CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	OverHall
Proposed Implementation Date:	4/18/11-8/1/11
Proponent:	Montana DNRC, Clearwater Unit
Location:	W1/2NE1/4, Section 36 T17N R15W
County:	Powell

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The Clearwater Unit is proposing to harvest up to 200 thousand board feet of timber from approximately 80 acres. The proposed harvest area is located northeast of Seeley Lake, Montana and was recently acquired as part of the Lolo National Forest-DNRC Land Exchange. Although it is adjacent to the Sleepy Haller Permit this land was not owned by the DNRC during the 612 process and therefore was not able to be harvested under that permit. Under the proposed action, DNRC would harvest lodgepole pine that is dead, dying, and susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack as well as mountain pine beetle infested ponderosa pine. In addition to the harvest, a fuel break occurring on either side of the Morrell Creek road would be constructed in a stand of dead sub-merchantable ponderosa pine. This harvest will generate money for the trust and reduce fuels that have the potential to negatively affect homeowners in the Seeley Lake area.

The lands involved in this proposed project are held by the State of Montana in trust for Common Schools (Enabling Act of February 22, 1889; 1972 Montana Constitution, Article X, Section 11). The Board of Land Commissioners and the DNRC are required by law to administer these trust lands to produce the largest measure of reasonable and legitimate return over the long run for the beneficiary institutions (Section 77-1-202, MCA). Specific objectives of the project are to capture value of dead and dying trees, prevent future value loss on DNRC land as well as adjacent landowner's property, and promote appropriate forest types within the project area.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

DNRC specialists were consulted, including: Mike McGrath, Wildlife Biologist; Jeff Collins, Hydrologist and the Wilderness Sportsman's Club (Seeley Lake Gun Club).

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

Slash burning will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations outlined in statewide cooperative agreements as well as any local restrictions. The Morrell Creek road is maintained by the Lolo National Forest, USFS.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action Alternative: The proposed harvest would not occur at this time. Current land use activities would continue.

Action Alternative: Under this alternative, DNRC would continue current uses, and also harvest dead and dying lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine, as well as lodgepole pine that are highly susceptible to the mountain pine beetle. All other species would be retained. Up to 200 thousand board feet would be harvested from approximately 80 acres (Attachment A Harvest Map). Timber would be harvested using ground based methods.

Western larch seedlings and/or ponderosa pine seedlings will be inter-planted among the residual stand as needed. A fuel break occurring on either side of the Morrell Creek road would be implemented in a stand of dead sub-merchantable ponderosa pine.

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 area surrounding the airport is a relatively flat glacial outwash terrace with small areas of short steep slopes. No unstable slopes or especially unique geology features are present. Morrell Creek flows through the NW corner of the section and since the last glacial period, the creek has downcut through the deep glacial till and outwash deposits forming an alluvial terrace. The alluvial soils forming the terrace along Morrell Creek are a complex of deep Riverun/Gash series stratified coarse sands and sandy gravels. No high erosion potential soils were identified and there are minimal effects of disturbance from historic use. Topsoils are relatively shallow with moderate susceptibility to compaction by equipment. There have been previous entries in the parcel that have had regenerated or have been planted to trees and past impacts are minimal.

There is low risk of harvest impacts to soils from disturbance in the forms of erosion, displacement, and compaction, due to the proposed harvesting and hauling operations limited to winter operations of frozen, or snow covered ground. DNRC soil monitoring on previous projects has confirmed that very low disturbance or erosion occurred with winter harvest operations. Unmerchantable pieces of trees and defect wood would be left in the woods to provide coarse woody debris (CWD) for moisture retention and nutrient recycling. Road use of existing roads would require some blading of the surface to remove snow and ruts with an emphasis on filling with snow/ice. If winter conditions deteriorate, harvest would take place when soils are adequately dry. There is low risk of direct, in-direct or cumulative effects to soil based on BMP implementation and operations.

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.

