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**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office
P.O. Box 68
Kremmling, CO 80459**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2009-0061-CX

PROJECT NAME: Little Buffalo Creek Salvage Sale

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 6 N., R. 79 W., Sections 30, 31; T. 6 N., R. 80 W., Sec. 25, 36; Jackson County, Colorado; 6th Principal Meridian.

APPLICANT: BLM

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Buffalo Creek Land and Cattle Company is proposing to build approximately 1 ¼ mile of fence along their property boundary adjacent to public lands. The proposed fence would be built along the entire west boundary of T. 6 N., R. 79 W., Section 31 and extending about a ¼ mile north along the west boundary of T. 6 N., R. 79 W., Section 30. This fence line would serve as an allotment boundary for cattle grazing as well as a deterrent to hunters trespassing onto private property.

To facilitate fence location, construction, and maintenance, the BLM would advertise/negotiate a commercial timber sale on approximately 17 acres of public land. Two units are proposed adjacent to the property boundary along portions of the proposed fence location. Unit 2 is located in the southeast quarter of T. 6 N., R. 80 W., Section 25; and Unit 1 is located in the southeast quarter of T. 6 N., R. 80 W., Section 36.

The units are primarily comprised of lodgepole pine but other tree species, subalpine fir, aspen, and Engelmann spruce, are scattered within the units. The lodgepole pine is heavily infested with mountain pine beetle (MPB) and most of the trees larger than 6 or 7 inches DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) are already dead, currently infested or highly susceptible. Recent reconnaissance has identified several Engelmann spruce currently infested with spruce beetle. Subalpine fir trees have also been killed due to insect and disease agents within the stands. Dead, infested, and beetle or disease-susceptible trees, as well as trees that are likely to be windthrown, would be designated by the BLM for removal. Specifically, lodgepole pine that is 5 inches or greater DBH, and subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce 12 inches or greater DBH, would be designated for removal. Healthy smaller diameter lodgepole pine and other conifer trees, as well as aspen, would be retained where feasible. The salvage units would also serve as a fire/fuel break along the boundary between public and private lands. Clearing along the

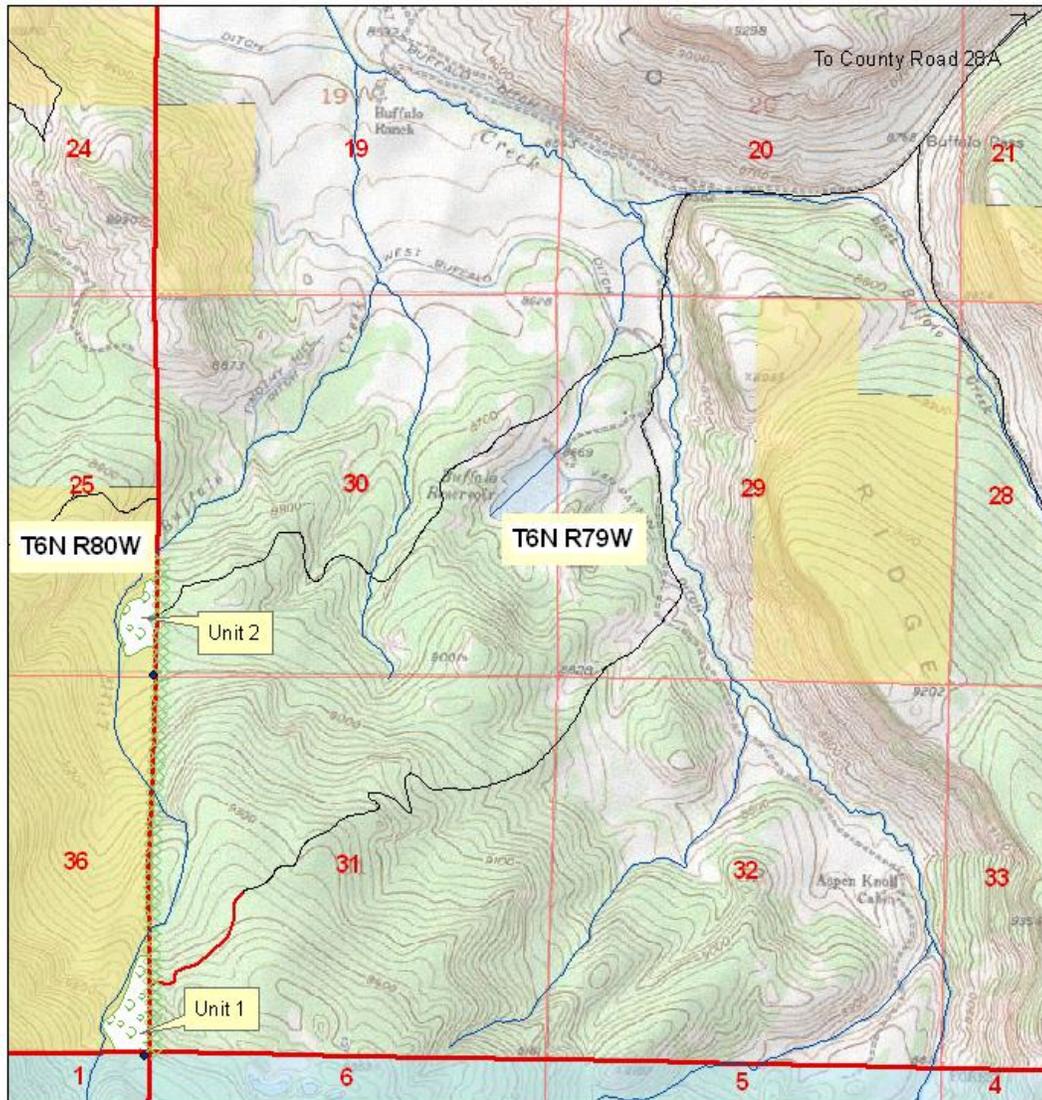
proposed location for the fence between the two proposed units would also occur, but would be limited to a 20 foot wide swath, as much of the proposed fenceline's terrain is not conducive to commercial logging.

