

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Fry Baby Post & Rail Timber Permit

Proposed Implementation Date: June 2010

Proponent: Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation

Type and Purpose of Action: Commercial harvest of an estimated 100 MBF of lodgepole pine posts and rails and 50 MBF of lodgepole pine sawlogs that have been affected by insect and disease infestations from approximately 24 acres. No new road would be needed to access the harvest unit. Harvest would remove all post and rail material  $\leq 7.0$ " dbh and leave the larger, live trees. Purpose of action is to generate revenue for the school trust, remove overstocked and suppressed timber before its value is lost to insect and disease or wildfire; and improve the health, vigor and productivity of the forest in the proposed project area.

Location: Lot 1 Section 21, Township 10 South, Range 15 West

County: Beaverhead

### Category (refer to ARM 36.11.447 for additional detail):

- 1) Temporary Uses of Land with Negligible Effects
- 2) Plans and Policies
- 3) Leases and Licenses
- 4) Acquisition of Land or Interest in Land
- 5) Road Maintenance and Repair
- 6) Bridges and Culverts
- 7) Crossing Class 3 Streams
- 8) Temporary Road Use Permits
- 9) Road Closure
- 10) Material Stockpiles
- 11) Backfilling
- 12) Gathering Forest Products for Personal Use
- 13) Regeneration
- 14) Nursery Operations
- 15) Water Wells
- 16) Herbicides and Pesticides
- 17) Other Hazardous Materials
- 18) Fences
- 19) Waterlines
- 20) Removal of Small Trees
- 21) Removal of Hazardous Trees
- 22) Cone Collection
- 23) Timber Harvest (<100 MBF green or 500 MBF salvage)

By process of the adoption of the Administrative Rules for Forest Management 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 forest 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 or situations in the project area? If the resource 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           |  |
|-------|--------------|--|
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 1) Sites with high erosion risk.   |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 2) Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS.  |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 3) Municipal watersheds.   |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 4) The SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures.  |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 5) State natural area.   |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 6) Native American religious and cultural sites.   |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 7) Archaeological sites.   |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 8) Historic properties and areas.  |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 9) 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. |
| _____ | <u>  X  </u> | 10) 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 Administrative Rules for Forest Management (ARM 36.11.447).

Prepared by: Chuck Barone 12/31/09  
(Name) (Date)

Decision by: Tim Egan Dillon Unit Manager  
(Name) (Title)

/S/ Timothy Egan 12/31/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)