DS-252

DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Rocking Chair Ranch Alternative Practice
Proposed Implementation Date: 06/2006
Proponent: Bill Vietor - Landowner
Type and Purpose of Action: There is a small class 2 stream that runs through Mr. Vietor's property in the N1/2 SW1/4 of Section 18 T7N R14W. The tree species on this stream are ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce and Douglas fir. The pine and the fir are severely infected with bark beetles. For this reason Mr. Vietor would like Sun Mountain Lumber to remove all the larger Douglas fir (fir less than 12" diameter will be left) and the lodgepole pine in the infected area which covers a quarter mile stretch of the the stream. Sun Mountain Lumber Co. would also like to use a mechanical harvester within the SMZ to remove the trees. This would be done only along certain areas that are accessible to the machine. There is no brush in the understory along this stream so no brush would be disturbed. The machine will be moved straight in from the side of the SMZ and moved back out the same route and would get no closer than 15' from the streambank. Use if this machine would prevent dragging felled trees out of the SMZ.

Location: N1/2 SW1/4 Section 18 T7N R14W.

County: Granite

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 Bill Vietor, the contractor Sun Mountain Lumber Co. and DNRC.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	1. To leave the required number of retention trees. This would leave dead and dieing trees and the wind has already blown over a large number of trees in an adjacent cutting unit. 2. To require hand-falling of the trees within the SMZ and drag them out from outside the SMZ. This may cause more damage to the ground than placing the trees outside the SMZ with a machine. This would also allow the trees to be bunched for less skidding operations.
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] The soils along the SMZ are compactable. Only when necessary, a harvester will be allowed to within 15' of the stream at individual locations 30' or more apart. Trees will be felled and swung away from the creek so they can be reached from outside the SMZ The harvester will be allowed within the SMZ only to drive straight down to within 15' of the channnel and straight back out of the SMZ thereby disturbing as little of the SMZ as possible.
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? *** 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.**	[N] This stream is a tributary of Marshall Creek and is a class 2 stream. This Alternative Practice will be to operate a harvester within the SMZ only when necessary to avoid dragging trees across the SMZ. Since this Alternative Practice will only allow use of the harvester in individual locations no closer than 30' apart and since there is only grass and no brush adjacent to the SMZ, there should be no appreciable damage to the SMZ or effect on water quality.
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?	[N]
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?	[N] All fir trees less than 12" diameter will be retained as well as unmerchantable trees of all other species. There are many places along the stream where there are no lodgepole or larger Douglas fir and these sections will not be disturbed.
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?	[N]

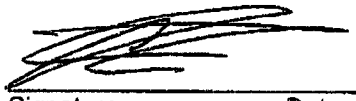
UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N]
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N]
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?	[N]
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?	[N]
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__5/30/2006_____	
IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Proposed Action – Allow the removal of the merchantable lodgepole and the larger Douglas fir and allow the use of a harvester to within 15' of the stream only when necessary.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts are anticipated.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By:

CHRIS TOWN, HRC & D FORESTER ANA UNIT

Name Title



6/5/06

Signature Date