DNRC proposes to harvest up to 200mbf lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine that are dead, dying or at high risk of insect mortality from mountain pine beetle infestation. The proposed activities would take place early in 2011, while soils are frozen and snow covered to limit rutting or disturbance. If soil/snow conditions deteriorate and we enter a spring "break-up" condition harvest will commence when soils are adequately dry, based on inspection.

There are no stream courses within the immediate area of the unit boundaries.

The proposed haul route would use existing roads and the primary access is the Morrell Creek road that includes an existing bridge crossing of Morrell Creek. The existing crossing is in good condition and no direct sediment sources were indentified on the haul road. There are several cabin sites in the NW corner of the section and a low standard log sill bridge that is access to one of the cabins. This secondary bridge will not support log truck traffic and would not be used for this project. Minor spur road segments may be constructed by blading off the snow to designated landing sites and hauling operations would be limited to frozen or snow covered conditions to prevent rutting disturbance and sedimentation. If these conditions cannot be met harvesting will take place when soils are adequately dry, based on inspection. The limited use of the existing

roads and anticipated harvest in winter would not be expected to cause sedimentation or impact downstream water quality.
The harvest of mainly dead, dying and beetle infested pine and thinning, is not expected to have a measurable influence on: water quality, the amount or timing of runoff (water yield), or stream stability from the proposed project area when compared to the effects anticipated under no action. In summary, all BMP's, and requirements for SMZ's, RMZ's and WMZ's would be applied and administered during harvest operations. There would be low risk of disturbance or off-site erosion as a result of the use of existing road for access and log hauling, during the winter. Based on the harvest design, there is low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects to water quality or downstream beneficial uses.

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 DNRC is a member of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group which was formed to minimize or prevent smoke impacts while using fire to accomplish land management objectives and/or fuel hazard reduction (Montana/Idaho Airshed Group 2006). The Group determines the delineation of airsheds and impact zones throughout Idaho and Montana. Airsheds describe those geographical areas that have similar atmospheric conditions, while impact zones describe any area in Montana or Idaho that the Group deems smoke sensitive and/or having an existing air quality problem (Montana/Idaho Airshed Group 2006).

The project area is located within Montana Airshed 3B which encompasses portions of Missoula and Powell Counties. Currently, this Airshed does not contain any impact zones.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, no slash piles would be burned within the project areas. Thus, there would be no effects to air quality within the local vicinity and throughout Airshed 3B.

Action Alternative: Under the Action Alternative, slash piles consisting of tree limbs and tops and other vegetative debris would be created throughout the project area during harvesting. These slash piles would ultimately be burned after harvesting operations have been completed. Burning would introduce particulate matter into the local airshed, temporarily affecting local air quality. Over 70% of emissions emitted from prescribed burning is less than 2.5 microns (National Ambient Air Quality PM 2.5). High, short-term levels of PM 2.5 may be hazardous. Within the typical column of biomass burning, the chemical toxics are: Formaldehyde, Acrolein, Acetaldehyde, 1,4 Butadiene, and Polycyclic Organic Matter.

Burning within the project area would be short in duration and would be conducted when conditions favored good to excellent ventilation and smoke dispersion as determined by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group. Prior to burning a "Prescribed Fire Burn Plan" would be done for the area. The DNRC, as a member of the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group, would burn only on approved days. Thus, direct and indirect effects to air quality due to slash pile burning associated with the proposed action would be minimal.

Burning that may occur on adjacent properties in combination with the proposed action could potentially increase cumulative affects to the local airshed and the Class I Areas. Thus, cumulative effects to air quality due to slash pile burning associated with the proposed action would also be expected to be minimal.

Cumulative effects to air quality would not exceed the levels defined by State of Montana Cooperative Smoke Management Plan (1988) and managed by the Montana Airshed Group. Prescribed burning by other nearby airshed cooperators (for example the U.S. Forest Service) would have potential to affect air quality. All cooperators currently operate under the same Airshed Group guidelines. The State, as a member, would burn only on approved days. This should decrease the likelihood of additive cumulative effects.

Harvesting operations would be short in duration. Thus, direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to air quality due to harvesting and hauling associated with the proposed action would be 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.

