

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Gurnett Creek Salvage Timber Permit

Proposed Implementation Date: 05/02/2011

Proponent: DNRC, Helena Unit

Type and Purpose of Action: A salvage timber permit is being proposed to remove MPB infested ponderosa pine as well as intermediate and suppressed Douglas-fir. A corridor 1.5 tree-lengths in width is being proposed along Gurnett Creek Road to increase public safety. This practice should increase overall stand health and vigor.

Location: Section 16, T8N, R3E County: Broadwater County

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. Although timber harvesting will take place in the SMZ, it will be along an existing county road for the purpose of safety. All harvesting equipment will operate from the existing road surface and will adhere to all State of Montana SMZ laws and restrictions. |
| _____ | <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. |

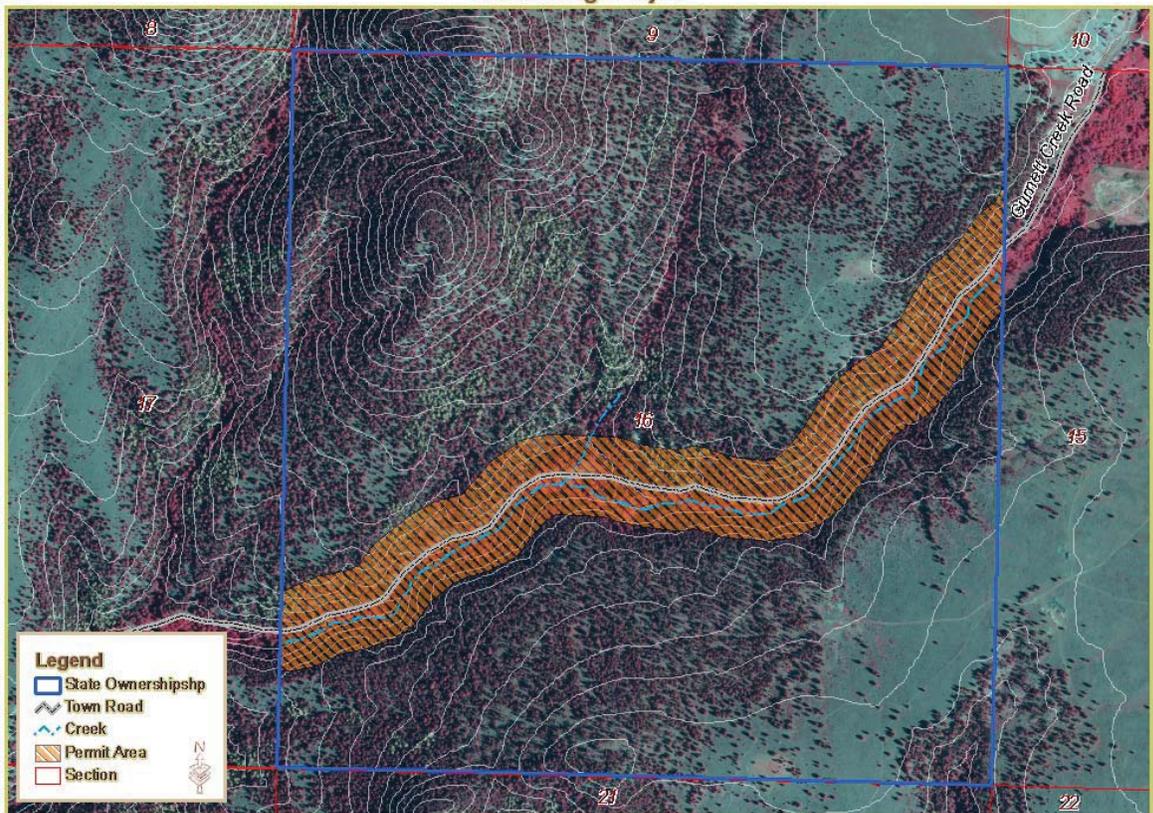
The project listed above meets the definition of the indicated categorical exclusion, including specified conditions and extraordinary circumstances, as provided in the Administrative Rules for Forest Management (ARM 36.11.447).

Prepared by: _____ (Name) _____ (Date)

Decision by: _____ (Name) _____ (Title)
_____ (Signature) _____ (Date)



Gemett Creek, Road Salvage Project



Section 16, T8N, R3E

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Maped By: Susan Morgan, DNR Helena Unit 05/02/2011

