



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 16-008 LECLERC CREEK FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT

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

The LeClerc Creek Forest Restoration Project is located on the LeClerc Creek Unit of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. This unit provides important habitat to a variety of animal species, including moose. This proposal includes approximately 150 acres of mixed conifer uplands in 2 units. Currently growth of lodgepole pine in Unit 1 is stagnant and causing more desirable species such as western larch to be outcompeted. Unit 2 is experiencing issues with disease and mistletoe. Current stocking levels throughout both units far exceed the historic range of variability, putting them at high risk of epidemic insect outbreaks and disease. Furthermore, these conditions have also placed the unit at a higher risk of a stand replacement fire that will also pose a significant threat to the surrounding urban interface.

Work on the project will occur between May 1, 2016 and October 31, 2017. These dates are subject to change depending upon weather conditions.

This proposal will reduce current over-story stocking levels to 12 trees per acre in unit 1 and 15 TPA in unit 2, where trees >10" dbh are available. Lodgepole pine will not be included unless the tree has unique qualities as a wildlife retention tree. Leave trees will be at least 8" diameter at breast height (dbh). Where possible, at least 8 of those leave trees will be in the 14" dbh class or larger. All trees greater than 26" will be left as part of the 8 trees to be left in the 14" and greater diameter class. Selecting dominant and co-dominant tree species with the best growing characteristics will be an important aspect of the leave tree selection process. Disturbance will be minimized to snags, hardwoods, shrubs and seedlings/saplings of desirable species. Gaps and skips between treatment units will create a mosaic of age classes and stocking levels that will benefit many wildlife species. Patch cuts in excess of 5 acres may occur in areas with overstories exclusively made of lodgepole pine in Unit 1. Leave trees will be designated with orange paint by WDFW personnel or their representatives prior to commencement of harvest activities.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Sara Ashiglar  
WDFW Statewide Forester  
1049 Port Way, Clarkston, WA 99403  
509-552-0142  
[Sara.Ashiglar@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Sara.Ashiglar@dfw.wa.gov)

#### **Location of Proposal, including street, if any:**

The LeClerc Creek Forest Restoration Project is located in portions of Section 6 in Township 35 North, Range 44 East WM and Section 12 in Township 35 North, Range 43 East WM, all in Pend Oreille County, Washington.

**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 March 23, 2016**.

**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/sepa\\_comment\\_docs.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html)
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Dan Doty

**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 Dan Doty at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-8120.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** March 9, 2016

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 16-008.dns