CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Jeremiah Folkerts HRA 27-B-XXXXX Alternative Practice 27-B-48741
Proposed Implementation Date: June & July 2022
Proponent: Jeremiah Folkerts (contractor) and Randal Borgman (cutter)
Location: section 18, T35N R33W (48°47'16.75"N 115°54'50.75"W)
County: Lincoln

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

To allow the operation of a tracked excavator in a segment of Yaak River streamside management zone to ensure directional falling is away from buildings and to allow the removal of trees threatening home and adjacent outbuilding within the SMZ. The alternative practice would allow for the safe removal of tall trees that are within the SMZ and leaning towards adjacent buildings. This proposed action would allow the cutting of ≈5 trees within the SMZ and retaining fewer than the prescribed minimum number of trees for a class 1 SMZ. The property has about 450 feet of Yaak River frontage.

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.

Lincoln County Zone service forester was consulted in June 2022 by proponent. This activity is on private property and is being done for the benefit of the landowner and protection of their structures. Landowner, HRA contractor and cutter were all present at the field visit on 6/13/2022, No public involvement is 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.

DNRC Forestry Assistance has jurisdiction over the SMZ law and any alternative practices, the USFS has jurisdiction over wildland fire protection, Lincoln Conservation District has jurisdiction over the bed and banks of Yaak River.

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 AP. This would force the landowner to perform these needed hazard tree removal activities to be conducted after their hazard fuel reduction activities are completed on the remainder of the property.

Action alternative:
Issue Alternative Practice that allows operation of a tracked excavator within the SMZ to ensure that direction falling of hazard trees is away from structures and to remove all hazardous trees leaning toward the adjacent structures. This would allow the landowner to meet their stated needs. Mitigate by operating within the SMZ under dry soil conditions, this will minimize impacts. Protect sub merchantable trees and brush to fullest extent possible and retain trees that are not a hazard or leaning toward the structures, and apply BMPs during operations.

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 101; anticipated impacts with action alternative would be low when conducted during dry conditions.

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.

Approximately 1/3 acres of SMZ would remove additional trees that pose a risk of falling onto adjacent structures in the area. This practice would retain all sub merchantable trees and shrubs as well as any trees that are not anticipated to fall onto structures. Access to SMZ is from adjoining harvest unit; this work would be implemented under dry summer conditions.

The removal of additional trees in the SMZ could minimally reduce the shade along approximately 450 feet of stream. This would be expected of have a low risk of low impacts (measurable, but not detrimental). A low risk of low impacts (unlikely to occur) of sediment delivery from this proposal is anticipated.

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.

There would be no impacts to air resources anticipated.

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.

There would be none to minor impacts to vegetation resources and nothing out of historical context of vegetation management.

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.

There would be no anticipated impacts to terrestrial, avian and aquatic resources.

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 grizzly bears, bull trout and west slope cutthroat trout may use the area. The proposed actions would be low impact on overall behavior, populations, or habitat.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

No impacts to historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources are expected.

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.

No impacts to aesthetics are expected, though a more open corridor adjacent to the structures may be noticeable.

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 at this time.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *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.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Normal health risks associated with a logging operation. Action alternative ultimately strives to increase safety by reducing the likelihood of structure damage due to windthrow. Using the excavator to force the directional falling of trees leaning toward structures helps improve human safety.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

The project will add a minor (≈5 trees) amount of additional timber to the local wood products industry.

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 a small about of additional work and income to the 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:**	6/14/2022
	Title:	Service Forester		

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

The Action Alternative is selected. Issue Alternative Practice that allows operation of tracked equipment within the SMZ and authorized removal of all trees posing hazards to structures within the SMZ. This would allow landowner and HRA holder to meet their needs. Mitigate by operating within the SMZ under dry summer conditions will minimize soil and water impacts. Protect non-hazard trees, sub merchantable trees and brush to fullest extent possible and apply BMPs during operations.

