

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Deadmans Chest Salvage Timber Permit

Proposed Implementation Date: September 2011

Proponent: Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation

Type and Purpose of Action: Commercial harvest of an estimated 400 MBF of lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir sawtimber from approximately 108 acres. The proposed project would primarily address timber that has been affected by insect and disease infestations, focusing on removing dead, dying, susceptible and overstocked trees. The project would incorporate group selection, selection and regeneration harvest methods utilizing conventional/tractor harvest systems. The project would utilize existing roads and would require a drive through crossing of a dry, intermittent draw to access the harvest units. The roads within the harvest units would be physically closed at the end of the project. Purpose of action is to generate revenue for the Common 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: SE4SW4 Section 28, Township 11, South, Range 13 West; and NE4SE4 and NE4 Section 33, Township 11, South, Range 13 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 (Name) 1/19/11 (Date)

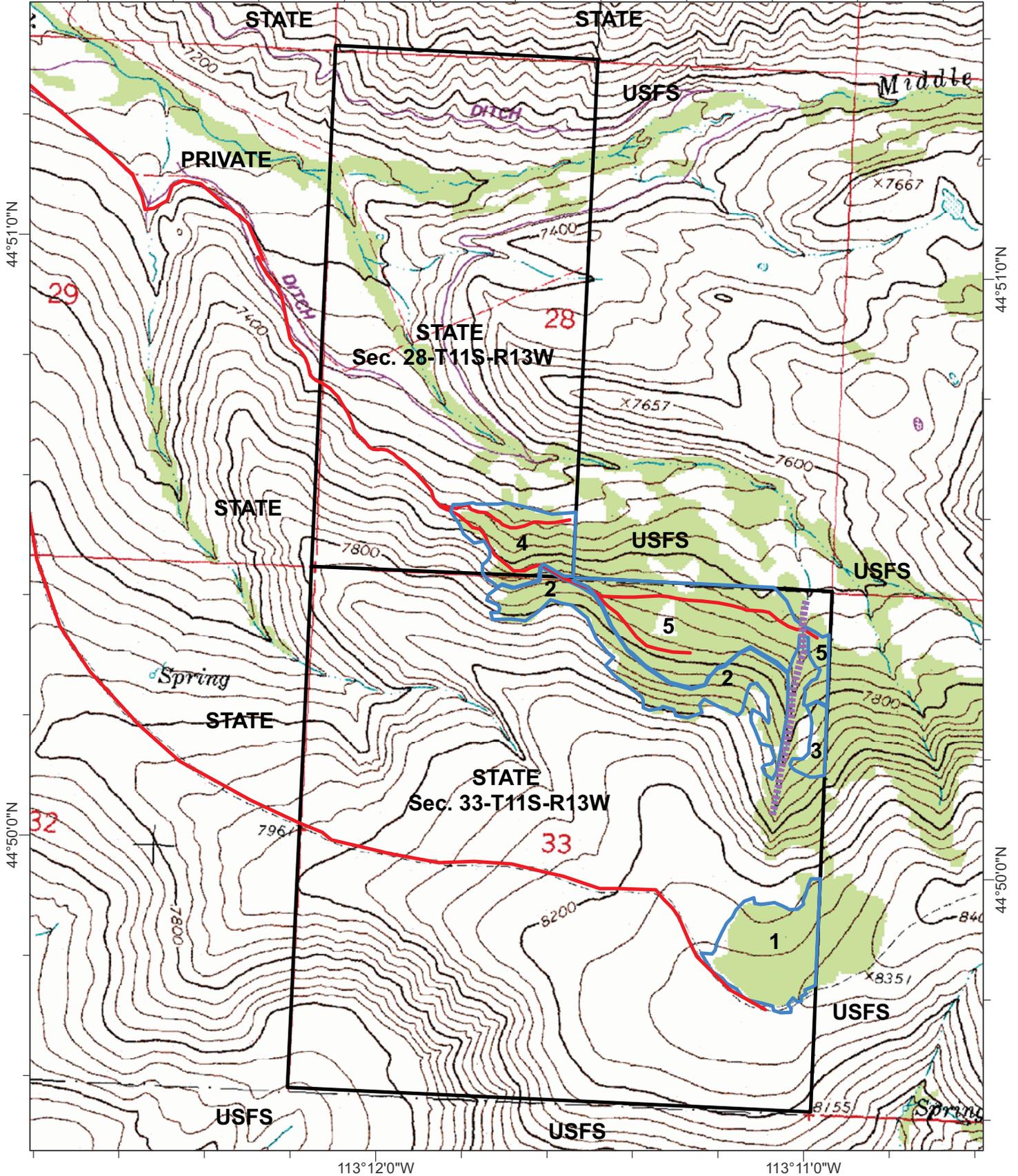
Decision by: Tim Egan (Name) Dillon Unit Manager (Title)

