHILIPSBURG
2ND
STANDARD
Quigg Pk
Hogback Pt
FOREST
Hogback
Fisher Pt
Ram Mtn

Upper Willow Creek
Post & Rail Permit

Section 17 T8N - R15W