

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management  
Kremmling Field Office  
2103 E. Park Ave, PO Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

### *Gorewood Sanitation Salvage 2* **DOI-BLM-CO-N02-2014-0043-CX**

#### **Identifying Information**

**Project Title:** Gorewood Sanitation Salvage 2

**Legal Description:** Grand County, 6th P. M.; T. 1 N., R. 81 W., Sec. 27.

**Applicant:** Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Casefile/Project Number:** DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2014-043-CX

#### **Conformance with the Land Use Plan**

The Proposed Action is subject to and is in conformance (43 CFR 1610.5) with the following land use plan:

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

Date Approved: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

Decision Number/Page: II-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.”

The Proposed Action was designed in conformance with bureau standards and incorporates the Colorado BLM Standards for Public Land Health.

#### **Proposed Action**

##### ***Project Components and General Schedule***

The Sunset Cliff Ranch contacted the Kremmling Field Office in the spring of 2012. The ranch is currently managing its timber on private land and expressed concerns about dead and diseased trees on adjacent BLM administered public lands near the ranch. The BLM is proposing to use mechanical or hand treatments to remove dead trees, MPB/DMT infested trees, and disease and wind throw susceptible trees on approximately 20 acres (See Map).

The primary purposes of the project are to salvage dead and dying timber, improve forest health conditions, stimulate natural regeneration and reduce hazardous fuels conditions adjacent to private property. Treatments would be accomplished using traditional vegetative contracts, service contracts, or by other means e.g. (Stewardship contracts, BLM crews). Mechanical treatment would facilitate natural regeneration of these stands. Any of the above mentioned contracts would likely be negotiated with the Sunset Cliff Ranch, as there is no public access to the proposed unit.

All dead lodgepole pine, MPB and DMT infested live lodgepole pine trees five inches and greater would be removed. Any trees that would likely be wind-thrown, if left standing after harvest, would be cut as well. All live Douglas-fir, live Engelmann spruce and live subalpine fir less than nine inches, and all aspen and ponderosa pine would be retained whenever possible. However, retained trees may be cut in order to facilitate harvest or for logger safety or if they are dead, diseased or damaged. Any cut trees, not removed, would either be lopped and scattered to a depth of less than 24 inches, piled and burned in the winter or offered as biomass.

Access would be provided via private roads through Sunset Cliff Ranch at the terminus of Grand County Road 14S, and written permission would be attained prior to sale. Some temporary or snow road construction is anticipated to decrease skidding distances or provide access to landings adjacent to the main roads. Existing roads within the proposed unit may need to be maintained or improved in order to facilitate harvest. Temporary roads may be constructed on private and public lands. Temporary road locations would be approved by the BLM prior to development. If temporary roads are constructed, they would be closed following harvest operations. Temporary roads would be outsloped, and roads and landings would be scarified, as necessary. Temporary roads, landings and, as necessary, major skid trails, would be seeded with a BLM-approved mixture of forbs and grasses by the Purchaser. Temporary roads, or portions thereof, would also be slashed-in.

Cull logs and tops of trees would be offered for sale as biomass. Remaining slash would be piled and burned, placed on temporary roads, or lopped and scattered. Following the completion of harvest, piles would be burned during the winter by the BLM when adequate snow depth is present and consistent with burn plan requirements and burning permit stipulations. Post-harvest treatments may include a release and weed/thinning treatment (i.e. felling of residual undesirable live trees), and noxious weed control. The BLM would monitor disturbed areas for noxious weeds for two growing seasons after project completion. If noxious weed control is found to be necessary, actions would be coordinated by the BLM.

### ***Design Features***

- The purchaser is responsible for fixing/replacing any functioning improvement that is damaged by the Purchaser or his employees. The improvement shall be repaired/replaced to a condition which, in the opinion of the Contracting Officer, is at least as good as the existing condition just prior to the damage.
- No mechanical equipment would be allowed to work or travel in a wetland or riparian area. Buffers of 100 feet would be maintained from wetland vegetation. If areas must be

crossed, best management practices would be required to reduce alteration of the hydrology or vegetation.

