

April 11th 2024 – April 25th 2024

WDFW SEPA Responses

Comments	WDFW Response
<p style="text-align: center;">4/23/2024 from Anonymous:</p> <p>“I believe that this slash burning will have long term benefits in decreasing the severity of summer forest fires in Kittitas. My only concern regarding the environmental impact of this proposal is the pile burning that will follow the removal of timber harvest operations, is there another use that these unnecessary limbs or tops could have in other areas of Kittitas in terms of wildlife restoration habitats?”</p>	<p>Thank you very much for your comment. We at the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) take advantage of opportunities to utilize slash associated with our forest restoration efforts for aquatic and terrestrial habitat enhancement whenever possible. We confer with internal Agency staff as well as outside agencies/organizations to utilize material from our slash piles for large/small woody debris placement in streams, stream erosion/sediment delivery mitigation, small mammal foraging and shelter needs, and administrative purposes i.e. unauthorized trail and/or road decommissioning or abandonment.</p> <p>Since our forest restoration operations produce a large amount of slash, it is impossible to utilize all of it for habitat restoration projects. As the comment suggests, we do dispose of slash piles by controlled pile burning that is regulated by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WADNR). WDFW burns slash piles in the winter months to reduce the possibility of any possible fire escapement. Thank you for you comment and do reach out if there may be any further questions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4/23/2024 from Ecology:</p> <p>If you plan to use water for dust suppression at your project site, be sure that you have a legal right. In Washington State, prospective water users must obtain authorization from the Department of Ecology before diverting surface water or withdrawing ground water, with one exception. Ground water withdrawals of up to 5,000 gallons per day used for single or group domestic supply, up to 5,000 gallons per day used for industrial purposes, stock watering, and for the irrigation of up to one-half acre of non-commercial lawn and garden are exempt from the permitting process. Water use under the RCW 90.44.050 exemption establishes a water right</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment regarding procuring water for dust abatement. We will only use water from an approved source. Thank you for your comment and do reach out with any further question.</p>

that is subject to the same privileges, restrictions, laws, and regulations as a water right permit or certificate obtained directly from Ecology. Temporary permits may be obtainable in a short time-period. The concern of Water Resources is for existing water rights. In some instances, water may need to be obtained from a different area and hauled in or from an existing water right holder.

