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STATE FOREST LAND
SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

Questions in italics are supplemental to Ecology's standard environmental checklist. They have been added by the DNR to assist in the review of state forest land proposals. Adjacency and landscape/watershed-administrative-unit (WAU) maps for this proposal are available on the DNR internet website at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>. These maps may also be reviewed at the DNR regional office responsible for the proposal. This checklist is to be used for SEPA evaluation of state forest land activities.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Timber Sale Name: **MIDDLE MAY**

Agreement #: **30-100161**

2. Name of applicant: **Washington Department of Natural Resources**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**DNR Northwest Region
919 N. Township Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284**

**Contact Person: Tim Stapleton
Telephone: 360-856-3500**

4. Date checklist prepared: **02/05/2020**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington State Department of Natural Resources**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

a. Auction Date:

05/27/2020

b. Planned contract end date (but may be extended):

03/31/2024

c. Phasing:

None

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No, go to question 8.

Yes, identify any plans under A-7-a through A-7-d:

a. Site Preparation: **The harvest units may be treated with herbicides prior to planting. Assessments for treatment will occur after completion of harvest.**

b. Regeneration Method: **The harvest units will be hand planted with conifer seedlings within the first two years after completion of harvest.**

c. Vegetation Management: **DNR will assess the need for any vegetative management in the units within 3 to 5 years after harvest.**

d. Other:

- **Thinning.** The need for a pre-commercial thin of timber within the proposal area will be assessed in 10 to 15 years. A commercial thin of the timber is possible in 25 to 45 years.
- **Road Maintenance.** DNR will conduct periodic assessments of roads within the proposal area and conduct any required maintenance. This may include periodic ditch and culvert cleanout, and any grading of roads as necessary.
- **Use of Existing Roads/Rock Pits.** The MY-ML, MY-04, MY-21, and MY-43 roads will be used for future management activities. The MY-0430 and MY-2100 hardrock pits will be used for future management activities.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Note: All documents are incorporated herein by reference and are available upon request at the DNR Region Office as noted in A.3.

- 303 (d) – listed water body in WAU: **Wallace River**
 - temp
 - sediment
 - completed TMDL (total maximum daily load)

Landscape plan:

Watershed analysis:

Interdisciplinary team (ID Team) report:

Road design plan: **Road Plan and Specifications for the Middle May Timber Sale (November 1, 2019)**

Wildlife report: **Wildlife Review of the Proposed Middle May Timber Sale (December 20, 2019)**

Geotechnical report: **Engineering Geologic Risk Assessment for the Middle May Timber Sale (January 3, 2020)**

Appendix D. slope stability informational form: **See Middle May Forest Practices Application (February 5, 2020)**

Appendix E. CMZ Assessment form: **See Middle May Forest Practices Application (February 5, 2020)**

Other specialist report(s): **Cultural resource memo (January 6, 2020); Hydraulic Report, Proposed May Creek Bridge Site, Singletary Timber Sale (November 10, 2015); Supplemental Report, Proposed May Creek Bridge (January 29, 2020); Engineering Geologic Letter Report, Singletary Timber Sale (December 12, 2014)**

Memorandum of understanding (sportsmen's groups, neighborhood associations, tribes, etc.):

Rock pit plan: **Included within Road Plan and Specifications for the Middle May Timber Sale (November 1, 2019)**

Other:

Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan (April 2010)

Reiter Foothills Non-Motorized Trail System SEPA, File No. 18-2455

RCO Grant Application 18-2455 Non-Motorized Trail Development (February 2019)

Wallace Falls CAMP (July 18, 2019)

Singletary SEPA, File No. 14-031102

Singletary FPA, 28113860

Snohomish County Council resolutions: 20058121 Requesting DNR Defer a Portion of Timber Sale (February 1, 2017); 20058205 Intention to Initiate Reconveyance (February 22, 2017); and 20066734 Proceed with Sale (March 21, 2018)

DNR Policy Manual

Washington State's DNR Silvicultural Smoke Management Plan (July 2019)

Electrofishing Protocol Survey Report Unnamed Tributary to May Creek (December 11, 2019)

DNR West Side Old Growth Assessment for the Singletary Timber Sale (April 7, 2014)

Snohomish County Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, File Number 15-114333SHOR for May Creek Bridge (August 26, 2016)

