



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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**ADDENDUM/ADOPTION 20-052 TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)
20-007**

DATED: JANUARY 31, 2020

Name of Proposal: DNS 20-007: NORTH POTHOLES AND FRENCHMAN PRESCRIPTION BURN

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is issuing this addendum to extend the expected work timing in DNS 20-007 and to adopt a newly available environmental document (NEPA Environmental Assessment dated October 2020). WDFW is retaining the original threshold determination (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Description of Original Proposal:

The overarching goal of this project is to use prescribed burning to improve wetland habitat for native wildlife in Columbia Basin Wildlife Area (CBWA). Specifically, the project objectives are to improve breeding and foraging habitat in the North Potholes unit for northern leopard frogs (*Lithobates pipiens*; WA State Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern) and improve nesting habitat in the Frenchman unit for waterfowl and other migratory birds.

Northern leopard frogs are negatively associated with tall emergent vegetation (TEV) and select for environments with less than 20% TEV (Germaine and Hays 2007; WDFW SWAP 2015, page A3-31, NLF Stressor). Management is required in CBWA to address shallow wetlands dominated by tall emergent vegetation. Current vegetation management strategies last about 1-3 years before conditions return to pre-treatment levels. By combining burning and spraying TEV treatments will last 3-5 years.

Vegetation control was initiated in late summer 2019 with an herbicide treatment. The herbicide that was used was Imazapyr (tradenames Polaris and others), formulated labeled for aquatic use. Prescribed burning will target the shorelines of approximately 35 defined ponds in North Potholes, roughly 100 shoreline acres. Approximately 151 acres of wetland habitat will be targeted for burning in the Frenchman area (Figure 1- attached). In both areas, shoreline wetland vegetation will be converted to an early successional state more conducive to northern leopard frog reproduction and waterfowl nesting through prescribed burning. The prescribed burn would be implemented between January and February 2020.

Description of Addendum/Adoption 20-052:

The work for the North Potholes and Frenchman Prescription Burn project was not completed in 2020 due to delays in the approval process for the burn plan within the specific timeframe. A NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) had not been prepared when WDFW made a Determination

of Non-Significance on January 31, 2020. The burn plan and an EA are now completed. The target burn window will be January-March 2021 or 2022.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Current Proposal: Two sites within the WDFW Columbia Basin Wildlife Area:

North Potholes Site: Approximately 7 miles southwest of Moses Lake, Grant County, Washington: Township 19N, Range 28E, Section 31; Township 19N, Range 27E, Sections 34-36; and Township 18N, Range 27E, Section 1.

Frenchman Site: Approximately 8.5 miles northeast of Royal City and approximately 0.7 miles north of the intersection of Hwy 262 and Frenchman Hills Rd E, Grant County, Washington: Township 17N, Range 27E, Section 17.

Title and Date of Document Being Adopted:

Environmental Assessment: Columbia Basin Wildlife Area Prescribed Fire Project (PN-EA-20-1; October 2020).

Agency that Prepared Document Being Adopted: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Description of Document (or Portion) Being Adopted: The entire contents of the Environmental Assessment.

If the Document Being Adopted has been Challenged, Please Describe: N/A

Lead Agency and Name of Agency Adopting the Document: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

The Documents are Available for Review Online at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>

Adoption of Existing Environmental Document: After independent review, we have identified and adopted the referenced documents as being appropriate for this proposal. The documents meet our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

This addendum/adoption is being distributed pursuant to WACs 197-11-600, 197-11-625, and 197-11-630. The updated information provided above does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist. Based on the original DNS and the updated information provided in this addendum/adoption, we have determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA addendum/adoption.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

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If you have questions about this addendum or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: November 25, 2020

SIGNATURE:



SEPA Log Number: 20-052 add/adpt to DNS 20-007

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Dolores Noyes at (360-902-2349), or TTY 771, or email (dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov). For more information https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable_request.html.