- Survey monuments (brass cap monuments, bearing trees, mineral claim posts, etc.) would be located, flagged and protected.
- Peregrine Falcons are known to nest in the vicinity therefore harvest activities would not be permitted during the nesting season of March 15th – July 31st of each year. Actions may be permitted within this time frame if it is determined that there are no active eyries within ½ mile of the site by a BLM or State wildlife biologist.
- Harvesting operations would be limited to winter and after-the-thaw dry summer periods.
- Temporary road construction/reconstruction would not occur during periods of wet or frozen soils.
- If significant fossils are discovered during the preliminary inventory or during monitoring, a professional Paleontologist would be hired by BLM to complete a professional inventory and/or complete any needed mitigation.
- Following sale closure, the area would be monitored for two years to determine if fencing and signage need to be installed at the BLM boundary by the BLM to prevent new route establishment or unauthorized motorized or mechanized use since these routes are not part of the public transportation system.
- BLM Forestry staff would flag or paint trees along the boundaries of the treatment areas near private lands prior to implementation to avoid trespass onto private lands.
- Projects would be designed to blend with topographic forms and existing vegetation patterns and use both to screen the project as much as possible. Repeat the elements of form, line, color, and texture of the existing landscape.
- Openings in the canopy should have a natural appearance with uneven edges rather than straight lines. The shape should be an irregular pattern like the existing natural openings and should avoid straight-line edges. The edges of the stands should be varied and random to soften and blend with the native vegetative mosaic. Favor existing healthy dominant trees such as aspen to shape the edges of areas where materials are to be removed. Blend with natural landscape features such as natural meadows or openings and rock outcrops when possible. This will create free form vegetative shapes that mimic natural patterns. Make clearing edges irregular and freeform, feathering and undulating edges where possible.
- Where possible, clearing size and form of the landings should mimic that of the surrounding vegetative mosaic as seen from middle-ground and background views (distances greater than ½ mile). The shape of landings should be an irregular pattern like the existing natural openings and should avoid straight-line edges.
- When constructing skid trails, excessive cut/fill slopes would be avoided. Vary cut/fills to blend with the adjacent terrain, and leave in a roughened condition to facilitate revegetation. Stabilize fills and re-establish natural drainage configuration to the degree possible.

**BLM Required Conditions of Approval to Mitigate Impacts to Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

1. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The applicant will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The applicant, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the applicant must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the operator must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The applicant is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the applicant must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

**Categorical Exclusion Review**

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, Number: 11.9 (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.” None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed with the list of extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) described in the table below.

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
----------------------------	-----	----

Extraordinary Circumstance	YES	NO
a) Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.		X
b) 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; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		X
h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
l) 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.		X

## Interdisciplinary Review

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the Kremmling Field Office interdisciplinary team on 8/19/2014. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the Kremmling Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Bill Wyatt	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	1/6/2015
Darren Long	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	8/26/2014
Darren Long	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	8/26/2014
Hannah Schechter	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources	10/9/2014
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, and Riparian	11/3/2014
John Monkouski	Recreation Planner	Access/Transportation, Recreation, Noise, Wilderness	10/21/2014
Zach Hughes	Natural Resource Specialist	Invasive Species	10/23/2014

**Cultural Resources:** The project inventory of the area of potential effect resulted in no new or previously recorded cultural resource sites recorded. The project is a **no effect**, there are **no historic properties affected**.

**Native American Religious Concerns:** Tribal consultation was initiated on December 2, 2014, and to date no tribe has identified any area of traditional cultural or spiritual concern.

