CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Dead Pine Hills Salvage Timber Permit
Proposed Implementation Date: 07/01/2011
Proponent: DNRC, Helena Unit
Type and Purpose of Action: A salvage timber permit is being proposed to remove mainly MPB infested ponderosa pine. A small amount of Douglas-fir that is mixed in with, or directly adjacent to the pine pockets may be harvested to reduce stocking and increase health and vigor.
Location: Section 17, T10N, R1W County: Lewis & Clark 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
___X___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		
	X	1)	Sites with high erosion risk.
	X	2)	Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS.
	X	3)	Municipal watersheds.
	X	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.
	X	5)	State natural area.
	X	6)	Native American religious and cultural sites.
	X	7)	Archaeological sites.
	X	8)	Historic properties and areas.
	X	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.
	X	10)	Violations of any applicable state or federal laws or regulations.

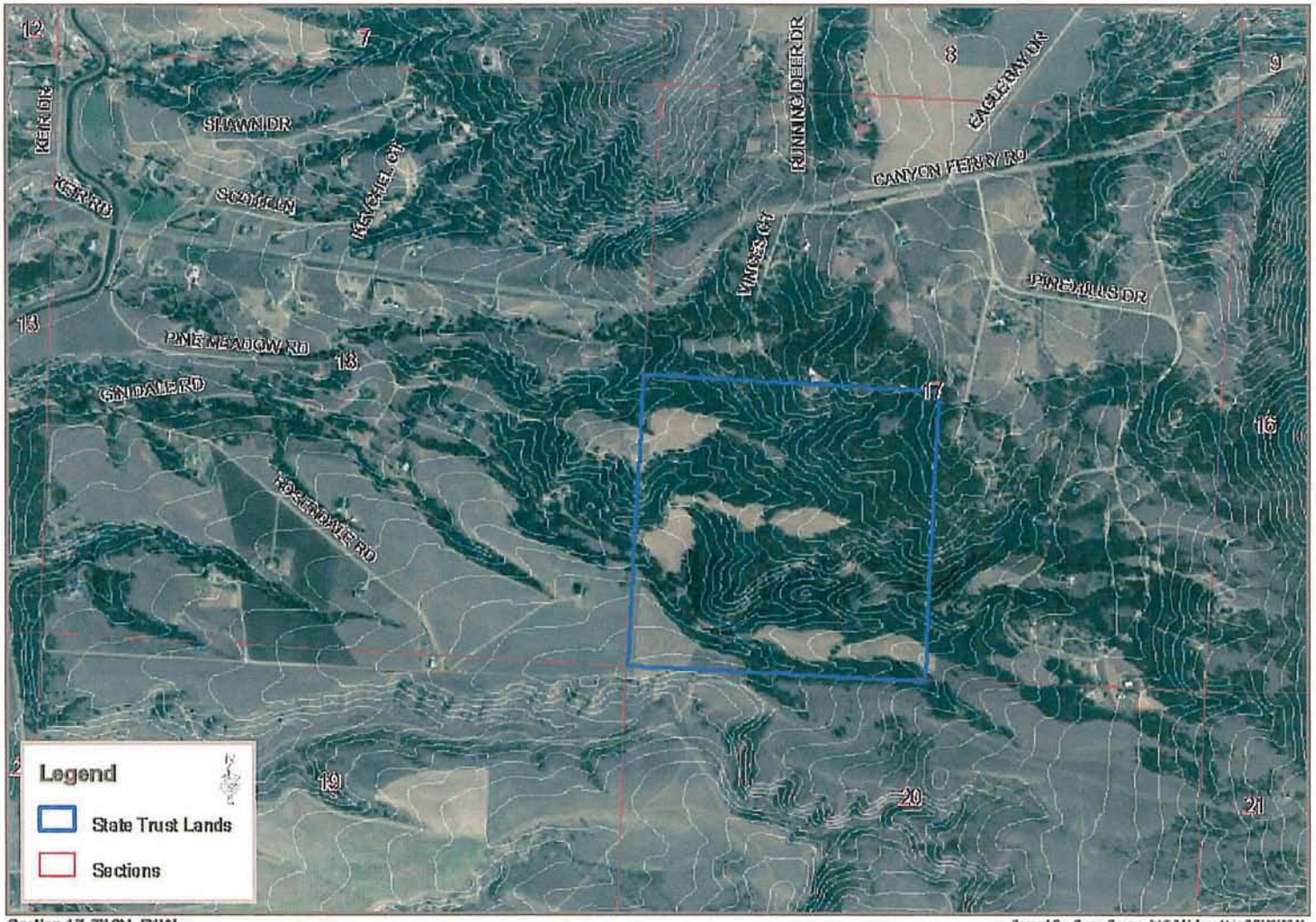
The project listed above meets the definition of the indicated categorical exclusion, including specified conditions and extraordinary circumstances, as provided in the Administrative Rules for Forest Management (ARM 36.11.447).

Prepared by: _____ (Name) 7/6/2011 (Date)

Decision by: D.J. Bakken (Name) Helena Unit Manager (Title)

_____ (Signature) 7/6/2011 (Date)

Dead Pine Hills
Timber Permit



Section 17, T10N, R1W

1:14,000

1,250 625 0 1,250 2,500 3,750 5,000 Feet

Mapped By: Shawn Morgan, MFWC Helena Unit 05/10/2011