

RECEIVED

DEC 18 1992

ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY COUNCIL

EKARAVEN TIMBER SALE
ENVIRONMENTAL PACKAGE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Environmental Assessment	1-5
Project Summary.	6
Vicinity Map	7
Sale Map	
Unit Boundary	8
Road Layout	9-10
Silvicultural Prescription	11-13
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Report	14-16
Archaeological Clearance	17-18
Lessee Notification.	19-20
Soils Description.	21-22

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Ekaraven Timber Sale Proposed Implementation Date: Jan. 1993

Proponent: Eastern Land Office Dept. of State Lands Forestry Division

Type and Purpose of Action: ELO/DSL is proposing a sawlog timber harvest of approximately 466 MBF of ponderosa pine from a harvest unit of 105 acres. Harvest unit is a small part of a timbered state section. Harvest is proposed to remove over-mature and mature trees. Fuels modification of non-commercial stagnated, dense clusters of pine is proposed to reduce the potential of extreme /erratic fire behavior. Fuels modification will only occur along the major ridge within the harvest unit. Estimated 2.3 miles of road will be constructed or re-constructed. The timber harvest and fuels modification should result in increased timber production and reduced potential for extreme fire behavior. An estimated income of \$20,000 to the school trust fund is predicted.

Location: E2 SEC 36 T2N R58E

County: Carter

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?	[Y] Soil surface will be displaced on skid trails and haul roads. Erosion control structures and road maintenance is required under the Timber Sale Contract. All roads will be mechanically ripped when haul use is complete. All roads and skid trails will be broadcast seeded with a native grass specie seed mix.
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 contaminant 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] Particulates will be released into the atmosphere when the brush/slash piles are burned. Slash will be burned when appropriate air rating, snow ground cover, and air conditions are suitable to produce safe burning conditions with acceptable smoke dispersion. Existing safety policies and applicable laws will be adhered to.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] See attached Silvicultural Prescription

<p>5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there significant use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[Y] Area is used by many species of wildlife ranging from small to large mammals to avian species. Timber harvest will produce different impacts on each species depending on mobility, home territory and reproductive capabilities. Small mammals have a high reproductive capacity so impacts will be short. Large mammals are primarily whitetail and mule deer both of which are highly mobil. Cover reduction of both hiding and thermal will occur in the harvest area. Impact will be mitigated by an irregular harvest unit boundary, specie mobility, an increase of ground cover diversity over time and adjacent hiding and thermal cover within the remaining 500 acres of unharvested timber on the state section. Merriams Turkey use the harvest area but no known roosting sites were located. Specie mobility and adjacent standing timber will mitigate impacts.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] Environmental Assessment prepared by the United States Forest Service, Custer National Forest shows a review of threatened and endangered species for a geographic area directly adjacent to the proposed timber harvest unit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided the review and no species were noted to inhabit this area that are listed as T&E.</p>
<p>7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] No sites were located within the unit boundary, a file search by the State Historic Preservation Office confirmed no site locations on record. If a site is located during harvest activities the immediate area will be protected and a site report will be submitted to the Dept. Archaeologist .</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[Y] Acreage directly adjacent to the harvest boundary is administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Custer National Forest and a timber harvest and fuels modification program will take place. Timber as a local resource is not limited in the area. The timber harvest/ fuels modification proposed for the state land has been developed in concert with the Forest Service.</p>
<p>10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>[Y] The U.S. Forest Service has 3 established study plots within the proposed harvest area. These study plots will be disturbed during execution of the timber harvest activities.</p>
<p>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</p>	
<p>RESOURCE</p>	<p>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</p>
<p>11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>[Y] Logging activities are inherently dangerous so safety risks will occur to logging personnel. The public should not face any safety risks.</p>
<p>12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>[Y] The state tract is classified as grazing with 64 Animal Unit Months (AUM) or 10 acres/cow-calf per month. Herbaceous response of regrowth will increase livestock forage quality and quantity in the harvest unit due to canopy removal and reduced inter-specie competition.</p>

