U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL
MT- M010-2009-0033-C

Project Title: Zortman - Landusky Hazardous Fuels Reduction
CX# M010-2009-0033CX

Location: Malta Field Office
South Phillips County
Little Rockies- Zortman -Landusky

Applicant/Address: BLM

Project Contact:

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A. Background

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: M010-2009-0033-CX

Description of Proposed Action:

Thin Ponderosa Pine and clear cut most Lodge Pole Pine around existing structures and private land described in the project location. Hand pile all slash created from the thinning/clearing and burn them in the winter.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance *(select all that apply)*

☐ Headwaters RMP
(approved in July 1984)

☐ West HiLine RMP (approved in September 1988 and on January 29, 1992 for the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River)

☐ Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP
(approved on September 9, 1994)

☐ Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final EIS for Montana and North and South Dakota (approved on August 7, 1997)

☐ Off-Highway Vehicle EIS and Proposed Plan Amendment for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota (approved on June 18, 2003)

☑ Fire/Fuels Management EA/Plan Amendment for Montana and the Dakotas
(approved on September 26, 2003)

☐ Other *(specify name/date approved)*

Conformance:

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan(s) selected above, which states as follows: *(If more than one plan applies, include the page no. and language from all applicable plans)*:

Page No.	***Language***
Fire/Fuels EA Page 24	"Non-commercial thinning would be used where the trees to be thinned are too small to be of commercial value." "Commercial thinning may be used to reduce density and the potential for crown fire...."

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with (select one):

☐ 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, *or* ☑ 516 DM 11.9

Appropriate CX number and text, or paraphrase of the text:

C. Forestry
(4) Pre-commercial thinning and brush control using small mechanical devices.

The proposed action has been reviewed and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because the proposed action will not create significant effects on the environment.

Explanation of why the proposed action will not create significant impacts:

The proposed action is 148 acres and will benefit the adjacent properties in the event of a wildfire. Interdisciplinary feedback indicates there are no significant impacts.

See attachment for cultural resources information.

D: Signature

I considered this review and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the proposed action.

Pertinent design features, stipulations or mitigation (if applicable):

There are 6 cultural resources located in the project area, these sites will be identified and flagged for avoidance prior to timber crews entering the area. In addition to the flagging, the BLM archaeologist will visit the sites with the crew foreman and fuels management personnel to discuss avoidance of the sites and any possibility of providing fire protection to the site by utilizing fuel reduction and management around the sites. The proposed project will have no effect on the Traditional Cultural Property either. The proposed actions will help protect the values in which it was deemed significant. Though there are sites in the project area, they will be avoided during project implementation, therefore a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" [36 CFR 800: No Historic Properties Affected; sites, etc. would not be affected directly or indirectly.] is appropriate.

Authorizing Official: _____ Date: _____
(Signature)

Name:

Title: