CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DNRC FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON STATE TRUST LANDS

Project Name: Dry Creek Slash Removal Project

Proposed Implementation Date: 11/30/2026

Proponent: Gallatin Watershed Council

Proposed Action: Mechanical removal of slash piles

Legal Description: S36, T04 N, R04 E,

County: Gallatin

Specialists Consulted: Trust Lands Forester

Category (refer to ARM 36.11.447 (3)(a) through (x) for additional detail):

a) ☒ Minor temporary uses of land involving negligible or no disturbance of soil or vegetation and having no long-term effects on the environment.
b) ☐ Plans or modifications of plans that would not predetermine future Department action affecting the physical or biological environment.
c) ☐ Issuance, renewal, or assignment of leases or licenses where the use will remain the same.
d) ☐ Acquisition of fee title, easements, rights of way or other interests in land.
e) ☒ Road maintenance and repair of existing roads.
f) ☐ Reconstruction or modification to an existing bridges or replacement of a culvert.
g) ☐ Crossing Class III Streams in accordance with the SMZ law.
h) ☐ Issuing a Temporary Road Use Permits on existing roads.
i) ☐ Road closure to motorized public and/or administrative use.
j) ☐ Removal of material stockpiles.
k) ☐ Backfilling into previously excavated land with compatible material.
l) ☐ Gathering forest products for personal or commercial use i.e. firewood, Christmas trees or posts and rails.
m) ☐ Regeneration of land through planting native trees, or other means, including site preparation, but that does not involve use of herbicides.
n) ☐ Seed procurement, growing, lifting and distributing nursery stock.
o) ☐ Drilling water wells for domestic use or irrigation for lawns and gardens for existing cabin or home sites.
p) ☐ Herbicide and pesticide treatments, using spot treatment less than 160 acres within a 640-acre section during the calendar year.
q) ☐ Handling of hazardous materials for fire suppression or other purposes
r) ☐ Fence construction of specific design specifications (noted in ARM).
s) ☐ Installation of water pipelines or waterlines to benefit grazing practices and range condition.
t) ☐ Removal of trees less than two feet tall that are encroaching on range or non-

commercial forest lands on up to 60 contiguous acres, not to exceed 160 acres.

u) ☐ Removal of hazardous trees from structures, recreation areas and roads not to exceed 5,000 board feet.

v) ☐ Cone Collection for reforestation purposes

w) ☐ **Timber Harvest (<500 MBF)**

x) ☒ Low-intensity forest management activities as defined in ARM 36.11.403(43) including: **(Please select what activity applies)**

- ☐ (a) timber inventory;
- ☐ (b) **timber sale preparation**;
- ☐ (c) road location;
- ☒ (d) **road maintenance**;
- ☐ (e) bridge replacement;
- ☐ (f) mechanical site preparation;
- ☐ (g) tree planting;
- ☐ (h) pre-commercial thinning;
- ☐ (i) prescriptive and hazard reduction burning;
- ☐ (j) patrol of fall/winter slash burns;
- ☒ (k) heavy and non-heavy equipment slash treatments;
- ☐ (l) monitoring;
- ☐ (m) data collection; and
- ☒ (n) noxious weed management.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division has adopted the above categorical exclusions for activities conducted on state forested trust 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, species or situations in the project area? If the resource, species, 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	
☐	☒	a) Sites with high erosion risk.
☐	☒	b) Federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat for threatened and endangered species as designated by the USFWS.
☐	☒	c) Municipal watersheds.
☐	☒	d) The SMZ of fish bearing streams or lakes, except for modification or replacement of bridges, culverts and other crossing structures.

☐	☒	e) State natural area.
☐	☒	f) Native American religious and cultural sites.
☐	☒	g) Archaeological sites.
☐	☒	h) Historic properties and areas.
☐	☒	i) 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.
☐	☒	j) 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 Forest Management Rules (ARM 36.11.447).

Prepared by: Elias Davis 11/9/2026

Decision by: Kara Huyser Bozeman Unit Manager

11/10/2026