

State of Montana
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

APPLICATION FOR SMZ ALTERNATIVE PRACTICE

Landowner: Plum Creek Timber Co / Under the Wire

Address: 138 Pile Cr Rd; Libby Phone
Number: 406-293-6204

Contractor: TAMMAGE Logging

Address: 16411 Bull Lake Rd Phone
TAM, MT 59935
Number: 406-295-8991

Person Legally Responsible for Compliance with SMZ
Law: Mitch Richeal

Hazard Reduction Agreement (HRA)
Number: _____

Site Specific Alternative Practice
Requested: use an existing skid trail w/ on
SMZ as noted on map.

Other Alternatives Considered and Justification for Proposed Alternative
Practice: Build a new skid trail alongside existing trail.

Planned Mitigation
Measures: Grass seed & mulch & put erosion dips in
trails upon completion.

Starting Date: 12/12/12 Completion
Date: 12/28/12

Legal Description: SW 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 30 Section 28N Township 29W Range Lincoln County

Lineal Extent Along Stream: 100 feet SMZ
Width: 1 foot

Stream Class (circle one): One Two Three

Wetlands Present ___ Yes ___ No

Include a topographic map showing the logging unit boundaries, alternative practice site, streams, wetlands, and existing and/or proposed roads. Also include a plan-view map of the alternative practice site, including location and distance to stream, SMZ boundary, location of mitigation measures, and extent of activity requiring an alternative practice.

Approved alternative practices, including any additional conditions approved by DNRC, shall have the same force and authority as the standards contained in 77-5-303, MCA, and shall be enforceable by DNRC under 77-5-3-305, MCA, to the same extent as such standards.