No Action Alternative: No harvest would occur at this time. Mountain pine beetle would likely continue to infest and kill lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine within the DRNC ownership and surrounding area. Some of the dead trees would likely be blown down or cut for firewood, creating openings within the stands. Over time, some natural conifer regeneration would probably establish in areas with a seed source and favorable microclimate. It is likely that illegal firewood cutting would continue to take place within the proposed harvest area. Hazardous fuel loads would continue to build near Seeley Lake.

Action Alternative: DNRC would harvest and remove lodgepole pine that are dead, dying, or susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack as well as mountain pine beetle infested ponderosa pine. Changes to the vegetation would include an immediate reduction in numbers of live and dead lodgepole pine as well as beetle hit ponderosa pine on 80 acres. The proposed action would create a fuel break along both sides of the Morrell creek road. All dead submerchantable trees would be removed to reduce fuel loading within the Primary Line of Defense (PLOD) for Seeley Lake. Other species, including western larch, ponderosa pine (non-beetle hit), spuce and Douglas-fir would be retained. The remaining trees would have increased growth as more resources would be available per tree. While regeneration is not a goal of the prescription, some lodgepole and Douglas-fir would likely become established through natural regeneration in newly created openings. This species selection would result in most areas resembling a very open seed tree harvest. Western larch and/or ponderosa pine would be inter-planted among the residual stand as needed.

DNRC has adopted old-growth definitions based on Green et al. (1992).No trees within the harvest are meet the Green et. al. criteria for old growth.

No rare plants have been identified in the project area. Knapweed can be found along access roads and on open sites the state and adjacent ownerships. Weed control on this section is currently assigned to the lessees, including the airport and cabin sites. To limit the spread of weeds under the proposed action, all equipment would be clean of mud and weed seed to prevent the introduction of noxious weeds, and would be inspected by the DNRC. The project area would be monitored for new weed infestations following the proposed activities, and if new weeds are noted, a weed management plan would be developed and implemented and coordinated with lessee efforts.

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.

Fisheries- Morrell Creek flows through the NW ¼ of DNRC section 36 and the creek supports a cold water fishery. No harvest is planned in the SMZ or RMZ adjacent to Morrell Creek and the proposed salvage harvest would not measurably affect fish habitat, including; tree shading, stream temperature or recruitable large woody debris of Morrell Creek. There would be low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to aquatic life or wetland habitat as a result of the proposed action. See details concerning fisheries and wetlands in section #9.

Elk (*Cervus elaphus*), White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) & Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemimonus*): Elk, white-tailed deer & mule deer may use the affected area as part of their summer range. However, the affected parcel is close to the town of Seeley Lake, receives abundant recreational use in addition to the shooting range in the northeast corner of the parcel. As such, many deterrents currently exist on and around the affected parcel. The proposed timber harvest may increase elk vulnerability to hunting pressure through increased sight distances, but elk, white-tail deer and mule deer use may be deterred by the aforementioned factors. As a result, there would likely be a low risk for direct, indirect, or cumulative effects from the proposed action.

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.

Fisheries: Morrell Creek flows through the NW ¼ of DNRC section 36 and the creek supports a cold water fishery that includes both bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Bull trout are currently listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and westslope cutthroat trout is a sensitive species. To protect fish habitat, no harvest is planned in the SMZ or RMZ adjacent to Morrell Creek and the proposed salvage harvest would not measurably affect fish habitat, including; tree shading, stream temperature or recruitable large woody debris of Morrell Creek.

The proposed haul route would use an existing high standard forest road with an existing bridge crossing of Morrell Creek. The existing road and bridge comply with BMP's and are not direct sediment sources. No new road construction is proposed near Morrell Creek and proposed harvest and hauling in winter would not be expected to impact downstream fish habitat or water quality. The proposed permit harvest for forest management would meet interim guidelines developed by the Montana Bull Trout Restoration Team in the Bull Trout Immediate Actions and the State's draft Bull Trout Restoration Plan, and Watershed, Fisheries and Threatened and Endangered Species Resource Management Standards contained in the State Forest Land Management Plan. Based on the harvest design and winter conditions, there is low risk of direct, indirect or cumulative effects to fish habitat.

Lynx (*Felis lynx*): The proposed action would harvest lodgepole pine and beetle-hit Ponderosa pine adjacent to approximately 21 acres of lynx mature foraging habitat near Morrell Creek. Existing cabin sites are located within the mature foraging habitat, as well as houses occurring within 0.5 mile of the proposed harvest unit. Because of the existing levels of disturbance, the suitability of the affected parcel for lynx is likely low. As a result, the proposed action would likely have low risk of direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to lynx.

Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*): No wolf packs are known to exist within seven miles of the project area (Gray Wolf Annual Report 2010). However, a single set of wolf tracks was observed along Morrell Creek on the affected parcel during a field visit (M. McGrath, SWLO Wildlife Biologist, personal observation, 9 December 2010). Given mitigations listed for grizzly bears, and if den or rendezvous sites are discovered near the project area, operations would cease until mitigations could be implemented, there would likely be low risk of direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to gray wolves from the proposed action.

Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*): Morrell Creek is a known travel corridor for grizzly bears from the Bob Marshall Wilderness to lower elevations (J. Jonkel, MFWP, personal communication) and the surrounding vegetation provides visual screening cover for bears as the utilize the corridor. In other proposed harvest units, cover would be reduced through the proposed harvest, while attempting to maintain visual screening cover along open roads when it can be accomplished without leaving heavy fuel loads behind. Through the maintenance of cover along Morrell Creek and along open roads whenever possible, the proposed action would reduce the risk of grizzly bears vulnerability to human persecution. The fuel break along Morrell Creek road will be constructed to leave sufficient amounts of screening cover along the open road, while reducing fuel hazards. This would be accomplished by removing vegetation in the first 50 feet on either side of the road and then leaving a 50 foot wide strip along the road for cover unless the residual stand or topography provides adequate cover. Adequate hiding cover will obstruct from view 90% of an adult grizzly bear at two hundred feet. As a result, there would likely be a low risk of direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to grizzly bears from the proposed action.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*): No impact is likely to occur due to the distance between the project area and nearest nest (3.3 miles).

Fisher (*Martes pennanti*): The proposed action would harvest lodgepole pine and beetle-hit Ponderosa pine adjacent to approximately 16 acres of fisher habitat near Morrell Creek. Existing cabin sites are located within and fisher habitat, as well as houses occurring within 0.5 mile of the proposed harvest unit. As a result of the proximity of this narrow corridor to human development, there would likely be low risk of direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to fisher from the proposed action.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

During the Sleepy Haller EA process DNRC Archeologist Patrick Rennie indicated the site may be of interest to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The tribe was contacted via email, which included a description of the project. Later emails included a detailed prescription, proposed season of harvest as well as a harvest map. The concern of the CSKT was that large ponderosa pine in the project area were used as “sugar trees” when the Native Americans passed through. If those trees were present, there was a fear that they would be harvested. An informal survey of the area was conducted in search of large ponderosa pine that displayed the characteristic scar that resulted from collecting sugars from the tree. Approximately 40 acres were sampled, targeting the areas with large diameter ponderosa pine. The average DBH for those trees was 25” dbh with one tree having a 30” dbh. There were no markings on any of the trees sampled (approximately 30 trees). During the informal survey several large diameter stumps that were harvested and/or burned many years ago were observed. A walk through of the Over Hall project area resulted in very similar findings with no “sugar trees” being observed.

No Action Alternative: No harvest would occur at this time. Mountain pine beetle would likely continue to infest and kill lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine within the DRNC ownership and surrounding area. Some of the dead trees would likely be blown down or cut for firewood, creating openings within the stands. Over time, some natural conifer regeneration would probably establish in areas with a seed source and favorable microclimate. It is likely that illegal firewood cutting would continue to take place within the proposed harvest area. Hazardous fuel loads would continue to build near Seeley Lake.

