



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 16-049 LECLERC CREEK FOREST RESTORATION – UNIT 3

Description of Proposal:

The LeClerc Creek Forest Restoration Project is located on the LeClerc Creek Unit of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area. This SEPA checklist includes an additional 27 acres that were not included in the original document (DNS 16-008: LECLERC CREEK FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT - Pend Oreille County). 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.

Work on the project is expected to occur between Sept 1, 2016 and November 31, 2016. These dates are subject to change depending upon weather conditions and could move to May – November 2017 if conditions change significantly.

This proposal will reduce current over-story stocking levels to 12 to 20 trees per acre greater than 10” 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. Selecting dominant and co-dominant tree species with the best growing characteristics will be an important aspect of the leave tree selection process. Disturbance to snags, hardwoods, and seedlings/saplings of desirable species including ponderosa pine, western larch and western red cedar will be minimized. 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)
Contact: Sara Ashiglar, WDFW Statewide Forester
1049 Port Way
Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 552-0142
Sara.Ashiglar@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Unit 3 of the LeClerc Creek Unit of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area, Pend Oreille County, Washington: Township 35 North, Range 43 East WM, Section 1.

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 rules². 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 1, 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
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html
- 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/sepa_final_docs.html. 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 18, 2016

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 16-049.dns