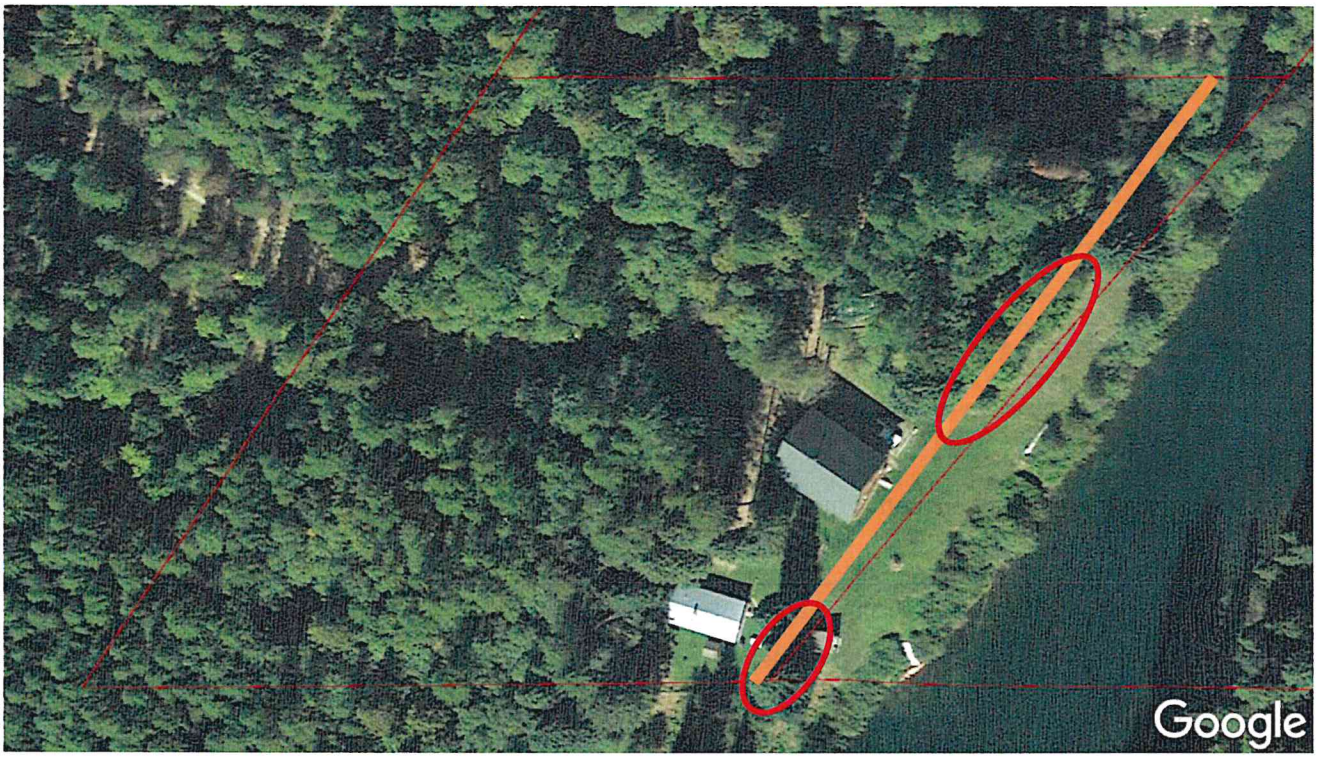
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

This action alternative proposes to both minimize these impacts while still allowing management activities to proceed. This action also will ultimately provide a safer environment by reducing the likelihood of losing a tree during attempted hand falling operations or windthrown trees left behind hitting structures. The application of forestry BMPs will minimize impact to soil and water resources.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA	[x]	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Douglas Turman		
	Title:	Libby Unit Manager		
Signature:	Douglas Turman		**Date:**	6/23/22



Heavy orange line indicates 50 foot SMZ boundary

Areas circled in red indicates trees within SMZ that pose falling hazard to structures.