/S/ Timothy Egan (Signature) 1/27/11 (Date)

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Deadman's Chest Salvage Timber Harvest**  
**Sec. 28/33-T11S-R13W, Beaverhead County**

113°12'0"W

113°11'0"W



1:16,000



**ATTACHMENT D**  
**SOILS AND GEOLOGY ASSESSMENT**  
**DEADMANS CHEST SALVAGE TIMBER PERMIT**

Jeff Schmalenberg, Soil Scientist, FMB

January 19, 2011

Detrimental soil impacts resulting from compaction, displacement and erosion would be expected on approximately 15% or less of each harvest unit and would be localized to primary skid trails and log landing sites. Soil monitoring conducted on soils similar to those in the project area have found that the above listed mitigation measures are effective in meeting soil protection guidelines in the SFLMP (DNRC 2009). If recommended soil mitigation measures are implemented, low levels of long-term impacts to soil productivity from compaction and displacement are expected due moderate slopes within the project area.

Assuming 15% of all harvest units (108 acres) will be detrimentally impacted, this would result in approximately 16.2 acres of harvest related impacts within the project area. Within these impacted areas soil productivity would be expected to be reduced for a period of 5-20 years depending on the extent and magnitude of the impacts as well as the natural amelioration rate for the specific location.

10-15 tons/acre of woody material would facilitate retention and accumulation of soil organic matter capital, micro growing sites creation and moisture retention until canopy closure is achieved from future stands. The proposed actions regarding timber harvest will have low level effects on soil productivity and nutrient cycling due to the existing low productivity within the project area.

Due to the low volume of timber harvest planned for harvest within these areas of reentry and the mitigations and BMP's that will be applied during harvest, low amounts of additional impacts are expected. The cumulative sum of soil impacts after the harvest is completed is expected to be between 15-20% and site productivity will be maintained. There is a low risk of moderate cumulative effects to soil resources within the project area and soil productivity is expected to be maintained.



## MAP LEGEND

### Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

### Soils

 Soil Map Units

### Special Point Features

-  Blowout
-  Borrow Pit
-  Clay Spot
-  Closed Depression
-  Gravel Pit
-  Gravelly Spot
-  Landfill
-  Lava Flow
-  Marsh or swamp
-  Mine or Quarry
-  Miscellaneous Water
-  Perennial Water
-  Rock Outcrop
-  Saline Spot
-  Sandy Spot
-  Severely Eroded Spot
-  Sinkhole
-  Slide or Slip
-  Sodic Spot
-  Spoil Area
-  Stony Spot

 Very Stony Spot

 Wet Spot

 Other

### Special Line Features

-  Gully
-  Short Steep Slope
-  Other

### Political Features

-  Cities
-  PLSS Township and Range
-  PLSS Section

### Water Features

-  Oceans
-  Streams and Canals

### Transportation

-  Rails
-  Interstate Highways
-  US Routes
-  Major Roads

## MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:33,000 if printed on A size (8.5" × 11") sheet.

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 12N NAD83

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Beaverhead National Forest Area, Montana  
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Aug 25, 2010

Soil Survey Area: Horse Prairie-South Valley Area - Part of Beaverhead County, Montana  
Survey Area Data: Version 7, Dec 2, 2010

Your area of interest (AOI) includes more than one soil survey area. These survey areas may have been mapped at different scales, with a different land use in mind, at different times, or at different levels of detail. This may result in map unit symbols, soil properties, and interpretations that do not completely agree across soil survey area boundaries.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 8/27/1992; 9/18/1992

