



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Habitat Program: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2534

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS**

Name of Proposal: WHISKEY DICK/QUILOMENE LIVESTOCK GRAZING PLAN

Description of Proposal:

Background:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Whiskey Dick and Quilomene Wildlife Areas (WA) exist in a landscape mosaic made up of multiple private and public ownerships. The WDFW's success in managing for wide ranging species (e.g. elk), threatened habitats (e.g., sagebrush habitats) as well as the threatened and endangered species in these areas (e.g., sage-grouse and steelhead salmon) relies on cooperation and partnering with all the landowners in this mosaic. In 2006 WDFW engaged in the Wild Horse Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process to achieve this. The CRM is a collaborative process that allows for resource planning across ownerships and management boundaries to meet multiple needs including fish and wildlife as well as needs of local farmers and ranchers. The Wild Horse CRM plan includes 62,000 acres of private and public lands. One goal of this plan is to properly manage and sustain grazing practices that balance wildlife and livestock use and improve the condition of upland and riparian areas.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Whiskey Dick/Quilomene Livestock Grazing Plan (LGP) is to facilitate the implementation of Wild Horse Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRM). Although the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Domestic Livestock Grazing on Department Lands Policy #C-6003, specifically describes CRM participation as a stand alone purpose for grazing on WDFW lands this LGP will be analyzed to ensure the protection of all resource values and maintain ecological integrity.

Need:

Through the CRM process the potential for grazing on WDFW lands within the CRM boundaries is being considered. Per department policy and WAC 232-12-181, WDFW will need to develop a LGP.

The department will develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the LGP to address the potential direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of managing livestock grazing on WDFW owned and managed lands in the Quilomene and Whiskey Dick WA as it relates to the Wild Horse Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) plan. WDFW will also analyze the impacts of not participating in the Whiskey Dick CRM. In addition, the EIS will analyze a range of alternatives including the continuation of current management, as well as the cumulative effects of grazing in the entire CRM area (per SEPA requirements).

Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The Whiskey Dick and Quilomene WAs are situated approximately 15 miles east of the city of Ellensburg in eastern Kittitas County. The Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area is located in the southeastern foothills of the Colockum Range along the Columbia River. The Quilomene Wildlife Area is located in the southeastern foothills of the Colockum Range just north of the Whiskey Dick Unit and south of the Colockum Wildlife Area.

Washington, Kittitas County, Township: 17 & 18; Range: 20, 21, 22; Sections: Various (see attached legal description) East WM

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

EIS Required. WDFW has determined that this proposal may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared. An environmental checklist or other materials indicating the likely environmental impacts can be reviewed at our offices.

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

The Whiskey Dick/Quilomene Livestock Grazing Plan will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed action and alternative actions on the following:

- Natural Environment (i.e., earth, water resources, wildlife and habitat)
- Socio economics (i.e., local/regional land use, population/housing, regional economy, etc)
- Cultural Resources (i.e., archeological sites, historical structures, etc)

Scoping. Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The method and deadline for giving us your comments is: Written comments should be received at the address listed below no later than

August 5, 2008.

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 you comments via fax to: (360) 902-2946.

You can also send your comments via email:

IMPORTANT- to ensure that your email is different from others received please provide the **name of the proposal AND your name in the subject of the email.**

Example: “Whiskey Dick/Quilomene Livestock Grazing Plan Jane Doe”

Email comments to: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov

If you have questions about details of the proposal, contact:

Jeff Tayer, (509) 457-9317

Jennifer Quan, (509) 902-2508

If you have questions about the scoping process, please contact:

Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or
email: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov

DATE OF ISSUE: July 14, 2008

SIGNATURE: 

SEPA Log Number: 08 -049. ds/scoping