DNR Special Concerns Report, Middle May Timber Sale (December 10, 2019)

Forest Practices Informal Conference Notes: NW-ICN-19-135621 (October 31, 2019) and NW-ICN-19-135622 (December 26, 2019)

Middle May Timber Sale, Visibility from Stevens Pass Highway, Analysis by Washington DNR (January 23, 2020)

DNR Cultural Resources Inadvertent Discovery Guidance (March 2010)

Letter from DNR State Lands Archaeologist to DAHP Local Government Archaeologist (June 11, 2015)

Letter from DAHP Local Governments Archeologist to DNR State Lands Archaeologist (July 9, 2015)

Letter from DNR State Lands Archaeologist "Middle May Timber Sale Unit 2 and Road Right-of-Way, Township 28 North, Range 9 East, Section 34, Willamette Baseline and Meridian, Skagit County, Washington" (January 6, 2020)

Letter from DNR State Lands Assistant Division Manager Land Management Division to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Western Division Office (February 23, 2007)

Snohomish County Wetland Delineation and Critical Areas Report, May Creek – Singletary Sale Bridge (Revised March 2, 2016)

May Creek Singletary Sale Bridge Crossing Critical Areas Assessment for Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (March 4, 2016)

Snohomish County Wetland and Stream Mitigation Report May Creek Singletary Sale Bridge (March 3, 2016)

DNR Policy for Sustainable Forests (June 2006); DNR Final EIS for Sustainable Forests (June 2006)

DNR Final Habitat Conservation Plan (September 1997)

DNR Implementation Procedures for the Habitat Conservation Plan Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy (April 2006)

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service Intra-Service Concurrence Memorandum and Biological Opinion for DNR's 1997 HCP (January 27, 1997)

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, Memo: Endangered Species Act Section 7 Conference Report, Unlisted Species Analysis; and Section 10 Findings for the Washington State DNR's 1997 HCP (January 29, 1997)

State of Washington Department of Natural Resources Board of Natural Resources Resolution No 96-911 (Approving HCP, Implementation Agreement and EIS) (November 5, 1996)

U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Services, Record of Decision (Proposed Issuance of Incidental Take Permit for Threatened and Endangered Species; Approval of Implementation Agreement and HCP) (January 30, 1997)

Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Fish and Wildlife Incidental Take Permit #812521 (January 30, 1997)

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Letter amending Incidental Take Permit #812521 (April 9, 1999)

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, Incidental Take Permit # 1168 (Authorizing Incidental Take of Specified Aquatic Species) (June 16, 1999)

U.S. Department of Commerce, Incidental Take Permit for Takes of Endangered/Threatened Species (June 14, 1999)

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service Letter to DNR (Correcting ambiguity in Incidental Take Permit 812521) (May 28, 1998)

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Memorandum Reinitiation of the Biological Opinion on the Amendment to Incidental Take Permit #812521 for the 1997 HCP (For

the Purpose of Including Bull Trout on the Permit) (December 18, 1998)

DNR Long-Term Conservation Strategy (LTCS) for the Marbled Murrelet, Final EIS (September 2019)

DNR Final State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment, Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy (Amending the 1997 HCP to replace the Interim Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy with the LTCS for Marbled Murrelet (September 2019)

DNR Board of Natural Resources Resolution No. 1559 (Approving Amendment to the 1997 HCP replacing Interim Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy with LTCS for Marbled Murrelet)

DNR Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level For Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington, Final Environmental Statement (October 2019)

DNR Board of Natural Resources, Resolution No. 1560 (Establishing the Decadal Sustainable Harvest Level for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington for Fiscal year 2015 through 2024, and policies and tasks consistent therewith; Policy on Recalculation of the Sustainable Harvest Level adopted by BNR in Resolution 1134 and the 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests)

Final Environmental Impact Statement on Alternatives for Forest Practices Rules for Aquatic and Riparian Resources (April 2001)

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

None are known to exist.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

- FPA # _____
- FPHP
- Board of Natural Resources Approval
- Burning permit
- Shoreline permit
- Existing HPA
- Other:

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

a. Complete proposal description:

This proposal includes the following: (1) a combination of Variable Retention Harvest (VRH) and right-of-way harvest comprised of 193 acres, with an estimated harvest volume of 9,577 MBF of timber; (2) the planned road work as briefly described in B.11.c., and more fully described in the *Middle May Road Plan*; and (3) the stream bank restoration work along the

MY-RRG15 road that entails the pulling back of a poorly located orphaned grade embankment at a stream crossing to reduce the risk of an avulsion hazard.

