



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 21-006: UPLIST GREATER SAGE-GROUSE FROM A THREATENED SPECIES TO AN ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Description of Proposal:

WDFW proposes to uplist and reclassify the Greater Sage-Grouse as Endangered in the state of Washington under WAC 220-610-010. Anticipated effects include the additional recognition and prioritization of the conservation need and actions around greater sage-grouse. If the status change is approved, “greater” sage-grouse will also be removed from WAC 220-200-100 Wildlife classified as protected shall not be hunted or finished, and added to WAC 220-610-010 Wildlife classified as endangered species; administrative changes have been made to species names for consistency.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife bases its proposal to uplist Greater Sage-Grouse as endangered on scientific information contained in its report *Washington State Periodic Status Review for the Greater Sage-Grouse*. This report summarizes evidence that the Greater Sage-Grouse population is declining and is threatened with extinction in significant portions of its remnant range in the state. The report recommends that the species be classified as an endangered species.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Sage-grouse persist in two main areas in Washington: one primarily on the U.S. Army’s Joint Base Lewis McChord Yakima Training Center (JBLM-YTC) in Kittitas and Yakima Counties and the other, often referred to as the Moses Coulee population, in Douglas County and potentially, adjacent parts of Grant County. Populations were being re-established in Lincoln County (i.e. Crab Creek), and on the Yakama Nation Reservation, but with the 2020 fire, both have now probably failed.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS).

WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² **We will not act on this proposal for 21 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 21 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on March 11, 2021**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Survey Monkey comment portal: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/86HJTCJ>
- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address above or email SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: February 18, 2021

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 21-006.dns

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Dolores Noyes at (360-902-2349), or TTY 771, or email (dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov). For more information https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable_request.html.