CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	BLM/Monkey Gulch Alternative Practice
Proposed Implementation Date:	Summer 2011
Proponent:	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Location:	Section 16-T5S-R3W
County:	Madison
Land Owner:	State of Montana
HRA#:	N/A

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The BLM, Dillon Field Office, is requesting a SMZ Alternative Practice to Rule 6: (36.11.306), *Road Construction in the SMZ*. Proponent proposes to reconstruct approximately 750 feet of existing road within the SMZ of Monkey Gulch and an unnamed tributary of Monkey Gulch. Road reconstruction would involve minimal excavation necessary to shape, level and widen the existing road prism and the installation of two 24" culverts.

The purpose of the action would be to facilitate various salvage timber harvests and vegetative treatments, the restoration of wildlife habitat, improvement of forest health and vigor and the safe operation of vehicles, log trucks and equipment.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

A field review was conducted on June 22, 2010, by DNRC forester Chuck Barone and BLM forester Aly Piwowar.

Other contacts:

DNRC, Archaeologist, P. Rennie

MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Fisheries Management Biologist, M. Jaeger

MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Biologist, R. Brannon

BLM, T. Bozorth, J. Dougherty

USFS, Madison District Ranger, S. Heald

Cal-Creek Partnership (Lessee)

H. & J. Edwards

B. Ratcliffe

Montana Natural Heritage Program

Montana Fisheries Information System

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The Montana DEQ and Madison County Conservation District have jurisdiction within the stream prism. The Proponent would be responsible for contacting appropriate agencies to obtain necessary permits.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action Alternative: Not approve the Alternative Practice.

Action Alternative: Implementation of Alternative Practice as proposed with additional mitigation measures.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

The project area is located on moderate slopes with a slope range of 20-35%. No unusual or unique geologic features were noted in the proposed project area. Primary soils within the proposed project area are Shadow very channery sandy loam and stony loam. These soils are coarse textured, generally shallow, well drained and very droughty. The erosion hazard is moderate and appropriate erosion control measures would be required on all roads and skid trails.

The primary soil concerns associated with road reconstruction/construction are direct effects of rutting and displacement of surface soils by equipment operation. Soil compaction and rutting are moderate within the project area. Project activities would retain as much coarse woody debris and fine slash as possible to help provide shade and organic matter to maintain soil productivity.

The proposed reconstruction (0.5 miles) and new construction (0.2 miles) would have grades of <10% and erosion features constructed. These road segments would be reconstructed/constructed to a 12-foot wide, minimum standard road and have erosion features installed. Additionally, two 24" culverts would be installed and removed at completion of all projects. The road reconstruction and new road would be physically closed at the completion of all projects with slash, debris and/or barriers.

The proposed activities would occur during 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 adequate drainage features. Implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's) and mitigation measures would reduce the risk of sedimentation from roads and reduce the risk and severity of soil erosion and potential sediment delivery.

With recommended mitigation measures and BMP's, soil effects would be minor and temporary. No significant impacts or cumulative effects are expected to soil resources.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Is it possible that implementing this Alternative Practice would impact the integrity of the SMZ and these specific functions?

1. Ability to act as an effective sediment filter.
2. Ability to provide shade to regulate stream temperature.
3. Protection of stream channel and banks.
4. Ability to provide large, woody debris for eventual recruitment into the stream to maintain riffles pools and other elements of channel structure.
5. Promotes floodplain stability.

1. The existing road currently has no drainage features. Implementation of mitigation measures such as installation of rolling dips, slash filter windrows, sediment fences and grass seeding of all disturbed soils would reduce erosion and improve sediment filtration. All materials (soil, rock, etc) from the existing roadbed would be cast off the road bed to the uphill side away from the stream and riparian zone, where feasible, to prevent them from entering the stream. Filter fence and barriers/slash filter windrows would be installed on the downhill side of the road to catch sediment/materials and prevent them from entering the streamside zone. Minimal vegetation between the road and stream would be disturbed or removed during road activities, existing riparian vegetation would persist. Impacts to act as an effective sediment filter are not expected.

