



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

WALTER E. WHITCOMB
COMMISSIONER

PERMIT

FORESTRY OPERATIONS PERMIT FOP 16001

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 16001, finds the following facts:

1. Applicant: Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.
PO Box 646
Bingham, Maine 04920
2. Agent: Benjamin D. Kamps
Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.
PO Box 646
Bingham, Maine 04920
3. Date of Completed Application: January 07, 2016
4. Location of Proposal: Skinner Township (T1R7 WBKP), Franklin County
5. Zoning: (P-MA) Mountain Area Protection Subdistrict
6. Approximate Time Period of Operations: March 2016 through April 2018

Proposal

7. The applicant proposes to conduct a timber harvest on approximately 27 acres in a P-MA zone.
8. The harvest will only be conducted during winter ground conditions.
9. The applicant proposes that a commercial harvest be conducted in the P-MA with the exception of 50 foot wide buffer zones associated with the ephemeral streams in the harvest area.
10. The P-MA harvest is part of an approved 200 acre Category III clearcut.
11. Visibility of the harvest site will be negligible from any populated areas or public roads.

DOUG DENICO, DIRECTOR
MAINE FOREST SERVICE
18 ELKINS LANE, HARLOW BUILDING



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Review Comments

12. The State Soil Scientist stated that since the applicant proposes to operate with snow covered or frozen ground conditions that he has no concerns.
13. The Regional Wildlife Biologist commented that several species of special conservation need or the habitats for those species may occur within the proposed harvest area. The species are Bicknell's thrush, Northern Bog lemming, and Roaring Brook Mayfly.
14. The Maine Natural Areas Program stated that there are no known occurrences of threatened, rare or endangered plants in the harvest area.

Findings

15. A field visit was conducted February 16, 2016. The field visit showed the permit application was complete and accurate.
16. There will be no road or yard construction in the P-MA.
17. The harvest activity will take place during winter conditions and slash will be used to stabilize skid trails.
18. In the harvest portion of the P-MA a spruce-balsam fir dominated stand with a dense understory of stunted spruce and fir required by Bicknell's thrush is absent.
19. In the harvest portion of the P-MA high elevation sphagnum wetlands required by Northern Bog lemming is absent.
20. The streams in the harvest portion of the P-MA are unmapped ephemerals which will be buffered by a minimum of 25 feet on both sides of the channel and equipment will not be permitted to track within those buffers except to cross the stream in designated areas.

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:

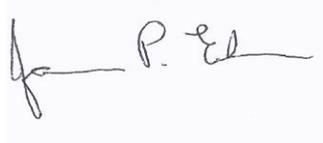
1. The operation will be conducted during snow covered or frozen ground conditions.
2. The harvesting authorized in this permit can commence on the effective date of this permit and should be completed within the time outlined in Section 6 above. If such activities are not started and completed within 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 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. P. Ecker". 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
P.O. Box 415
Old Town, Maine 04468