13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so estimated number	[Y] The timber sale will result in the temporary movement of some job locations to the sale area. This movement is not negative as the employees routinely change locations according to where the sales are geographically placed.
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?	[Y] Temporary increased use of roads will result from the timber sale activities. Road maintenance is required as part of the U.S. Forest Service timber sale contract and all increased use associated with the proposed State land timber harvest will be covered by that contract. No increase of services will be required.
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[Y] The adjacent ownership (U.S.F.S.) is under a timber harvest and fuels modification plan. The State land proposed timber sale and fuels modification plan was developed in concert with the U.S. Forest Service plan.
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?	[Y] Recreational opportunities, primarily hiking and hunting, will be temporarily impacted within the harvest unit. The impact will be short in duration and the quality of recreational opportunities will equal or exceed pre-harvest levels in the future.
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:	[Y] There is a small sawmill located in Ekalaka, MT. The general public in that area has expressed to the U.S.F.S. that they felt the mill should be awarded the 2.5 MMBF timber contract in an effort to keep the mill solvent. The Forest Service advertised the sale for sealed bid and the closing date was Sept. 24, 1992. The local mill did not submit a bid. The proposed State Timber Sale may be subject to this kind of public concern but no comment has been received by this office.

22. Alternatives Considered: No Action Alternative: Current land management use would continue. Livestock grazing use is the classified use and would continue with the same forage base. Growth rate of standing timber is basically stagnate and will continue as such if this alternative were selected. The quality of commercial timber will deteriorate over time. Potential for erratic and extreme fire behavior/rate of spread will remain high. Recreational use would continue as in the past and regulated by the Recreational Use Program rules and the harvest quotes established by the MT. Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The fiduciary responsibility of the Dept. of State Lands of producing income to the

school trust fund, while protecting the productivity of the natural resource, will not be realized. An estimated income of \$20,000 to the trust would not be secured.

Timber Harvest Alternative: Current land management use would be slightly altered. Classified grazing use would continue with a temporary reduction of the forage base. Through time the quality and quantity of the forage base would increase under this alternative within the harvest unit. Timber harvest would remove competition for selected seed trees (leave trees) and open the canopy with a subsequent release of nutrients for shrub and herbaceous species. Dense "doghair" clusters of ponderosa pine (1"-7"DBH) would not be treated under this alternative. This would perpetuate poor growth rate and stagnate conditions within those sites. Potential for erratic and extreme fire behavior/rate of spread would be reduced slightly but still be classed as high. Recreational opportunities would be temporarily reduced by timber harvest activities within the sale unit. This reduction will be short-lived and an increase in recreational opportunities should occur over time. The fiduciary and resource production responsibilities of the Dept. of State Lands would be met under this alternative.

Timber Harvest and Fuels Management Alternative: Current land management activities will be impacted in the immediate future within the harvest unit boundary. Classified grazing use will continue as the primary use. Livestock forage base will temporarily be reduced. Through time the quality and quantity of the livestock forage base will increase beyond pre-harvest levels. Proposed timber harvest and fuels modification will decrease species competition and increase space/nutrient availability for herbaceous species. Proposed action will release competition for seed trees (leave trees) by removal of neighboring trees and through removal of dense "doghair" clusters of pine in selected areas with the unit boundary. Potential for erratic and extreme fire behavior will be reduced under this alternative through the elimination of pine clusters which will remove ladder fuels and overall fuel load. Consequently the potential rate of fire spread will be reduced under this alternative. The ability or option of direct fire suppression tactic will be enhanced in conjunction with development of a fuel break. Recreational opportunities will be temporarily reduced especially when harvest activities take place. The predicted reduction will be short-lived and a potential increase of recreational opportunities should occur when the vegetative environment recovers. The fiduciary and resource protection responsibilities of the Dept. of State Lands will reach a higher level of accomplishment under this proposed alternative.

23. Public Involvement, Agencies, Groups or Individuals contacted:

Public Notice of the proposed Timber Sale and Fuels Modification was published in the Ekalaka Eagle on July 3 & 10, 1992. The public did not respond with any issues or concerns. The U.S.F.S. Custer National Forest was contacted for comments. Personnel contacted were: James Dague, Ranger; John Clark, Forest Management Officer; Bill Myers, Range Conservationist. Dept. of State Lands personnel contacted were: Brian Long and inventory crew: Gary Frank, Bill Schultz, Jeff Collins, Specialists Forestry Division: Dave Remington, Forest Development; Dori Passmam, Archaeologist; Bob Dillon, Forester; MT. Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist Greg Risdahl was contacted. Lessee, Dick Schwede and industry forester, Kirk Titus were contacted. The owner and manager of the

sawmill in Ekalaka, Don Knapp was also contacted.