**COMPLIANCE PLAN:** Contract administration would occur on an on-going basis throughout the life of a sale, service, or stewardship contract. Purchasers and/or contractors would be subject to the stipulations and provisions contained within their contracts. On-going compliance inspections and monitoring would be conducted by the BLM Kremmling Field Office staff during and after operations. The BLM would monitor disturbed areas for noxious weeds for two growing seasons after project completion. If noxious weed control is necessary, BLM would coordinate that treatment. Monitoring would also occur after the project to ensure that there is no unauthorized motorized use occurring within the area.

## Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted

<p>Mr. Darwin St. Clair, Jr., Chairman Shoshone Business Council Shoshone Tribe P O Box 538 Ft. Washakie, WY 82514</p>	<p>Mr. Wilford Ferris III Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Shoshone Tribe, Cultural Center P.O. Box 538 Fort Washakie, WY 82514</p>
<p>Mr. Darrell O’Neal, Sr., Chairman Northern Arapaho Business Council P O Box 396 Fort Washakie, WY 82514</p>	<p>Mrs. Darlene Conrad, NAGPRA Representative Northern Arapaho Tribe P O Box 396 Fort Washakie, WY 82514</p>
<p>Mr. Manuel Heart, Chairman Ute Mountain Ute Tribe P O Box JJ Towaoc, CO 81334-0248</p>	<p>Mr. Terry Knight, Sr. NAGPRA Representative/THPO Ute Mountain Ute Tribe P O Box 468 Towaoc, CO 81334</p>
<p>Mr. Ernest House Jr., Executive Secretary Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs</p>	<p>Mrs. Lynn Hartman – Contract Administrator Ute Mountain Ute Tribe P.O. Box 468 Towaoc, CO 81334</p>
<p>Mr. Clement Frost, Chairman Southern Ute Indian Tribe 356 Ouray Drive, P.O. Box 737 Ignacio, CO 81137</p>	<p>Mr. Alden Naranjo, NAGPRA Coordinator Southern Ute Indian Tribe Cultural Preservation Department P.O. Box 737 Mail Stop 73 Ignacio, CO 81137</p>
<p>Mr. Gordon Howell, Chairman Uintah &amp; Ouray Tribal Business Committee P O Box 190 Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026</p>	<p>Ms. Betsy Chapoose NAGPRA Representative Uintah &amp; Ouray Tribe P O Box 190 Fort Duchesne, UT 84026</p>

## Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5 or 516 DM 11.9, (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.” None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply. The 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 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

