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**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Project Name:** Sverdsten-Nieslanik- West Fork Timber Creek Crossing

**Proposed Implementation Date:** 1/06

**Proponent:** Bernard Nieslanik, Landowner and Mark Sverdsten, Logger

**Type and Purpose of Action:** Mark Sversten has acquired a 310 permit for a temporary crossing of West Fork Timber Creek near Haugan. This Alternative Practice is to allow machinery into the SMZ to access this crossing from each side of the stream. The area accessed is a hillside of several acres across a small pasture that has lodgepole pine being severely hit by bark beetles. The trees will be skidded during winter conditions across a bridge of logs and ice that will be removed after skidding operations are completed. Machinery operation within the SMZ will only be on the single trail across the stream. This temporary crossing is in lieu of building a permanent road. If a fully engineered road and a permanent crossing were installed, an Alternative Practice would not be necessary.

*NE 1/4 SEC. 9 T19N R30W.*

**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 (Bernard Nieslanik); the Contractor (Mark Sverdsten); Mineral Co. Conservation Dist.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Mineral Co. Conservation Dist.- Decided that a ford over an ice bridge would suffice for a temporary crossing to skid this piece of property
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	1. To construct a permanent road with a bridge or a culvert across the stream. This would disturb more soil and leave a more permanent scar. 2. To deny the Alternative Practice and leave the bug killed lodgepole standing on that side of the creek.
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?	[Y] This is a hay pasture that is wet at certain times of the year. Machinery has crossed this stream many times for the purposes of cutting hay. The logging operation will be done only on frozen ground. If the ground thaws and becomes soft, no skidding will be done.

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<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 a class 1 stream. It is about 1-2' wide at the point of crossing and is in one channel with solid banks. The stream has incised only about 12" at this point. The ground on each side of the stream is perfectly flat hay ground. Operations will be done on frozen ground and a slash filter windrow will be installed at the end of the operation if necessary. No trees will be removed from the SMZ since there are only a few cottonwoods along this section of the stream. There are almost no shrubs along this section of the stream as well. Since only one trail will cross the stream, very little of the SMZ will be affected.</p> <p>So little of the SMZ will be affected (one trail width) that no function of the SMZ will be affected.</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] No trees will be removed from this section of the stream and there is almost no brush along this section.</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]</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]