Rock pit(s) will be utilized with this proposal. Rock pit information is listed in A.7. Road work will be completed as part of this proposal, as listed in A.11.c.

It is anticipated that this proposal will be a Class IV Forest Practices Application due to proposed management activities on potentially unstable landforms identified within the proposal area which includes road construction inner gorge crossing. See ICN # 135622.

b. Describe the stand of timber pre-harvest (include major timber species and origin date), type of harvest and overall unit objectives.

Pre-harvest Stand Description: See the *Middle May Cruise Narrative (December 12, 2019)* for a complete description of the stands of timber pre-harvest within the three units. The chart below provides a summary of the major timber species within date of origin.

Unit	Origin Date	Major Timber Species	Type of Harvest
1A	1925	Douglas-fir	VRH
1B	1925	Douglas-fir	VRH
2	1911-1926	Douglas-fir	VRH
3	1943	Douglas-fir	VRH
ROW	1911-1960	Douglas-fir	ROW

Overall Unit Objectives: The overall unit objectives include generating revenue for State Trust Beneficiaries; complying with DNR's obligations under the Habitat Conservation Plan, Policy for Sustainable Forests, and Forest Practices Rules and Regulations; establishing critical bridge and road infrastructure to provide access into the forest for timber harvest, and for recreational uses; and providing a forested trail corridor between the Snohomish County trailhead and Wallace Falls State Park to support non-motorized trail development.

Wildlife Objectives: The general wildlife objective is to minimize immediate impact to current wildlife populations while retaining some unique characteristics for future wildlife habitat needs. Leave tree areas were designed to contain trees resistant to wind throw, while protecting relatively unique features such as snags, large down woody debris, large and structurally unique trees, riparian and wet areas. Many of the leave trees were selected for their future snag retention potential. Leave trees are representative of the proposal's timber type, which consists predominately of conifer species. Snags will be left where possible and if they meet the Washington State Department of Labor and Industry Safety Guidelines.

c. Describe planned road activity. Include information on any rock pits that will be used in this proposal. See associated forest practice application (FPA) for maps and more details.

Type of Activity	How many	Length (feet) (Estimated)	Acres (Subgrade) (Estimated)	Fish Barrier Removals (#)	Steepest Side Slope Road Crosses
Construction		21,997	8.3		65**
Reconstruction***		3,380		0	20
Maintenance		17,700*		0	20
Abandonment (Existing Roads)		3,140	0	0	N/A
Temporary construction****		5,604	1.9		60**
Bridge Install/Replace	5	253			
Culvert Install/Replace (fish)	0				
Culvert Install/Replace (no fish)	5				

*Does not include an additional 100' of "stream bank restoration"

**Exclusive of existing road/grade cuts

***Meets the definition of "new construction" for the forest practices application/notification.

****Of the length listed for Temporary Construction in the above table, a portion(s) of the length listed may or may not be built as forest road that is constructed and intended for use then abandoned during the life of an approved forest practices application/notification.

Rock Pit Identifier (Name, Number, Letter)	Acres of New Rock Pit Developed	Acres of Existing Rock Pit Expanded
MY-0430 (Proposed)	0.8	0
MY-2100 (Proposed)	0.8	0

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist (See "WAU Map(s)" and "Timber Harvest Unit Adjacency Map(s)" as referenced on the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>. Click on the DNR region of this proposal under the Topic "Current SEPA Project Actions - Timber Sales." Proposal documents also available for review at the DNR Region Office.)

a. Legal description:

Includes harvest units, rock pits, road work and pre-haul maintenance.

**Township 28 North, Range 9 East, Sections 33 and 34
Township 27 North, Range 9 East, Sections 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12**

b. Distance and direction from nearest town (see the driving map listed on the DNR website for further information): **The proposal is located approximately 5 miles, by road, northeast of the town of Gold Bar, Washington.**

13. Cumulative Effects

a. Briefly describe any known environmental concerns that exist regarding elements of the environment in the associated WAU(s). (See WAC 197-11-444 for what is considered an element of the environment).

