



State of Washington

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (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:** WHISKEY DICK GRAZING PERMIT

**Description of Proposal:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) grazing management plan for the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area (WA) is part of a larger, 62,000-acre Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) planning process. Ownership in the CRM project area is a mixture of public and private landowners, including Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Puget Sound Energy (PSE), and American Minerals.

Under the CRM plan, there are four pastures available for the 2008 and 2009 grazing seasons. Of these, two pastures, Lonestar (5,377 ac) and Rocky Coulee (3,041 ac) are located in the Rocky Coulee drainage within the Whiskey Dick WA and contain WDFW, WDNR, and BLM ownership. These pastures will be available for 160 AUMs of livestock grazing for a 30-day period between April 1 and May 15. In 2010, for the third year of grazing, either the Lonestar pasture will be removed from the grazing schedule for the year or both Lonestar and Rocky Coulee pastures will have a shorter, earlier grazing period to ensure compliance with the HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards for State-Owned Agricultural and Grazing Land (ESAC 1994). The grazing permit may be renewed every 5 years provided objectives are being achieved. Under the CRM, PSE will provide grazing on the Wild Horse Wind Project to meet the anticipated AUM needs. No livestock grazing will occur on the WA outside of the Lonestar and Rocky Coulee pastures. Only cattle grazing is permitted.

Livestock watering troughs at four locations are scheduled to be replaced, and some of the pipes that deliver water to the troughs will be replaced by the permittee with funding provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). As per EQIP standards the new troughs will be installed over a six-inch layer of washed gravel that extends around the trough approximately six feet.

**Proponent/Applicant:**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Cindi Confer, Wildlife Area Manager  
201 N. Pearl St  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
Ph # (509-925-6746)

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** The project area is approximately 15 miles east of Ellensburg. The Lonestar and Rocky Coulee pastures of the Whiskey Dick WA are located about two miles northwest of the town of Vantage in eastern Kittitas County. Specifically, the pastures lie within portions of Sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Township 17 North, Range 21 East, and Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 22 of Township 17 North, Range 22 East, Willamette Meridian.

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will have no probable significant adverse impacts on the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). We made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after review of the environmental checklist and other information on file with us. This information is available to the public on request.

Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal.

We issued this DNS under WAC 197-11-340(2). We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date of issuance of this DNS. If you have comments about this DNS or this proposal, we must receive your comments by **May 14, 2007**.

When you send us your comments, please provide the name of proposal in your comment letter and mail it to:

**Responsible Official:** Teresa A. Eturaspe

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

You can also send your comments via email to: [SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov)

You can also send you comments via fax to: (360) 902-2946.

If you have questions about details of the proposal, contact: Cindi Confer, Wildlife Area Manager -Ph # (509-925-6746)

If you have questions about this action, please contact:

Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or

**email:** [SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov)

**DATE OF ISSUE:** April 30, 2007 **SIGNATURE:** 