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

U.S.F.S. Custer National Forest will require the successful purchaser to acquire a Road Use & Maintenance Permit of egress and ingress to the State land. No other permits are required.

25. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts.

The proposed action will result in timber harvest of commercial sawlogs 8" DBH and larger within a 105 acre unit. The entire State section holds approximately 500 acres of commercial timber. Fuels modification will result in construction of a fuel break which will be approximately 100 feet wide with a road in the center. The fuel break should lower the potential of erratic fire behavior and rate of spread. Recreational opportunities will be reduced during harvest activities but will recover when the ground vegetative cover is established. Specialists were contacted and concerns were mitigated in the Timber Sale Contract. The general public was contacted and no issues or concerns were voiced. Impacts associated with this proposed action are not significant and appropriate mitigations of specific impacts have been incorporated into the sale design and sale contract. An environmental assessment is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By: Dwayne Andrews

Title Area Manager

Approved By: Dwayne Andrews

Area Manager

name

title

Dwayne Andrews

signature

PROJECT SUMMARY

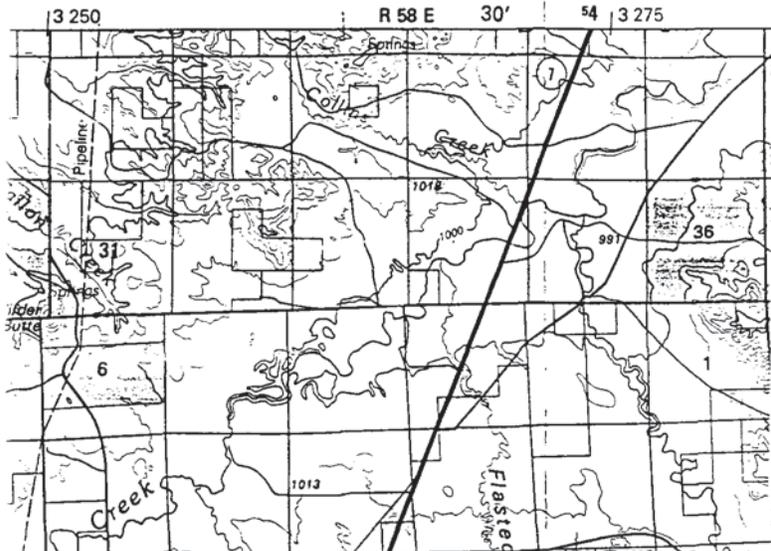
EKARAVEN TIMBER SALE

The proposed timber sale is classified grazing land in Carter County. The sale is located 3.5 miles east of Ekalaka, Montana. Harvest operation will remove approximately 466 MBF of mature and over-mature ponderosa pine.

