



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 19-015: WEATHERLY WILDLIFE AREA FOREST THIN

Description of Proposal:

Approximately 360 acres of ponderosa pine and dry mixed conifer stands between 4000 and 4600 feet elevation will be commercially thinned. Sawlogs and pulp will be removed and slash piled and burned at landings. Existing road will be brushed, graded or reconstructed as necessary to accommodate log trucks. Logging will be done with ground-based and/or skyline cable logging systems. No new roads would be permanently built, though a few temp short spurs across old agricultural fields may be constructed, and orphaned road footprints may be temporarily used. Mid seral stands will be thinned to 20-40 trees per acre or to a basal area of 40-120 feet squared per acre. Younger stands will be thinned to approximately 70 trees per acre. Ponderosa pine and larch will be preferred leave-tree species. Thinning will generally remove the smaller trees and leave the largest healthiest trees on site. Clumps of trees and gaps would be incorporated into stand structure where appropriate to diversity habitat structure. Snags and hardwoods will be left on site where operationally feasible. Prescribed fire and/or tree planting may follow up thinning treatment if conditions and funding allows. Approximately 125 acres would not be thinned at this time to provide undisturbed wildlife habitat during timber harvest and prescription fire. However these acres may be treated similarly in 5-10 years after the stands harvested in 2020 recover.

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: Approximately 18 miles southeast of Clarkston on the WDFW Weatherly Wildlife Area; Garfield County, Washington: Township 9N, Range 42E, Section 1 and Township 9N, Range 43E, Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7.

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 March 5, 2019**.

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: February 19, 2019

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 19-015.dns