2. The road reconstruction would have minimal affect on the existing vegetation. Vegetation adjacent to the existing road is sparse and presently affords minimal shade to the stream. Minimal vegetation between the road and stream would be removed and existing riparian vegetation would persist. Shade to regulate stream temperature would continue to be provided by the existing vegetation below the road prism. Impacts to the ability to provide shade to regulate stream temperature s are not expected.

3. The road reconstruction would not occur in close enough proximity to affect the stream channel or banks except at the culvert installations and culvert approaches. Culverts would be removed and stream channels rehabilitated and roads would be physically closed with slash and debris after the completion of all projects. Adverse impacts to stream channel and banks are expected to be minor and temporary.

4. The road reconstruction and road use would not affect the recruitment of large, woody debris into the stream. Tree retention requirements would be exceeded and ample tree volume would be maintained within the SMZ. Impacts to provide large, woody debris for eventual recruitment into the stream are not expected.

5. Due to the elevation and amount of sustained stream flow at this location in the drainage, there is very little existing flood plain. Proposed improvements to the existing road would improve floodplain stability. Maintaining minimum tree retention requirements and grass seeding disturbed areas would provide additional floodplain stability. With implementation of proposed mitigation measures and proper culvert installation and rehabilitation, the level of disturbance associated with a project of this scale would have little to no impact on the actual flood plain stability and functionality of the stream. Impacts to floodplain stability are not expected.

6. AIR QUALITY:
What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

None.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Proposed reconstructed road is located on relatively gentle to moderate slopes within sagebrush and grassland/timbered and riparian habitat and would be built to a 12-foot wide, minimum standard specification. The initial area of vegetative disturbance would be a corridor of approximately 18-22 feet along the entire length of the proposed reconstructed road. The road reconstruction and new road would be physically closed with slash, debris and/or barriers, and the two 24” culverts would be removed and stream channel and banks rehabilitated, at the completion of all projects. All disturbed areas would be seeded with a native grass mixture and erosion control features would be installed where needed.

Reconstruction of the existing road prism would cause minimal disturbance to the vegetation. The culvert installations and subsequent rehabilitation would generate minor and temporary disturbance to the vegetative communities in the immediate vicinity.

No rare plants or cover types are present within the proposed project area. No noxious weeds have been noted along the access route to the proposed project or on the State tract. The DNRC requires the washing of equipment, seeding of grass and monitoring of disturbed areas to minimize the potential of noxious weeds being introduced.

Due to the size and duration of the proposed project and implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, the proposed alternative practice should not dramatically impact any vegetative communities within the SMZ.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.
Would implementing this Alternative Practice impact the ability of the SMZ to support diverse and productive aquatic and terrestrial habitats?

The proposed action would occur within the SMZ of Monkey Gulch and an unnamed tributary of Monkey Gulch, both of which are Class 2 streams. Road improvement activities and subsequent rehabilitation of the disturbed areas would not significantly diminish the aquatic and terrestrial riparian habitats. The riparian community is presently being shaded and crowded out by conifer encroachment. Disturbance to any of the conifer vegetation would likely improve and encourage the reestablishment of a more diverse riparian plant community and consequently support more and diverse productive aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Implementation of this alternative practice in and of itself should not dramatically impact aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:
Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

No cold-water fisheries exist within the project area, however, westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*) populations are found in California Creek, which is tributary to Monkey Gulch. Due to the size and duration of the proposed project, gentle topography, intermittent nature of the streams, minimal road reconstruction and implementation of recommended mitigation measures; no impacts are expected to occur concerning cold-water fisheries.

The proposed project area falls within the Yellowstone Nonessential Experimental Area for gray wolves. The nearest wolf packs are the Cedar Creek and Jack Creek packs. Individuals from these packs or transients from other packs could occasionally use portions of the proposed project area; however, due to the size, nature, duration and location of the proposed project, activities associated with this proposal are not expected to affect wolves or recovery efforts. Should a new den be located within one mile of the proposed 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.