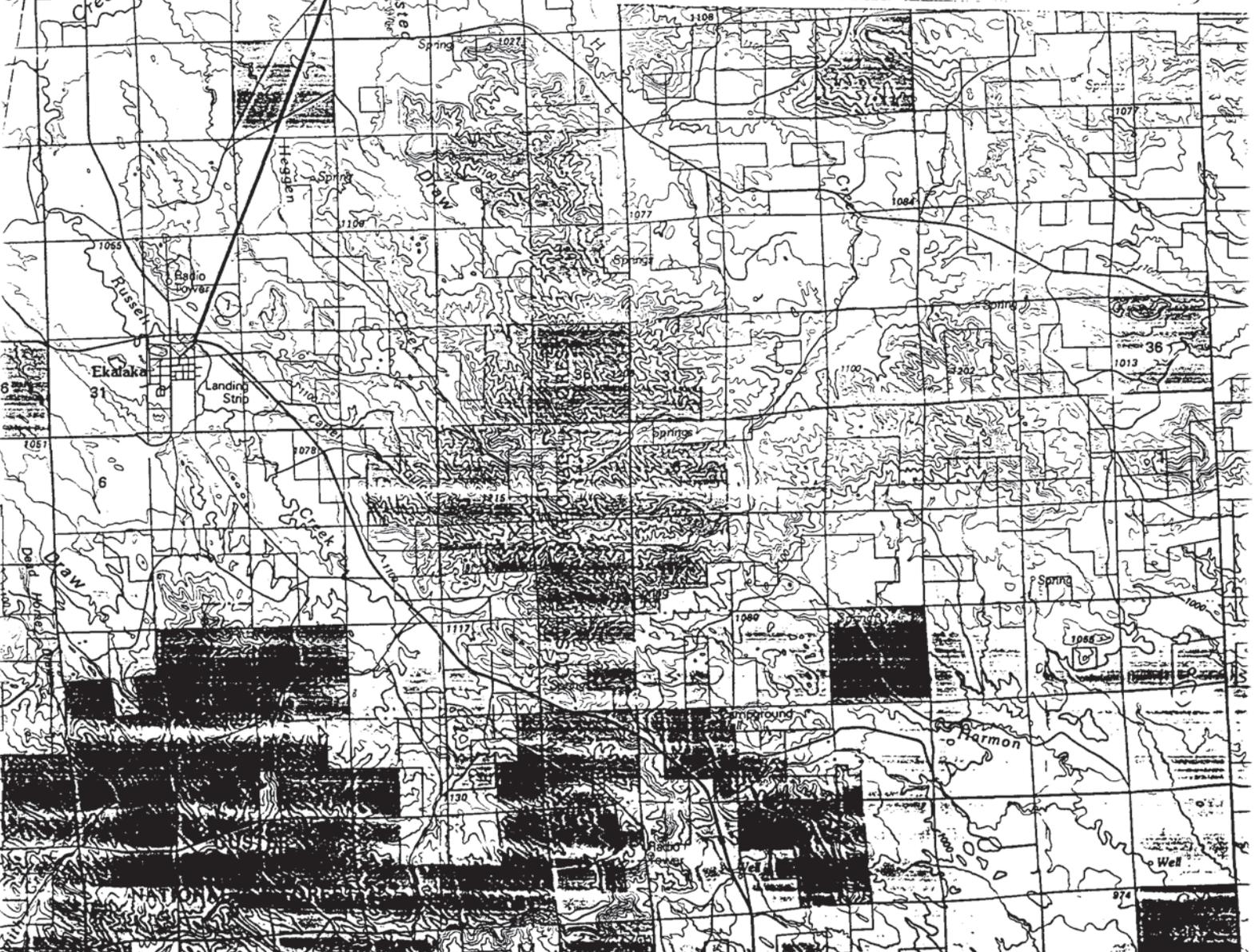
The environmental assessment states the mitigations incorporated into the timber sale contract to address natural resource protection.

The silvicultural treatment/prescription explains the present environment and harvest guidelines.

The information in this environmental package addresses other concerns and shows documentation for archaeological clearance.



