Appendix G
Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

The following list includes past, present, and expected future management actions that may contribute to cumulative effects. This list is not a cumulative effects analysis. This list is used by resource specialists to determine what actions may create effects in addition to the direct or indirect effects from the Clara Project.

CEQ guidance states that the cumulative effects analysis area should be determined by resources, based on potential effects (*Considering Cumulative Effects*, Council on Environmental Quality, January 1997 pp.15-16). Each resource determined the appropriate cumulative effects analysis area and subsequently which of the actions listed are relevant.

Past actions have been completed and their effects taken into account in the existing condition. Present actions are those where the activity, such as a timber contract, is still operating or a decision has been made to implement an action. Future actions are those where an activity is being planned but not started or a decision is yet to be made.

To assess effects of past actions, CEQ states *"Agencies are not required to list or analyze the effects of individual past actions unless such information is necessary to describe the cumulative effect of all past actions combined. Agencies retain substantial discretion as to the extent of such inquiry and the appropriate level of explanation. Marsh v. Oregon Natural Resources Council, 490 U.S. 360, 376-77 (1989). Generally, agencies can conduct an adequate cumulative effects analysis by focusing on the current aggregate effects of past actions without delving into the historical details of individual past actions."*

"With respect to past actions, during the scoping process and subsequent preparation of the analysis, the agency must determine what information regarding past actions is useful and relevant to the required analysis of cumulative effects. Cataloging past actions and specific information about the direct and indirect effects of their design and implementation could in some contexts be useful to predict the cumulative effects of the proposal. The CEQ regulations, however, do not require agencies to catalogue or exhaustively list and analyze all individual past actions. Simply because information about past actions may be available or obtained with reasonable effort does not mean that it is relevant and necessary to inform decision making."

Federal Past and On-going Actions within Project Boundary

- Completed management actions from vegetation projects have been accounted for in the existing condition of the Clara Project Area; and currently there are no timber sales operating within the project area.

- The Non-native Invasive Plant Management EA Project (USDA 2006a) describes an integrated pest management approach for managing noxious weeds on National

Forest System land and potential environmental effects. In 2008, weed treatments were conducted at 73 sites within the project area totaling 0.8 acres.

- The Superior National Forest has completed a Forest-wide Travel Management Project in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St Louis, Lake and Cook Counties, 1854 Authority and Grand Portage Band. This project addresses Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use and the use of unclassified roads. As shown on Table G-1, within the Clara Project Area, there are 3.8 miles of unclassified roads. Under the Forest-wide Travel Management (FTMP) decision, 2.3 miles of these unclassified roads would be decommissioned and allowed to return to a natural state, .6 miles would be converted to an OML 1 road and would not allow use by All Terrain Vehicles or Off Highway Motorcycles and 0.9 miles would be converted to an OML 2 road and allow use by OHVs.

Table G-1: Change in Road Miles in the Clara Project Area.

Road Type	Total Miles	FTMP Miles	Change in Miles
Unclassified	3.8	0	-3.8
OML 1	4.7	5.3	+0.6
OML 2	20.7	21.6	+0.9
Total	**29.2**	**26.9**	**-2.3**

The following roads and number of miles listed on Table G-2 are open to motorized recreation: OML 1 – 2.0 miles; OML 2 – 19.0 miles; OML 3 – 2.3 miles; and OML 4 – 3.9 miles.

Table G-2: Changes in Road miles Open to Motorized Recreation in the Clara Project Area.

Road Type	Miles Currently Open	FTMP Open	Change in Miles Open
Unclassified	3.8	0	-3.8
OML 1	2.6	2.0	-0.6
OML 2	20.7	19.0	-1.7
OML 3	0	2.3	+2.3
OML 4	0	3.9	+3.9
Total	**27.1**	**27.2**	**+0.1**

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions on Federal Land within Project Boundary

- The district has no plans to replace any bridges or culverts on stream crossings in the project area.

- There are no Special Use Permit applications for road access in the project area.

- The district has burned approximately 50 acres for the purpose of creating small wildlife openings within the project area. This practice has been conducted in the past and will continue in the future.

Past, Ongoing and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions on State and Private Lands within Project Boundary

- State lands encompass approximately 14 percent (6,608 acres) of the project area. Based on stand information from the MN DNR website and discussions with the State resource planners, of those 6,608 acres, the State is currently proposing stand examinations and harvest needs on 1,650 acres within the project boundary through 2015. For the cumulative effects analysis all acres were assumed to be harvested even though actual treatment acres may be less. Based on the MN DNR Notice of Annual Plan Additions for FY 2007 No. 3, no additional harvests are planned within the project boundary.

- County lands encompass approximately two tenths of a percent (81 acres) within the project area. This land is located in the northern portion of the project area near Homer and Axe Lakes.

- Private lands encompass approximately four percent (2,058 acres) within the project boundary. The majority of these lands are in the Tait Lake vicinity and the remaining parcels are located throughout the project area. The Superior National Forest anticipates minimal to no harvesting on private lands within the project boundary.

- Private property located throughout the project area is part of the Lutsen Wildland Urban Interface and falls under the Cook County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Approximately 100 acres of private land near Tait Lake and additional acres around Clara Lake have had fuel reduction work completed. This fuel reduction has been understory treatments where homeowners have removed the hazardous understory fuels, created a brush disposal site where they are burned.

Management Actions Outside Project Boundary

CEQ states "Proximity of other actions to the proposed actions is not the decisive factor for including these actions in an analysis; these actions must have some influence on the resource affected by the proposed action. In other words, these other actions should be included in analysis when their impact zones overlap area occupied by resources affected by the proposed action." Whether the following actions are included is dependent on the resource**.**

Table G-3 shows past, present and proposed actions in the Mesic Birch-Aspen-Spruce-Fir Landscape Ecosystem (LE) across the forest. The LE and Management Indicator Habitat

cumulative effects analyses included any of the projects where actions have occurred are decided or have been proposed.

Table G-3 Projects under the 2004 Forest Plan that contain the Mesic Birch-Aspen-Spruce-Fir Landscape Ecosystem[1]

Project	**District**	**MBA LE Acres**	**% of Entire LE**[2]
Border[3]	LaCroix	54	0.02%
Clara[3]	Tofte	25,126	8.3%
Cascade	Gunflint	14,485	4.9%
Devil Trout[4]	Gunflint	25,173	8%
Dunka	Kawishiwi	1,122	0.4%
Ham Lake Fire	Gunflint	1,095	0.4%
Inga South	Tofte	2,071	0.7%
Mid-Temperance	Tofte	23,128	7.6%
Virginia	Laurentian	10,656	4%
Whyte	Kawishiwi	32,298	11%
TOTAL		135,208	45%

[1]Total MBA LE across the Forest is 303,341 acres.
[2]Summarized from the 2008 MBA LE analysis table located in the Project Record.
[3]Actions have been proposed.
[4]Kadunce and Maple Hill Projects are within Devil Trout Project Area.