

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Stimson Lumber Company - Horse Fly Cr.
 Proposed Implementation Date: December 15, 2004
 Proponent: Stimson Lumber Company

Type and Purpose of Action: **Proposed action is to allow equipment operation within an SMZ. The action will allow for commercial harvest of Lodgepole Pine, Spruce and other species, and all further treatment to prevent or curb future insect attacks and treat fuels to reduce the risk wild fire.**

Location: Stimson Lumber Company Feelands in SEC 11 & 12, T14N, R7W.
 County: Lewis And Clark near Lincoln, MT.



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I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
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 the DNRC and other agencies with jurisdiction have been involved.
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 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 Horse Fly Cr. Operations will be conducted during winter conditions to mitigate any damage to the resource.



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<p>Ability to act as an effective sediment filter.</p> <p>Ability to provide shade to regulate stream temperature.</p> <p>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 was a long held family ranch but recently was sold to the Company.</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>[N] This proposed action will be near the town of Lincoln on the road to Helena. The commercial harvest should not be readily visible from the highway and is designed to reduce wild fire hazard as well as harvest commercial timber. The proposed treatment should 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 style="text-align: center;">[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</p>
<p>12. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT</p>	

<p>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] None Identified</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] None identified</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 local 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>
<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?</p>	<p>[N] This is private property and access is granted or denied by the landowner</p>
<p>RESOURCE</p>	<p>[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES</p>
<p>20. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely</p>	<p>[N] Local area resources and people will be used for this project.</p>

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



JUDY MARTZ, GOVERNOR

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DS-264
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APID # AP-CLW-02-04
Ref. HRA # N/A MHRA

Stimson Lumber Company
Atten: Kevin Stowe
P. O. Box 1120
Bonner, MT 59823-1120

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 on the Company Feelands in Horse Fly Creek near Lincoln, MT in:

Sec. 11 & 12, Township 14 North, Range 7 West.

After review of the Checklist Environmental Assessment prepared for this request, the Alternative Practice to allow equipment operation in the SMZ is hereby granted, subject to the following conditions:

1. The alternative practice(s) are approved for the period beginning with the date of issuance and ending March 1, 2006, and only for those locations described above.
2. Equipment operation within the SMZ will be limited to a mechanical harvester. Operations may only be conducted under winter conditions when there is adequate snow or frozen ground sufficient enough to prevent soil rutting and minimize compaction or disturbance. This equipment will be allowed within the SMZ to the extent necessary to conduct safe operations but in no case may the tracks or wheel of the equipment come within Twenty-five (25) feet of the ordinary high water mark unless otherwise authorized by the DNRC. No other wheeled or tracked equipment will be allowed in the SMZ except as provided for by law or rule. If noticeable rutting or disturbance occurs, immediately cease operations and contact the DNRC for guidance on mitigation.

3. All stream crossings must first have the approval of the local (Lewis and Clark) Conservation district or a statement that the crossing is not covered by the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, commonly referred to as the "310 Law." If the stream crossing is not covered then contact the DNRC for appropriate crossing structures and mitigation measures.

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 shall be enforceable by DNRC under 77-5-305, 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 that 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 Missoula Unit Office at the address listed below. No actions related to this alternative practice are to be taken until the signed statement is returned to the DNRC.

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

Sincerely,



Norm Fortunate, Service Forester
Clearwater & Missoula Unit
1500 Tower
Missoula, MT 59804

Phone: (406) 542-4279 E-mail: nfortunate@state.mt.us

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