Some temporary road construction is anticipated. About 0.4 miles would be developed on private land. Temporary road construction on private land accessing Unit 1 would include the placement of a culvert in a small live stream. Temporary road construction would also include the placement of filter cloth and fill material on approximately 130 feet of proposed road where it crosses a wet area. Temporary roads may be constructed a short distance (less than a total of 0.1 miles) into the units to facilitate harvest operations. Approximately 5.8 miles of existing private road would provide access to proposed temporary roads. The existing private road is currently maintained on a regular basis. Frequency of maintenance may need to be increased with initiation of logging operations.

Operations would be done with conventional ground-based logging equipment. Remaining slash would be offered for sale as biomass, piled and burned, lopped and scattered, or some combination of the above. Piles would be burned during the winter by the BLM when adequate snow depth is present and consistent with burning permit stipulations.



Little Buffalo Creek Proposed Salvage Sale Area



Legend

- ◆ Section Corners
- Steams
- XXXXX proposed fence
- Access Road
- Temp/Skid Road
- Sections
- Proposed Units
- Land Status
- Bureau of Land Mgt
- FOREST SERVICE
- Private

Acreage
Proposed Units
Unit 1= 10
Unit 2 = 7
Total Acres = 17



1:24,000

Maps: T:\gisuser\Forestry\Buffalo Creek\Little_Buffalo_creek_ArchRequest
BLM, Kremmling FO 06/25/2009

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the Accuracy, Reliability, or Completeness of this Data for Individual Use or Aggregate Use with Other Data.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: December 19, 1984

Decision Number/Page: II-6, page 10

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, Section C (9). None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal Law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on		X

Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species and Wildlife	8/11/2009
Frank G. Rupp	Archeologist	Paleontology	8/11/2009
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, Wetlands	9/2/2009
Bill B. Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation	9/10/2009
Peter McFadden	Field Manager	NEPA	9/15/2009

REMARKS:

Native American Religious Concerns: Tribal consultation was initiated on July 28, 2009, and to date no tribe has identified any area of traditional spiritual concern.

COMPLIANCE PLACE: N/A – Sale will be administered by BLM

NAME OF PREPARER: Kenneth Belcher

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Peter McFadden

DATE: 9/11/2009

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this CER and have decided to implement the proposed action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 9/15/09