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 Northwest Region
 Forest Practices Program Coordinator

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **“Gut Shot” Timber Harvest**
2. Name of applicant: **Sierra Pacific Land & Timber Co.**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **14353 McFarland Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273. 360-424-7619 Contact: Greg Black**

4. Date checklist prepared: **6/27/2024**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **WADNR**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Road construction summer 2024. Harvest spring/summer/fall 2025**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **Slash abatement (burn) Fall 2025**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **None in addition to the assessment work documented in the "Gut Shot" FPA.**
FPA 2819447 is available on FPARS 7/8/2024 BH
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
None Known.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Burn Permit (Possible) from WADNR

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Harvest of approximately 107 acres of mixed conifer and hardwoods; including 4.060' of new forest road, follow up slash abatement by burning; reforestation with western hemlock and/or Pacific silver fir. The proposal as presented been addressed in a geotechnical report by Geo Engineers, Inc., attached to and incorporated by reference in the FPA.

Potentially unstable slopes or landforms, such as inner gorge and bedrock hollows, have been excluded from the harvest area where there is potential for delivery to public resources and evidence of instability. Unit 3 will be logged via cable yarding systems from the new road construction in Unit 2. Yarding corridors will have to cross RIL's in four locations. See attached geotechnical report and addendum by GeoEngineers, Inc., for further discussion and analysis of these areas.

Geotech Report is available w/FPA 2819447 on FPARS 7/8/2024 BH

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Portions of section 14 of T40N R6E, Whatcom County, near Boulder Creek, Maple Falls, WA

Maps are available w/FPA 2819447 on FPARS 7/8/2024 BH

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **Approximately 70%**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Forest Soils.

See Geotech Report submitted w/FPA for a detailed description of soils 7/8/2024 BH

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

See A. 11.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

There will be fill and grade associated with the road construction. Ballast will be imported from on- and off-site locations.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion is possible during road construction though unlikely due to implementing standard forest practices BMP's as needed.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Road construction will utilize BMP's to manage erosion control. No harvest riparian zones are established along several streams and associated potentially unstable slopes.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Minor diesel exhaust will result from road construction and logging activities as well as smoke emissions from approved slash burning.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

None known.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

No specific measure.

3. Water

- a. Surface Water:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Numerous unnamed tributaries occur in the project area. See project maps for additional detail.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Hanging cables will occur across streams. Falling, bucking, and shovel yarding may occur within 200' of streams. There are 4 culverts to install on stream crossings. See project maps and FPA for detail. Available on FPARS FPA #2819447 TC SEPA Center 7/12/24

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

None known.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

None.

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Forest roads can be a source of storm water runoff. Numerous relief culverts are incorporated in the road design to return potential runoff back to the forest floor; see project maps/notes for additional detail.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

None known.

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No. The proposed new roads keep drainage where it originates.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

No harvest riparian zones are established adjacent to streams. Culverts are proposed according to forest practices regulations. Culverts placed in stream crossing will be sized to pass a 100- year flood.

4. Plants

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: **alder, maple**, aspen, other
 evergreen tree: **fir, cedar**, pine, other **hemlock**
 shrubs
 grass
 pasture
 crop or grain
 Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
 wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

The project will harvest approximately 2875 MBF merchantable timber

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

None found per FPRAM 7/8/2024 BH

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None.

FPA 2819447 indicated reforestation of Western Hemlock and/or Pacific Silver Fir 7/8/2024 BH

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

birds: **hawk**, heron, eagle, **songbirds**, other:
mammals: **deer, bear, elk**, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The project is within the Puget Sound Chinook ESU.

None found per FPRAM 7/8/2024 BH

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The project area is generally within the Pacific flyway for migratory waterfowl.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

No specific measures.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not applicable.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

No specific measure.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There is a risk of a small spill of petroleum products while operating and fueling machines. Fire damage could occur from equipment operating around logging slash or post-harvest debris burns. The hazard of personal exposure to toxic materials is similar to that of any operation with heavy equipment.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None known.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None known.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Small amounts of petroleum products including diesel and hydraulic fluid will be contained in certified containers of maintenance vehicles servicing the heavy equipment.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Petroleum product spills will be covered on site by the crews operating the equipment. All equipment will have minor spill cleanup materials available on site. In the event a fire should break out, fire suppression crews would be needed. Our contractors and company provide these crews and equipment for first response. In the event of a job related injury, emergency medical services would be required. Radio and cell phone communication are required for all operations to provide access to an office or emergency services.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

In the event of a petroleum product spill it will be cleaned up in a timely manner following procedures established by WDOE. Maintenance will either take place off site or waste material will be collected and removed from the site. Hazards of fire will be controlled by following state restrictions on logging due to weather related fire risk and harvest methods. Fire equipment will be on site as required by state fire regulations. In the event of a fire, crews on site will be responsible for initial attack. Risks of personal injury are controlled by compliance with State safety laws and effective equipment maintenance conducted by operators.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Heavy Equipment noise will occur during operation hours.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short-term output will involve traffic, chainsaw, heavy equipment, and possibly blasting noise. There are no long term noise impacts anticipated.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

No specific measures.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Current and long term use is commercial forestry. No effects on nearby or adjacent parcels anticipated

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

The site has been working forestland for multiple generations. There is no anticipation of conversion of these lands as a result of this proposal.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No Effects known.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

None.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Unknown.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Unknown.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

None.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

No.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

No measures proposed.

- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

No measures proposed.

- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

No specific measures.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

No specific measures.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not applicable

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None known.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None.

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None known.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

None known.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None known.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

No Specific measures.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

None known.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

None known.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

No Specific measures.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

None known.

None found per FPRAM 7/8/2024 BH

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

None known.

None found per FPRAM 7/8/2024 BH

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

GIS, review and site reconnaissance.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Should archaeological materials or human remains be discovered during the course of operations, all work in the vicinity will be stopped and associated tribes and Office of Archaeological and Historic Preservation OAHP will be contacted.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Site is accessed by private rd

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Not known.

- d. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

None.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Yes, 4.060' of new construction will be required.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Approximately 10-20 trips during project implementation. Peak volumes will occur between hours 0500 and 1700.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

No specific measures.

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

None known

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

No specific measures

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

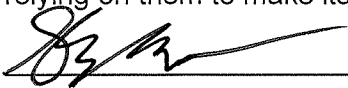
None Known

- e. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None Known

C. Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:  _____

Name of signee: Greg Black _____

Position and Agency/Organization Forester/ Sierra Pacific Land & Timber Co.

Date Submitted: 6/27/2024