

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>BLM Monkey Gulch Access Road LUL</b>
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	<b>June 15, 2011</b>
<b>Proponent:</b>	<b>Bureau of Land Management</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>E2SW4 and S2SW4NW1/4 Section 16-T5S-R3W</b>
<b>County:</b>	<b>Madison</b>

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The proposed action is the issuance of a Land Use License for the reconstruction of approximately 0.5 miles of existing road, the construction of approximately 0.2 miles of minimum standard new road, the installation of two 24" culverts and subsequent use of these roads. The purpose of the road use is to facilitate temporary access to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands to the west of the State parcel for timber harvesting and log hauling. Approximately 200 MBF (50 loads) of sawtimber would be transported across the State parcel. All proposed road reconstruction and construction on the State tracts would be physically closed with slash, debris and/or Kelly humps, and culverts would be removed and crossings rehabilitated, at the completion of the BLM and adjoining State projects.

(See Attachment A - Site Specific map)

### 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 Madison County Weed Board administers the State weed laws in Madison County. The Weed Board would be contacted by the DNRC and given a weed plan for the project.

A 124 permit from MT FWP would be required for the temporary culvert installations.

BLM and DNRC are classified as major open burners by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and are issued a permit from the DEQ to conduct burning activities on their respective managed lands. As major open burning permit holders, BLM and DNRC agree to comply with all of the limitations and conditions of the permit.

### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**No Action Alternative:** A Land Use License would not be issued. Current management actions would be maintained. This tract is currently leased for grazing.

**Action Alternative:** The Land Use License would be issued 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 gentle to moderate slopes with a slope range of 10-25%. No unusual or unique geologic features were noted in the proposed harvest area. Primary soils within the proposed harvest 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. 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.

(See Attachment D – Soil Survey Map)

## **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.*

The project area lies within the upper reaches of Monkey Gulch drainage, a tributary of California Creek, and includes two intermittent drainages. No fisheries are present within the State parcel but fisheries are found in California Creek, which is a tributary of the Ruby River.

The Missouri River drainage, including tributaries to the Ruby River, is classified as B-1 in the Montana Surface Water Quality Standards. The B-1 classification is for multiple use waters suitable for domestic use after conventional treatment, growth and propagation of cold-water fisheries, associated aquatic life and wildlife, and agricultural and industrial uses. The State has adopted Forestry Best Management Practices through its Nonpoint Source Management Plan as the principle means of controlling nonpoint source pollution from silvicultural activities.

Harvest and road levels within the Monkey Gulch watershed are well below the levels of forest crown removal that are normally associated with increased water yields. It is unlikely that there are measurable effects on stream flow regimes (water yield, magnitude, and duration of peak flows) due to vegetation manipulation in the Monkey Gulch watershed.

The proposed new access route would utilize existing roads and new construction on BLM and State lands. Activities would occur on moderate slopes ranging from 20 to 40% with moderate erosion risk. Road activities would implement all applicable forestry BMP's to avoid or minimize the risk of soil erosion and potential for sediment delivery. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to water quality or the cold-water fisheries due to accelerated rates of sediment or nutrient delivery are expected to result from the proposed actions. Since minimal streamside riparian timber removal is proposed, no direct or indirect effects to stream temperatures are anticipated.

Two 24" culverts would be installed across Class 1 streams and removed at completion of all projects. This would require a 124 permit from the MT FWP. No adverse effects to downstream water quality or cold-water fisheries are expected to occur due to the proposed crossings. Minimal direct or indirect effects to channel form and function are anticipated.

Land management activities such as road reconstruction, construction, maintenance and use can potentially increase levels of fine sediment delivery to streams if not properly located, designed, and mitigated. The primary risks to water quality that are associated with the proposed project are roads, especially roads located along or crossing streams. Risk of erosion and sediment delivery are highest when roads are located in areas with inadequate buffering between streams and other drainage features, on erosive soils, or on steep and/or unstable slopes. A lack of periodic maintenance, inadequate surface drainage features, and use during wet periods or conditions may also contribute to higher risk.