This proposal involves road building, rock pit development, and timber harvesting in the Upper Wallace River WAU on DNR managed forest land. This WAU includes a diverse range of land uses that have highly variable impacts on the elements of the environment as defined in WAC 197-11-444. These land uses include USFS wilderness area, State Park, private and DNR managed forest land, and the City of Gold Bar. The WAU also includes two major transportation routes, U.S. Highway 2 and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway.

The Upper Wallace River WAU has a documented history of forest management, mining, and recreation as the primary land uses. Currently, residential development in the City of Gold Bar, forest management (including road building), and recreation are the main land uses that affect the elements of the environment.

Past, current, and future activities on DNR managed forest lands primarily include resource protection, habitat conservation, wildlife management, recreation development, timber harvesting, and road building. These activities occur throughout the WAU, and have the highest potential to affect the Earth, Air, Water, Plants and Animals, and Land and Shoreline Use elements of the environment, as defined in WAC 197-11-444.

For this proposal, the potential to affect elements of the environment as defined in WAC 197-11-444 is discussed in Section B to varying degrees. In summary, they include without limitation, the potential for sediment to be delivered to streams by erosion resulting from harvest operations, and associated roadwork; the identification of geologic concerns in or around the proposal area having the potential to adversely impact public resources or public safety; the risk of a fire associated with operations; the spread of noxious weeds existing on the site from equipment brought onto the site; the public health and safety risks associated with the application of chemical herbicides on lands designated for replanting after harvest; the potential for waste material to be inadvertently discharged into the ground as a result of heavy equipment use or mechanical failure; impacts to wildlife, aquatic species, and habitat from harvest and related activities; the potential for unknown cultural or historic features to be unearthed, or otherwise discovered, during ongoing operations; and concerns expressed by the public at community meetings regarding impacts to aesthetics and recreational opportunities from harvest activities conducted under the proposal.

- b. *Briefly describe existing plans and programs (i.e. the HCP, DNR landscape plans, retention tree plans) and current forest practice rules that provide/require mitigation to protect against potential impacts to environmental concerns listed in question A-13-a.*

The following rules, policies, and documents are all used when planning and implementing proposals on forested state trust lands in this WAU. They are the guidance that the Department uses to address the known environmental concerns that are listed in A.13.a., and as discussed in B.1-16. These forest practices rules, policies, plans, programs, and documents form a lasting framework that addresses environmental concerns relating to past, present, and future forest management activities.

Habitat Conservation Plan. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources *1997 Habitat Conservation Plan* (including amendments and implementing procedures as noted in A.8) is a multi-species plan to address state trust land management issues relating to compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. The plan covers approximately 1.6 million acres of state trust lands managed by DNR in Western Washington, including the 193 acres of state trust forest lands within the Reiter Foothills State Forest scheduled for harvest as part of the proposal. The HCP includes an Implementation Agreement that sets forth the terms under which the HCP serves to satisfy DNR's obligations under the ESA.

DNR is implementing all of the requirements of the HCP to protect federally listed threatened and endangered species (specifically the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet) species in danger of being listed in the future, as well as uncommon habitat types found on forest lands in Western Washington.

HCP riparian and wetland buffers intended to protect salmon and trout habitat were applied to this proposal, and will be applied to all future proposals in the vicinity. The "no harvest" buffers along all riparian stream corridors and wetlands as identified in B.3.1.b consistent with the requirements of the *1997 Habitat Conservation Plan* provide an area for sediment transport interception for protection of water quality, maintain current shading levels for thermal regulation of stream temperatures, and provide a continual source of large woody debris for instream structural elements important to fish. Additionally, the physical integrity of the aquatic system is also maintained by requiring equipment setbacks from streams within these areas. In so doing, the "no harvest" buffers allow these areas to develop older riparian forest characteristics that, in combination with other strategies, help support older riparian forest dependent wildlife and aquatic species.

Specific protection and management guidance from the HCP that applies to the environmental elements of wildlife habitat and water resources in this WAU include northern spotted owl habitat management, marbled murrelet habitat management, riparian and wetland habitat management, the protection of unique ecological features including cliffs and balds, as well as retention tree strategies for timber harvesting.

