



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
MAINE FOREST SERVICE
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0022

WALTER E. WHITCOMB
COMMISSIONER

August 25, 2015

The Nature Conservancy c/o LandVest, Inc
PO Box 459
Jackman, Maine 04945

Dear Jim,

The Nature Conservancy c/o Landvest, Inc has requested an extension for the Bridge Construction Permit BCP-14002 and BCP-14002A Amendment that is set to expire on November 30, 2015.

The Maine Forest Service has granted your request for permit extensions for the BCP-14002 permits with the following conditions:

1. All terms and conditions stated in the original permits apply to the permit extensions.

The Nature Conservancy c/o LandVest, Inc can consider the permits extended for the dates as listed:

1. BCP-14002 Expires November 30, 2016
2. BCP-14002A Ammendmant Expires November 30, 2016

The Maine Forest Service hopes that these extensions will be a sufficient amount of time for the completion of your project. If they do not, please contact Dave Rochester, Regional Enforcement Coordinator, Maine Forest Service, 45 Radar Road, Ashland, ME 04732 (207) 441-3817.

Sincerely,

Regional Enforcement Coordinator

DOUGLAS P. DENICO
DIRECTOR

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PERMIT

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT BCP 14002

The staff of the Maine Forest Service, after reviewing the application and supporting documents submitted by The Nature Conservancy c/o LandVest, Inc., for Bridge Construction Permit BCP 14002, finds the following facts:

1. Applicant: The Nature Conservancy c/o LandVest, Inc.
PO Box 459
Jackman, Maine 04945
2. Date of Completed Application: August 5, 2014
3. Location of Proposal: T 11 R 17 WELS, Aroostook County
Daaquam Road, Northwest Branch St. John River
4. Zoning: (P-SL) Shoreland Protection Subdistrict
(P-WL) Wetland Protection Subdistrict
(P-RR) Recreation Protection Subdistrict
5. Waterbody: Northwest Branch St. John River
6. Approximate Time Period of Operation: September 1, 2014 – November 30, 2014

Proposal:

7. The applicant proposes to make significant repairs to an existing bridge on the Northwest Branch of the St. John River in T11 R 17 WELS. The proposed project is to reconstruct one of the existing bridge piers that was damaged by ice movement in the spring of 2014. The bridge is 56 years old and requires a reconstructed pier, new wooden deck and raising the bridge structure by two (2) feet. The proposed bridge repairs will help prevent future ice damage and the bridge will remain in the same location. No site preparation will be needed due to existing access from both sides of the bridge site. Clearing of existing vegetation during construction will be minimal. Approximately 600 square feet of vegetation would be impacted on the eastern shoreline during the reconstruction of the pier. The stream will be accessible for recreational activity (fishing and canoeing) during the construction process.
8. The proposed bridge project design and specifications are attached to application BCP 14002.
9. Forestry Operations Notification # 465213 was submitted and is on file.

Review comments:

10. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) has reviewed the project and there were no concerns expressed by the wildlife biologist and the fisheries biologist.
11. The Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the project and had no concerns.
12. The Land Use Planning Commission reviewed the project and approved MFSRA 1.
13. The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) reviewed the project and had no comments.

Findings

14. The bridge construction project would be conducted in conformance with the Standard for Chapter 27, Section 5, Land Management Roads and Water Crossings of the Maine Forest Service Rules for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State.
15. The above finding is based on the representations contained in the Bridge Project Permit Application BCP 14002 and supporting documents.

Based upon the above Findings, the MFS concludes that if carried out in compliance with the conditions below, the proposal will meet the Criteria for Approval, 12 M. R. S. § 685-A(1) of the Commission's Statutes, and Chapter 27, Maine Forest Service Rules.

Therefore, the MFS staff approves the application of The Nature Conservancy with the following conditions:

1. Bridge reconstruction authorized in this permit can commence on the effective date of this permit and should be completed within the time outlined in Section 6 above. If such activities are not started and completed within this time period, this permit lapses and no activities may then occur unless and until a new permit or extension to the existing permit has been granted by the MFS.
2. All construction operations shall be stopped where the continuation of such operations will cause or contribute to the occurrence of erosion or the sedimentation of surface waters, whether such occurrence is precipitated by exceptionally wet weather, the failure of water control measures, or other factors. Adequate steps must be taken immediately to stop any erosion or sedimentation of surface waters and to correct the situation that led to such occurrences. The applicant will apply Best Management Practices and erosion control measures to prevent unreasonable sedimentation and protect water resources within the project area.

3. During the bridge repairs, the use of silt fence and hay bales is required to prevent the discharge of sedimentation into the river. All debris material must be removed and properly disposed of off-site.
4. The Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, Chapter 27, MFS Rules is attached.
5. The LUPC Review and Approval, MFSRA 1 is attached.
6. The period of operations shall be from September 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014.

This permit is approved only upon the above stated conditions and remains valid only if the permittee complies with all of these conditions. In addition, any person aggrieved by this decision of the staff may, within 30 days, request that the Maine Forest Service review the decision.

If no person requests that the Maine Forest Service review the decision of staff within 30 days of the date of this staff decision, this permit becomes final agency action subject to review of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Pursuant to 5 M. R. S. §§ 11001 *et seq.*, a person aggrieved by an MFS permit decision may appeal the MFS's final action to Superior Court. As part of such an appeal, a person aggrieved may seek judicial review of the components of MFS's final action and permitting decision.

DONE AND DATED AT ASHLAND, MAINE THIS 25th DAY OF AUGUST, 2014.

By: 

Tom Whitworth LF #471
Regional Enforcement Coordinator
Maine Forest Service
45 Radar Road
Ashland, Maine 04732