



**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE**
July 30, 2003

State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Name of Proposal: JOE WATT HABITAT IMPROVEMENT THINNING PROJECT

Description of Proposal: The proponent plans to reduce the density of Douglas Fir on 700 acres in 5 sections and to open up the Ponderosa Pine stands using spacing requirements for improved Rocky Mountain elk and mole deer winter habitat. Slash will be burned. The timber will be sold. No new road construction will occur but some decommissioned roads will be temporarily opened to in order to get to the harvest areas.

Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Program, 201 North Pearl Street, Ellensburg, Washington 98926. Contact Person: Douglas Kuehn, Wildlife Forester

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WAU: Taneum Canyon, WAU Acres: 19623, Approximately 17 Miles West of Ellensburg, Washington, Kittitas County; Portions of Sections 06 and 07, Township 18 North, Range 17 East, and Portions of Section 01, 12, and 13, Township 18 North, Range 16 East WM

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of the completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issue below. Comments must be submitted by: **July 22, 2003**

Responsible Official: Cynthia R. Pratt

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

Please contact: Cynthia R. Pratt **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or **e-mail:** habitatSEPA@dfw.wa.gov if you have questions or comments about this determination.

DATE OF ISSUE: July 8, 2003 **SIGNATURE:** Cynthia R. Pratt