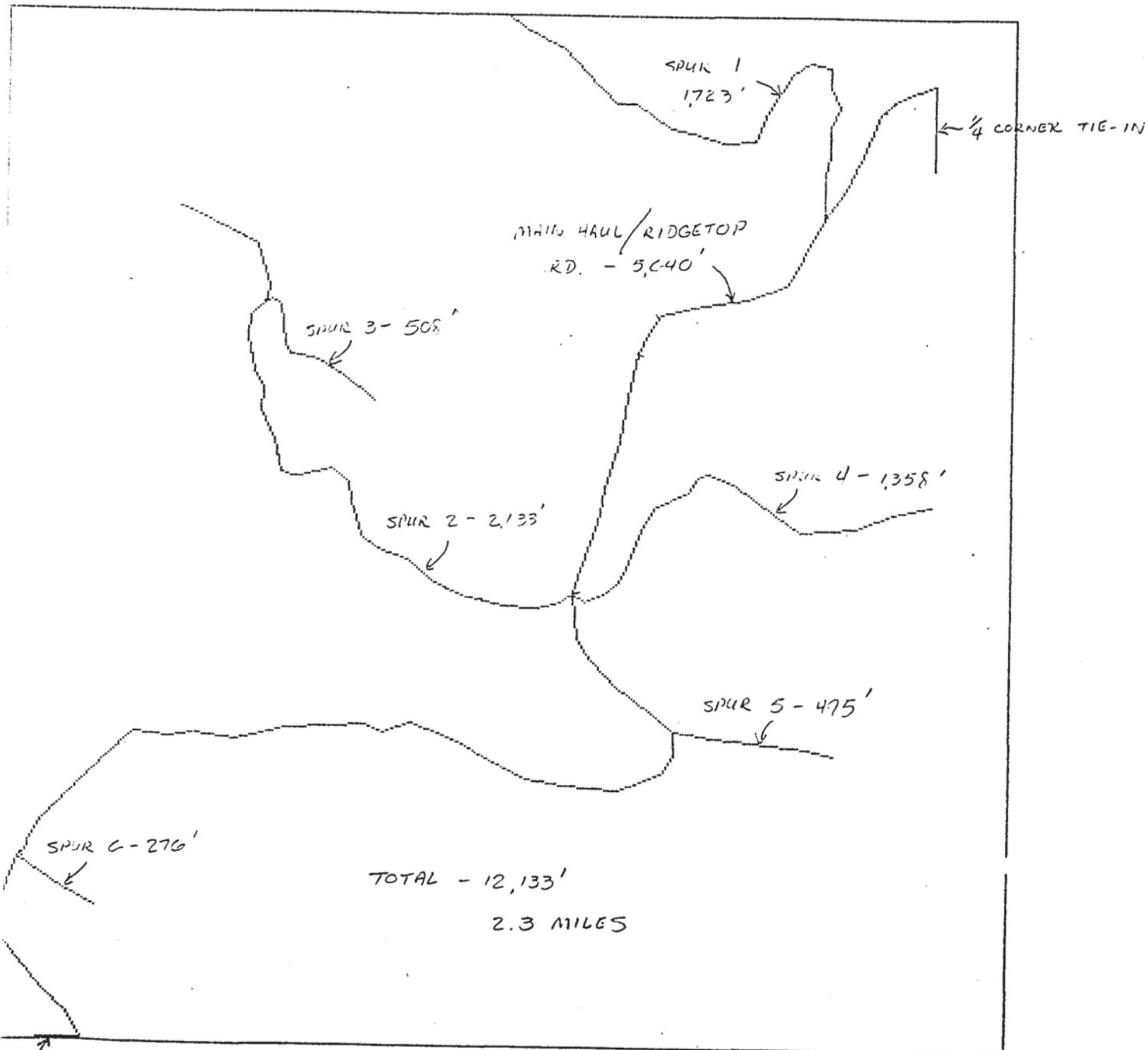
Attachment A Figure 1
Ekaraven Timber Sale
Vicinity Map
See 36 T24 R58E



RECEIVED
MAY 2 1992
DISTRICT

CORRECTED MAP OUTPUT FOR: EKALAKA ROADS

North

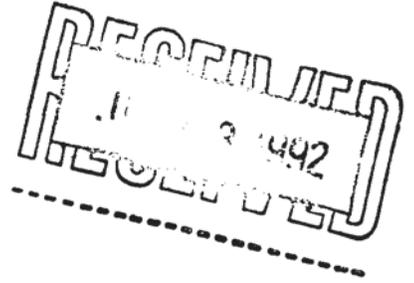


1/4 CORNER TIE-IN
IAP SCALE: 1 : 5339
1 INCH =

444.93 FEET
6.74 CHAINS

Ekaraven Timber Sale
Road Location & Lengths
Attachment A Figure 4

JULY 28, 1992



TO: DWAYNE ANDREWS, Area Manager, Eastern Land Office
FROM: BRIAN LONG, ^{BXL} Supervisor, Forest Inventory Section
SUBJECT: Draft Silvicultural Prescription for Ekaraven Timber Sale

Management Objectives:

1. Provide money to School Trust Fund.
2. Reduce fire risk and intensity through modifying the fuel loading in the sale area.
3. Continue to produce timber products consistent with potential productivity ranging from 20 to 50 ft³/acre/year.
4. Maintain forage for cattle and wildlife.

Present Stand:

The sale occurs on 105 acres in the eastern half of section 36, township 2N, range 58W. Elevations range from 3,750 feet to 3,950 feet. The majority of the sale area runs along a ridge that travels southwest to northeast through the section. Slopes are generally gentle to moderate, nearly flat to 45 percent for short pitches.

The forest cover is dominated by Ponderosa pine sawtimber with a couple patches of aspen in the draws. The stand structure is highly variable and correlated to aspect. The southern and western aspects are less densely stocked and tend to be somewhat clumpy, two storied or multi-storied stands. The draws, eastern, and northern aspects are denser and appear to be evenaged one-storied or two-storied stands. Sawtimber ages range from 50 years old to 175 year old residual trees. The best even-aged stands are about 100 years old and have poor diameter growth (6/20ths and 8/20ths in the last ten years). Merchantable stand basal areas on favorable aspects and in the draws ranged up to 240 ft². Volumes on the best sites ranged from 10,000 to 16,000 board feet per acre.

Stand History:

Based on increment borings, stand composition, and stumps we have formulated the following stand history. Most of the sale unit was logged about 60 to 70 years ago. They left several trees of inferior quality on the site. The stands that have the best volume now were left untouched because they were too young/small to harvest. About 50 - 55 years ago, a low intensity fire burned through much or all of the unit. This fire created the seed bed for the dog-hair now found under most of the residual trees left after the earlier

logging. It also produced the well stocked poletimber and small sawtimber stands that are scattered through out the unit. Fire protection has allowed many areas in the unit to become overstocked. This has resulted in dense patches of saplings and poletimber with stagnate growth.

Site Quality/Habitat Types

There are primarily three habitat types found in the unit. The most prevalent habitat type and the most productive is *Pinus ponderosa*/*Prunus virginiana* *Prunus virginiana* phase. Pipo/Prvi was found on the moister areas of the sale and based on site trees has an estimated potential productivity of 50 ft³/acre/year. The second most common habitat type is *Pinus ponderosa*/*Agropyron spicatum*. Pipo/Agsp is found on the drier western and southern aspects. We did not bore any site trees on this habitat type. Pfister's publication estimates the average potential productivity for this habitat type to be about 21 ft³/acre/year. Based on tree size, growth, and stocking I estimate the potential productivity to be in the 20 to 30 ft³/acre/year range. *Pinus ponderosa*/*Symphoricarpos albus* *Symphoricarpos albus* phase is the third habitat type found in the sale unit. Pipo/Syal was found on slightly drier sites than Pipo/Prvi and appeared to be slightly less productive. The habitat type did not occur over extensive areas. It occurred on smaller localized patches of a few acres in size. Pfister's publication estimates the average potential productivity for Pipo/Syal to be 38 ft³/acre/year.

Silviculture/Forest Management

Regeneration should not be a problem as long as there is an adequate seed source. Leaving 5 to 10 seed trees per acre should provide enough seed to regenerate the site. The cruise data estimates there are 8 to 9 leave trees per acre. The diameters of the seed trees range from 8 to 20 inches dbh. Seed trees were chosen based on vigor, crown size, crown shape, age, and form. Younger more vigorous trees were favored over older less vigorous trees when possible. The younger trees should provide better cone crops. On the drier Pipo/Agsp and Pipo/Syal sites there are scattered small clumps of submerchantable trees currently occupying the site. Most of these trees will survive the logging to provide a light tree cover (in addition to the seed trees) until additional trees occupy the site.

The target stand on the Pipo/Prvi sites is an even-aged fully stocked sawtimber stand. At stand age 80 to 90 average diameter should be about 13 to 14 inches. Using a stand density index of 130 to 140 the target stand should have about 70 to 80 trees per acre at time of harvest. Assuming a 10 year regeneration period the future stand should be ready for harvest in 90 to 100 years.

The target stand on the Pipo/Agsp and Pipo/Syal sites is a slightly uneven-aged multi-storied stand. Average diameters will be similar to the Pipo/Prvi sites but the stocking will be lower and the trees will be a little shorter. Basal area per acre should be 60 to 70 square feet at harvest. With an average dbh of 14 inches on merchantable trees there should be between 55 to 65 trees per acre. This results in a stand density index of about 110 to 120.

The sale area should be visited in 15 to 20 years to assess the regeneration success and the need for thinning.

Logging slash will be piled to be burned during the winter following harvest. Loggers should be encouraged to trample overstocked sapling stands during falling and skidding of timber to reduce the wildfire hazard. Areas where the logging slash is too heavy to leave scattered on the ground should be piled. Slash piling should be done in a way that minimizes soil disturbance. Bare soil exposure should be kept below 30 percent of the area. A 50 foot wide strip on each side of the main spur road (100 foot total width) will be cleared of all trees \geq one inch dbh, except seed trees, to provide a fuel break through the length of the unit.