The HCP is designed to exceed minimum protection measures that are outlined in the Forest Practices Act. This proposal, and all other harvest activities including associated road work, will be done in compliance with the requirements of all requirements of the HCP.

The Forest Practices Act (RCW 76.04), and its implementing regulations are required to be complied with in execution of the proposal. These Forest Practices Rules involved include the following:

- **Potentially Unstable Slopes and Landforms.** WAC 222-10-030 sets forth the requirements for assessing lands for potentially unstable slopes in or around proposal areas. Throughout the planning process for the proposal, multiple geologic concerns were identified within the watershed including inner gorges, alluvial fans, debris flows, and a channel migration zone (CMZ). A Licensed Engineering Geologist (a Forest Practices Qualified Expert) evaluated this proposal conducting remote and field reviews to ensure that all identified potentially unstable slopes interpreted as having the potential to adversely impact public resources or public safety, were excluded from the harvest areas. This included a number alluvial fan deposits that presented the concern for a potential avulsion that were delineated, reviewed and bounded out of the timber sale units. However, a temporary road will be constructed within a portion of one alluvial fan. Management activities in and around these areas of concern will adhere to WAC 222-10-030. This includes the requirement that no tailholds will be allowed within, and no timber will be yarded across, any identified Forest Practice rule-identified landform.

Additional information regarding how the geology concerns identified are being addressed and mitigated can be found in the answers to questions B.1.d, B.1.d.1, B.1.e, B.1.f, B.1.g, B.1.h. and the geologist report, *Middle May Road Plan*, and site visit ICNs listed in answer A.8.

- **Road Construction and Maintenance.** The Road Construction and Maintenance Forest Practice Rules in WAC 222-24-010 through -060 provide requirements and protection measures for the location, design, construction, maintenance and abandonment of forest roads, bridges, stream crossings, quarries, borrow pits, and disposal sites used for forest road construction. These rules are intended to assist landowners, including the State, in the proper road planning, construction and maintenance to protect public resources. These protection measures are intended to address environmental concerns related to sediment delivery, runoff from forest roads, mass wasting, groundwater stream crossings, and flood events. The *Middle May Road Plan* provides the specifications for completion of all roadwork associated with the harvest activities for the proposal in compliance with these forest practices rules providing protection measures to address environmental concerns related to sediment delivery, runoff from forest roads, mass wasting, groundwater, stream crossings and flood events. This includes compliance with the requirements for the location, design, and construction of roads; installation of water crossings; required bank protection; and the location of rock pits as required by WAC 222-24-010 through -060. For this proposal, cross-drains and ditch-outs will be used to minimize the potential for mass wasting and slope failures associated with poor drainage to allow for disbursement of water onto stable forest floor. Temporary roads planned for this proposal must be constructed in a manner to facilitate abandonment when operations are completed as required by WAC 222-24-026. The abandonment work must be performed in a manner that controls erosion, maintains water movement within wetlands and other natural drainages, and prevents four-wheeled highway vehicles from entering the point of closure. See *Middle May Forest Practices Application*. In addition, road maintenance (e.g., brushing, ditch cleaning, placing aggregate, grading the road

surface, road widening, culvert installation and drainage repair) would occur before and after log hauling and must be in compliance with the goals established in WAC 222-24-010 as required under WAC 222-24-050. *The Road Plan* specifications minimize the likelihood of any potential for mass wasting and slope failures associated with poor drainage by dispersing water onto stable forest floor reducing the potential for sediment delivery to aquatic resources.

Road work within the WMZ for two wetlands will be mitigated by acre-for-acre replacement of the WMZ area impacted by the new road, and with the following additional mitigation required to compensate for any losses associated with the planned road work: no management activities, other than those associated with road building and abandonment are to take place in the WMZs of the two wetlands; road construction and abandonment activities will be occur during the drier part of the year; work may stop during extreme rain events that have potential to deliver sediment to the wetland areas; silt barriers will be erected, monitored and maintained, where topographic characteristics could allow sediment from the road to reach the wetlands. Culverts will be placed under the road at DNR's discretion, to manage flow of surface water if deemed necessary; geotextile will be placed at DNR's discretion to facilitate complete road abandonment; and following timber harvest, the road will be abandoned and any exposed soils replanted with species that prevent erosion.

