



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:** DNS 14-022: WDFW LT MURRAY WILDLIFE AREA FENCE INSTALLATION

#### **Description of Proposal:**

The project fence segments are located on the Quilomene Unit of WDFW's L.T. Murray Wildlife Area. The landscape is dominated by sagebrush and scabland cover types, with narrow bands of riparian habitat occurring along drainage bottoms. The project area is located on a unit of the wildlife area that is enrolled in a CRM grazing program. The project is being constructed as a means to achieve the CRM goals. An FEIS was written in 2009 for the entire CRM grazing project. The FEIS identified Best Management Practices and mitigation measures to reduce wildlife impacts associated with new fence construction.

There are two separate areas that will be fenced. These sections are identified as **Section 1: Skookumchuck Creek**, and **Section 2: North Fork Whiskey Dick Creek**.

#### **Section 1: Skookumchuck Creek**

The entire fence line is from start point: 47.0630,-120.19657 to end point: 47.051964 - 120.175611.

Fence Starting point: T18N, R21E, section line between S09, 10 (47.0630,-120.19657 where it intersects an existing barbed wire fence and proceeding south along the section line between sections 9, 10 and 15, 16. After reaching the section line, the fence will continue south along the section line (south between sections 9 and 10 and south between 16 and 15), to the corner between sections 9,10,16,15. The fence will then turn and proceed east to connect with existing barbed wire, continuing just past the section line 15 and proceeding slightly into section 14 where the fence will connect with existing fencing at (47.05166 -120.17429). The fence then continues south along the section line, crosses Skookumchuck Creek, and ends at the point (47.029917,-120.175694). Three rock cribs will be installed where this fence section crosses Skookumchuck Creek. This creek crossing is designed with features that will allow for water passage under high flow conditions.

#### **Section 2: North Fork Whiskey Dick Creek**

Starting in T18 N, R 21 E at the section corner (47.04444,-120.175472). This is located at the center markers for section 15, 14, 22 and 23. The fence will connect with existing barb wire fencing, and continue south approximately one mile and ending at the center marker between the section markers at 47.029889,-120.175694, and between sections 22,23,27,26.

This section of fencing will cross a jeep trail, and will have 350 lf of lay down fencing, about midway through this portion of the project. High tensile wire may be used in this part of the fencing project to span a talus field. This section of fencing will also cross the North Fork of Whiskey Dick Creek. Where the fence crosses the North Fork of Whiskey Dick Creek, it is designed with features that will allow for water passage under high flow conditions.

Depending on site conditions, fencing components will include steel posts and pressure treated

wood fence posts that are over 5 feet high and 5 to 6 inch diameter. Associated fencing materials include barbed wire (2 strand 12.5 inch gauge wire, 4 point 14 gauge barbs), smooth wire (2 strand 12.5 gage), and high tension wire. Barb wire fencing will be constructed on site. All other associated fencing materials; ties, rock jacks, cribs, galvanized and or pressure treated bracing materials, staples, wire clamps, and gates will meet ASTM (153 or 121) industry standards.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Contact: Cindy Knudsen  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA. 98501  
(360) 902-8422  
[Cindy.Knudsen@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Cindy.Knudsen@dfw.wa.gov)

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Two locations in the L.T. Murray Wildlife Area near Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington:

Skookumchuck Creek: Township 18N, Range 21E, Sections 9, 10, 15, and 16.

North Fork Whiskey Dick Creek: Township 18N, Range 21E, Sections 14, 15, 22, and 23.

**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 law<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on April 10, 2014**.

**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](mailto: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:** Lisa Wood

**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.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** March 26, 2014

**SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 14-022.dns