



**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE
June 1, 2005**

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: ROBINSON WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE UNDERSTORY THINNING PROJECT

Description of Proposal:

The proposal will:

- open up Ponderosa Pine stands using understory thinning with a variety of spacing prescriptions to reduce fire hazard.
- reduce density of small diameter trees on approximately 828 forested acres in 9 sections.
- incorporate thermal cover and hiding patches for wildlife into prescriptions and create additional snags for cavity nesters.
- include cut to length on site with a feller processor and utilize self-loading forwarders to reduce soil compaction.
- have no new road construction, but some closed/abandoned roads will be temporarily re-opened.
- conduct prescribed under-burns to reduce fire hazard and improve regeneration of fire dependent species for browse.
- plant native grasses and shrubs in areas impacted by the project to reduce encroaching weeds.
- monitor and evaluate progress and effectiveness of treatments with photo-monitoring plots.
- use signs to illustrate sustainable environmental benefits to the public.

Proponent:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
201 N. Pearl St.
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Project Contact: Cindi Confer 509/925-6746 or Douglas Kuehn, Wildlife Forester 509/899-3361

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The project area is approximately 12 miles west of Ellensburg, Washington, Kittitas County; Portions of Sections 29,31,32,33, Township 18 North, Range 17 East WM and Portions of Sections 05,06,08,09, Township 17 North, Range 17 East WM and Portions of Section 01, Township 17 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: **May 31, 2005**

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

Please contact: Teresa A. Eturaspe **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: May 17, 2005 **SIGNATURE:** 

SEPA Log Number: 05 -45. dns

Distribution of Environmental Document:

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia
Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia
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Yakima Nation, Toppenish
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