Action Alternative: The Action Alternative: Continued monitoring will be conducted throughout the harvest. Examples of sugar trees will be included as an attachment in the contract so the contractor and crew are aware of what these trees look like. Along with that specific instructions to not harvest these trees will be conveyed to the contractor. Only mountain pine beetle infested ponderosa pine are proposed to be harvested and if scars from sugar collection are observed on any of these trees they will be left behind. Based on the harvest prescription and provisions in the contract no direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to cultural resources are expected as a result of the proposed action.

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.

Any change to the scenery in the area from these alternatives would be in addition to past timber harvests, cabins, an airstrip, a shooting range, a public trail, road building, and future fire activity within the project area. This analysis includes all past and present effects.

No Action Alternative: If the no action alternative is selected, patches created by dead trees and illegal firewood cutting will exist. The trees that would be killed by the beetle attack would lose all foliage, and eventually branches (over several years). Although the tree bole would still be in existence, this would not be very apparent in the distance, but would be more noticeable when observed close range. The color would be lighter than the current view after the attacked trees die. Thus, direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to aesthetics would be minimal.

Action Alternative: Portions of the proposed sale would be visible from the Morrell Creek road, the airstrip, lease cabins and the shooting range. Following treatment areas with a high density of beetle kill and/or lodgepole pine would resemble a seed tree or clearcut harvest. Areas where lodgepole are intermingled with other species will only experience a slight change in aesthetics. Similar prescriptions were used in past harvests that are directly adjacent to the proposed harvest areas. Over the long term, these areas would be noticed by the absence of tree crowns, occurrence of regeneration, and potential change in species composition.

Through the proposed sale area, slash from the harvest would be noticeable yet temporary. Generally slash disappears from the site within five years, and is often covered by other vegetation within three years. Again, sites would be generally lighter in color than can be seen currently.

Harvest systems and activities would be ground-based. Harvest activities would be quite audible, and, depending upon air conditions, equipment could be heard many miles from their location. The proposed harvest of this volume would occur during the general "work week". Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to aesthetics due to harvesting and hauling associated with the proposed action would be minimal.

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.

Minimal impacts are likely to occur under either alternative.

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.

The following timber sale was completed in the Seeley Lake area:
Sleepy Haller: Section 36 T17N R15W
Dogtown timber permit: Section 9 T16N R15W.
Hall-E-Wood timber permit: Section 10 T16N R15W
Scrawny Dog timber permit: Sections 9 & 10 T16N R15W
Double Drew timber permit: Section 12 T16N R15W

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.

Log truck traffic would increase slightly on area roads for the duration of the proposed action. Signs at appropriate locations on access roads would be used to warn motorists and local residents. Harvesting along the open road may cause short traffic delays.

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

The proposed action would lead to a small, temporary increase in industrial activity during implementation. The proposed action would include timber harvesting and log hauling.

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.

A few short time jobs would be created for the duration of the proposed action.

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.

The proposed action has only indirect, limited implications for tax collections.

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

Aside from contract administration, the impact on government services should be minimal due to the temporary nature of the proposed action.

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.

The DNRC operates under the State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP, DNRC 1996) and Administrative Rules for Forest Management (ARM 36.11.401 through 450, DNRC 2003). The SFLMP established the agency's philosophy for management of forested trust lands. The Administrative Rules provide specific guidance for implementing forest management projects

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.

The project area receives use by walk-in recreationists and snowmobiles. There are many diverse user groups within the section and adjacent to the proposed harvest. All current recreation opportunities would continue under the proposed action. Portions of the project area are along an open road that has made it easily accessible for illegal firewood cutting.

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.

Direct implications for density and distribution of population and housing are unlikely.

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

No measurable impacts related to social structures and mores would be expected.

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

No measurable impacts related to cultural uniqueness and diversity would be expected under either alternative.

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 proposed project should return approximately $840 to the Common Schools Trust. This estimate uses an estimated stumpage rate of $2.00 per ton (appraised price). Additionally, the proposed action would contribute approximately $1,877 to the forest improvement fund. In addition to generated revenue a fuel break is being constructed along the Morrell Creek Road under this contract. Road Blading is also being performed along two miles of road as part of a road use permit with the USFS.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Amy Helena	Date: 4/11/11
	Title: Management Forester	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Action Alternative

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Given this environmental assessment, I believe that this project will not cause any detrimental effect to the project area or surrounding properties or resources. This project is also consistent with the requirements of Montana State Statute 77-5-207.

