

SMZ

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JUL 29 2004

D.N.R.C.

DS-252
Rev. 11/01

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Conifer Logging on Grosfield Ranch.
Proposed Implementation Date: December 1, 2004
Proponent: Conifer Logging Inc.

Type and Purpose of Action: **Timber stand is currently under attack by Mountain Pine Beetle and Spruce Beetle. Proposed action is to allow equipment operation within an SMZ and to deviate from retention tree requirements. This action will allow for salvage of commercial Lodgepole Pine and Spruce and allow further treatment to prevent or curb future insect attacks and treat fuels to reduce the risk of wild fire.**

Location: Grosfield Ranch property in SEC 13, T14N, R9W, and SEC(s) 17 & 18 T 14N, R8W.
County: Lewis And Clark in or near the town of Lincoln, MT.

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I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT		SEP 28 2004
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	This is private property and only D.N.R.C has been involved.	LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Fish Wildlife and Parks, Conservation districts for Stream Crossings	
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	No action Keep equipment out of SMZ Maintain Species and Trees size composition Build roads to cross and access timber resource or Proposed action	
II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT		
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES N = Not present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)	
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Soils are well-drained gravelly loams.	
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? Is it possible that implementing this Alternative Practice would impact the integrity of the SMZ and these specific functions?	[Y] The proposed action will take place within the SMZ of Spring Creek. Operations will be conducted during winter conditions to mitigate any damage to the resource.	

<p>Ability to act as an effective sediment filter.</p> <p>Ability to provide shade to regulate stream temperature. Protection of stream channel and banks.</p> <p>Ability to provide large woody debris for eventual recruitment into the stream to maintain riffles, pools and other elements of channel stability.</p> <p>Promotes floodplain stability.</p>	<p>[N] Trees and brush will be retained to act as a filter.</p> <p>[N] Trees and brush will be retained to provide shade.</p> <p>[N] Operations are restricted to winter conditions and will not approach the banks of the stream.</p> <p>[N] Several dead and fallen trees are already in or across the channel and both standing dead and live trees will be retained for recruitment.</p> <p>[N] Shrubs and sub-merchantable trees will be retained and protected.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] None identified</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p> <p>Would implementing this Alternative Practice impact the ability of the SMZ to support diverse and productive aquatic and terrestrial habitats?</p>	<p>[Y] Deer and birds use this area but no fish were found in the stream.</p> <p>[N] This alternative may enhance the current use by deer by increasing the production of browse species.</p>
<p>9. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] None identified. This is a long held family ranch.</p>
<p>10. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[Y] This proposed action will be near the town of Lincoln but is designed to reduce wild fire hazard as well as salvage dead or dying timber and improve the health and vigor of the residual stand.</p>

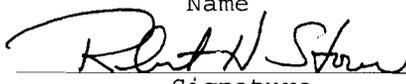
<p>11. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RESOURCE</p>	<p>[N] None identified</p> <p>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</p>
<p>12. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</p>	
<p>RESOURCE</p>	<p>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</p>
<p>13. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>[N] The project is designed to reduce the risk of wildfire in and near the town of Lincoln</p>
<p>14. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>[Y] The project is expected produce a significant amount of wood products</p>
<p>15. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[Y] The project is expected to add jobs to the area or keep current jobs active.</p>
<p>16. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[Y] The project is expected to add taxable revenue to the landowner, the operator and the employees.</p>
<p>17. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] None identified or expected.</p>
<p>18. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>[N] None identified</p>

19. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] This is private property and access is granted or denied by the landowner
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
20. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Local area resources and people will be used for this project.
21. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] None identified
22. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] None identified
23. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for timber management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] None identified

EA Checklist Prepared By: Norman Fortunate Service Forester 6/14/2004
Name Title Date

IV. FINDING

24. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The proposed action
25. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts noted
26. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: Robert H. Storer Trust Lands Program Manager - SWLO
Name Title
 6/24/04
Signature Date

cc: Applicant
Unit Office
Land Office
Service Forestry Bureau