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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**

### **A. Background**

BLM Office: Kremmling \_\_\_\_\_ Lease/Serial/Case File  
No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: CO-120-2010-0037-CX  
Proposed Action Title/Type: Shadow Mountain Salvage Harvest

Location of Proposed Action: T. 2 N., R. 77 W., Section 9, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.

#### Description of Proposed Action:

The forested areas located on public lands near the Shadow Mountain Ranch in eastern Grand County has recently experienced a large mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestation resulting in a die-off of about 90% of the mature lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) trees. Additional lodgepole pine trees have been attacked or are susceptible to attack by the MPB.

The Kremmling Field Office was contacted in August 2009 by a private landowner with property adjacent to forested public land administered by the BLM located in Section 9 of T. 2N, R. 77W. The landowner has an existing road easement through public land in the south ½ of the northeast ¼ of Section 9 that provides access to their property. The road portion that passes through public land is surrounded by dead, beetle-killed trees that are beginning to fall down randomly and block the road. The landowner has developed and implemented a forest management plan for his property that included the clearcutting of dead lodgepole pine and also addressed road corridor maintenance.

The landowner expressed concern about maintaining access on the portion of road on public land, especially in emergency situations, and requested assistance in cutting dead trees and removing them from the road corridor. The landowner was also concerned about the accumulation of hazardous fuels within the road corridor and adjacent to his property and the increased risk of wildfire if an ignition occurred.

The BLM is proposing to use mechanical treatment to harvest the dead, infested, and beetle-susceptible lodgepole pine trees on approximately 10 acres within the road easement corridor, and between the road and the property line (See map 1 below). The primary goals of the project

would be: to maintain access on the road and remove hazardous trees within the road corridor; and to remove accumulating fuels adjacent to private land.

Treatment on private land is ongoing in the vicinity of the project area. Access to the project area is through private land which is essential to complete the proposed project.

Design features of the Proposed Action:

-Tree felling and removal would be accomplished with standard, ground-based logging equipment. All trees within the unit would be designated by the BLM for removal. A small number of other tree species, primarily aspen, are scattered within the unit and may be retained.

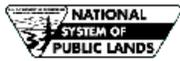
-The resulting slash would be piled at the landing. The piles would be burned during the winter when adequate snow depth is present. The project would provide for natural regeneration of lodgepole pine and stimulate quaking aspen trees to regenerate.

-The BLM would negotiate the sale because there is no public access to the proposed unit. Proof of access across private lands would be provided to the BLM in writing by the contractor.

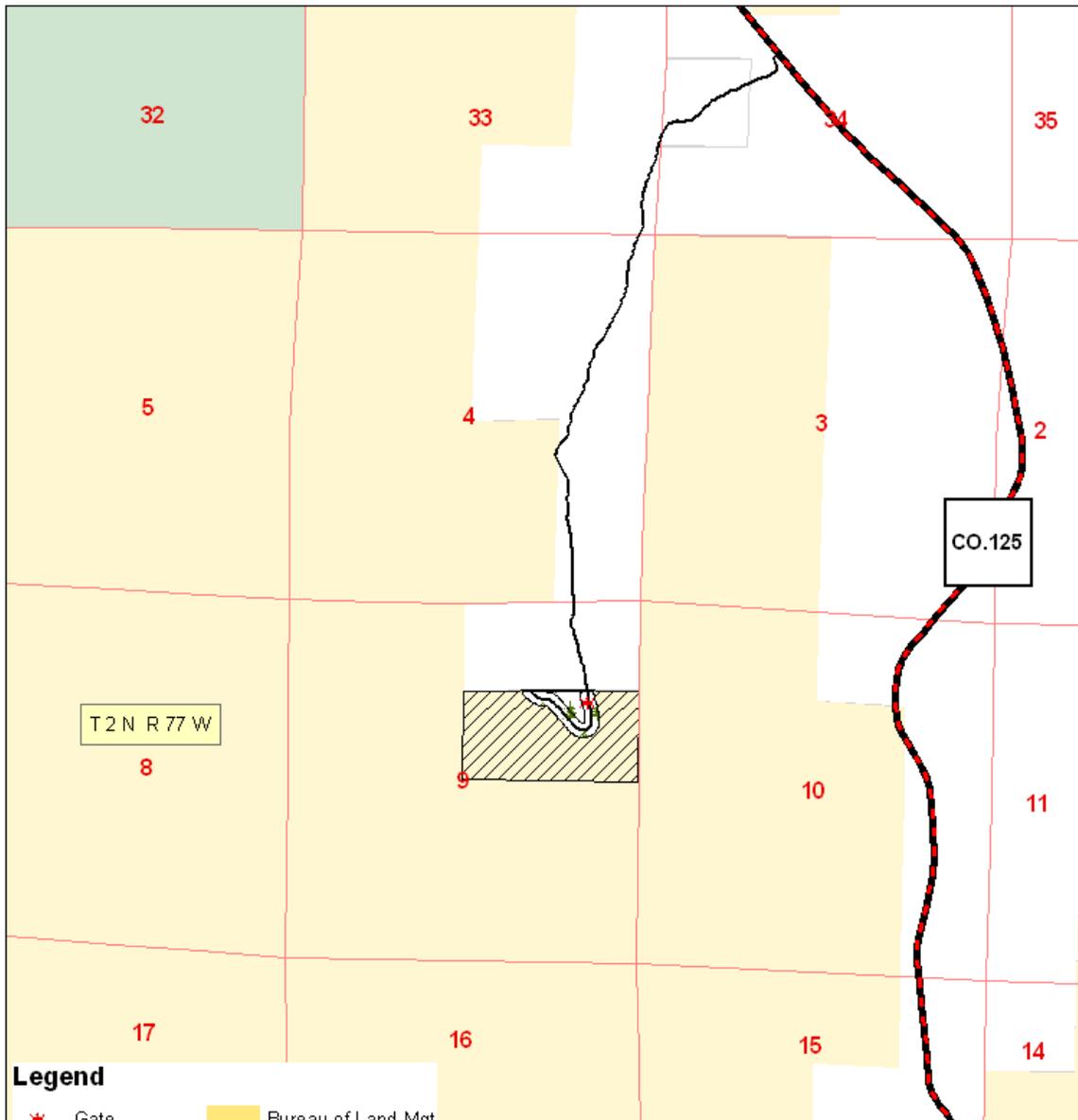
-The existing private road would be used as the haul road and no new roads would be constructed.