The minor road reconstruction and construction are not expected to contribute to adverse cumulative watershed impacts due to modified stream flow regimes. The past and present levels of harvest within the watershed are well below the levels normally associated with detrimental increases in water yield, peak flow, or duration of peak flows. Subsequently, no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to water quality or beneficial uses are anticipated to result from bank destabilization and in-stream sedimentation. Given the minimal road reconstruction and construction, and implementation of recommended mitigation measures, only minor and temporary direct, indirect or cumulative impacts are anticipated to any beneficial uses associated with the Monkey Gulch watershed. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to water quality, cold-water fisheries, or other beneficial uses in California Creek or the Ruby River are expected to result from the proposed actions.

Approximately 0.5 miles of road reconstruction, 0.2 miles of new road construction and two 24" culverts are proposed on the State Parcel. These road segments would be reconstructed/constructed to a 12-foot wide, minimum standard road and have erosion features installed. 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.

Several segments of existing road lack sufficient drainage features and may cause erosion problems in the future if not properly mitigated. The State has adopted Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) through its Nonpoint Source Management Plan as the principle means of controlling nonpoint source pollution. Implementation of appropriate Best Management Practices, mitigation measures and the relocation of the existing access road would reduce the risk of sedimentation from roads; and reduce the risk and severity of soil erosion and potential sediment delivery to Monkey Gulch and tributaries, California Creek and ephemeral drainage features.

With recommended mitigation measures, no impacts or cumulative effects are expected to occur to water quality, water yield, watershed conditions, fisheries or any other beneficial uses associated with the watersheds adjacent to the proposed project areas or any downstream tributaries.

Due to the size and duration of the proposed project and additional recommended mitigation measures, no impacts are expected to occur to water quality, water yield, watershed conditions, or fisheries in the Monkey Gulch watershed or any downstream tributaries.

#### **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.*

The BLM and DNRC are members of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, which coordinates burning activities related to forest management among the group's members in order to minimize impacts from smoke generated by those activities. As members of the Airshed Group, BLM and DNRC agree to burn only on days approved for good smoke dispersion as determined by the Smoke Management Unit in Missoula, MT. Thus direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the proposed action are expected to minimal.

#### **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 and new road are 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 and new road (~1.7 acres). 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.

No rare plants or cover types have been noted in the project area or State tract.

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.

With recommended mitigation measures, no significant impacts or cumulative effects to vegetative communities are expected from the proposed actions.

#### **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.*

A variety of game and non-game species potentially use this area. A partial list of likely species includes mule deer, elk, rabbit, red tail hawk, and brook trout.

The proposed project area lies within FWP Tobacco Root Elk Management Unit and Hunting District 320 and

occurs in important habitat for elk. Within this Elk Management Unit, FWP has stated challenges to... "reduce hunter crowding while maintaining hunter opportunity" (FWP 2004). Bull elk vulnerability and limited security cover are additional challenges expressed by FWP in Tobacco Root EMU (FWP 2004). Overcoming these challenges can be hampered when available cover at the landscape level is reduced appreciably through timber harvest activities, road management, or natural disturbances, such as large-scale stand-replacement wildfires. Security cover is only slightly limited in the area, no significant impacts to wildlife are anticipated due to the size of the proposed project. The proposed project would not affect the present public access, which already affords moderate to high human levels.

Due to the size and duration of the proposed project and additional recommended mitigation measures, no impacts are expected to wildlife and fisheries habitats. No adverse impacts are expected to terrestrial, avian or aquatic habitats.

(See Attachments E & F – Montana Natural Heritage Program; CLO Checklist for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species)

**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 lewisii*) 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 construction 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 packs are the Horn Mtn. pack and the Centennial pack. 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 Attachments E & F – Montana Natural Heritage Program; 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.*

The project area is not visible to any populated area but is visible from a small segment of the County road. Due to the topography and activity proposed, impacts concerning aesthetics are not expected.

**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 expected to be minor and temporary.

#### 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.*

Due to the small size of the proposed project, there will be no measurable cumulative impact from this proposed action on employment.

#### 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.*

Due to the small size of the proposed project, there will be no measurable cumulative impact from this proposed action on tax revenues.

#### 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*

There will be no measurable cumulative impacts related to demand for government services due to the small size of the proposed project, the short-term impacts to traffic, the small possibility of a few people temporarily relocating to the area and the lack of other activities in the adjacent area.

#### 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.*

DNRC developed the State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP) in 1996, a programmatic plan that outlines the approach and philosophy guiding land management activities on forested school trust lands throughout the state of Montana.