The proposed project area is situated approximately 20 miles west of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. Grizzly bears have not been documented in the vicinity of the proposed project area although the proposed project area lies within a zone considered as occupied habitat (Interagency Occupied Habitat Map, September 2002). DNRC is not aware of any specific observations of grizzly bears associated with the proposed project area; however, periodic or transient use is possible. Proposed project activities would not occur during the spring period and activities would be short-term in nature. 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.

The proposed project area is located along the far outer fringes of preferred lynx habitat in rangeland and predominately non-forested foothills. Preferred lynx habitat is marginal within the proposed project area due to the rangeland location and 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 negligible.

The proposed project area falls within the range of wolverines. The DNRC is not aware of any specific observations of wolverines associated with the proposed project area; however, periodic or transient use of the proposed project area could occur. Due to the size, nature, duration and location of the proposed project, activities associated with this proposal are expected to have minimal effect on wolverines.

Sagebrush semi-desert habitats suitable for use by Sage Grouse do occur within one mile of the project area. No leks are known to occur within one mile of the proposed project or haul route. Should sage grouse be present in the vicinity of the project area, any effects to habitat or disturbance-related effects would be expected to be minimal, due to the late start-up date of activities (i.e., post June 15), and preferred sagebrush habitat would not be altered. Impacts to Sage Grouse would not be anticipated.

No other threatened/endangered species, sensitive species or species of special concern have been documented within the proposed project area.

No adverse impacts are expected to threatened/endangered species, sensitive species or species of special concern.

(See Attachment F – CLO Checklist for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species)

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

No cultural resources have been identified in the project area. Additional archaeological investigative work is recommended and would be completed by the BLM in early spring of 2011.

A historical landmark known as the "Tradin' Tree" is located on the State parcel but not within the proposed project area. No impacts to this landmark are expected.

11. AESTHETICS:
Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

None.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

None.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:
List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

In May 2007, the Bureau of Land Management South Tobacco Roots Watershed Environmental Assessment was released, addressing the management of portions of the southern Tobacco Roots, Ruby and Gravelly mountain ranges.

An EA was completed in January 2006 for the Monkey Boy Timber Permit (Section 16-T5S-R3W) for the harvest of 100 MBF on 26 acres.

An EA was completed in April 1986 for the Monkey Gulch Timber Sale (Section 16-T5S-R3W) for the harvest of 853 MBF on 86 acres.

Cumulative impacts as a result of the proposed action in conjunction with the above listed activities are not expected.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

None.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

None.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:
Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

None.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:
Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

None.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:
Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services.

None.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

None.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:
Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

None.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

None.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

None.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

None.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

The State would benefit from not having to assume the costs of road reconstruction and construction to access their timber permit which would generate an estimated $35,000.00 for the Common School Trust.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Chuck Barone	**Date:**	January 10, 20111
	Title:	Dillon Unit Forester		

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

ADDITIONAL MEASURES RECOMMENDED TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

1) 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.
2) Project activities would retain as much coarse woody debris and fine slash as possible to help provide shade and organic matter to maintain soil productivity. Minimal trees and/or shrubs between the road and stream would be removed during this process, existing riparian vegetation would persist.
3) Establish/maintain adequate drainage features (rolling dips) along the entire length of the reconstruction/construction.
4) No sidecasting of road material into the stream prism. All materials (soil, rock, etc) from the existing roadbed would be cast off the road bed to the uphill side away from the stream and riparian zone, where possible, to prevent them from entering the stream. Slash filter windrows would be installed at the toe of the road fill within the SMZ to catch materials and prevent them from entering the streamside zone.
5) All disturbed soils would be grass seeded immediately to re-establish vegetation. The reconstruction would have erosion features installed and grass seeded, culverts would be removed and stream channels rehabilitated and roads would be physically closed with slash and debris, following the completion of all projects.
6) Should a “310” permit be required, Proponent would comply with all the requirements of the permit. Adherence to mitigation measures stated in the Alternative Practice. Implement Forestry Best Management Practices and be in compliance with the Stream Management Zone Law and Rules.
7) Should any of the six functions of the SMZ be significantly diminished, all activities would cease until a DNRC Forest Practices representative is notified and can assess the situation.
8) Project area would be monitored for weeds following harvest and a treatment plan would be developed should noxious weeds occur.
9) Contact DNRC representative should any threatened or endangered species be encountered within the proposed project area.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

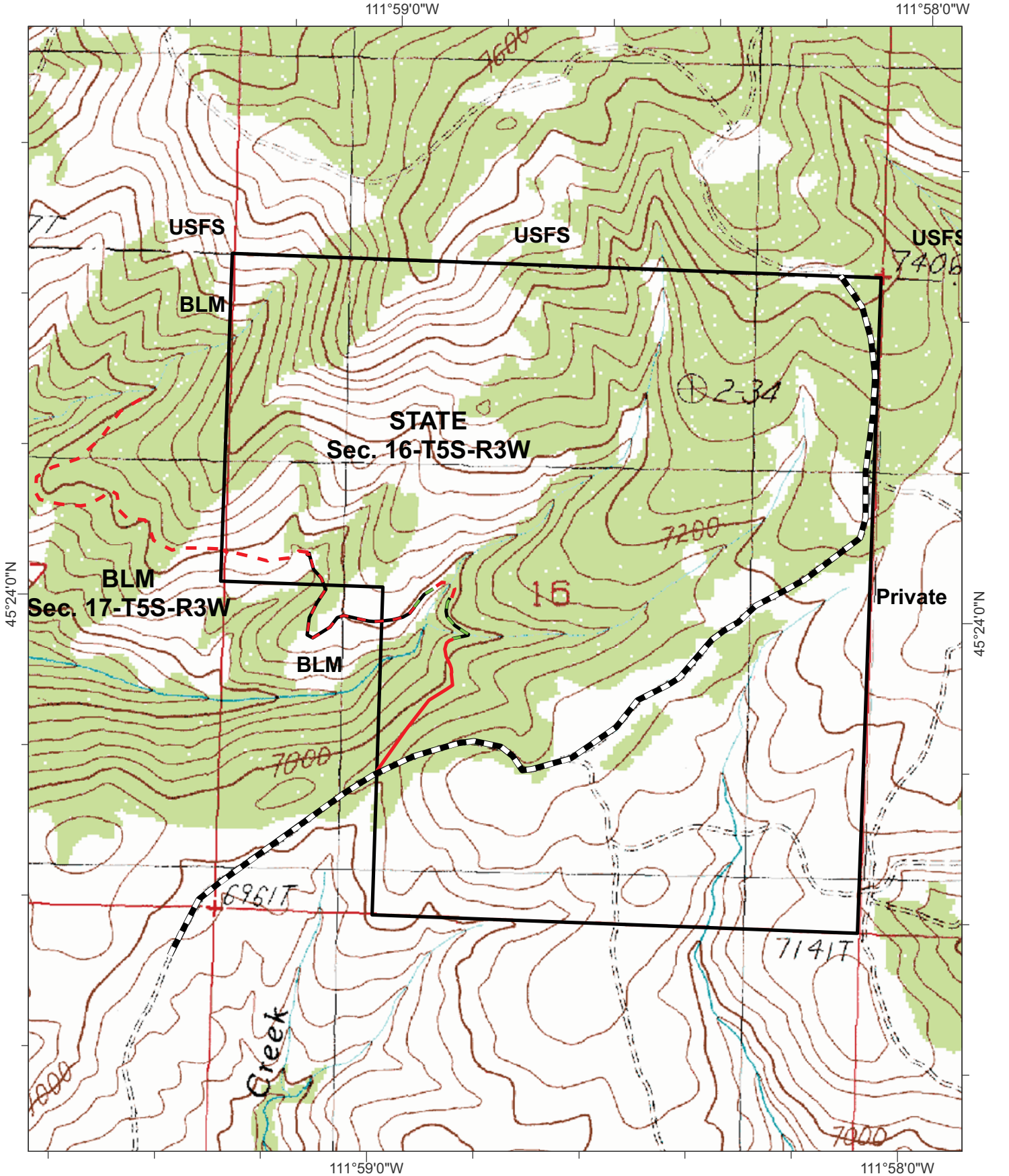
[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA
[X]	No Further Analysis		

