



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 (DNS)

Name of Proposal: WEST VALLEY ELK FENCE CONSTRUCTION

Description of Proposal:

In Phase 1, WDFW proposes to install new elk fence along the southern boundary of the Cowiche Unit of the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. Nearby existing fence was damaged during the Cowiche Mill Fire on July 18, 2010 and is no longer functional. Elk fence is 8 feet tall and the approximately ¼ mile of new fence will connect two sections of existing fence. Changes in landownership necessitate moving the fence to the WDFW property line versus rebuilding in the existing location. The fence will be used to protect agricultural fields (orchards) from damage by wintering elk, pending available funding a portion of Phase 2 fencing will be constructed. Phase 2 of the West Valley elk fence includes plans for WDFW to expand the elk fence east to include an additional 1,200 acres of public and private land. Phase 2 of the project will extend the fence east along the southern boundaries of Township 13, Range 17, Sections 17, 16 and following property lines of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in section 15. The fence will then continue back west along property lines near the ridgetop of Cowiche Mountain connecting back into existing fence in section 17. Phase 2 will provide an additional 1,200 acres of winter and spring range for elk and mule deer.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ross Huffman-Oak Creek Wildlife Area Manager
16601 US Hwy 12
Naches, WA 98937
(509) 653-2390

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Washington, Yakima County

Section 18 Township 13 Range 17 WM
Near 501 Carvo Road, Yakima, WA
Parcel # 17131811001
Phase 2: Figure 2
Yakima County
Sections 17, 16, 15 Township 13 Range 17 WM
East of phase 1

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 14 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 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **September 30, 2010**

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:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> 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 Teresa Eturaspe at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2575.

DATE OF ISSUE: September 16, 2010 **SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 10 -.078 dns