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

## Map Unit Legend

Beaverhead National Forest Area, Montana (MT605)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
24B	Beaverslide-Cowcamp complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	5.8	0.1%
101B	Matcher-Leighcan-Cowood families, complex, mountain ridgetops	0.7	0.0%
103B	Garlet-Comad families, complex, mountain ridgetops	102.5	1.9%
121E	Doolittle-Bridger-Inabnit complex, 8 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	43.7	0.8%
221Sr	Garlet-Como families-Rock outcrop complex, valley trough walls	2.4	0.0%
239E	Redchief, extremely bouldery-Bridger, very stony-Libeg, stony complex, 8 to 35 percent slopes	29.8	0.5%
339F	Rooset, extremely bouldery-Bridger, very stony-Ratiopeak, very stony complex, 15 to 50 percent slopes	241.5	4.5%
341S	Como-Garlet-Lowder families, complex, glacial moraines	5.1	0.1%
531E	Bearmouth-Sebud families, complex, moderately steep mountain slopes	216.3	4.0%
531S	Como-Garlet families, complex, moderately steep mountain slopes	94.1	1.7%
541E	Bearmouth-Branham-Marcetta families, complex, steep mountain slopes	87.3	1.6%
541S	Como-Garlet-Elkner families, complex, steep mountain slopes	21.9	0.4%
611E	Adel-Libeg-Woodhurst families, complex, alluvial-colluvial deposits	38.6	0.7%
613P	Maciver-Philipsburg-Dunkleber families, complex, alluvial-colluvial deposits	52.6	1.0%
643G	Dunkleber-Wetopa-Foolhen families, complex, valley bottoms	62.3	1.1%
644U	Helmville-Lowder-Whitore families, complex, valley bottoms	18.4	0.3%
704E	Bridger-Benteen-Philipsburg families, complex, landslide deposits	454.5	8.4%
704S	Yellowmule-Garlet-Swifton families, complex, landslide deposits	86.1	1.6%
<b>Subtotals for Soil Survey Area</b>		<b>1,563.4</b>	<b>28.8%</b>
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>5,424.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Horse Prairie-South Valley Area - Part of Beaverhead County, Montana (MT612)</b>			
<b>Map Unit Symbol</b>	<b>Map Unit Name</b>	<b>Acres in AOI</b>	<b>Percent of AOI</b>
19E	Hooligan-Inabnit, extremely stony complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes	148.9	2.7%
24B	Beaverslide-Cowcamp complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	377.6	7.0%
40B	Mooseflat loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	97.7	1.8%
121C	Doolittle, very stony-Inabnit, extremely stony-Bridger complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	48.6	0.9%
121E	Doolittle-Bridger-Inabnit complex, 8 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	115.9	2.1%
239E	Rooset, extremely bouldery-Bridger, very stony-Libeg, stony complex, 4 to 25 percent slopes	1,250.2	23.0%
243C	Finn-Slagamelt-Hairpin, stony complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes	30.7	0.6%
339D	Rooset-Bridger complex, 2 to 15 percent slopes	175.7	3.2%
339F	Rooset, extremely bouldery-Ratiopeak, very stony-Bridger, very stony complex, 15 to 50 percent slopes	1,095.4	20.2%
531S	Como-Garlet families, complex, moderately steep mountain slopes	23.5	0.4%
613P	Maciver-Philipsburg-Dunkleber families, complex, alluvial-colluvial deposits	22.2	0.4%
643G	Dunkleber-Wetopa-Foolhen families, complex, valley bottoms	33.0	0.6%
704E	Bridger-Benteen-Philipsburg families, complex, landslide deposits	331.8	6.1%
704S	Yellowmule-Garlet-Swifton families, complex, landslide deposits	109.3	2.0%
<b>Subtotals for Soil Survey Area</b>		<b>3,860.6</b>	<b>71.2%</b>
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>5,424.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## ATTACHMENT E

### Vegetative Analysis/Stand Prescription Deadmans Chest Salvage Timber Permit

The proposed harvest area is located toward the southern end of the Beaverhead Mountains along the forest/grassland ecotone. The two State parcels encompassing the project area are ~960 acres of which approximately 120 acres are forested. Adjacent ownership is private, USFS and State.

Lands within the proposed project area occur in open, rolling country with generally broad and gentle ridge tops. Vegetation is a complex of grass range with mosaic stands of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine. Ridgelines and exposed southerly aspects are essentially rangeland and are either nonforested or sparsely stocked with noncommercial timber stands. Where aspen stands are present, conifer encroachment is overtaking these stands. Slopes range from 10-60% with an elevation range of 7,200 feet to 8,300 feet. Stands of timber occur predominately on north facing slopes and are a Douglas-fir cover type at the lowest elevations quickly transitioning into a lodgepole pine cover type as the elevation increases.

