



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 22-057: UMPTANUM POST FIRE RESTORATION THINNING

Description of Proposal:

WDFW proposes to remove burned and diseased trees, plant trees and shrub species, and use some of the cut trees for a Fish enhancement HPA stream restoration project for the Umptanum Units of the WDFW Wenas Wildlife Area. The work is planned to be conducted over 5 phases, all of which are being analyzed together in this checklist. WDFW is proposing this project to facilitate restoration of the landscape. Currently the forest stand is overstocked, many of the trees have been killed from the fire and bark beetle have moved into the stand. If left untreated the larvae of the bark beetle will hatch this spring killing a large portion of the remaining live trees. The trees that are currently dead and the ones that will die will eventually fall and increase the fuel load of the site, which will allow for a higher intensity fire in the future. By thinning out the forest stand this winter we will; prevent the severity of beetle killed trees, reduce future fire severity, allow the remaining live trees to grow in size, increase the natural regeneration process, allow for stream restoration projects, provide benefit for various wildlife species, and attract potential log buyers and contractors to perform the work: After Winter log buyers and contractors will not accept the project due to beetle outbreak and disease.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Isaac Nequette
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Ellensburg, WA 98926
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WDFW Wenas Wildlife Area, approximately 14 miles southwest of Ellensburg, Yakima County, Washington: Township 16N, Range 17E, Section 3.

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 15 days**

from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 15 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on January 3, 2023**.

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/UmptanumThin>
- Email to: UmptanumThin@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: December 19, 2022

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 22-057.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).