



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 14-046: METHOW WILDLIFE AREA LAND EXCHANGE

Description of Proposal:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to exchange sixty (60) acres purchased in 2003 with USFWS and RCO funds for 60 acres of immediately-adjacent private land in the rural foothills on the east side of the Methow Valley, Okanogan County, Washington. The purpose of the exchange is to improve access and management efficiency for both WDFW and the private landowner. In the current configuration, 20 acres of the private landowner's land is isolated behind WDFW's fenceline and 60 acres of WDFW's property bisects the private land. WDFW has evaluated the proposal and supports the exchange for: improved neighbor relations and access; more efficient weed control and fence maintenance; and, more effective management of WDFW land for habitat and wildlife values.

WDFW and USFWS have completed the notification of the Washington SHPO/DAHP, the tribal notification, the Cultural Resource Survey, and the Fish and Wildlife Commission review and approval. RCO Board review is scheduled for July and USFWS approval is awaiting public review and comment through this SEPA process. The June 2014 Cultural Resource Survey concluded that the proposed exchange will result in No Historic Properties Affected and no further archaeological investigations were recommended prior to, or during, the execution of this project.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Elyse Kane, Property Management Supervisor
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 902-8415
Elyse.Kane@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Southeast of Winthrop and north of Bonner Lake, Okanogan County, Washington:

The WDFW Methow Wildlife Area Property is located in Township 34N, Range 22E, Section 32.

The Lehman property is located in Township 34N, Range 22E, Sections 28 and 32.

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 30 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 30 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on August 2, 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
- 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.¹

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: July 2, 2014

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 14-046.dns