



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 21-033: WASHINGTON STATE CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE PLAN

Description of Proposal:

Chronic wasting disease is a fatal disease of moose, elk, mule and white-tailed deer in North America that has demonstrated to have significant population impacts if the disease is allowed to increase in prevalence (i.e., the proportion of animals that test positive out of the total number tested). The plan directs WDFW in management of CWD through public outreach and communication, disease risk mitigation, pre-detection surveillance, and post-detection actions should CWD be detected in Washington state. Due to the nature of the disease and its ability to spread directly and indirectly through contaminated environments to susceptible animals, eradication is unlikely and prevention is the best management practice for states that do not currently have the disease within their borders. Preventing CWD from entering Washington state relies heavily on public outreach and communication to minimize movement of infectious materials, such as carcasses from areas with CWD. Additionally, implementing regulations that mitigate risks of inadvertently spreading the disease through live animal transport, carcass disposal, use of urine-based attractants that may contain CWD prions, and baiting and feeding practices that increase contact rates among potentially infected animals are areas of great concern addressed in the plan. Pre-detection surveillance to detect the disease at or below 1% prevalence with 95% confidence will be conducted in nine CWD surveillance units (CSUs) identified as high risk areas in eastern Washington due to their proximity to known CWD infected deer in western Montana. Sampling deer within the CSUs will primarily focus on hunter-harvested animals with incidental collection of road-killed deer, deer euthanized due to injury and disease, radio-collared deer that die, and carcasses found at predator kill sites. Should CWD be detected, an initial emergency response will be carried out by an incident response team made up of agency staff and other land and cervid managers depending on the location of the disease and affected species and herds. The goal of the emergency response is to contain the disease within the affected area and determine the geographic extent and disease prevalence in the affected population(s).

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Statewide; while the highest risk of CWD is in eastern Washington due to its proximity to known cases in Montana, CWD could show up anywhere in the state.

The following documents are incorporated by reference:

These two documents provide information that may be useful and applicable to Washington.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 2014. Decision Notice: Chronic wasting disease management plan for free ranging wildlife in Montana. Helena, MT. pp. 1-4. Includes Environmental Assessment.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks CWD Action Team. 2020. Montana Chronic Wasting Disease 549 Management Plan. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Helena, Montana, USA.

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 21 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on July 28, 2021**.

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/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946
- Mail to the address below

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

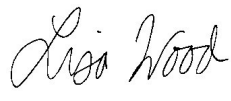
Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

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 above or email SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: July 14, 2021

SIGNATURE: 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 21-033.dns

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 the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).