

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (406) 444-2074
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PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

April 7, 2016

Dear Commissioner Lindeen

Thank you for your letter dated February 9, 2016 concerning public access to historic Plum Creek Lands now under Weyerhaeuser ownership. Governor Bullock discussed two key concerns with the Weyerhaeuser CEO early this year. The first was the loss of jobs. With 759 Montana jobs at stake, Governor Bullock wanted assurances that operations in Montana would continue.

Secondly, the Governor raised the concern you are asking about, public access through and on the acquired Plum Creek lands. Governor Bullock sought assurances that the historic access Plum Creek allowed under their ownership will continue under Weyerhaeuser ownership. Both in the call with the Governor and publicly, Weyerhaeuser made the commitment to keep the newly acquired Montana timberlands open to the public as historically provided.

Through excellent work by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks over many years, access through Plum Creek lands has been eased providing protection for public access to many public lands. The purchase of Plum Creek lands in the Blackfoot, Swan and Fish Creek also blocked up large properties assuring public access.

Also, as far back as 1999 DFWP entered into Block Management Agreements with Plum Creek providing public access to their lands. As noted in the attached memorandum, agreements and maps provided by Director Hagener, this relationship assures public access and provides over \$80,000 in enforcement staff services annually. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will pursue similar agreements with Weyerhaeuser to preserve public access into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Tubbs".

John E. Tubbs, Director



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Tubbs, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

FROM: Jeff Hagener, Director, Fish, Wildlife and Parks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Hagener". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SUBJECT: Access Agreements to Plum Creek Lands

DATE: March 30, 2016

The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has entered into signed Block Management Agreements with Plum Creek since at least 1999. Prior to that time, FWP staff believes there may have more informal agreements or memorandums of understanding between FWP and Plum Creek that secured public recreational use through the Plum Creek Open Lands Policy and FWP enforcement of laws FWP was empowered to enforce and Plum Creek land use regulations.

In addition to hunting-related rules, other restrictions or concerns have included OHV/ATV use, snowmobile use, timber theft, firewood mischief and theft, camping, unattended campfires, target shooting, and use of fireworks. Plum Creek has never requested any form of payment, but FWP has annually provided in excess of \$80,000 in enforcement staff services, and has sometimes assisted with purchase and installation of signs, gates, and surveillance devices.

Attached is a copy of the most recent agreement with Plum Creek for access and maps of the Plum Creek lands covered in the agreement.

File No:



Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

Region:	County:	HD:
2	07-Flathead	122 (D)
BMA Name: PLUM CREEK TIMBERLANDS		
Is this an aggregate BMA? <u> </u> Yes / <u> X </u> No		

BLOCK MANAGEMENT Special Circumstance AGREEMENT

(Renewal)

I. AREA INFORMATION

This is an agreement made for the years 2014-2015 between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (Department) and the Owner or Owner's legal designated representative of lands being enrolled in the Block Management Program (Cooperator). This document will serve as an Amendment to the original Block Management Agreement dated 07/01/2008.

Cooperator's Name: Plum Creek Timberlands, Lp
Payee's Name:

SSN or Ranch ID#: xx-xxx0000

(use only if name is not the same as the Cooperator name) (use SSN for person/ID# for business)

Mailing Address: 2050 Hwy 2 West Kalispell, MT 59901

Phone: (406) 293-1991

Total Acreage: ~~969.671~~ 770.539 Is there a change in the number of acres previously enrolled? Yes ~~No~~

If yes, please provide new total acres: Private: DNRC: BLM: USFS: Other: Attach map showing exact BMA boundaries. *Inclusion of accessible state school trust lands requires a public review under ARM 36.25.164(3). Please attach Supervisor's Decision Notice and indicate date review process completed:

Department Contact: Kendra Mcklosky

Ranch Contact: Tom Ray; Jerry Wolcott

II. BMA RULES

1. Is Permission required? No If yes, Explain:
2. Are reservations taken? No If yes, Explain:
3. Are times designated for granting permission? No If yes, Explain:
4. Is this a walk-in only area? No If yes, Explain:
5. Are parking areas designated? No If yes, Explain:
6. Is the number of hunters/parties per day limited? No If yes, Explain:
7. Huntible Game on BMA: Bighorn Sheep; Black Bear; Elk; Moose; Mountain Goat; Mule Deer; Upland Birds; Waterfowl; White-tailed Deer; Wild Turkey
- *8. Are there any available species/gender in huntible numbers which may NOT be hunted? No If yes, list species/gender which may not be hunted:
- *9. Is the BMA closed during any legal fall hunting seasons during the term of this contract? No If yes, list closure dates:

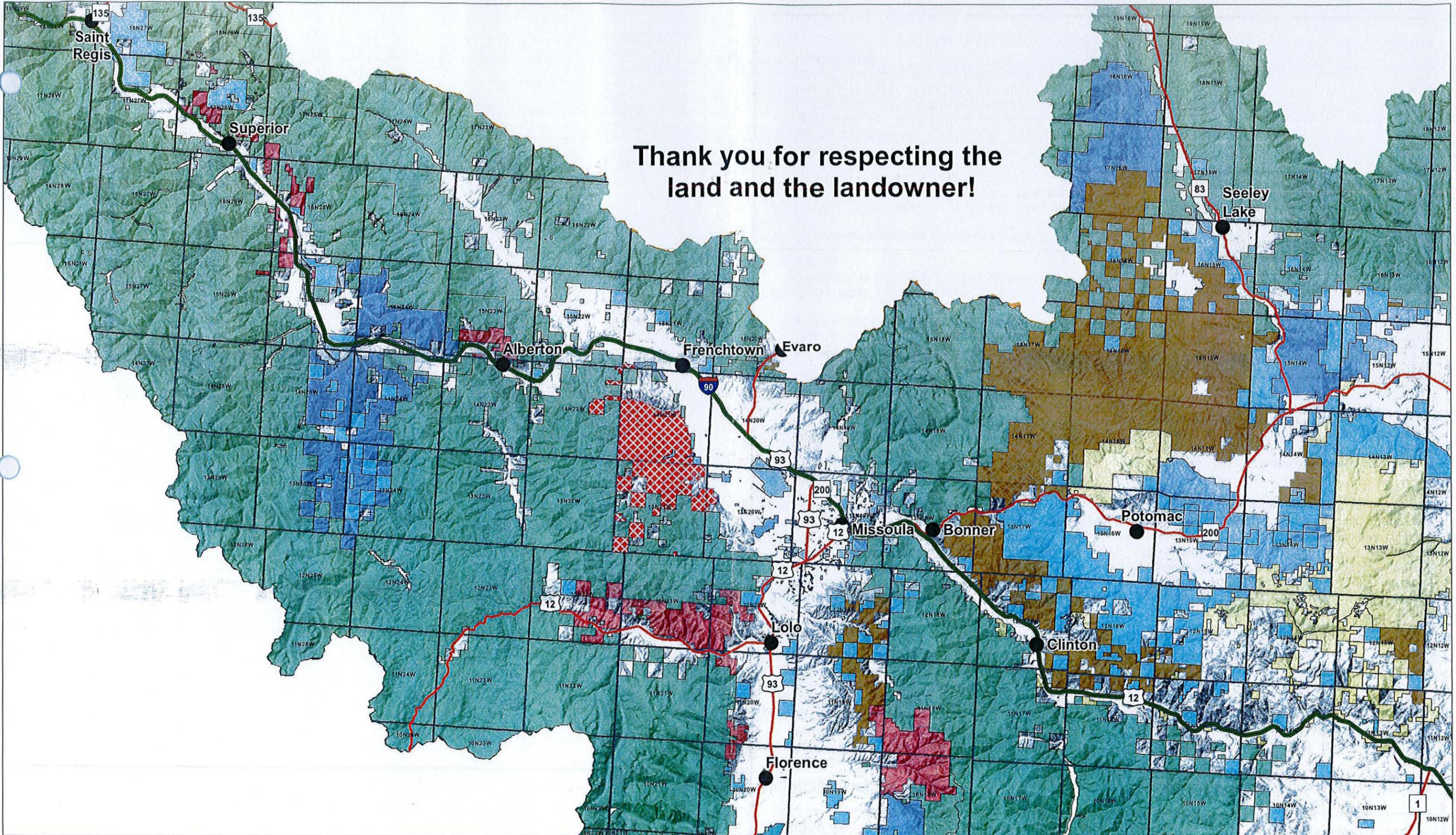
APPROVED
By: [Signature]
FIELD SERVICES
7/9/15
DATE

*NOTE: Any restrictions cited in #8 or #9 require written approval of the Regional Supervisor. Signed BMA restrictions Form must accompany this document.

10. Is outfitting permitted on this BMA? Yes If yes, Outfitter Name and License#: Plum Creek #12

(NOTE: Outfitting may only take place on a BMA if public recreation and hunting opportunities are not restricted and the Cooperator and Regional Supervisor approve the activity in writing. Consent forms MUST accompany this document.)

Other Rules: Motorized vehicles are permitted only on open, established roads.; Off-road vehicle use is prohibited.; There is a 14-day camping limit. Permits are required for firewood cutting.; Roads with gates are closed, whether the gate is open or closed, unless posted otherwise.; A bermed road is a closed road.; Wolf hunting is allowed.; Region 1 & 2 Special Circumstances Agreement;



Thank you for respecting the land and the landowner!

Plum Creek Timber Company - Region 2 Block Management Lands

BMA Rules - See Reverse Page
 Disclaimer - This map is not intended to depict property ownership outside the Block Management Area. Contact the appropriate land management agency for information on public land ownership and travel guidelines. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Region 2
 Date: 8/10/2015 TR



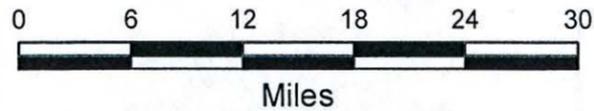
- Plum Creek Timber Company Block Management Lands
- Plum Creek Lands - Closed to Recreational Shooting (Hunting Allowed)



Plum Creek Timber Company FWP Region 1 Block Management Lands

 Plum Creek Timber Company
Block Management Lands

Thank you for respecting the
land and the landowner!



BMA Rules - See Reverse Page

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**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**



PlumCreek

