

**DNRC - Trust Land Management Division**

DS-252

**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Project Name:** PCTC Deer Creek Salvage Alternative Practice

**Proposed Implementation Date:** 03/2004

**Proponent:** Plum Creek Timber Co.

**Location:** SE1/4 NW1/4 Sec. 7 T13N R24W

**Type and Purpose of Action:** There is an old road that traverses down a steep hill on to the main Fish Creek Road just upstream of the Deer Creek bridge. This old road has been overgrown and at one point enters a 100' SMZ about 20' for a distance of about 200 feet. The entire area has been burned over in varying intensity. There is a request for an Alternative Practice to the SMZ Law to utilize this area for a request for 2 mbf of logs would be skidded down this trail to the main Fish Creek Road.

**RECEIVED**

**County:** Mineral

MAR 16 2004

**LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE**

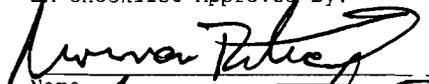
I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	The landowner (Plum Creek Timber Co.) and DNRC.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To cut a new trail down to the main Fish Creek Road to avoid entering the SMZ. This would disturb more soil and create a steeper skid trail.</li> <li>To utilize another existing road that leads down to a burned out bridge. This would necessitate construction of a stream crossing of some sort</li> <li>To deny the Alternative Practice and leave the burned trees in place.</li> </ol>
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 gravelly and not very compactable. The overgrown road that potentially could be used would require very little earth movement in order to skid down.

<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"> <li>* Ability to act as an effective sediment filter.</li> <li>* Ability to provide shade to regulate stream temperature.</li> <li>* Protection of stream channel and banks.</li> <li>* Ability to provide large, woody debris for eventual recruitment into the stream to maintain riffles pools and other elements of channel structure.</li> <li>* Promotes floodplain stability.</li> </ul>	<p>[N] This creek is possibly a class 1 stream, certainly a class 2. Minor reconstruction of the existing road would be necessary. If care is not used during this reconstruction, material could be side cast into the stream. Any Alternative Practice would be written with the stipulation that no material be side cast into the stream and that water bars be installed at completion to assure water does not run off into the stream or erode the trail. Since this trail only goes through the SMZ for 200' and is 80' from the stream, no function of the SMZ will be compromised.</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] Most of the trees in this area have been killed by the fire. No harvest will be done in the SMZ.</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] No trees will be removed from the SMZ.</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, BLM, 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]

24. 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]
EA Checklist Prepared By	
Name Eric Norris	Title Service Forester
Date 2/20/04	
IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Proposed Action - Allow old road to be utilized.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts are anticipated.
27. 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:


SERVICE FORESTER  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  

2-24-04  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_