Douglas-fir/snowberry habitat types (Psme/Syal) are found on the drier sites (Units 2, 3, 4 and 5) with Douglas-fir the climax dominant and lodgepole pine as a minor seral species. Individual Douglas-fir and Douglas-fir stands are exhibiting moderate crown defoliation and mortality due to repeated infestations of Spruce Budworm. These stands are also under attack from Douglas-fir Bark Beetle. Stand composition ranges from dense mature forest to heavily overstocked and stagnant forest to open mature and young encroachment forest. Regeneration is sparse with light understory vegetation and coarse woody debris present.

Subalpine fir/grouse whortleberry habitat types (Abla/Vasc) are found on the cooler, moister sites (Unit 1) with subalpine fir the apparent climax species but lodgepole pine tends to dominate the stands as a major seral. All lodgepole pine stands are presently exhibiting heavy infestations of Mountain Pine Beetle and Dwarf Mistletoe, attacking trees of all ages and size classes. Stands are expected to yield to beetle attack within the next two years. These stands are comprised of moderately to densely stocked forest. Regeneration and understory vegetation is moderate with light to moderate coarse woody debris.

Dominant trees heights: 60-75', co-dominants: 45-60'. Age: 120 to 250 years. Yield capability: 45-55 cu. ft/ac/yr.

Older Douglas-fir trees (>150 years) occur throughout most of the lower elevation stands in small pockets and scattered individual trees. A small stand of large Douglas fir (~11 ac) is located at the headwaters of a small draw south of Unit 3. This stand would meet the minimum criteria for old growth and is outside the proposed harvest area. Large snags and suitable snag recruitment trees ( $\geq 21$ " dbh) are available within the Douglas-fir cover types. Encroachment occurs readily along edges of mature forest into areas that were non-forested grasslands around the turn of the century.

Harvesting on the State parcels occurred ~20 years ago removing 842 MBF from 55 acres. The predominate management activity is grazing.

The cover type is lodgepole pine and the majority of forested stands are included in fire group seven where periodic wildfires tended to recycle the stands before any significant amount of mature lodgepole pine dies out. The isolated Douglas-fir climax areas are included in fire group six.

#### **Stand Prescriptions:**

Treatments for lodgepole pine cover types would target all dead, dying and at-risk lodgepole pine and other shade intolerant species exhibiting signs of insect/disease, poor health and/or poor tree form characteristics for removal and overall stand density reduction, utilizing regeneration harvests. Older, large shade tolerant trees would be harvested to cull out defective or damaged trees, where applicable. Younger, smaller diameter shade tolerant trees exhibiting good health and form would be protected, where applicable.

Treatments for Douglas-fir cover types would target dead, dying and at-risk trees for removal. The majority of the unhealthy trees are in the older age classes and would be targeted for harvest while the

younger age classes would be favored for the residual stand. Trees of all age classes exhibiting signs of insect/disease, poor health and/or poor tree form characteristics would be designated for harvest. Additionally, overall stand density would be reduced by 55-65% of the merchantable volume, targeting shade tolerant species and trees exhibiting overstocked/suppressed conditions, utilizing group selection/selection harvests. This stand density reduction would be concentrated in areas of the stands containing younger-aged/small to medium sized trees while retaining some of the healthy older trees, if available and applicable. Large live trees, live cull trees, snags, cull snags, and coarse woody debris and fine materials would be protected and retained in sufficient quantities where applicable.

Severity of stand conditions would dictate harvest method used, emulating moderately severe ground fire to stand replacing fire. Harvest prescription would recover value from resources before it is lost, reduce overstocking, fire hazard, and additional insect and disease while promoting forest health, vigor and productivity. Additionally, harvest would open the stands to encourage natural regeneration of shade intolerant species; maintain a lodgepole pine cover type and Douglas-fir cover type where applicable while maintaining a semblance of historic stand conditions; and promote existing aspen stands.

Aspen Areas - A regeneration harvest of all conifer sawtimber within 50-100 feet of the aspen clone would be used to reduce conifer encroachment into aspen stands and promote aspen regeneration where available and applicable. Submerchantable conifer and aspen would not be protected during harvest operations to further reduce conifer encroachment and induce suckering of aspen. Post harvest treatment to fall and lop any remaining submerchantable conifer trees.

Excess slash would be consolidated at landings and burned. Natural regeneration would be expected. No rare plants or cover types have been noted by the Montana Natural Heritage Program or observed within the proposed project area.

