



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (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 20-003: CLEMAN FOREST RESTORATION

Description of Proposal:

The Cleman Forest Restoration Project is intended to improve ecological integrity ratings, habitat for multiple wildlife species, and forest health on the Wenas Wildlife Area.

Approximately 216 acres on 2 units will be commercially thinned to more closely reflect the historic range of variability. This will include reducing stocking levels to approximately 25 trees per acre on drier sites to 35 trees per acre in areas with more available moisture (north slopes, protected draws, etc.). All of the commercial thinning units will be leave tree marked with blue paint (except for area in Unit 1 west of W3300 Road) using the following prescription:

In both units, the thinning prescription will use a combination of Individual, Clumps and Openings (ICO) techniques and stocking/spacing strategies. A number of criteria (see Environmental Checklist) will be used during the leave tree selection process.

Logging slash will be piled at landings and will be burned as per burn permit conditions issued by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The units will be assessed 1 to 2 years post-harvest to determine the need for future treatments like precommercial thinning and/or prescribed broadcast burning. The goal of future treatments will be to continue restoring forest stand structure and species composition within the historic range of conditions found on these sites before 1880, when natural disturbance regimes were the primary ecological process.

All new road construction and reconstruction of currently undrivable roads will be abandoned to Washington Forest Practice standards in the fall of 2020. This work will include installing undrivable water bars, spreading slash and debris over the road prism, and grass seeding with a mix of native species.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Brian Mize
1130 W University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 201-2838
Brian.Mize@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WDFW Wenas Wildlife Area, approximately 20 miles northwest of Naches, Yakima County, Washington: Township 15N, Range 16E, Section 11 and Township 16N, Range 16E, Section 33.

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 notice. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on January 30, 2020.**

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: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>
- 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: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>. 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 16, 2020

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 20-003.dns