

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FOR DNRC REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Project Name: US Air Force Helicopter and Security Forces Training

Proposed Implementation Date: June 2, 2025

Proponent:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THEIR AGENTS, 39 78TH STREET NORTH, MALMSTROM AFB, MONTANA 59402

Type and Purpose of Action:

HELICOPTER TRAINING AND SECURITY FORCES TRAINING SITES FOR I06 AND I11 LF'S SITES. 341st Malmstrom AFB to conduct training, including helicopter landings, take offs, tactical insertions and extractions (personnel exiting and re-entering helicopter), Search and Rescue, Emergency Management Response and low-level flying, including nighttime training.

Location:

Description	Section	Township	Range	Acres	County
E2NE4, SW4NE4	15	20N	5W		L&C
W2, SE4	36	20N	7W		L&C
S2NE4, SE4, E2SW4	8	19N	4W		L&C
NW4NW4, S2NW4, NW4SW4,	24	18N	1W		Cascade
SE4, E2SW4	17	20N	2E		Cascade
All	16	23N	7W		Teton
All, S AND W OF HIGHWAY	16	23N	4W		Teton

County: Cascade, Lewis & Clark, Teton

Category (refer to ARM 36.25.918 (1)(a-o) for additional detail):

- a) ☐ Lease and License Administration
- b) ☐ Review of Lease and License Modification
- c) ☐ Boundary Adjustments to Existing Leases
- d) ☐ Project Planning and Design
- e) ☐ Project Evaluation under **ARM 36.25.906**
- f) ☐ Development of a Site Selection Report under **ARM 36.25.907**
- g) ☐ Project Selection under **ARM 36.25.908**
- h) ☐ Development of the Project Management List under **ARM 36.25.909**
- i) ☐ Marketing of State Trust Lands Proposed for lease, license, or easement
- j) ☒ Short-term land use licenses, involving no resource extraction or developed uses, and conforming to local permitting and land use regulations
- k) ☐ Other RE Management Activities Administered by the Bureau on State Trust Lands that are not in connection to:
 - i. A Department Proposal for a Sale, Exchange, Easement, Placement of Improvement,

- Lease, License, or Permit; or
- ii. A Department Review of an Application for Authorization of a Sale, Exchange, Easement, Placement of Improvement, Lease, License, or Permit
- l) ☐ Department Request to Amend a Local Growth Policy or Zoning Regulation
- m) ☐ Department Request to Amend or Develop a Neighborhood Plan or Extension of Services Plan
- n) ☐ Annexation
- o) ☐ Land Acquisition

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Trust Land Management Division, has adopted the above categorical exclusions for real estate activities conducted on state 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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a) upon sites with high erosion risk. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) where critical habitat for federally listed threatened and endangered species may be affected |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | c) where Native American religious and cultural sites may be affected |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | d) where archaeological sites may be affected |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | e) where historic properties and areas may be affected |


A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that no cultural or paleontological resources have been identified in the APE. Considering the no Impact nature of the proposed activities, no additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed request.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | f) where several related categorically-excluded individual activities may cumulatively result in significant impacts to the human environment because they will either occur closely in 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | g) where the activity would result in a violation of any applicable local, 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 Real Estate Management Project Rules (ARM 36.25.918).

Prepared by: Erik Eneboe, Conrad Unit Manager 4/4/2025
(Name) (Date)

Decision by: Andy Burgoyne Trust Land Program Manager, CLO
(Name) (Title)


(Signature)

April 4, 2025
(Date)