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Tim Egan
	Title:	Dillon Unit Manager
Signature: /S/ Timothy Egan		**Date**:

ATTACHMENTS

Alternative Practice Request w/Attachments
ATTACHMENT A - Site Map
ATTACHMNET D – Soil Survey Map
ATTACHMNET E - CLO Checklist for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species

ATTACHMENT A
BLM_Monkey Gulch Alternative Practice
Section 16-T5S-R3W, Madison County



0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

1:12,500

County Road

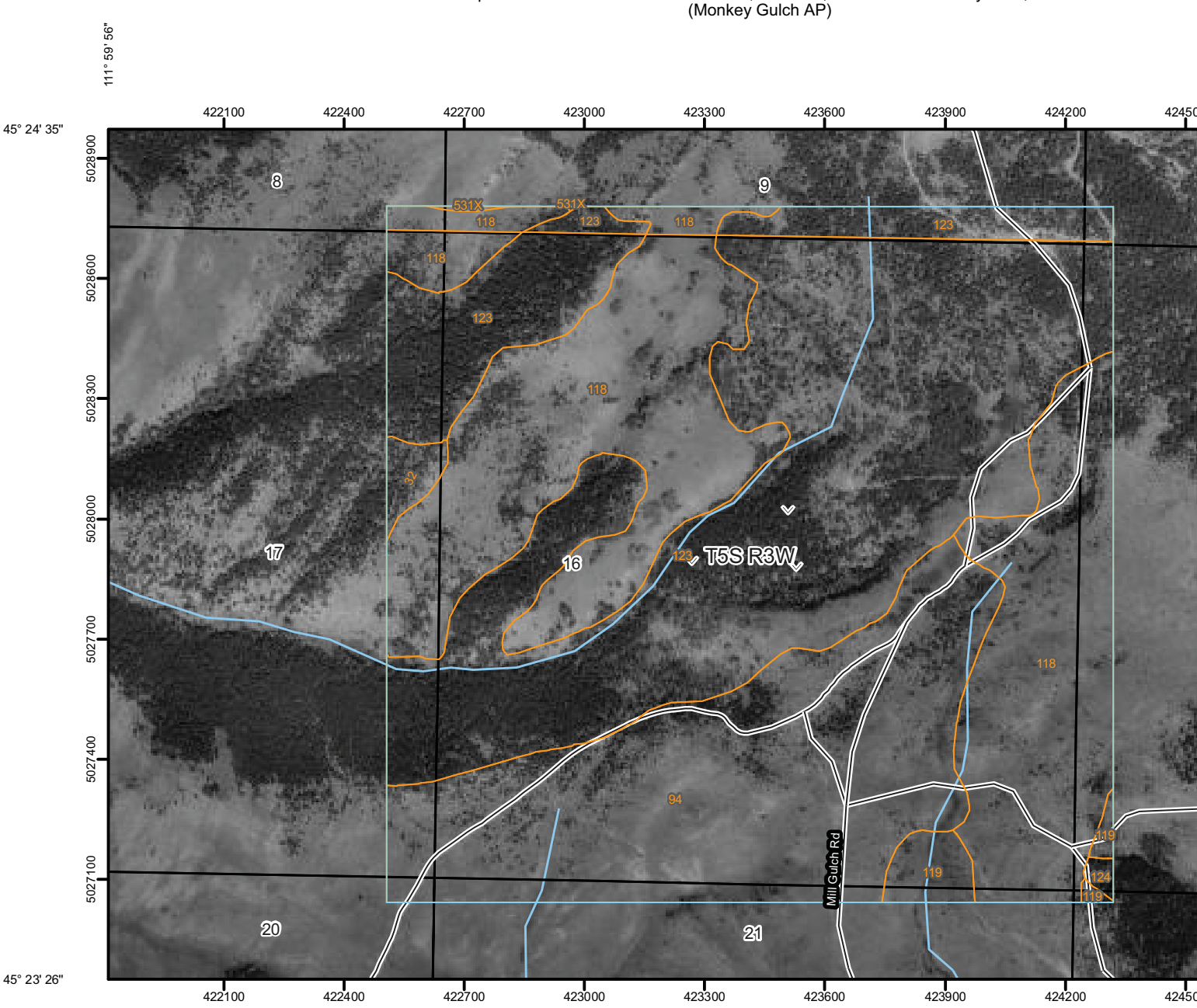
Reconstruction

New Construction

Access Road

Reconstruction within SMZ

Soil Map—Beaverhead National Forest Area, Montana, and Madison County Area, Montana
(Monkey Gulch AP)



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey

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
- Local Roads

MAP INFORMA

Map Scale: 1:15,200 if printed on A size

The soil surveys that comprise your AO

Please rely on the bar scale on each ma measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources C
Web Soil Survey URL: http://websoils
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 12N

This product is generated from the USD the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Beaverhead Nation
Survey Area Data: Version 12, Aug 2

Soil Survey Area: Madison County Ar
Survey Area Data: Version 13, Feb 2

Your area of interest (AOI) includes mor These survey areas may have been map a different land use in mind, at different of detail. This may result in map unit sy interpretations that do not completely ag boundaries.

Date(s) aerial images were photograph

The orthophoto or other base map on w compiled and digitized probably differs imagery displayed on these maps. As a 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**
118	Sebud-Hapgood complex, 8 to 45 percent slopes	10.5	1.3%
123	Shadow complex, warm, 15 to 45 percent slopes	21.9	2.8%
531X	Bearmouth-Alta-Marcetta families, complex, moderately steep mountain slopes	0.4	0.1%
Subtotals for Soil Survey Area		**32.8**	**4.2%**
Totals for Area of Interest		**779.9**	**100.0%**

Madison County Area, Montana (MT636)			
Map Unit Symbol	**Map Unit Name**	**Acres in AOI**	**Percent of AOI**
32	Comad-Earcree complex, 8 to 45 percent slopes	5.7	0.7%
94	Oro Fino-Poin complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes	180.6	23.2%
118	Sebud-Hapgood complex, 8 to 45 percent slopes	235.2	30.2%
119	Sebud-Hapgood-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 60 percent slopes	10.6	1.4%
123	Shadow complex, warm, 15 to 45 percent slopes	313.5	40.2%
124	Shadow complex, warm, 45 to 70 percent slopes	1.4	0.2%
Subtotals for Soil Survey Area		**747.1**	**95.8%**
Totals for Area of Interest		**779.9**	**100.0%**

ATTACHMENT E
BLM MONKEY GULCH ALTERNATIVE PRACTICE

CHECKLIST FOR ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND SENSITIVE SPEICES
Pertains to Section II. 9. of the DS-252 DNRC Environmental Checklist
CENTRAL LAND OFFICE

Prepared by Chuck Barone January 4, 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)
Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) Habitat: ample big game pops., security from human activity	[N] The proposed project area falls within the Yellowstone Nonessential Experimental Area for gray wolves. The nearest wolf packs are the Cedar Creek and Jack Creek packs. Individuals from this pack 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 affect 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.
Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) Habitat: recovery areas, security from human activity	[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 20 miles southeast of the project area. The project area is comprised of dry forest types not typically preferred by grizzly bears. Grizzly bear use of the Tobacco Root 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 may occur in the project area. Human access levels are presently moderate to high due to the public access. Approximately 750 feet of road reconstruction would be needed for the project. The road reconstruction would be physically closed after the completion of the BLM and State projects. The potential for any measurable increases in bear-human conflicts following 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.

Lynx (*Felis lynx*) Habitat: mosaics--dense sapling and old forest >5,000 ft. elev.	[N] The proposed project area is located along the far outer fringes of preferred lynx habitat in rangeland and predominately non-forested foothills. Lynx habitat on the State parcel would be categorized as "other" habitat (344 acres). Additionally, there are ~74 acres of "temporary non" habitat with the remaining 142 acres being rangeland. Of the ~344 acres of potential lynx habitat on the State parcel, <1.0 acres would be affected by the proposed activities. Preferred lynx habitat is marginal within the proposed project area due to naturally induced fragmentation, and the high level of interspersion of native grassland habitat and dry forest types and 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 negligible.

DNRC Sensitive Species	[Y/N] Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures N = Not Present or No Impact is Likely to Occur Y = Impacts May Occur (Explain Below)
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Habitat: late-successional forest <1 mile from open water	[N] Bald Eagles have been documented within the quarter latilong (L38C) 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 occurs outside of any bald eagle nesting home range. Thus, no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to bald eagles associated with this project are anticipated.
Black-Backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) Habitat: mature to old burned or beetle-infested forest	[N] Black-backed woodpeckers have not been documented within the quarter latilong (L38C) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). However, stands found within the proposed project area are presently experiencing insect activity and could attract birds. No recent burns (≤5 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.
Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludoviscianus*) Habitat: grasslands, short-grass prairie, sagebrush semi-desert	[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.
Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*) Habitat: late-successional ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forest	[N] Flammulated owls have documented within the quarter latilong (L38C) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). The parcel involved in the proposed project maintains an elevation of 7000-7600 feet. Flammulated Owls have been found in

	warm, dry Douglas-fir cover types. The parcels involved in this project have similar vegetative conditions 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.
Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) Habitat: sagebrush semi-desert	[N] Sage Grouse have been documented in the quarter latilong (L38C) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). Sagebrush semi-desert habitats suitable for use by Sage Grouse do occur within one mile of the project area. The area surrounding the proposed project has been identified as a lek area. No leks have been identified within one mile of the project area or along the main access route. Should sage grouse be present in the vicinity of the project area, any effects to habitat or disturbance-related effects would be expected to be minimal, due to the late start-up date of activities (i.e., post June 15), and preferred sagebrush habitat would not be altered. Impacts to Sage Grouse are not anticipated.
Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) Habitat: white-water streams, boulder and cobble substrates	[N] Harlequin ducks have not been documented in the quarter latilong (L38C) 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.
Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) Habitat: short-grass prairie, alkaline flats, prairie dog towns	[N] Mountain Plovers have not been documented in the quarter latilong (L38C) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). 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.
Northern Bog Lemming (*Synaptomys borealis*) Habitat: sphagnum meadows, bogs, fens with thick moss mats	[N] No sphagnum meadows or bogs occur in the proposed project area. Thus, no impacts to bog lemmings would be expected to occur as a result of this project.
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Habitat: cliff features near open foraging areas and/or wetlands	[N] Peregrine Falcons have been documented within the quarter latilong (L38C) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). No cliff features suitable for use by nesting peregrine falcons are known to occur within 1 mile of the project area. No direct, indirect or cumulative effects associated with this project are anticipated.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) Habitat: late-successional ponderosa pine and larch-fir forest	[N] Pileated woodpeckers have been documented within the quarter latilong (L38C) that encompasses the proposed project area (Skaar 1996, MNHP 2010). The project area is poorly suited for use by pileated woodpeckers. Due to the small size, location and short duration of this proposed project and 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.
Townsend's Big-Eared Bat (*Plecotus townsendii*) Habitat: caves, caverns, old mines	[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.

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

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