NAME OF PREPARER: Tom Adamson, Forester

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Susan Valente

/s/ Stephanie Odell

Field Manager

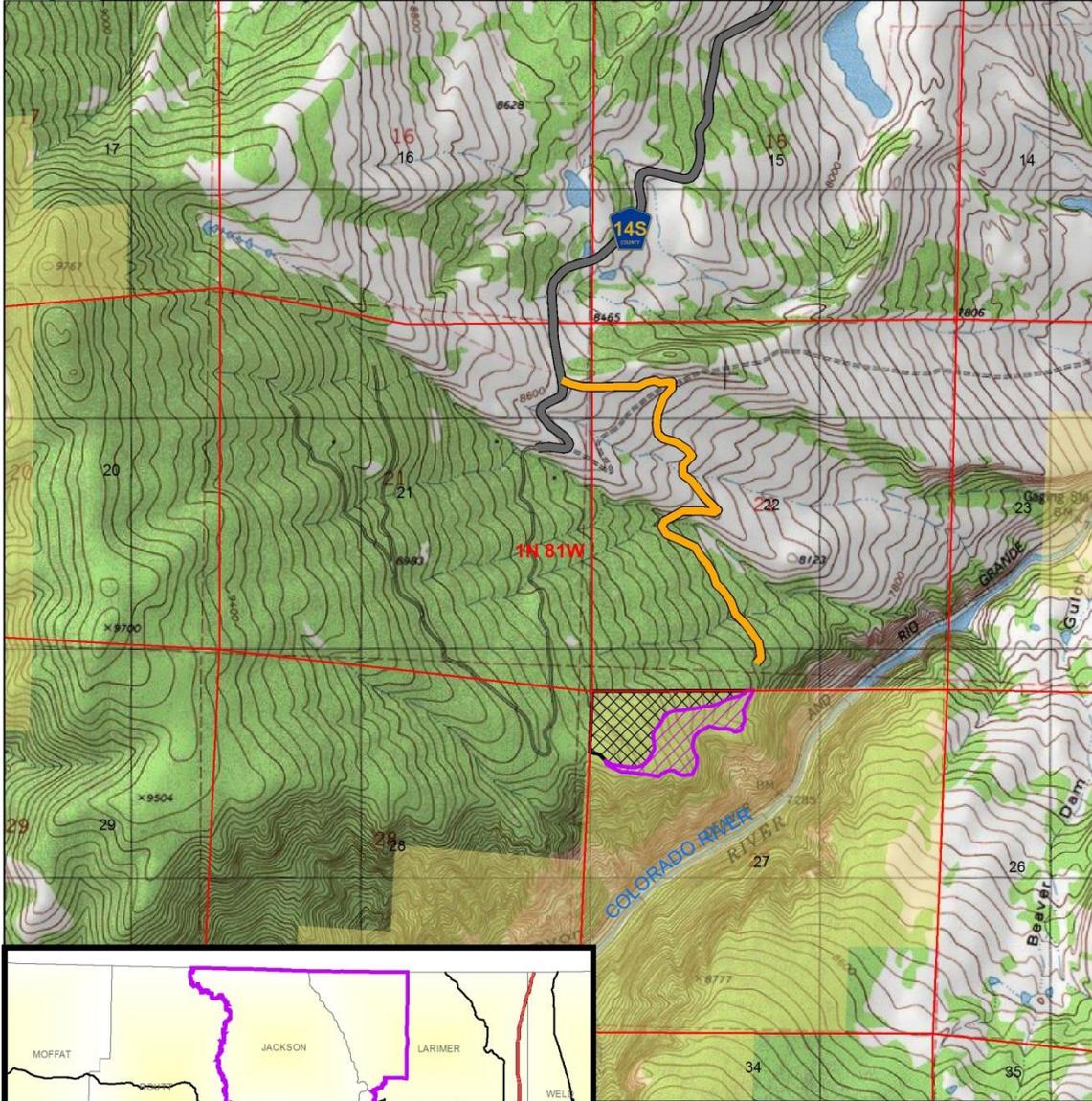
1/7/2015

Date

# Appendix A. Figures

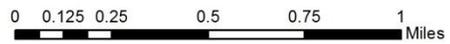


## Gorewood Sanitation Salvage 2



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. T:\giswork\forestry\gorewood\gorewood\_DNA.mxd

1:24,000



- Sunset Cliff Private Drive
- County Roads
- Currently Under Contract
- Proposed Harvest
- Bureau of Land Mgt

**U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management  
Kremmling Field Office  
2103 E. Park Ave, PO Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459**

## **Decision Record**

### **GOREWOOD SANITATION SALVAGE 2 DOI-BLM-CO-N02-2014-0043-CX**

#### **Decision**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-N02-2014-043 CX, authorizing the use of mechanical or hand treatments to remove dead trees, MPB/DMT infested trees, and disease and wind throw susceptible trees on approximately 20 acres as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion document.

#### **Compliance with Laws & Conformance with the Land Use Plan**

This decision is in compliance with the Federal Land Management and Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999 Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP).

#### **Rationale**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, C. 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 43 CFR 46.215 apply.

#### **Administrative Remedies**

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215.

The effective date of this decision (and the date initiating the appeal period) will be the date this notice of decision is posted on the BLM online NEPA register:

- [https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup_register.do)

**Signature of Authorized Official**

          /s/ Stephanie Odell          

Field Manager

          1/7/2015            
Date