Harvest Unit 1 (22.1 ac - 170 MBF) - Stands are composed of a mix of LP post and rail and small to medium sawtimber with some scattered subalpine fir. The stands are overstocked and have severe Mountain Pine Beetle and mistletoe infestations. Majority of trees have poor crown ratios (10-30%). Regeneration and understory vegetation is sparse with moderate coarse woody debris.

All merchantable post and rail (3.0-<7.0" DBH) would be harvested along with firewood. All other submerchantable trees and shrubs would be protected and retained for visual screening.

A regeneration harvest would remove all merchantable lodgepole pine material and all merchantable conifers within 50-100' of aspen colonies for aspen restoration. One large snag or snag recruit ( $\geq 21$ " dbh) per acre would be left where available. Retain all fine litter and 5-10 tons/acre of large woody debris >3" diameter as feasible. Consolidate remaining slash at landings for burning. Conduct regeneration survey in 5-7 years and a thinning survey in 15 years after harvest.

Unit 2 (26.8 ac/140 MBF) and Unit 3 (3.3 ac/20 MBF) - Stands are composed predominately of DF small to large sawtimber. Overall health and growth of the stands are poor to fair. The stands are overstocked and suppressed and have moderate spruce budworm damage in the upper crowns and pockets of Douglas-fir bark beetle. Majority of trees have good crown ratios (>30%). Regeneration and understory vegetation is negligible due to heavy livestock use. Coarse woody debris is minimal.

Group selection/selection harvests would remove all defective and insect and disease infested sawtimber and all merchantable conifers within 50-100' of aspen colonies for aspen restoration. Additional stand density reduction as prescribed. One large snag or snag recruit ( $\geq 21$ " dbh) per acre would be left where available. Retain all fine litter and 5-10 tons/acre of large woody debris >3" diameter as feasible. Consolidate remaining slash at landings for burning. Conduct regeneration survey in 7-9 years and a thinning survey in 20-25 years.

Unit 4 (17.1 ac/20 MBF) and Unit 5 (39.2 ac/40 MBF) - Stands were selectively harvested twenty years ago and are composed predominately of DF small to large sawtimber. Overall health and growth of the stands are poor to fair. The stands have moderate spruce budworm damage in the upper crowns and individual tree attacks of Douglas-fir bark beetle. Majority of trees have good crown ratios (>30%). Regeneration and understory vegetation is negligible due to heavy livestock use. Coarse woody debris is minimal.

Selectively harvest defective and insect and disease infested sawtimber and all merchantable conifers within 50-100' of aspen colonies for aspen restoration. One large snag or snag recruit ( $\geq 21$ " dbh) per acre would be left where available. Retain all fine litter and 5-10 tons/acre of large woody debris  $>3$ " diameter as feasible. Consolidate remaining slash at landings for burning. Conduct regeneration survey in 7-9 years and a thinning survey in 20-25 years.

There is currently more total forest cover in Beaverhead County than in prior historical conditions. Harvesting an estimated 50 MBF of sawtimber would alter the forest cover on approximately 42 acres. Harvest design is intended to maintain a semblance of historic conditions while promoting forest health and productivity by reducing overstocking through the emulation of stand replacing fires.

#### MEASURES RECOMMENDED TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

- 1) Compliance with Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's), Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) laws, the Montana Stream Protection Act (124 Permit) and applicable DNRC Forest Management Administrative Rules.
- 2) Limit equipment operations to periods when soils are dry (less than 20% soil moisture), frozen or snow covered (12 inches packed or 18 inches unconsolidated) to minimize soil compaction, rutting, vegetative disturbance and maintain drainage features. Control erosion by installing adequate drainage on roads and skid trails.
- 3) The Forest Officer shall approve a plan for felling, yarding and landing location in each harvest unit prior to the start of operations in the unit. The locations and spacing of skid trails and landings shall be designated and approved by the Forest Officer prior to operations and skid trails will not be spaced less than 60 feet. Retain all fine litter as feasible and 5-10 tons/acre of large woody debris  $>3$ " diameter. Minimize soil disturbance by general skid trail planning and limit sustained tractor skidding to slopes  $\leq 50\%$ . Limit scarification to 30-40% of the harvest area. Slash would be left in the harvest units where feasible, and distributed on skid trails upon completion of use, for nutrient cycling, to control erosion and to provide shade and protection for seedlings.
- 4) For slope stability on the road construction segments, construct cutslopes at 1:1 (run/rise) in common material and 1/4:1 for rock. Install adequate road drainage to control erosion concurrent with harvest activities and road opening. Provide effective sediment filtration along drainage features near crossing sites. Major skid trails and roads within the harvest units would be closed with slash and debris and/or barriers, and adequate drainage provided.
- 5) All road and logging equipment would be power washed and inspected prior to being brought on site. Sale area would be monitored for weeds following harvest and a treatment plan would be developed should noxious weeds occur.
- 6) At sale closure, grass seed roads, skid trails (where needed) and landings with an appropriate seed mixture.
- 7) One snag and one snag recruit per acre, of the largest diameter class, would be retained where applicable. Cull live trees and cull snags would be retained where applicable.
- 8) Retain live, healthy older trees and stand attributes suitable for old growth development where available and applicable.
- 9) Contact DNRC wildlife biologist should any threatened or endangered species be encountered within the proposed project area.

