

Wood, Lisa A (DFW)

From: Andy Stepniewski <steppie@nwinfo.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 3:53 PM
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW)
Subject: Oak Creek DNS17-015

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Re: Oak Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan

The Yakima Valley Audubon Society (YVAS) disagrees with the Determination on Non-Significance (DNS17-015) issued in regards to the 10-year Oak Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan . We believe the SEPA is inadequate because of a lack of "carrying capacity" analysis and the impacts from concentrating many elk at small feeding sites on the Oak Creek and Cowiche Units of the wildlife area. Study by your own agencies biologists and those of the US Forest Service on adjacent lands reveals both agencies concern with the obvious and measurable detrimental impacts to the environment of elk in the Yakima River Basin.

YVAS strongly suggests WDFW issue a mitigated DNS after your agency completes a study of the detrimental effects of elk in the Oak Creek and Cowiche units. YVAS awaits the suggested mitigation actions your agency proposes to restore the ever-increasing areal extent of damaged and degraded habitats WDFW is entrusted to preserving in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area.

Sincerely,

Andy Stepniewski
Yakima Valley Audubon Society Conservation Committee



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