DNRC adopted the Administrative Rules for Forest Management on March 13, 2003, applicable to management activities on forested school trust lands.

**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.*

Persons possessing a valid state lands recreational use license or FWP conservation license may conduct recreational activities on the State tract. The proposed project would not affect the existing access for the general public.

**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.*

There will be no measurable cumulative impacts related to population and housing due to the small size of the proposed action.

**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.*

Estimated return to the Trust from the issuance of the Land Use License would be \$600.00 (200 MBF @ \$3.00/MBF).

Estimated return to the Trust from the compensation of right-of way timber would be \$145.24 (3.8 MBF @ \$38.22/MBF).

Additionally, the State would benefit from not having to assume the costs of road reconstruction and construction to access their timber permit. Estimated return to the Trust from the DNRC timber permit would be \$24,500.00 (500 MBF @ \$49.00/MBF).

The Trust would continue to receive \$911.88/year from a grazing license.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Chuck Barone	<b>Date:</b> January 11, 2010
	<b>Title:</b> Dillon Unit Forester	

## V. FINDING

### 25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

**Action Alternative:** The Land Use License would be issued as proposed with additional mitigation measures.

### 26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

This proposed project will have a small footprint with the reconstruction of 0.5 miles of existing road and the construction of 0.2 miles of new road to access BLM lands. The use of the road will be of short duration to salvage dead and dying saw logs. The road will be closed to travel to traffic once operations have concluded on BLM lands. The road will be grass seeded and closed to travel by placing slash on the road, removing culverts and installing a physical barrier at the start of the road. No long term or cumulative impacts are anticipated if the mitigation practices listed below are followed by the proponent.

### 27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Tim Egan
	<b>Title:</b> Dillon Unit Manager
<b>Signature:</b> /S/ Timothy Egan	<b>Date:</b> 1/12/2011

### MEASURES RECOMMENDED TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

- 1) Compliance with Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's) and Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) laws.
- 2) Proceed with proposed project in accordance with DNRC Attachment 'B' - Road Construction, Improvement and Maintenance Specifications.
- 3) 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. Control erosion by installing adequate drainage on roads.
- 4) 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.
- 5) All road construction and logging equipment would be power washed and inspected prior to being brought on site.
- 6) 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 road construction and reconditioning. Provide effective sediment filtration along drainage features near crossing sites.
- 7) 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.

- 8) All road reconstruction and construction on the State tracts would be physically closed with slash, debris and/or Kelly humps, and culverts would be removed and crossings rehabilitated, at the completion of all projects. All road reconstruction, construction and disturbed areas would be grass seeded with an appropriate seed mix approved by the DNRC representative.
- 9) Project area would be monitored for weeds following harvest and a treatment plan would be developed should noxious weeds occur.
- 10) Contact DNRC representative should any threatened or endangered species be encountered within the proposed project area.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Site Specific Map

