

DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Ed Baldwin- Twin Creek AP SE 1/4 SE 1/4 SEC. 13 T19N R30W

Proposed Implementation Date: 12/05

Proponent: Ed Baldwin (Landowner) and Roger McLinden (Logger)

Type and Purpose of Action: Ed's property is forested with lodgepole pine that came in after the 1910 fire. These trees have reached maturity and are being hit by beetles and falling over at an increasing rate. Some of this area is quite close to Ed's house and presents a hazard. In the understory Douglas fir is coming in and Ed would like to have the lodgepole removed to make room for the young fir and to make his property safer from fire and falling trees. Many trees have already fallen across the stream that runs through Ed's property. This small, unnamed stream appears to be a class two, possibly a class three stream. It has a small amount of water in places at the lower part of Ed's property and is dry at the upper part of the property. Ed would like Roger McLinden (Logger) to remove the lodgepole including about twenty trees that have fallen across the stream that are still merchantable. This would be done during frozen, winter conditions. There are many more trees that have fallen across the stream and are no longer merchantable and it will not be necessary to get machinery closer than 50" to the stream.

County: Mineral

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	The landowner (Ed Baldwin); the logging contractor (Roger McLinden);
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	1. To leave the tree standing and the trees laying across the stream. This would not allow Ed to have his property cleaned up and the trees would continue to die and fall over. 2. Leave the required number of retention trees along the SMZ. These trees are dying and would most likely blow over anyway if left standing. There has been a great deal of blow down in the past even with all the trees standing.
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)
GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable 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] The soils along the SMZ are rocky. The bed of the stream is very rocky. The trees will be yarded from outside the SMZ on deep snow and frozen ground. The trees laying across the stream will be pulled out with a cable from outside the SMZ also on frozen ground on snow.

RECEIVED

MAR 08 2006

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

<p>4. 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? Would the ability of the SMZ to serve the following functions be compromised as a result of this Alternative Practice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ability to act as an effective sediment filter. * Ability to provide shade to regulate stream temperature. * Protection of stream channel and banks. * Ability to provide large, woody debris for eventual recruitment into the stream to maintain riffles pools and other elements of channel structure. * Promotes floodplain stability. 	<p>Y] This creek appears to be a class 2, possibly a class 3 stream. It is now dry in most places and has a rocky bottom. The younger trees in the understory will be retained and some unmerchantable trees laying across the stream will be retained. Shade will temporarily be reduced along a 500' stretch of the stream. Operations will be done under frozen conditions and equipment will be kept out of the SMZ so no other damage should happen to the SMZ. Other areas clearcut nearby have come back quickly in dense stands of lodgepole.</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] The overstory will be removed, but young fir and lodgepole are already growing in the understory so the vegetation will not be altered in the long run. Most of the area around has been clearcut in the past and has come in very densely to more lodgepole and some fir.</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? Would the ability to support diverse and productive aquatic and terrestrial habitats be compromised?</p>	<p>[N] The stream is dry for most of the year and is dry now.</p>
<p>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N]</p>
<p>11. 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>[N]</p>
<p>12. 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>[N]</p>

13. 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?	[N]
III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N]
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N]
16. 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?	[Y] Although this is a small project, it will create employment for a short period of time.
17. 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?	[Y] Income from the harvesting of trees in this area will generate a small amount of tax revenue.
18. 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?	[N]
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, ELM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N]
20. 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]
21. 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]
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]