## ATTACHMENT F

### DEADMANS CHEST SALVAGE TIMBER PERMIT CHECKLIST FOR ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND SENSITIVE SPEICES

Pertains to Section II. 9. of the DS-252 DNRC Environmental Checklist  
(Rev. August 1, 2007)  
CENTRAL LAND OFFICE

Prepared by Chuck Barone

January 19, 2010

Threatened and Endangered Species	[Y/N] Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures N = Not Present or No Impact is Likely to Occur Y = Impacts May Occur (Explain Below)
<p>Grizzly Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) Habitat: recovery areas, security from human activity</p>	<p>[N] The proposed project area lies outside of any grizzly bear recovery area. The nearest recovery area is the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone (USFWS 1993) situated 86 miles east of the project area. Grizzly bear use of the Beaverhead Mountains may occur, however, the project area is currently considered outside of occupied habitat (Interagency Occupied Habitat Map, September 2002). Riparian habitats preferred by bears do occur in the project area. Human access levels are presently moderate due to public access. Approximately 7 miles of existing road would be upgraded to a minimum standard to access the proposed harvest units. The roads within the harvest units would be physically closed at project completion. The potential for any measurable increases in bear-human conflicts following the project activities are expected to be low. Adverse direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to bears as a result of this project are expected to be minimal.</p>
<p>Lynx (<i>Felis lynx</i>) Habitat: mosaics--dense sapling and old forest &gt;5,000 ft. elev.</p>	<p>[N] The proposed project area is located along the fringes of preferred lynx habitat. Suitable lynx habitat is potentially present in the Beaverhead Mountains (MNHP 2009) and Lynx could occasionally use the project area. However, habitats high in coarse woody debris that are preferred for denning, and large acreages (&gt;50 acres) of dense conifer regeneration at high elevations that are preferred for foraging are marginal in the project area. Lynx habitat is marginal due to naturally induced fragmentation, and the high level of interspersions of native grassland habitat and dry forest types. The habitat within the two State parcels would be categorized as</p>

	<p>“other” (120 ac) habitat. There is no identified mature foraging, young foraging or denning habitat within the State parcels. Of the ~120 acres of potential lynx habitat on the State parcels, ~120 acres are proposed for harvest. This would leave ~120 acres converted to temporary non-habitat. Preferred lynx habitat is marginal within the proposed project area due to the lack of highly desirable habitat conditions for lynx and their primary prey, snowshoe hares. Adverse direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to lynx as a result of this project are expected to be minimal.</p>
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<p><b>DNRC Sensitive Species</b></p>	<p>[Y/N] Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures  N = Not Present or No Impact is Likely to Occur  Y = Impacts May Occur (Explain Below)</p>
<p>Gray Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)  Habitat: ample big game pops., security from human activity</p>	<p>[N] The proposed project area falls within the Central Idaho Nonessential Experimental Area for gray wolves. The nearest packs are the Horse Prairie pack to the north and the Black canyon pack to the west. Individuals from these packs or transients from other packs could occasionally use portions of the project area; however, due to the size, nature and location of the proposed project, activities associated with this proposal are not expected to effect wolves or recovery efforts. Should a new den be located within one mile of the project area, activities would cease and a DNRC Biologist would be contacted immediately. Mitigations would then be developed and implemented to minimize adverse impacts to wolves prior to initiating any activity.</p>
<p>Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)  Habitat: late-successional forest &lt;1 mile from open water</p>	<p>[N] Bald Eagles have not been documented within the quarter latilong (L49B) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). No nesting habitat occurs on, or within one mile of the proposed project area, and the project area likely occurs outside of any Bald Eagle nesting home range. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects to Bald Eagles associated with this project are anticipated.</p>