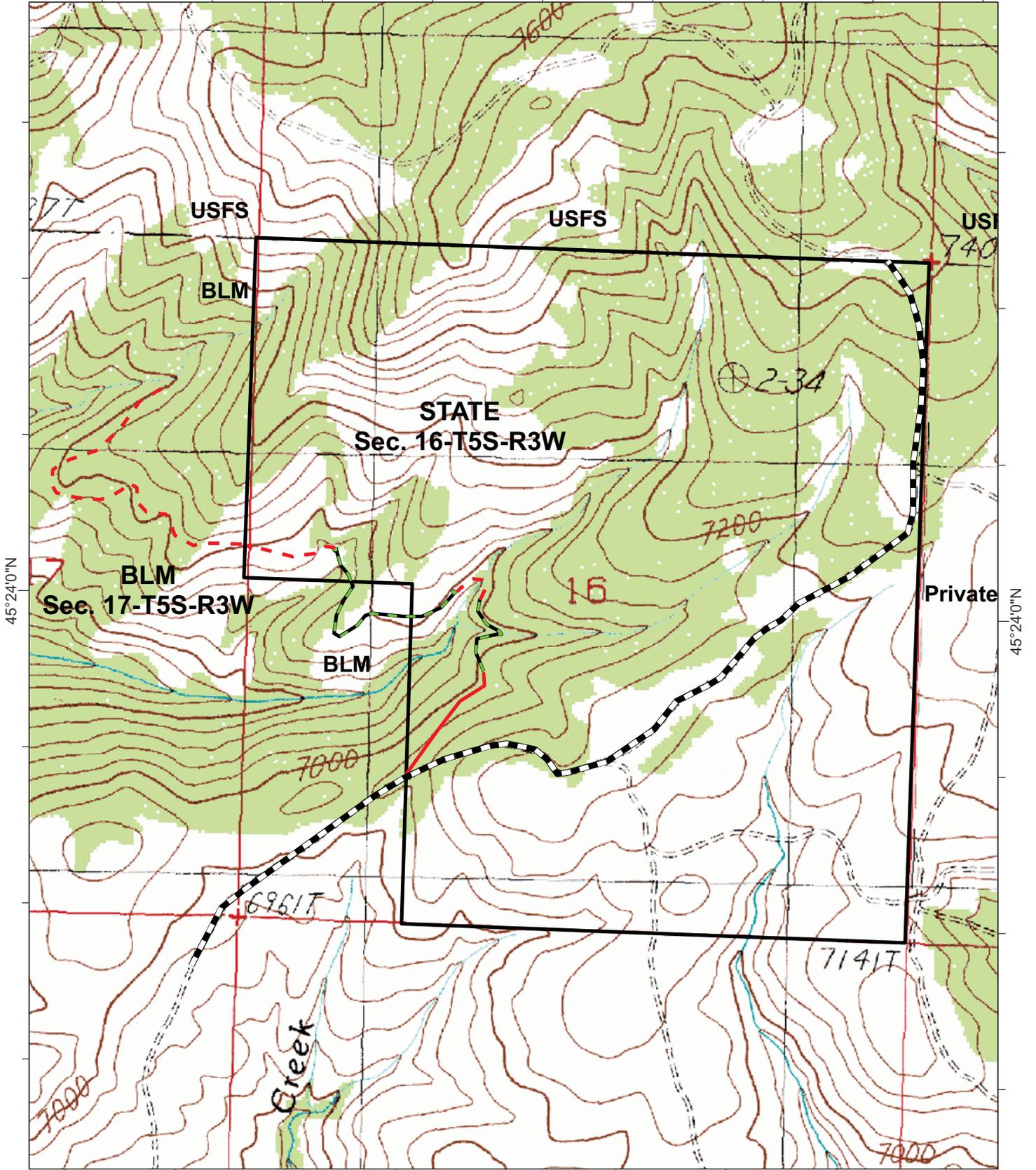
Attachment D - Soil Survey Map

Attachment E – CLO Checklist for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species

ATTACHMENT A  
Proposed BLM Land Use License\_Monkey Gulch  
Section 16-T5S-R3W, Madison County

111°59'0"W

111°58'0"W



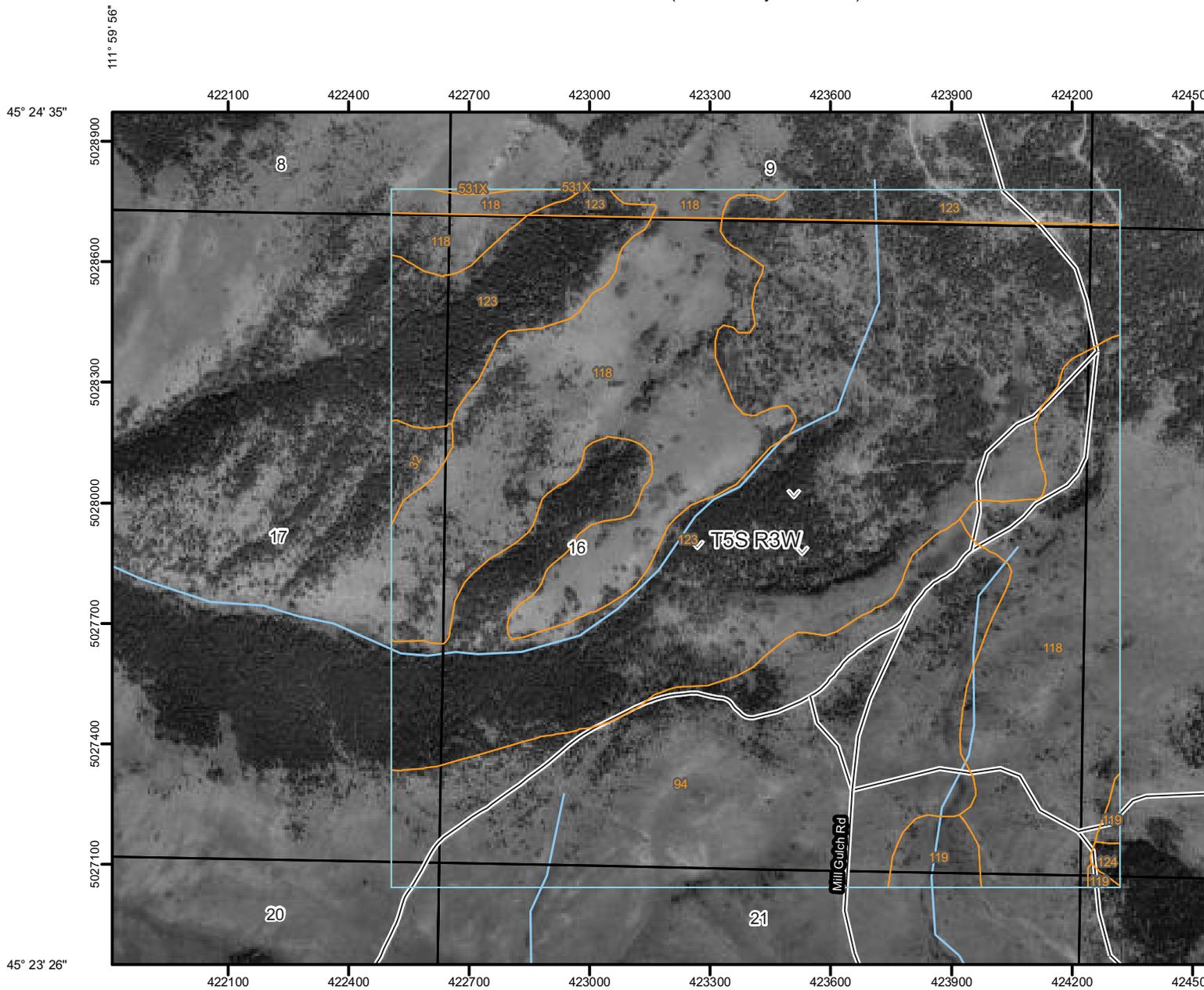
0 480 960 1,920  
Feet

- County Road
- Access Road
- Reconstruction
- New Construction

1:12,500



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



111° 59' 55"



Map Scale: 1:15,200 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.



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 INFORMATION

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

The soil surveys that comprise your area of interest (AOI) are:

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

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 12N FIPS 8301

This product is generated from the USDA National Cooperative Soil Survey, the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Beaverhead National Forest

Survey Area Data: Version 12, Aug 2001

Soil Survey Area: Madison County Area

Survey Area Data: Version 13, Feb 2002

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

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 1994-1995

The orthophoto or other base map on which this map was compiled and digitized probably differs from the aerial imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some of map unit boundaries may be evident.



Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey  
National Cooperative Soil Survey

## 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%
<b>Subtotals for Soil Survey Area</b>		<b>32.8</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>779.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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%
<b>Subtotals for Soil Survey Area</b>		<b>747.1</b>	<b>95.8%</b>
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>779.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**ATTACHMENT E**  
**BLM MONKEY GULCH ACCESS ROAD LUL**

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

December 21, 2010

<p><b>Threatened and Endangered 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 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.</p>
<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 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 0.5 miles of road reconstruction and 0.2 miles of temporary, minimum standard new road would be needed for the project. The road reconstruction and new road 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.</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 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, &lt;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 interspersions 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.</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>Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)  Habitat: late-successional forest &lt;1 mile from open water</p>	<p>[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.</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 (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.</p>
<p>Black-tailed Prairie Dog (<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>)  Habitat: grasslands, short-grass prairie, sagebrush semi-desert</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 Douglas-fir forest</p>	<p>[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</p>

	<p>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.</p>
<p>Sage Grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>) Habitat: sagebrush semi-desert</p>	<p>[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.</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 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.</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 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.</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. Thus, 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 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.</p>

<p>Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)  Habitat: late-successional ponderosa pine and larch-fir forest</p>	<p>[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.</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.