

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 23-039: CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SAMPLING

INCENTIVE PROGRAM – RULE MAKING

Description of Proposal:

The Department leads the chronic wasting disease surveillance program which relies on voluntary submission of harvested deer and elk by hunters to have tested for CWD. To increase sample submission, we are proposing an incentive for hunters who submit a sample. Those that submit a sample are automatically entered into an exclusive drawing for one of 100 multi-season deer tags. This requires an amendment to WAC 220-412-090 to create a subset of multi-season tags.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Contact: Melia DeVivo 2315 N. Discovery Place Spokane Valley, WA 99216

509-795-4421

Melia.Devivo@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: This proposal and described rulemaking applies statewide. The statewide permits are an incentive for hunters who submit samples of harvested animals that originate from within eastern WDFW Region 1. However, winners of the multiseason deer tag may use this tag statewide where they can legally harvest deer using a multiseason tag.

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 21 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 21 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at 11:59 pm on October 11, 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/CWD_Sampling_SEPA

• Email to: CWD Sampling SEPA@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: <u>SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov</u>.

DATE OF ISSUE: September 20, 2023 SIGNATURE: High Wood

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 23-039.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 (<u>Title6@dfw.wa.gov</u>).