



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 22-049: DOWNLIST AMERICAN COLUMBIA WHITE-TAILED DEER FROM ENDANGERED TO THREATENED IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

**Description of Proposal:**

WDFW proposes to downlist and reclassify Columbia white-tailed deer in the state of Washington under WAC 220-200-100. Anticipated effects include recognizing the progress towards recovery of the species and a reduced conservation concern and prioritization. However the species will still be classified under RCW 77.15.130 offering continued protections from malicious take or harassment.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife bases its proposal to downlist Columbia white-tailed deer from Endangered to Threatened on scientific information contained in its report *Washington State Periodic Status Review for the Columbia White-tailed Deer*. This report summarizes evidence that the Columbia white-tailed deer population is increasing and no longer meets the definition of Endangered in the state. However, there is still existing concern around the historically low population size in the state and its vulnerability. The report recommends that the species be reclassified as a Threatened species.

The population along the Columbia River has grown in the last five years. This contrasts with the preceding few years where growth was stagnant, and a longer period of decline before that. Recent increases in overall CRP numbers are attributed mostly to a successful translocation of CWTD to Ridgefield NWR. Most other larger subpopulations have shown either small population increases or decreases.

WDFW is also incorporating the draft Periodic Status Review by reference.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:**

The Columbia River Population covers about 240 square km (90 square miles) of mainland and island habitat along the Columbia River in Clatsop and Columbia counties in Oregon, and Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Clark counties in Washington.

**The following document is incorporated by reference:** This document provides species-specific information on the proposal.

Azerrad, J.M. 2022. Draft periodic status review for the Columbian White-Tailed Deer in Washington. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington, 23+iii pp.

**The Documents are Available to be Read at:**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Natural Resources Building,  
1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

These documents are also available for review online at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>

**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 law<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Agencies, 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 **11:59 pm on November 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/WhiteTailedDeerSEPA>
- Email to: [WhiteTailedDeerSEPA@PublicInput.com](mailto:WhiteTailedDeerSEPA@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.<sup>1</sup>

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](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov).

**DATE OF ISSUE:** November 2, 2022

**SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 22-049.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](mailto:Title6@dfw.wa.gov)).*