

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Stimson Lumber Company Alder Creek crossing Alternative Practice
Proposed Implementation Date: June, 2022
Proponent: Sargent Logging Inc. – Paul Sargent
Location: NE/4 of section 3, T29N R29W (48° 18' 29.20" N; 115° 16' 51.09" W)
County: Lincoln

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

To allow the operation of wheeled or tracked equipment in a streamside management zone (SMZ). The purpose of the action is to salvage 20 acres of dead and dying Douglas-fir and Western larch from insect and disease mortality. Alder Creek in the segments that are within the bounds of the proposed timber sale is a Class 2 stream. The proposed action would create a temporary skid trail crossing of Alder Creek and allow short reaches of skid trail to be within the SMZ when no feasible route is available to be outside of the SMZ due to slope. Approximately 1500 lineal feet of SMZ, on one side could be affected.

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.

None

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 harvest this corner of the property. Approximately 20 acres of land becomes unmanageable to the landowner and forest health conditions will continue to deteriorate. Fire protection for the responsible jurisdiction will become more complex and wildfire difficult to control. Landowner pays taxes on these acres and wants to be able to use them.

Action alternatives considered:

- 1) construct new road to cross SMZ and roads to allow harvest would incur the expense and maintenance obligations of additional infrastructure in perpetuity. This alternative is cost prohibitive, would have long term impacts to the stream and landscape, and is not necessary to meet the need which is to access these 20 acres perhaps for a two-week period every rotation.
- 2) obtain alternative practice that would allow building a temporary skid trail crossing and collector skid trail to skid forest products across stream when it the stream is dry and soil conditions are dry or frozen. Mitigate by removing all materials used to create the crossing and any debris that was deposited in stream course during skidding activities. Promptly after the harvest is completed, recontouring of all trails and grass seed all disturbed

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 SMZ crossing 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.

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: 2/20/2020
	Title: Service Forester	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative 2 is selected. Reuse existing skid trail to cross the class 2 SMZ to conduct harvest activities when the reach of stream is dry and under frozen soil conditions. Mitigate by scarifying crossing within the SMZ, grass seeding and installing waterbar at SMZ boundary to discourage any additional use of the crossing after rehabilitation. Hand clean all debris that was deposited in the stream channel promptly and apply BMPs during operations.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

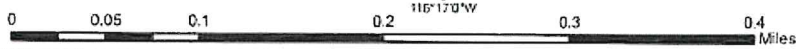
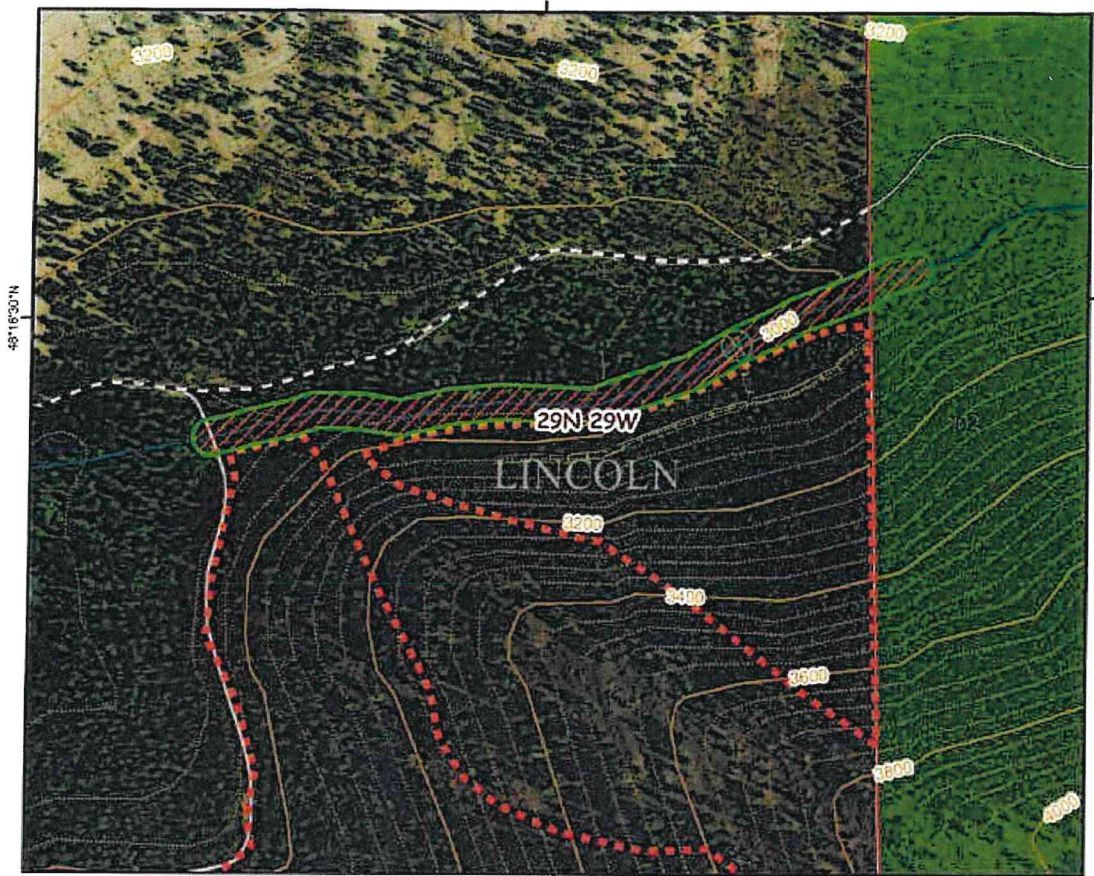
All action alternatives have the potential to have impacts to the land or water resources. Alternative 2 proposes to both minimize these impacts while still allowing management activities to proceed. The application of forestry BMPs will minimize impact to water quality.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis



ALTERNATIVE PRACTICE REQUEST

SLC would like an alternative practice to create a log crossing in Alder Creek to skid across, then operate within the SMZ (minimized as much as possible) to capture volume that would otherwise be inaccessible. The DF and WL are dying and we would like to capture that volume, then site prep spray and replant, and get this high site back into production.

	Class_2_SMZ
	Crossing
	Catch Trails
	Alder Creek
Streams	
	Unknown
Montana Major Landowners	
OWNER	
	USFS

	HELISPOT
Lat.:	
Long.:	
Scale:	1:5280
Date:	5/24/22
Map Type:	A.P.
County:	Lincoln
Prepared By:	KPD

