



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 23-026: L.T. MURRAY WILDLIFE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Description of Proposal:

The L.T. Murray Wildlife Area plan will affect the management of 119,395 acres of public land managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The draft plan guides management and sets priorities for the wildlife area over the next ten years. The plan presents specific goals and objectives, and performance measures addressing the management of game and diversity species, habitat, recreation, cultural and historic resources, administration of the wildlife area, and community relations. The plan, if approved, will affect the following units of the L.T. Murray Wildlife area: L.T. Murray, Teanaway, Yakima River, Quilomene and Whiskey Dick units. Kittitas County is the affected county. For unit descriptions, see the attached maps.

Proposed uses include: fish and wildlife conservation, protecting and restoring shrubsteppe, forest, meadow, riparian, and wetland habitats; monitoring and protecting federally listed bull trout, gray wolf, and spotted owl habitats, and anadromous fish populations; weed management, forest management activities to enhance forest health, protecting and providing habitat for game and diversity species; monitoring and improvement of ecological integrity across the wildlife area, monitoring of game and diversity species; enhancing habitat for large and small game, including upland game birds; enhancement of habitat for focal species and species of greatest conservation need, protection and restoration of rare, sensitive, and endangered plant communities and enhancement of pollinator habitat. For a complete list, see the goals and objectives section of the plan. Recreational projects include: Develop and maintain recreational facilities at the wildlife area; conduct a trails assessment/inventory for the purpose of designating a sustainable trail network on the wildlife area; develop a strategy to improve outreach and education on sustainable recreation use and education on conservation and appreciation of natural and cultural resources.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Holly English
1130 W. University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(360) 489-4253
Holly.English@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WDFW L.T. Murray Wildlife Area: L.T. Murray, Teanaway Valley, Yakima River, Quilomene, and Whiskey Dick Units; east and west of

Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington.

LT Murray Unit:

T18N	R17E
T18N	R15E
T18N	R16E
T19N	R16E
T17N	R16E
T19N	R17E
T17N	R17E

Quilomene Unit:

T18N	R20E
T19N	R21E
T18N	R21E
T18N	R22E
T19N	R22E
T17N	R20E
T17N	R21E

Whiskey Dick Unit:

T17N	R22E
T18N	R21E
T18N	R22E
T17N	R21E

Yakima River Unit:

T20N	R13E
T20N	R14E
T19N	R16E

Teanaway Valley Unit: T20N; R16E

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 28 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 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **11:59 pm on July 14, 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/LTMurrayPlan>
- Email to: LTMurrayPlan@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: June 16, 2023

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 23-026.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).