Additional information regarding how the surface water resources concerns identified are being addressed and mitigated for can be found in answers A.11.c, B.1.d.1, B.1.e, B.1.f, B.1.h, B.3.c, B.3.a.2, B.3.a.7, B.3.a.9, B.3.a.13 and the geologist report, cultural resources memo, Snohomish County Shoreline permit, ICNs listed is answer A.8. The road location, design and engineering has been completed to avoid or prevent concerns identified for water resources, geology, forest roads, historic resources and recreation.

- **Timber Harvesting (WAC 222-30-010 through -120)**. Timber harvesting under the forest practices rules is regulated in WAC 222-30-010 through -120. Planning for this proposal and future potential harvests will adhere to the guidance and rules defined in these rules. This includes limitations and requirements for harvest unit size, equipment and yarding specifications, and post-harvest activities. These protection measures are to address environmental concerns related to soil compaction, sediment delivery, groundwater, and wildlife habitat. This proposal as designed and implemented complies with the requirements for the size and timing of even-aged harvest, stream bank integrity, the felling and bucking of timber, use of ground-based equipment and cable yarding, the removal or repositioning of large woody debris, landing cleanup, post-harvest site preparation, and slash disposal. This includes, among others, the imposition of seasonal restrictions on harvest operations as applicable; and, the requirement that skid trails be water barred post-harvest where needed, to avoid concentrating surface water runoff.

Many of the HCP conservation strategies replace some of the regulations providing additional current and future protections beyond the requirements of these Forest Practices Rules that will govern harvest activities and related road work on state owned forest lands managed by DNR in the Upper Wallace River WAU.

Additional information regarding how the surface water resources concerns identified are being addressed can be found in answers A.11.c, B.1.d.1., B.1.e, B.1.f, B.1.h, B.3.c, B.3.a.2, B.3.a.7, B.3.a.9, B.3.a.13 and the geologist report, cultural resources memo, Snohomish County Shoreline permit, and site visit ICNs listed in answer A.8.

Information regarding how wildlife habitat concerns identified are being addressed can be found in the specific conservations strategies for Northern Spotted Owl and marbled murrelet in the HCP, answers to questions B.5.a, B.5.b, B.5.d, B.5.e and the wildlife report listed in answer A.8.

- **Reforestation.** The requirements for reestablishing a fully stocked stand of timber on areas that have fifty-percent or more of the forest volume removed are set forth in WAC's 222-34-010 through -050. As provided in A.11, this proposal will require reforestation as defined in these rules. Planting of native tree species at a density that meets or exceeds the requirements of these rules will occur following completion of all operations. Control of competing vegetation to ensure survival of planted trees will occur as necessary. These activities will address environmental concerns related to soils, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics.
- **Forest Chemicals.** The forest practices rules in WAC 222-38-010 through -040 regulate the handling, storage and application of chemicals in such a way that the public health, lands, fish, wildlife, aquatic habitat, wetland and riparian management zone vegetation will not be significantly damaged, and water quality will not be endangered by contamination. For this and other proposals in the Upper Wallace River WAU forest, chemical herbicides may be used as part of a vegetation control strategy. Application of forest chemicals for vegetation control will occur in adherence to the rules set forth in WAC 222-38 providing protection for environmental concerns related to surface water, wildlife, and human health and safety.

DNR's Policy for Sustainable Harvest. DNR's policy establishes a sustainable harvest level for the fiscal year 2015 to 2024 planning decade for more than 1.4 million acres of forested state trust lands in western Washington. The decadal level, as established by the Board of Natural Resources, ensures the sustainable management of state trust lands consistent with the economic, ecological, and social objectives contained within the Policy for Sustainable Forests.

DNR Forest Practices Board Manual. Many rules concerning forestry involve technical or scientific issues. Consistent with legislative directives that agencies provide educational and training materials on such issues to help regulated persons achieve compliance, the Forest Practices Board (FPB) developed an "advisory technical supplement" to the Forest Practices Act and rules. DNR uses Forest Practices Board Manual as guidance in the development of proposals including the Middle May Timber Sale.