<p>Black-Backed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides arcticus</i>) Habitat: mature to old burned or beetle-infested forest</p>	<p>[N] Black-backed woodpeckers have not been documented within the quarter latilong (L49B) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). However, stands found within the proposed project area are presently experiencing heavy insect activity and could attract birds. No recent burns (<math>\leq 5</math> years old) have occurred within the State tracts or adjoining sections. Due to the small size, location and short duration of this proposed project only minor potential for direct, indirect or cumulative effects to black-backed woodpeckers would be expected to occur.</p>
<p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog (<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>) Habitat: Prairie, shortgrass prairie, badlands</p>	<p>[N] Grassland habitats suitable for use by black-tailed prairie dogs do not occur within one mile of the proposed project area. Impacts to black-tailed prairie dogs are not anticipated.</p>
<p>Flammulated Owl (<i>Otus flammeolus</i>) Habitat: late-successional ponderosa pine and Doug.-fir forest</p>	<p>[N] Flammulated Owls have not been documented within the quarter latilong (L49B) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). The parcel involved in the proposed project maintains elevations that range from about 7,200-8,300 feet. Flammulated Owls have been found in warm, dry Douglas-fir cover types. The parcels involved in this project have similar vegetative conditions, represented by small, scattered patches but the associated higher elevations are not their preferred habitat. Direct, indirect and cumulative effects to Flammulated Owls would not be expected to occur under the alternatives considered.</p>
<p>Greater Sage-grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>) Habitat: sagebrush semi-desert</p>	<p>[N] Sage Grouse have been documented in the quarter latilong (L49B) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). The area surrounding the proposed project has been identified as a core area for Sage Grouse. Sagebrush semi-desert habitats suitable for use by Sage Grouse do occur within the project area but no leks have been identified within one mile of the project area or haul route. Impacts to Sage Grouse are not anticipated.</p>
<p>Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>) Habitat: white-water streams, boulder and cobble substrates</p>	<p>[N] Harlequin ducks have not been documented within the quarter latilong (L49B) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). No high gradient streams suitable for use by harlequins occur within the project area or along proposed haul routes. No impacts to Harlequin Ducks would be expected to occur as a result of this project.</p>

<p>Mountain Plover (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>)  Habitat: short-grass prairie, alkaline flats, prairie dog towns</p>	<p>[N] Mountain Plovers have not been documented within the quarter latilong (L49B) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 200). No short-grass prairie or prairie dog towns occur on, or within one mile of the proposed project area. No impacts to Mountain Plovers are expected as a result of this project.</p>
<p>Northern Bog Lemming (<i>Synaptomys borealis</i>)  Habitat: sphagnum meadows, bogs, fens with thick moss mats</p>	<p>[N] No sphagnum meadows or bogs occur in the proposed project area. No impacts to Bog Lemmings would be expected to occur as a result of this project.</p>
<p>Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)  Habitat: cliff features near open foraging areas and/or wetlands</p>	<p>[N] Peregrine Falcons have not been documented within the quarter latilong (L49B) that encompasses the proposed project area but not within the project area (MNHP 2010). Cliff features that may be suitable for use by nesting Peregrine Falcons do not occur within 1 mile of the project area. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects associated with this project are anticipated.</p>
<p>Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)  Habitat: late-successional ponderosa pine and larch-fir forest</p>	<p>[N] Pileated woodpeckers have not been documented within the quarter latilong (L49B) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). The project area is poorly suited for use by Pileated Woodpeckers. As suitable habitat is not present in the project area, no impacts to Pileated Woodpeckers would be expected to occur as a result of this project.</p>
<p>Townsend's Big-Eared Bat (<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>)  Habitat: caves, caverns, old mines</p>	<p>[N] The DNRC is unaware of any mines or caves within the proposed project area or close vicinity that would be suitable for use by Townsend's big-eared bats. Impacts to Townsend's big-eared bats are not anticipated as a result of this project.</p>

\*Skaar, P.D. 1996. Montana bird distribution, fifth edition. Montana National Heritage Program 2010. National Heritage Tracker.