



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)
-PHASED REVIEW-**

Name of Proposal: DNS 22-003: TEN-YEAR RECREATION STRATEGY FOR WDFW-MANAGED LANDS

Description of Proposal:

The 10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands is a 10-year initiative consistent with WDFW's 25-year strategic plan. In coordination and cooperation with partners, WDFW will take an adaptive approach to implement the strategy that applies the best available data, science and professional judgement of WDFW personnel for balancing conservation and recreation. The focus of this strategy is to expand planning and management to address outdoor recreation on WDFW-managed lands and its compatibility with conservation goals and ensure access to the diverse residents and visitors of Washington.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) manages more than 1 million acres of publicly owned land, including 450+ water access areas across the state. WDFW is mandated to "maximize fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreational opportunities compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations" (R.C.W. 77.04.055).

The implementation of the 10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands is organized into six strategic priorities, which follow:

1. Use and impact monitoring
2. Recreation planning
3. Rulemaking
4. Travel management
5. Education and engagement
6. Capacity and funding

Most planning objectives under the plan will require separate SEPA review in the future. For example:

- WLA plans with an incorporated recreation planning module will go through SEPA as WLA plans do already
- Regional Water Access Area plans will also go through SEPA review
- Shooting range plans, camping area plans, and other area-specific plans developed after the adoption of the Strategy will also go through SEPA review.

There are other processes that some of the objectives will also go through in the future. E.g., the rulemaking process includes substantial public input and a formal public review process.

The environmental review of this Strategy and future projects under the Strategy will be through a phased approach in accordance with WAC 197-11-060(5)(c)(i). This SEPA determination concerns the first phase of environmental review – a review of the actions specified in the draft 10-year Recreation Strategy for WDFW-managed Lands. Future phase(s) will concern environmental review of future actions that may be proposed under this Strategy for which details are not yet known. Those actions would undergo a separate SEPA review as appropriate for the specific project. This Strategy is not intended to circumvent any requirement for environmental review of an individual project, where required under SEPA.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: This is statewide strategy and will be implemented for all lands managed by WDFW during the 10-year implementation.

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 30 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on February 9, 2022.**

Method of Comment:

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>.

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 through one of the following ways:

- Online at the Public Input comment portal for this proposal:
<https://publicinput.com/10YearRecStrategy>
- Email to 10YearRecStrategy@PublicInput.com

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, or have difficulty with the Public Input comment portal, contact Lisa Wood at SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: January 10, 2022

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 22-003.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).