



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 22-013: LEWIS BUTTE-RISER LAKE ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Description of Proposal:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is proposing to improve an existing public access site located on the Rendezvous Unit of the Methow Wildlife Area. The existing access area provides parking and restroom facilities for public use while accessing Lewis Butte Trail and Riser Lake. The project proposal will:

- Grade the existing 330 ft long entrance road to 14 ft wide and include entrance improvements and realignment of the road. Grading will occur down to a 6" depth. The existing gravel road is 3,406 SF and will be expanded to 4,239 SF, an increase of 833 SF of impervious surface.
- Replace existing 12" culvert with 60' long, 12" CPP culvert at the entrance off of the county road (Gunn Ranch Rd). Install quarry spall pads at each end of the culvert to direct flow.
- Widen entrance to 20 ft width with a 35 ft transition. Relocate existing fence as necessary. Modify existing gate to 20 ft width; relocate lock post.
- Abandon 80 ft of the existing gravel entrance road. Remove existing gravel and scarify soil. Broadcast seed the bare soil with a native seed mix. (904 SF Restoration)
- Grade the existing parking area and expand parking to include 6 new parking stalls. Install one (1) designated ADA compliant parking space. The existing parking area is 7,830 SF and will be expanded to 9,689 SF, an increase of 1,859 SF of impervious surface. The parking area will have 22 parking spaces, one (1) designated as an ADA compliant space; all with concrete wheel stops. Install barrier rock to designate formal parking area.
- Remove exiting vault toilet building and replace with a new CXT Gunnison vault toilet building in the same footprint.
- Install 12' x 16' gravel picnic table pad with access path and ADA compliant picnic table. (251 SF Non-Pollution Generating Impervious Surface)
- Install gravel to existing trail, 5 ft wide x 300 ft long (west). Realign existing south trailhead, 5 ft wide x 173 ft long (331 SF Non-Pollution Generating Impervious Surface). Abandon existing trailhead, scarify soil and broadcast seed with native grass seed (646 SF Restoration).
- Install two (2) horse gates at west and south trail heads.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Lewis Butte trailhead and Riser Lake trailhead, Gunn Ranch Road on the Rendezvous Unit of the WDFW Methow Wildlife Area. Approximately 3.5 miles north of Winthrop, Okanogan County, Washington: Township 35N, Range 21E, Section 28.

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 letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on March 23, 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/LewisButteAccess>
- Email to: LewisButteAccess@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: March 9, 2022

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 22-013.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).