



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: SHERMAN CREEK WILDLIFE AREA 5-YEAR HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Description of Proposal: This project is designed improve habitat for mule deer/elk winter range. There are 4,000-forested acres to be thinned and prescribed burn in 17 sections. The goal is to reduce the density of Douglas Fir by removing trees which have invaded as a result of past logging practices and wild fire suppression, open up the Ponderosa Pine stands using different spacing requirements and burn the resulting slash to improve regeneration of fire dependent species for deer and elk browse. Prescribed fire will be used to improve forage availability, forest health and reduce hazardous fuels. Pulpwood and/or timber will be harvested using ground-based systems, which may include feller processors and self-loading forwarders. There will be no new permanent road construction, but the project may necessitate temporarily reopening approximately 3.77 miles of closed roads and constructing approximately 2.03 miles of temporary roads. See Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment, Page 14 Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) for more detail.

Proponent/Applicant:

Jennifer Quan, Lands Division Manager
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The proposal lies within portions of Sections 20, 26, 27, 33 and 34, all in Township 36 North, Range 36 East, Willamette Meridian (W.M.); Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33 and 34 all in Township 36 North, Range 37 East, W.M. (See Map, Appendix A)

- a. The proposed wildlife habitat improvement project lies within the forested portions of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area in Ferry County, Washington, approximately 3.3 miles west of Kettle Falls on Highway 20.
- b. Sherman Creek WA acres 8,782; Proposal acres 4,000
- c. Road density: Lower Sherman Creek Drainage 0.832 miles/sq. mi. and lower Trout Creek sub-drainages and other drainages 0.448 mi./sq. mi.

See Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment, Page 7 for more detail.

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

WDFW has determined that this proposal likely will 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. If you want to review this information, please contact WDFW at the address below.

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

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. If you have comments about this DNS or the proposal, you must send your comments to us so that we receive them within 14 days. This means we must receive your comments by **April 11, 2008**.

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

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

You can also send your comments via email to SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov, or via fax to (360) 902-2946.

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Teresa Eturaspe at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2575.

DATE OF ISSUE: March 28, 2008 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

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