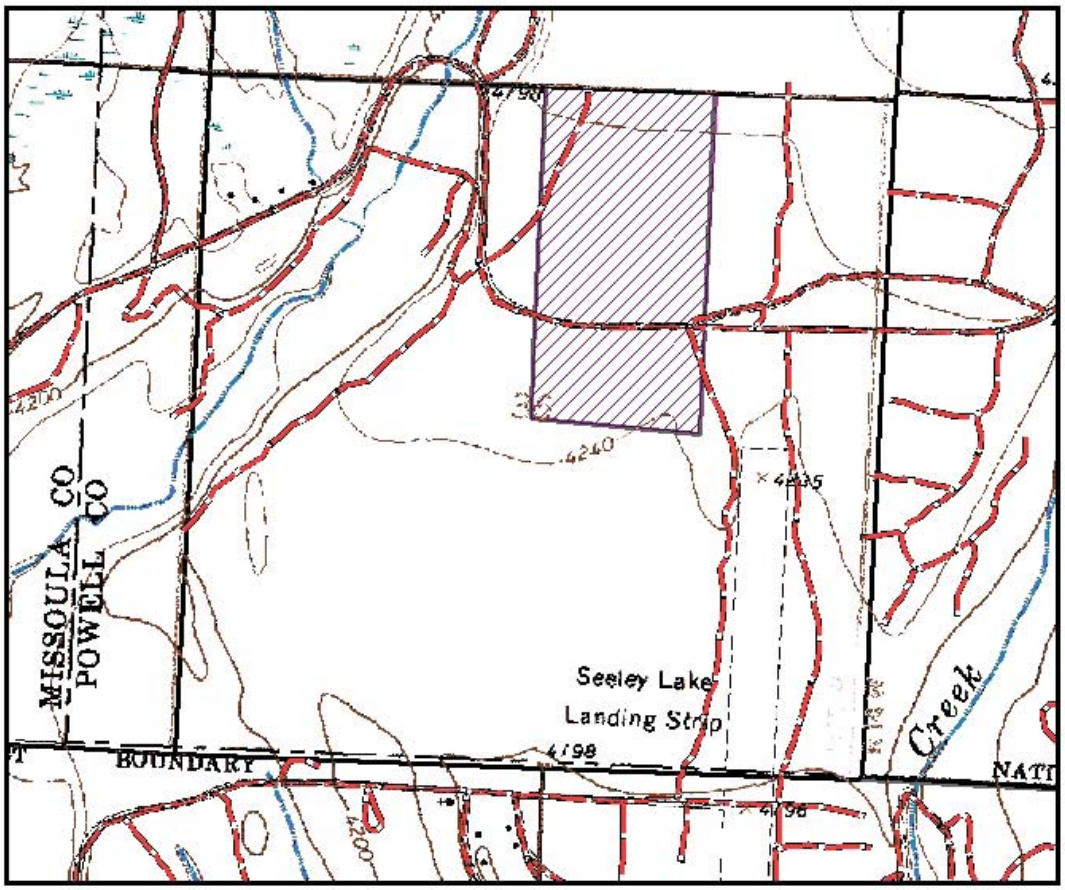
27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

	EIS		More Detailed EA	X	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Craig V. Nelson
	Title: Supervisory Forester
Signature:	Date:

ATTACHMENT A

OverHall
Sec 36T17N R15W
DNRC-CLEARWATER UNIT



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Remove lodgepole pine and mountain beetle infested ponderosa pine. Don't skid on slopes greater than 45%. Use existing landings, old roads and skid trails whenever possible. Protect wildlife trees and snags whenever safety permits. Long butt whenever possible. Construct a 50 foot fuel break along both sides of the Morrell Creek Road by removing submerchatable material that is beetle-hit and/or dead.

Roads
streams
Harvest Unit

Harvest Unit: 80 acres

N

A. Helena
4/11/2011