



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N Monroe Street • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509)329-3400

December 7, 2016

Ms. Lisa Wood
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
WDFW Regulatory Services Section
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Re: Grouse Flats Forest Restoration Project, File # 16-065

Dear Ms. Wood:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Determination of Nonsignificance regarding the thinning of Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifers to 30-60 trees per acre in an approximately 300-acre area, and the removal of smaller trees to increase the average tree diameter at breast height (DBH) from 13" to 17" (Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed the documents and submits the following comments:

Air Quality Program-Jolaine Johnson (509) 329-3452

Tree thinning operations frequently involve transporting removed material via dirt or gravel roadways. The contractor must apply water or other approved dust control products to those roads to prevent fugitive dust from becoming airborne and impacting residents or business operations along the roadway.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)-Terri Costello (509) 329-3550

Ecology's comments are based upon information submitted for review. As such, they do not constitute an exhaustive list of the various authorizations that must be obtained or legal requirements that must be fulfilled in order to carry out the proposed action.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these comments, please contact the appropriate staff listed above.

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
(Ecology File #: 201605840)

cc: Sara Ashiglar, Statewide Forester, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife