



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

PERMIT

FORESTRY OPERATIONS PERMIT FOP 14010

The staff of the Maine Forest Service, after reviewing the application and supporting documents submitted by Plum Creek Timber Company Inc. for Forestry Operations Permit FOP 14010, finds the following facts:

1. Applicant: Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.
PO Box 646
Bingham, Maine 04920
2. Agent: James Stewart
Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.
PO Box 646
Bingham, Maine 04920
3. Date of Completed Application: November 07, 2014
4. Location of Proposal: Skinner Township (T1R7 WBKP), Franklin County
5. Zoning: (P-MA) Mountain Area Protection Subdistrict
6. Approximate Time Period of Operations: December 29, 2014 through April 11, 2016

Proposal

7. The applicant proposes to conduct a timber harvest on approximately 21 acres in a P-MA zone.
8. The harvest will only be conducted during frozen ground conditions.
9. The applicant proposes that a commercial harvest be conducted in two blocks, one 7 acres and one 14 acres, removing all stems greater than five inches diameter breast high in the P-MA zone
10. The applicant proposes to create two Category 1 clearcuts in the P-MA zone.
11. Visibility of the harvest site will be negligible from any populated areas or public roads.
12. The harvests will be visible from the Kibby Mountain hiking trail and one lease camp on Kibby Mountain.

DOUGLAS P. DENICO
DIRECTOR

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Review Comments

13. The State Soil Scientist stated that the applicant proposes to stabilize any bare mineral soil near stream crossings after close-out with hay and seed. Since this is a P-MA zone, conventional seed may not establish easily and probably contains non-native (to the high mountain areas) plants. I suggest using erosion control mulch instead. It is easy to apply, immediately effective at stabilizing bare soil and will naturally vegetate over time.

Findings

14. A field visit was conducted November 14, 2014. The field visit showed the permit application was complete and accurate.
15. There will be no road or yard construction in the P-MA.
16. The harvest activity will take place on frozen ground and slash will be used as necessary to stabilize skid trails.

The information provided in the application, along with an MFS inspection of the site conditions in the area to be harvested, demonstrate that the petitioner has met its burden of proof and satisfied the requirements of Chapter 27, Section 4.

Based upon the above proposal, the MFS concludes that the proposal will meet the Criteria for Approval, 12 M.R.S. §Section 685-A(1) of the Commission's Statutes, and Maine Forest Service Rules, Chapters 20 and 27.

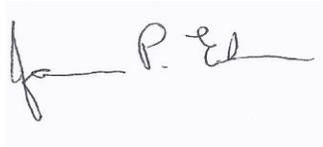
Therefore, the MFS staff approves the application of Plum Creek Timber, Inc. with the following conditions:

1. The operation will be conducted during snow covered or frozen ground conditions.
2. The harvesting 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.
3. All harvesting activities will be done according to the standards in Chapter 27 Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, Section 4 as applicable.
4. The applicant should consider using annual winter rye for erosion control to avoid the potential for the introduction of non-native invasive species in the P-MA.

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.

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.

DONE AND DATED AT OLD TOWN, MAINE, THIS 3rd DAY OF DECEMBER, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. P. Ecker", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

James P. Ecker LPF 612
Regional Enforcement Coordinator
Maine Forest Service
Box 415
Old Town, Maine 04468