



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: DORMAIER PYGMY RABBIT ENCLOSURES

Description of Proposal:

We propose to construct a 5 acre fenced enclosure of native shrub-steppe habitat on the Dormaier Unit of Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area as a temporary holding area for reintroduced Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits. The final enclosure will be six to seven feet high, with 12-18 inches of the fence buried below the soil surface to exclude predators. Fence panels are composed of ½" x 1" welded wire. The support structures for the fence will be 7 foot wooden post, with steel t-posts placed between wooden posts. A number of artificial burrows will be dug in deeper soft soils to provide shelter for introduced rabbits. The enclosure will be a temporary structure that will be removed. Once removed, any habitat disturbed during construction will be replanted and the site recovered.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2, (Contact, Penny Becker)

Dr. Penny Becker, Research Scientist
WDFW Region Two
1550 Alder St. NW
Ephrata, WA 98823
509-754-4624 (Ext. 240)

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Dormaier Unit of Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area, Douglas County; Section 09, Township 25 North, Range 26 East WM

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 **August 15, 2012**.

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: Bob Zeigler

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 Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: July 31, 2012

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 12 -059 dns