



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 19-004: BLUE MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE AREAS
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Description of Proposal:

This is a new 10-year management plan for Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas, located in Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, and Walla Walla counties. The plan will direct management activities in three wildlife areas: Chief Joseph, 24,595 acres (Chief Joseph, Shumaker, 4-O Ranch, and Grouse Flats units); Asotin Creek, 35,890 acres (Asotin Creek, George Creek, and Weatherly units), and WT Wooten, 16,660 acres (Wooten, McDonald Bridge and Swegle Road units). Proposed uses include weed management, wildlife conservation, and recreation. There are 11 agricultural leases which provide revenue as well as food and cover for wildlife, and five grazing permits. Examples of management activities under the new plan include monitoring for ecological integrity, managing weeds, forest restoration, conducting species surveys, developing recreational trails, updating signage and improving access, as well as maintaining hunting and fishing opportunities.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Patricia Jatczak
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Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 902-2815
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WDFW Blue Mountains Wildlife Areas in the southeast corner of Washington State (W.T. Wooten, Chief Joseph, and Asotin Creek Wildlife Areas); Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, and Walla Walla Counties; Washington: Multiple Townships and Ranges.

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 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on February 28, 2019.**

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 Habitat Program, Protection Division

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

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: January 29, 2019

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 19-004.dns