



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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**ADDENDUM 22-040 TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) 19-042
DATED: JULY 10, 2019**

Name of Proposal: DNS 19-042: COUGAR CANYON UNDERBURN

Description of Addendum 22-040:

This addendum reflects updates to Unit 1 of the original proposal. The updates are an adjustment of the perimeter of the southwest quarter of the unit and a corresponding increase in acreage treated. Approximately 2,166 feet of new fireline will be constructed and approximately 43 acres of WDFW land will be added to Unit 1 (see attached map for approximate locations). The new fireline will be constructed with heavy equipment or handcrews as conditions on the ground warrant. The purpose of the new fireline and added acreage is for more safe and efficient containment during burn operations now that the project is working cooperatively with the WA Department of Natural Resources on their neighboring property to the west (Township 15 North, Range 15 East, Section 24).

The original project and other elements of the proposed work have been modified as indicated below in underlined red font. Also see map of additional area.

Description of Original Proposal:

The Cougar Canyon Underburn is intended to improve the ecological integrity of the forest landscape, benefitting multiple wildlife species and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. This will be achieved by increasing the relative abundance of fire & drought resistant trees like ponderosa pine & western larch, reducing fuel load and connectivity to overstory trees, and increasing cover of native understory vegetation.

Approximately ~~235~~ 278 acres across 2 units will be underburned in stands commercially and non-commercially thinned in 2000. Current stand composition is variable across the project area, from closed-canopy Douglas-fir to open ponderosa pine. Patches of small trees, and areas of open grass/shrubland are scattered within the forest landscape. Across the project area, moderate levels of conifer slash less-than (<) 8 inches diameter are still present from past thinnings, particularly in closed-canopy Douglas-fir stands.

In order to facilitate burn operations, this project will include approximately 12,060 feet (2.28 miles) of road maintenance, 2,050 feet (0.39 miles) of fireline constructed by equipment on old skid trails, ~~and the remaining~~ 13,254 feet (2.51 miles) of fireline constructed with handtools, and 2,166 feet of fireline constructed by heavy equipment or handcrews as conditions on the ground warrant. Additional tree cutting & pruning may also occur along fireline and roads to improve unit containment. Achievement of burn objectives will be evaluated with a combination of pre/post-treatment photo points, walkthrough stand exams, and installed fire effects monitoring plots.

(Additional information including detailed resource objectives are available on request)

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal: WDFW Oak Creek Wildlife Area, approximately 8 miles west of Naches, Yakima County, Washington: Township 15N, Range 16E, Sections 19 and 29.

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

This addendum is being distributed pursuant to WACs 197-11-600 and 197-11-625. The updated information provided above does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist. Based on the original DNS and the updated information provided in this addendum, we have determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA addendum.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

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

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Applicants may view the supporting documents for this addendum on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>.

If you have questions about this SEPA determination or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: September 8, 2022

SIGNATURE:



SEPA Log Number: ADD 22-040 to DNS 19-042

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