-Locate, flag, and protect any survey monuments (brass cap monuments, bearing trees, private monuments, etc.) that may exist in this project area.

-Inspect disturbed areas for noxious weeds for two growing seasons after the project is completed. BLM Forestry staff would monitor this and coordinate with weed control, as needed.



# Shadow Mountain Proposed Salvage Sale Area



### Legend

- Gate
- Access Road
- State Highway
- Sections
- Proposed Unit
- Reserve
- Bureau of Land Mgt.
- Private
- US Forest Service

Acreage  
 Proposed Unit Acres = 10 ac.  
 Reserve Acres = 66 ac.  
 Total Project area = 76 ac.

1:24,000



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.

Map: T:\gisuser\Forestry\Shadow\_Mt\_Ranch\shadow\_mtn\_proposed\_action  
 BLM, Kremmling FO 04/26/2010

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

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

Date Approved/Amended: December 19, 1984: Updated February 1999.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions(s):

Decision Number/Page: Ch.2 -6, Page 10

Decision Language: “To manage all productive forest land that is suitable for producing a variety of forest products on a sustained yield basis. This action will create a healthy forest environment through continued forest management practices.”

**C. Compliance with NEPA:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.0, Section C (9), *“Commercial and non-commercial sanitation harvest of trees to control insects or disease not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 miles of temporary road construction”*.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 apply.

I considered the size of the project and the design features built into the proposed action in reaching my decision that the proposed action would have no potential for significant impacts.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Area of Responsibility</b>	<b>Date Review Completed</b>
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, & Riparian	5/5/2010
Frank Rupp	Archaeologist	Paleontology	7/13/10
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species and Wildlife	5/2/2010
Bill B. Wyatt	Fire Archaeologist	Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation	4/30/2010
Peter McFadden	Associate Field Manager	NEPA Compliance	

REMARKS: None

NAME OF PREPARER: Tom Adamson

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Peter McFadden

DATE: 7/21/2010

**D. Signature**

Authorizing Official: \_\_\_/s/ Peter McFadden\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_7/21/2010\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Name: \_\_\_Peter McFadden\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_ Associate Field Manager\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Tom Adamson

Forester

P O Box 68

Kremmling, CO 80459

970-724-3006

**DECISION RECORD**  
**CX # CO-120-2010-0037**

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached CX.

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Water Act. This decision is also in conformance with the LUP and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

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

RATIONALE: The proposed action to cut and remove dead, infested, and beetle-susceptible trees was chosen because it meets the purpose and need identified in the analysis and is in compliance with the LUP and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Peter McFadden

DATE SIGNED: 7/21/2010