



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

May 3, 2011

Dear Key Stakeholders:

RE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) in Region 11  
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

In cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is notifying key stakeholders in Washington State of the opportunity to review and comment on a new proposed streamlined approach for dealing with minor encroachments or divestitures (disposals) of land purchased with WSFR funds. WSFR is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider all disposals, regardless of the significance of anticipated impacts.

The Region 1 WSFR Program Office receives a number of requests to approve minor land encroachments and divestitures. These proposed disposals are sought by state agencies, including Washington State, because the lands involved are no longer needed, or meeting the original purpose(s), for which they were acquired. Exchanges, trades, or sales of WSFR-interest lands may also be used to: correct land boundary problems (i.e., access) with adjacent public and private landowners, allow for utility rights-of-way, consolidate ownership, and/or allow for increased management effectiveness, repositioning of WSFR resources, and/or improved habitat function. This EA identifies the process for disposal of these parcels; all WDFW properties that do not meet the categorical exemption under WAC 197-11-800 (5), will go through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process, at the time they are identified.

WSFR's **Dear Interested Party letter** and **draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment** is available for your review and feedback on WSFR's website. WSFR is interested in comments related to the range of alternatives and the anticipated impacts of each. The deadline for comment submittal is **Friday, June 3, 2011**. All comments must be received or postmarked by this date.

Sincerely,

Nate Pamplin  
Assistant Director  
Wildlife Program