



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 18-035: ROBINSON CANYON FOREST RESTORATION

Description of Proposal:

The Robinson Canyon Forest Restoration Project is intended to improve ecological integrity ratings, habitat for multiple wildlife species and forest health. Trees harvested from 4 of the proposed thinning units (21, 22, 23 and 24) will be used for large wood stream placement in the North Fork of Manastash Creek to provide improved fish habitat and greater water storage capacity in the Robinson Canyon Watershed. Additional trees will be sold for stream enhancement projects in the Swauk and Umtanum Creek drainages. The thinning project includes 13 units located south of Robinson Creek on the LT Murray Wildlife Area. The entire project encompasses approximately 743 acres.

Approximately 743 acres will be commercially thinned to more closely reflect the historic range of variability. This will include reducing stocking levels to approximately 25 trees per acre on drier units to 35 trees per acre on units with more available moisture (north slopes, protected draws, etc.). Up to 40 trees per acre will be retained in non-fish seasonal stream drainages. All of the commercial thinning units will be leave tree marked using the prescriptions indicated in the Environmental Checklist.

Several smaller units (5, 6, 7a, 7b, 10, 11, 12, and 13) may be pre-commercially thinned using a similar strategy. Timber cruise results will determine which of these units, if any, will actually be thinned. Trees selected for removal in pre-commercial thinning units will not exceed 7 inches diameter at breast height. Small diameter suppressed trees will be removed, leaving 25 to 35 trees per acre dependent upon slope aspect and elevation. The original plan for these units was to use a commercial thinning prescription similar to the prescriptions described above. The decision was made to exclude these units from commercial timber harvest operations due to lack of access, minimal commercial volume and habitat considerations.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Rod Pfeifle
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713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Approximately 9 miles west of Ellensburg on the LT Murray Wildlife Area, Kittitas County, Washington:

Township 18N, Range 17E, Sections 29, 31, 32, 33, and 34
Township 17N, Range 17E, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9
Township 17N, Range 16E, Sections 1 and 2
Township 18N, Range 16E, Sections 21 and 23

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 June 8, 2018**.

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 Habitat Program, Protection Division

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

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: May 25, 2018

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 18-035.dns