

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Wayne call
406 253 4082

Project Name: Ten Lakes Forestry & Excavation HRA 27-B-47632 Alternative Practice
Proposed Implementation Date: May 15, 2020
Proponent: Wayne Finch
Location: N/2 of NW/4 of section 31, T36N R25W (48°50'48.19"N 114°52'42.44"W)
County: Lincoln

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

To allow the operation of wheeled and tracked equipment in a streamside management zone. The proposed action would allow the construction of an excavated trail from the edge of the SMZ to the water development site authorized under the 310 Permit. The ≈175 feet of trail within the SMZ and the removal of approximately a dozen merchantable trees would be authorized. The subject stream is a class 2 perennial stream. Operations shall be conducted while the ground is dry. Having this alternative practice would allow the logger to construct this trail during the logging operations and would allow DNRC to set parameters for the construction and mitigation. The alternative is to not issue the AP. After the logging is completed the landowner hires an excavator to construct the trail anyway, when DNRC would have no chance for input on design and mitigation.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project. List number of individuals contacted, number of responses received, and newspapers in which notices were placed and for how long. Briefly summarize issues received from the public.

No adjacent landowners are expected to be affected by the proposal so public scoping was not deemed necessary.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Examples: cost-share agreement with U.S. Forest Service, 124 Permit, 3A Authorization, Air Quality Major Open Burning Permit.

Lincoln Conservation District would be issuing a 310 permit to develop the point of diversion within ordinary high-water mark and DNRC Water Rights Division would be issuing a water right to the landowners.

3. ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT:

Describe alternatives considered and, if applicable, provide brief description of how the alternatives were developed. List alternatives that were considered but eliminated from further analysis and why.

No action alternative: Do not issue the Alternative Practice. Landowner would then continue with their salvage logging plans. Once the HRA has been closed the landowner would pay an excavation contractor to come back to property and construct the trail anyway.

Action alternatives considered:

1) Issue Alternative Practice for the logger to construct needed trail into SMZ for the development of the water right. This allows for the DNRC to have input into how the trail is constructed and the mitigations that would be required, and so that the dozen trees that need to be removed for the construction of said trail would not be wasted. This alternative is cost effective, meets the needs of the landowner, reduces waste, and has the best potential for the lowest impact to the stream.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to soils.

Kootenai Land Type 408; These glaciated mountain slopes are steep and rocky and is capable of high timber productivity. The steep slope increases the amount of material that is excavated during trail construction. Material exposed during construction is difficult to revegetate because of moisture stress. Sediment hazard on roads is moderate.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to water resources.

A properly constructed and stabilized excavated trail extending from the edge of the SMZ to the 310 Permit water diversion site at the creek would have minimal impacts to water quality. It would be expected that when BMPs are applied, the proposed action would be the least invasive alternative and have the quickest rehabilitation of the site. The impacts to the stream from developing the point of diversion is under the Conservation District's authority.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced (i.e. particulate matter from road use or harvesting, slash pile burning, prescribed burning, etc)? Identify the Airshed and Impact Zone (if any) according to the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to air quality.

Normal air pollution that is associated with a standard logging operation.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to vegetation.

The no action alternative would mean the landowner completes this work after the HRA is closed and would not be bound by mitigations that would be enforced under and Alternative Practice.

The action alternative allows for DNRC to specify mitigations for trail construction and revegetation of the site.

No rare, sensitive plants or cover types were observed during ground reconnaissance. Minimal vegetation disturbance would occur from trail construction, approx. 1/10th acre would be impacted.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

The site of the proposed alternative practice shows no significant use by wildlife, birds or fish.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Threatened or endangered species such as lynx and grizzly bears may migrate through the area. There were no denning sites noted on the property. The proposed construction of the trail to the water right site should not diminish habitat elements for these species.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

No historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources were observed during field reconnaissance nor are any known by the landowner.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Normal temporary noise increase associated with logging operations. Visual appearance of site and surrounding property would appear uniform across ownerships. This location is not visible from outside of this ownership.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to environmental resources.

No limited resources will be used for this project. There are no other activities nearby that will affect the project.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

No other environmental documents are known for this tract.

<p style="text-align: center;">IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i> |
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14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Normal Health risks associated with a logging operation.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

The trail building project will be part of the addition of a beneficial use of the State's water. Specifically, the power generation capability to provide electricity to the landowner's residence.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to the employment market.

This project would add 1 day of additional work and income to the landowner and his contractor

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Minor additional income tax revenue would be generated from the additional work.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

There would not be any affects to the local government services.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

There is no known zoning or management planning for this area.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

This activity would have no impact to access to or quality of recreational and wilderness activities for the public.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to population and housing.

This activity would have no impact to density or distribution of population and housing.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Logging is an activity that would be considered a traditional lifestyle for this community and area; this activity would not disrupt social structures.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Cultural uniqueness and diversity would not be affected.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

There are no unique social or economic qualities on this site.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Jeremy Rank	Date: 5/4/2020
	Title: Service Forester	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

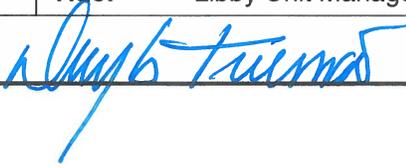
The Action Alternative is selected. Authorize an Alternative Practice that allows construction of a trail within the SMZ to the 310 permit development site and the removal of the merchantable trees within the SMZ needed for such trail construction. All BMPs shall be implemented during operations. Mitigations will be: construct trail with stable cut and fill slopes, build water bars every 50 feet for surface water drainage, mulch and grass seed driving surface as well as cut and fill slopes, construct slash filter windrow and place at tow of fill from edge of SMZ to the ordinary high-water mark.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Action alternative has the potential to have impacts to the land and water resources. However, the proposed action minimizes these impacts while still allowing management activities to proceed. The application of forestry BMPs and specified mitigations will minimize impact to water quality.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Douglas Turman	
	Title: Libby Unit Manager	
Signature:		Date: 5/12/20

