



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (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: DNS 17-043: SODA SPRINGS FOREST RESTORATION, PHASE 1

Description of Proposal:

The purpose of the Soda Springs Phase 1 Project is to improve ecological integrity and overall forest health on the Soda Springs Unit of the Klickitat Wildlife Area. The project will include approximately 166 acres of commercial thinning units along the eastern portion of the Soda Springs Unit. A key component of the silvicultural prescription will be to maintain and eventually improve habitat for the western gray squirrel. Other factors incorporated into the prescription include improved forest health, reducing the risk of stand replacement fires, urban interface concerns, and conifer encroachment on Oregon white oak stands. Trees will be removed through commercial thinning with ground-based equipment (rubber tired or tracked skidder) leaving approximately 20-40 overstory trees >10" dbh on site after harvest. Follow up treatments in this project will include slash pile burning and potentially prescribed fire.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Sara Ashiglar
1049 Port Way
Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 552-0142
Sara.Ashiglar@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Soda Springs Unit of the WDFW Klickitat Wildlife Area, approximately 15 miles northwest of Goldendale, Klickitat County, Washington: Township 5N, Range 14E, Sections 21 and 27.

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

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely 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.

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. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on August 18, 2017**.

Method of Comment: The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: August 4, 2017

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 17-043.dns