Reducing the crown cover and piling the heavy slash concentrations should increase the available forage for livestock in the unit. It may also increase the browse for wildlife. Harvesting the timber will reduce the amount of hiding cover for deer in the east half of the section. The roads should be closed after logging to reduce the impact on wildlife and to keep traffic off the roads during wet periods of the year.

cc: Dave Remington

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
EASTERN LAND OFFICE



STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 1794
321 MAIN STREET

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 232-2034

MILES CITY, MONTANA 59301

June 29, 1992

Greg Risdahl
Fish, Wildlife & Parks Biologist
P. O. Box 658
Broadus, MT 59317

Re: Proposed Timber Sale on State Land
Sec. 36, T2N, R58E, Carter Co.

Dear Greg:

We are planning on a timber sale on the State land in Section 36, T2N, R58E in the Ekalaka Hills.

The proposed sale will occur in conjunction with planned Forest Service harvest and fuels modification on the adjacent Federal land.

The sale will include approximately 100 acres of State land (see attachment). The harvest proposal is described as:

1. Harvest trees with 9" D.B.H.
2. Leave 20 trees per acre of seed trees.
3. Remove in total approximately six stands of "doghair" ponderosa. This will reduce fire behavior spread and intensity.
4. Build about one mile of new and reconstructed road.
5. All roads will be seeded to promote vegetative recovery.
6. Roads will be closed to vehicle use.

Project File 9810

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

Page 14

Greg Risdahl
Page 2
June 29, 1992

Could you please comment in writing listing concerns, etc., you may have concerning the effect the proposed timber sale might have on wildlife species in the area.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Respectfully,

DA

Dwayne Andrews
Area Manager
Eastern Land Office

DA:kw
Enc.

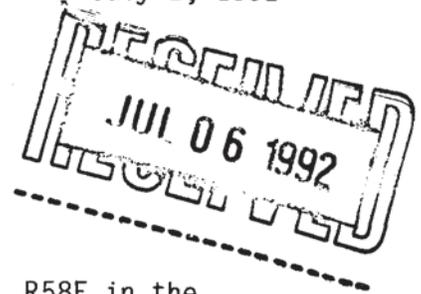
Project File.

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



July 2, 1992

Dwayne Andrews
Department of State Lands Area Manager
P.O. Box 1794
321 Main Street
Miles City, Montana 59301



Dear Dwayne,

The Proposed timber sale on state land in Section 36, T2N, R58E in the Ekalaka Hills appears to be consistent with the Sioux Ranger District's Fuels Management Program Environmental Assessment in which I took part in developing. Consequently, I have no major concerns to address regarding the wildlife species in the area. My concerns have already been addressed during the EA process.

The harvest proposal adequately meets the goals of the fuels management program and will have no long-term negative effects on the wildlife species in the area. If fuels management is a goal of the proposed timber harvest in this state section, I would suggest a 5 or 10 year rotational monitoring schedule. In addition, if decadent aspen stands are encountered during the harvest, I suggest revitalizing these by opening up the canopy through cutting and/or burning. This will enhance the diversity of native vegetation in the area which will be of benefit to all wildlife species inhabiting the site.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory L. Risdahl". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Gregory L. Risdahl
Wildlife Biologist, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
EASTERN LAND OFFICE



STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 1794
321 MAIN STREET

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 232-2034

MILES CITY, MONTANA 59301

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dori Passman, Archaeologist

FROM: Dwayne Andrews, Area Manager, Eastern Land Office *DA*

DATE: June 29, 1992

RE: Arch Clearance on Proposed Timber Sale
Sec. 36, T2N, R58E, Carter County

Dori, ELO proposes a timber sale on the State land described above.

I've been on the sale area three times and have not located anything. Could you please complete a file search and run a check through SHIPO?

Please provide a memo clearing this project when your file search is complete.
Thank you.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS



STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

CAPITOL STATION

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 444-2074

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

July 20, 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dwayne Andrews, Area Manager, ELO

FROM: Dori Passmann, Archaeologist, Land Management Section *DP*

RE: Proposed Timber Sale in Carter County
E $\frac{1}{2}$ 36-2N-58E

There are no recorded sites in your area of interest. SHPO indicates that numerous prehistoric lithic scatters and camp sites have been recorded in the vicinity by the Custer Forest. The most likely areas are flat ridge tops and saddles. These features in your sale area warrant continued review as you go about sale preparation activities. This sale has archaeological clearance.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

/ns

Letter File

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
EASTERN LAND OFFICE



STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 1794
321 MAIN STREET

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 232-2034

MILES CITY, MONTANA 59301

June 29, 1992

Dick Schwede
Star Route 2, Box 3
Ekalaka, MT 59324

Re: State Lease 6185
All, Sec. 36, T2N, R58E, Carter County

Dear Mr. Schwede:

The Department of State Lands has proposed a timber sale on the lease described above. Since you are the lessee, could you please take a moment of your time to let me know about any concerns or issues you may have in mind concerning the proposed timber harvest.

Enclosed is a map with the proposed timber harvest unit highlighted in yellow for your use.

Please let me know within the next two weeks of any concerns or issues you may have.

Thank you for your time, effort and cooperation.

Respectfully,

AA

Dwayne Andrews
Area Manager
Eastern Land Office

DA:kw

July 5, 1992

Ekalaka Mt. 59324

HC 51 Box 3

Dwayne Andrews
Area Manager



Dear Sir,

In response to your letter concerning state lease #6185. The area shown on the map is in need of logging. There is severe fire encroachment lots of downed or dead older growth which is getting worse each year. This mature timber is being wasted. Also the fire hazard is real. Most roads and trails are over grown.

There could be more timber sales on this section.

I have no objection to this sale. It would be nice if the sales were small enough so local loggers could bid on them.

Sincerely
Dick Schwede

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
EASTERN LAND OFFICE



STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 1794
321 MAIN STREET

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 232-2034

MILES CITY, MONTANA 59301

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Schultz, Forest Hydrologist
Jeff Collins, Soil Scientist

FROM: Dwayne Andrews, Area Manager, Eastern Land Office *Dwayne*

DATE: August 19, 1992

RE: Ekaraven Timber Sale
Section 36, T2N, R58E, Carter County

The Eastern Land Office is proposing a timber sale on the State section described above.

Enclosed is a copy of the topographical map which shows harvest unit boundary and road layout.

The sale lays in the Ekalaka hills, and the merchantable species is Pinus ponderosa. The present stand is stagnate due to overstocked stands of doghair ponderosa pine (refer to attached narrative by Mr. Brian Long).

The primary intent of the proposed timber sale is to harvest sawlogs and to reduce fuel loads. The fuels modification plan was developed in an effort to cooperate with the U. S. Forest Service (FS). The FS has constructed a fairly intensive timber harvest and fuels modification plan on federal land which lays to the south and east of the State section. The FS felt a fuels modification plan would not be effective if the sections adjacent to the State land were modified and the State section was not.

Consequently, the timber harvest prescription calls for harvest of sawlogs 8" DBH and greater with leave trees marked at 5 to 10 per acre. The fuels modification plan calls for removal of all standing material 1" DBH to 7" DBH with all the material (slash) being mechanically piled. Fuels modification will occur within 50 feet of the road locations on both sides of the road. A fuel break 100 feet in width with a road in the middle will be the end result.

The soils within the proposed harvest unit are described as:

Dast Ridge with rock outcrops
Reeder Cabba
Beltower Dast
Dast Vebar

Each soil is primarily sandy texture with shallow depth in areas, particularly adjacent to sandstone outcrops. Soils are listed as highly erodible due to wind erosion, yet this will not be much of an influence on the State sale. The primary concern will be soil displacement from harvest and slash activity. Road construction and skid trails will be the areas most highly impacted.

Reclamation will be by broadcast seeding at sale termination. The following mix of pure live seed is proposed:

Western wheatgrass	6 lbs./acre
Prairie sandreed	4 lbs./acre
Green needlegrass	2 lbs./acre
Slender wheatgrass	<u>4 lbs./acre</u>
Total	16 lbs./acre

Vegetative recovery in disturbed areas should be excellent if rainfall comes at the appropriate time to germinate the seed and promote recovery of native species which have been disrupted but not destroyed.

Roads will be closed by Kelley humps, and water bars will be placed on all roads at appropriate intervals to displace surface run-off. Skid trails will have water bars placed at appropriate intervals to displace run-off water.

There are no SMZ's located in the sale area, and no placement of culverts in proposed roads will be necessary.

Based on the information provided, do you have any comments, suggestions or concerns relating to the proposed timber harvest/fuels modification plan? Please advise me and thank you for your time and efforts.