CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: Smith Lake Access Improvement Project
Proposed Implementation Date: Summer/Fall 2013
Proponent : MT DNRC, Stillwater Unit, Olney, Montana
Type and Purpose of Action: Road maintenance and improvements on approximately 3500 feet on East Smith Lake Road and 5100 feet on West Smith Lake Road. The project would also include harvest of an estimated 10 MBF of salvage timber and 20 MBF of green timber for stocking reduction.
Location: SE ¼ sec. 32, SW ¼ sec. 33, T32N R22W County: Flathead

Category (refer to ARM 36.11.447 for additional detail):

_____1) Temporary Uses of Land with Negligible Effects
_____2) Plans and Policies
_____3) Leases and Licenses
_____4) Acquisition of Land or Interest in Land
__X___5) Road Maintenance and Repair
_____6) Bridges and Culverts
_____7) Crossing Class 3 Streams
_____8) Temporary Road Use Permits
_____9) Road Closure
_____10) Material Stockpiles
_____11) Backfilling
_____12) Gathering Forest Products for Personal Use
_____13) Regeneration
_____14) Nursery Operations
_____15) Water Wells
_____16) Herbicides and Pesticides
_____17) Other Hazardous Materials
_____18) Fences
_____19) Waterlines
_____20) Removal of Small Trees
_____21) Removal of Hazardous Trees
_____22) Cone Collection
__X___23) Timber Harvest (<100 MBF green or 500 MBF salvage)

By process of the adoption of the Administrative Rules for Forest Management on February 27, 2003, pursuant to ARM 36.2.523(5)(a), the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division, has adopted the above categorical exclusions for activities conducted on state forest lands. “Categorical Exclusion” refers to a type of action that does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS unless extraordinary circumstances occur (ARM 36.2.522(5)).

Extraordinary Circumstances:

Will the proposed action affect one or more of the following resources or situations in the project area? If the resource or situation is present, but project design avoids potential adverse effects on the resource, the answer is "no". One "Yes" answer indicates that Categorical Exclusion is not appropriate for the project, and an EA or EIS must be conducted.

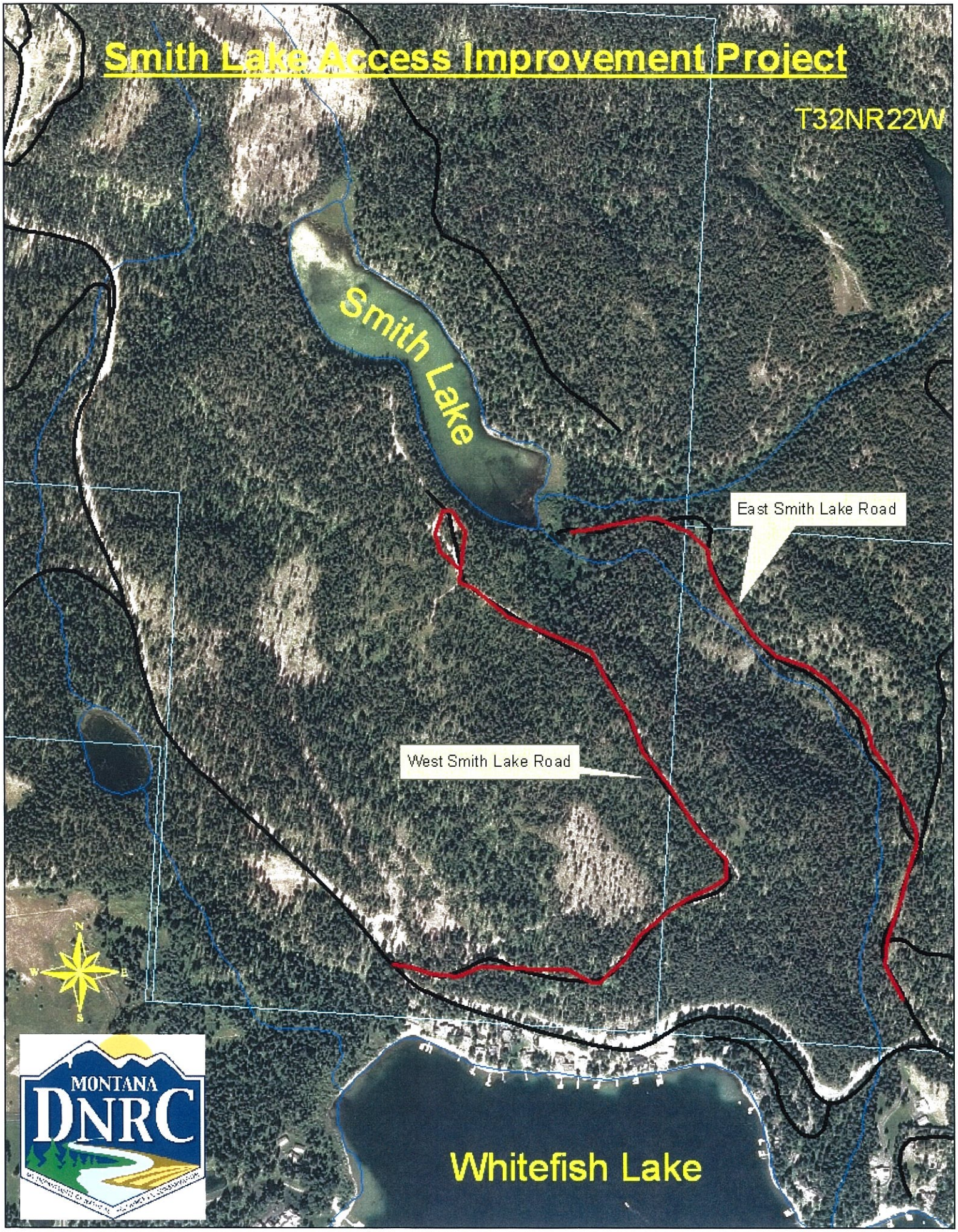
YES	NO	
_____	__X_____	1) Sites with high erosion risk.
_____	__X_____	2) Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS.
_____	__X_____	3) Municipal watersheds.
_____	__X_____	4) The SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures.
_____	__X_____	5) State natural area.
_____	__X_____	6) Native American religious and cultural sites.
_____	__X_____	7) Archaeological sites.
_____	__X_____	8) Historic properties and areas.
_____	__X_____	9) Several related projects that individually may be subject to categorical exclusion but that may occur at the same time or in the same geographic area. Such related actions may be subject to environmental review even if they are not individually subject to review.
_____	__X_____	10) Violations of any applicable state or federal laws or regulations.

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

Prepared by: Nicole Stickney (Name) 07/02/13 (Date)

Decision by: Brian Manning (Name) Stillwater Unit Manager (Title)

/s/ Brian Manning (Signature) 7/15/2013 (Date)


Smith Lake Access Improvement Project
T32NR22W
Smith Lake
East Smith Lake Road
West Smith Lake Road
N
W
E
S
MONTANA
DNRC
Whitefish Lake