cc: Applicant, Unit Office, Land Office, Service Forestry Bureau Land Office

Soc 35 T28N R29W

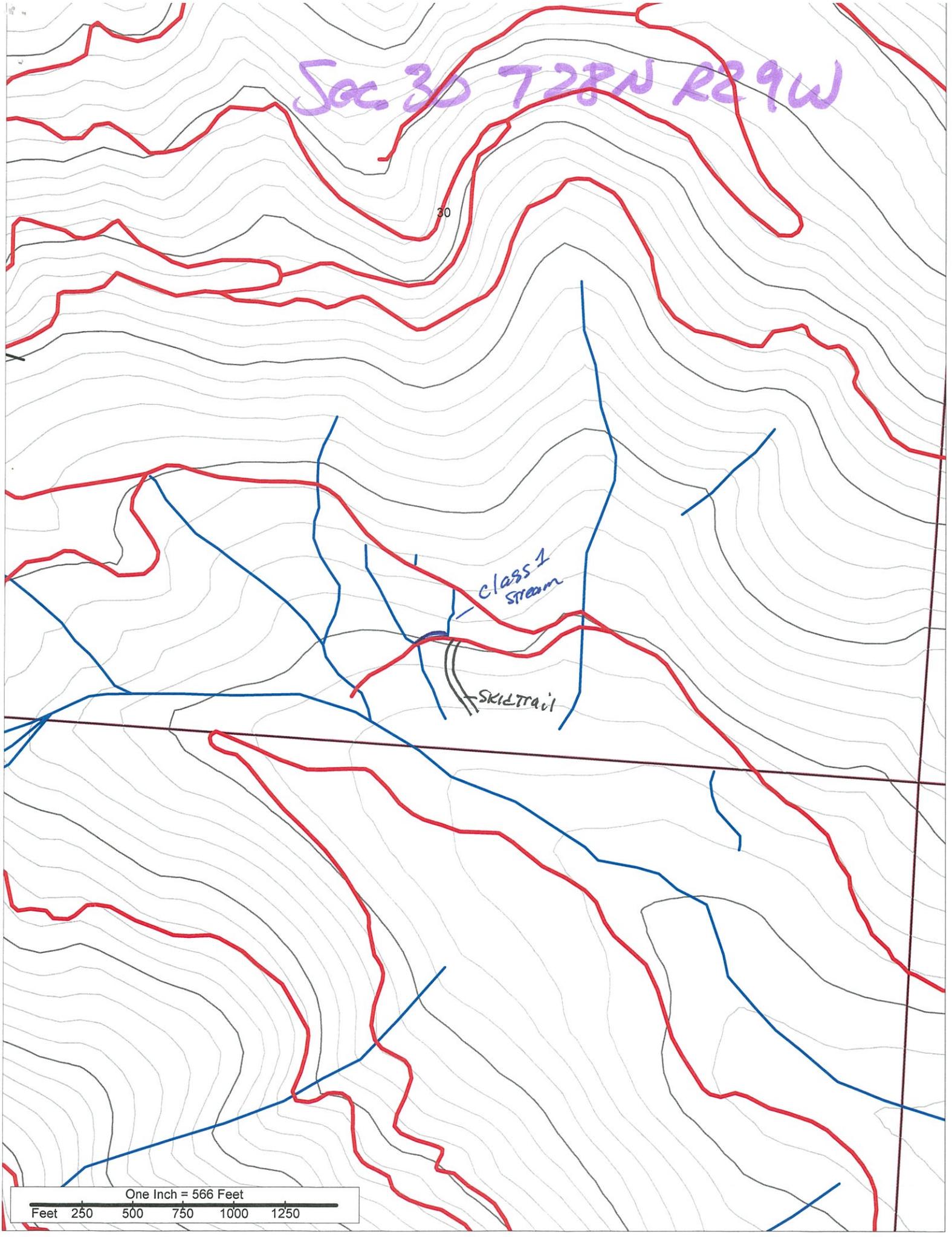
30

class 1 stream

skit trail

One Inch = 566 Feet

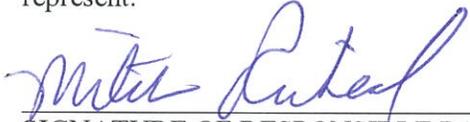
Feet 250 500 750 1000 1250



Alternative Practice Responsibility Affidavit

Sale Name: Plum Creek/Under the Wire Timber Sale

In consideration of DNRC's approval of the alternative practice(s) in SW ¼ SE ¼ Sec 30 T28N, R29W. I hereby certify that I, or by written contract the legal entity I represent, am responsible for compliance with Montana's Streamside Management Zone Law. I understand that failure to implement any of the mitigation measures required by DNRC will be considered a violation of the SMZ Law (77-5-301), and may result in penalties assessed against me or the legal entity I represent.



SIGNATURE OF RESPONSIBLE PARTY



DATE

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Under the Wire Timber Sale Proposed Implementation Date: 12/12/12 - 3/1/2012

Proponent: Plum Creek Timber Company 138 Pipe Creek Road Libby Montana

Type and Purpose of Action: Operate Equipment in the SMZ; Location: SW ¼ SE 1/4 Sec 30, T28N, R29W, County: Lincoln

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	No adjacent landowners are expected to be affected by the proposal so public scoping was not deemed necessary.
OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	1) No-action. 2) Construct skid road outside the SMZ. 3) Use existing skid road and install erosion control features to prevent sediment from reaching the stream and rehabilitate skid road to prevent erosion

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES N = Not present or No Impact will occur. acts 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?	[Y] Land Type 323 Gravelly Silt Loam Surface layer formed in volcanic ash-influenced loess gravelly silt loam subsoils. Moderate surface erodibility, moderate sediment delivery efficiency. Operating equipment during dry conditions and using proper erosion control measures should protect water quality and prevent soil erosion.
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?	[Y] Class 1 stream. Sediment delivery to the stream will be minimized by operating on frozen conditions, installing water bars to divert skid road surface drainage away from the stream and grass seeding the disturbed areas.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N] Normal air pollution that is associated with a standard logging operation.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] No rare, sensitive plants or cover types were observed during ground reconnaissance.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] The stream is a class 1 Mitigation measures will keep sediment from reaching the stream. There are no special of terrestrial, avian or aquatic habitats.

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
9. 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?	[N] The class 3 stream flows out of the harvest unit and there is no defined channel downstream . Sediment is not expected to reach a fish bearing stream. Grizzly bears may migrate through the area. There were no denning sites noted in the area.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] No historical archeological or paleontological resources were observed during ground reconnaissance.
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?	[N] Normal temporary noise increase associated with standard logging operation.
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?	[N] No limited resources will be used from the project. There are no other activities nearby that will affect the project.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N]. There are no other planned actions in the area.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project health and safety risks in the area?	[N] Normal health risks associated with a standard logging operation.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	N] This project will add additional timber to the local woods product industry.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so estimated number.	[N] This project will add some additional work and income to the local work force.
LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] Minor additional income tax revenue will be generated from the additional work.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[N] Traffic will not be significantly altered from the project.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] There are no known zoning management plans in this area.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION
LIBBY UNIT OFFICE



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

PHONE (406) 293-2711
FAX (406) 293-9307

177 State Lands Office Road,
LIBBY, MT 59923

December 10, 2012

Mitch Michael, Plum Creek
P O Box 138
Libby, Montana 59923

Dear Mitch,

This letter is in reference to your request to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for an Alternative Practice to the Streamside Management Zone Law in Sections 23 and 24, T28N, R27.5W. After review of the Checklist Environmental Assessment prepared for this request, the Alternative Practice to allow **Equipment operation in the SMZ** is hereby approved, subject to the following conditions:

1. The alternative practice(s) are approved for a period of two years from the date of issuance, and cover the sections described in the legal description.
2. All SMZ's must be flagged prior to logging.
3. The skid trail location must be approved by a DNRC Service Forester prior to skidding
4. Equipment will be operated during frozen, snow covered conditions
5. The trail will be water barred to divert runoff way from stream channel
6. The trail will be grass seeded after the logging is completed

Conditions #1, 2 and 3 must be completed prior to the start of logging operations. Condition 4, should be monitored during the logging operation. Condition 5 and 6 must be completed after operations are completed

Approved alternative practices, including any additional conditions required by DNRC, shall have the same force and authority as the standards contained in 77-5-303, MCA, and be enforceable by DNRC under 77-5-303, MCA, to the same extent as such standards.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your operator(s) understand that an alternative practice has been issued for their operations in this area, and these conditions must be fully met to achieve compliance with the SMZ Law.

This approval is contingent upon your execution and return of the attached statement to the DNRC Libby Unit Office. No actions related to this alternative practice are to be taken until the statement is returned to DNRC.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Peck".

Mark Peck
Libby Unit Manager
DNRC

Pc: Alternative Practice file
Area Office