



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 14-060: CHESAW WILDLIFE UNIT PRESCRIBED BURN

Description of Proposal:

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife proposes to use prescribed fire as a tool to improve wildlife habitat and ecological processes, restore fire effects and fire by-products, reduce fuel loads, and improve forest health within the boundaries of the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area - Chesaw Wildlife Unit located in Okanogan County, North Central Washington. A prescribed fire burn plan that meets or exceeds National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards will be completed and approved prior to implementation and it will adhere to the WDNR Silvicultural Outdoor Burning Regulations and permitting processes. All work will be overseen by a Burn Boss meeting the standards of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group who is qualified at the level of complexity determined for the burns as outlined in the burn plans.

The work site consists of 7 burn units ranging from 52 – 262 acres in size, and the entire project encompasses 824 acres. Units will be burned one at a time and some units may require several days to complete. The work will consist of creating fire control lines that will remove organic burnable material to a minimal level needed to contain the fires. We may use firehoses (hoselays) surrounding critical holding areas, and units will be ignited with handheld drip torches or other firing devices. Post-burn hotspots will be mopped up with engines, hoselays, and handtools to ensure containment of the fires as determined by the Burn Boss. The prescribed burns and work related to implementation will be performed by WDFW staff, partner organizations, and WDFW contract crews.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Bryan Dupont
Scotch Creek Wildlife Area
1514 Conconully Hwy
Okanogan, WA 98840
(509) 826-4430
Bryan.Dupont@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Chesaw Wildlife Unit of the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area, near Chesaw, Okanogan County, Washington: Township 40N, Range 30E, Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, and 18.

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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on September 5, 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: August 21, 2014

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 14-060.dns