



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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**ADDENDUM 19-023 TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) 16-072  
DATED: DECEMBER 6, 2016**

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 16-072: HUTCHINS ROAD FOREST RESTORATION THINNING

**Description of Original Proposal:**

The Hutchins Road Thin Project is intended to improve ecological integrity ratings, create sustainable habitat for multiple wildlife species and improve forest health. Unit 1 comprises 590 acres and Unit 2 comprises 215 acres for a total of 805 acres treated.

In both units, the thinning prescription will use a combination of Individual, Clumps and Openings (ICO) techniques and stocking/spacing strategies. The complexity of the prescription necessitated the need to mark leave trees prior to the actual thinning operation. The following criteria were used during the leave tree selection process:

- Species preference, in declining order of preference, included ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas-fir and grand fir.
- Leave “unique” species that are limited to micro-sites in the stand (western red cedar and Engelmann spruce).
- Leave large diameter “legacy” trees.
- Leave trees with good growing characteristics (good crown ratios and relatively free of pathogens and/or insect attack).
- Leave defective trees with unique characteristics (trees with cat faces, “wolfy” crowns, large limbs, etc.) for Wildlife Reserve Tree (WRT) recruitment.
- In snag deficient areas, mark trees 10” dbh and greater with defect in the butt log with 2 orange bands for WRT recruitment. This indicates to the logging contractor that he needs to “snip off” the tree as high as he can reach with the harvester to create a WRT.
- In general, attempt to leave a residual stand with a post-treatment stocking level of between 25 (average 42’ spacing) and 35 (average 35’ spacing) TPA. Realize that these stocking/spacing guidelines are only intended as a spatial reference starting point.
- Scatter tree clumps (2 to 5 trees per clump) across the unit (e.g. desirable tree species, legacy trees, unique trees, etc.) where appropriate
- Create small openings (0.5 to 1 acre) across the unit where appropriate. Take advantage of pre-existing openings with good production of browse species where appropriate.
- Minimum diameter for leave trees is 8” dbh.
- In general, leave all trees >24” dbh unless they pose a safety threat (e. g. tree is at risk of falling over a main line road) or they are a non-preferred species with preferred species surrounding (e.g. grand fir surrounded by ponderosa pine, western larch or Douglas-fir).
- Snags will not be marked as leave trees with orange paint. All snags that do not pose a safety threat, as per L & I guidelines, are required to be left by the logging contractor. Those snags dropped for safety reasons by the logging contractor will be left in place.

- Dwarf mistletoe infected trees provide important habitat to a variety of wildlife species and will be left individually or in clumps as appropriate (lower hillside, adjacent to non-impacted tree species, draw bottoms, etc.). The goal will be to reduce the threat of the mistletoe spreading to adjacent host species and throughout the stand.

The project will be accessed using existing roads, including the green dot Hutchins Road. Access to interior portions of the units will be on existing orphaned/abandoned roads. These roads will be temporarily re-opened for the duration of the project and then re-abandoned post-treatment. No new construction will be required for this project.

**Description of Addendum 19-023:**

WDFW is proposing to amend this project to include prescribed burning on Unit 1 (592 acres) and Unit 2 (215 acres), following completion of timber thinning in 2017. This possibility of prescribed burning was mentioned in the SEPA checklist but details were not provided. To contain the prescribed burn, construction of a fire line around the project area is necessary. Some fire line will be constructed by hand or with a dozer primarily utilizing existing roads. Following completion, constructed fire lines will be restored and seeded with a native seed mix. A burn plan has been completed by WDFW prescribed fire staff and will be followed during implementation. Timing of the prescribed burn will be dependent on weather but will likely occur in the spring 2019 (April, May) or the fall 2019 (October, November). However, if unsuccessful in completing the burn in 2019, it may be attempted in future years, based on available funding. Goals of the project are to reduce fuel loading, rejuvenate browse and forage for wildlife, and create fire effects necessary to restore a fire dependent habitat. Mortality to large desirable fire tolerant trees will be avoided (ponderosa pine, Douglas fir), but fire will be utilized to create additional snags to benefit wildlife and reduce density of smaller diameter trees. Qualified staff and contractors will be used to implement the prescribed burn under the direction of DNR regulation of smoke management and will only burn the approved tonnage each day. Following the prescribed burn, the area will be patrolled until the fire is determined to be out.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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**Location of Proposal:** Approximately 5 miles west of the Joe Watt entrance to the LT Murray Wildlife Area on Hutchins Road, Kittitas County, Washington: Township 18N, Range 16E, Sections 3, 4, 5, and 9.

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

**This addendum is being distributed pursuant to WACs 197-11-600 and 197-11-625. The updated information provided above does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist. Based on the original DNS and the updated information provided in this addendum, we have determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA addendum.**

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

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If you have questions about this action, contact Lisa Wood at the address above,  
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**DATE OF ISSUE:** March 28, 2019

**SIGNATURE:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Wood".

SEPA Log Number: 19-023 add to DNS 16-072