



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 15004

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 15004, 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: October 22, 2015
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 01, 2015 through April 30, 2017

Proposal

7. The applicant proposes to conduct a timber harvest on approximately 172 acres in a P-MA zone.
8. The harvest will only be conducted during snow covered or frozen ground conditions.
9. The applicant proposes that a commercial harvest will be conducted removing all stems greater than five inches diameter breast high in the P-MA zone.
10. A portion of the harvest area contains subalpine fir forest. The applicant submitted the proposed harvest to the Maine Natural Areas Program for review prior to the submission of the application to the Maine Forest Service. After review, the Maine Natural Areas Program expressed no objection to the proposal.
11. Visibility of the harvest site will be negligible from any populated areas or public roads.

DOUGLAS P. DENICO
DIRECTOR

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Review Comments

12. The Maine Natural Areas Program staff requested that the applicant have any proposed future harvests in the subalpine fir type in this area reviewed by MNAP staff.
13. The State Soil Scientist commented: I have no objections as the harvest is to take place on frozen and snow covered ground so there should be minimal erosion. The applicant may need to pack down the snow in some places to encourage freezing. Wet soils can be difficult to freeze due to the latent heat of groundwater.

Findings

14. A field visit was conducted November 03, 2015. 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 snow covered or 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:

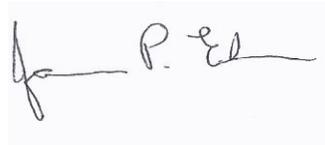
1. The operation will be conducted during snow covered or frozen ground conditions.
2. The harvesting authorized in this permit can commence on the effective date of this permit and should be completed within the time outlined in Section 6 above. If such activities are not started and completed within 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.

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 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Ecker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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