DNR Policies. DNR policies used when planning and implementing proposals on forested state trust lands include: (1) *DNR PO11-004 – Recreational Trails*: The Recreation Trails policy establishes the framework to develop, implement and manage trails on DNR managed lands across the state. This policy in conjunction with the Multiple Use Concept (RCW 79.10) directs and allows DNR to provide recreational trail opportunities on trust lands when compatible with the basic activities necessary to fulfill the financial obligations

of trust management. This proposal and future proposals in the Upper Wallace River WAU adhere to both the Recreational Trails policy and the Multiple Use Concept to address the management and environmental concerns that arise from the intersection of forest management and recreation management; (2) *DNR PO14-015 – Visual Impacts*. This policy provides guidance on managing for visual impacts from projects on state managed lands. Harvest units were designed to mitigate the visual impacts for this proposal consistent with this policy. Likewise, future proposals will follow this policy by designing units and selecting leave tree locations with a focus on mitigating aesthetic concerns. (3) *DNR PO14-016 – Cultural Resources*. This policy outlines rules for the Department regarding cultural resources on state managed lands. Specifically, the policy states that “DNR recognizes the significance of cultural properties, current cultural uses, and historic and archaeological sites. DNR also acknowledges the importance of government-to-government communications and collaboration with the Tribes, as discussed in the Commissioner’s Order on Tribal Relations, as well as with interested stakeholders.”

This proposal and future proposals will adhere to this policy by screening for and protecting any identified cultural and historic resources. A professional Archaeologist reviewed this proposal and determined that no concerns existed for this project as regards historic or cultural landmarks, features, or evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation. However, if a presently unknown resource is discovered during operations, the purchaser will be contractually bound to cease operations and insure compliance with all applicable state and federal laws requiring the documentation and protection of such resources. *DNR’s Inadvertent Discovery Guidance* (March 2010) will be followed in the event of such an occurrence.

Wallace Falls Classification And Management Planning (CAMP). State Parks prepares land use plans through an agency-wide planning system called Classification and Management Planning or CAMP. CAMP is a multi-staged, public participation-based planning process for individual parks that culminates with adoption of park land classifications, a long-term park boundary, and a park management plan. The combination of these deliverables constitutes a land use plan. The *Wallace Falls Classification and Management Planning (CAMP)* is one such plan developed for Wallace Falls State Park which is located within this WAU. This plan and its implementation with regards to DNR managed state forest trust lands is discussed further in B.12.c.

Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan, April 2010. This plan is intended to guide DNR’s management of recreation and public access in the Reiter Foothills State Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. It expands on previous planning efforts, outlines recreation program goals, and identifies priorities for developing new facilities in Reiter Foothills. The use of the plan is two-fold: (1) Consider a long-term vision for recreation and public access in the forest by detailing recreation management goals; and (2) Present specific objectives and strategies to guide recreation and access management over the next 10 to 15 years. This plan will be evaluated periodically and changes will be made as necessary to ensure compatibility with trust obligations and overall forest management objectives. The state forest lands within the units scheduled for harvest are located in the Reiter Foothills State Forest. This plan and its implementation with regards to DNR managed lands is discussed further in B.12.c.

Snohomish County Shoreline Management Program. The Washington State Shoreline Management Act designates certain shorelines in the county as being under the jurisdiction of the county or cities. It is the program the county uses to adhere to Washington's Shoreline Management Act (SMA) (Chapter 90.58 RCW). Consistent with the SMA, counties and cities are the primary regulators within shoreline jurisdiction, but the Washington State Department of Ecology has the authority and responsibility to review and approve local programs and certain types of shoreline permits. Within this WAU, there are multiple bodies of water and their shorelines managed under this program. All operations associated with this and future proposals that may border or cross waters classified as shorelines of the state will adhere to the Snohomish County Shoreline Management Program and Washington's Shoreline Management Act. Additional information regarding how the surface water concerns identified are being addressed for this proposal can be found in the Snohomish County Shoreline Substantial Development Permit issue to DNR for this project, which is incorporated by reference and available upon request at DNR's Northwest Region Office.

DNR's Silvicultural Smoke Management Plan (2019). The SMP applies to DNR regulated silvicultural (forestland) burning. DNR has designed the SMP to protect public health and the state's infrastructure and scenic assets from the impacts of smoke from silvicultural burning, while facilitating broadcast and pile burning for forest health, fuels reduction, and habitat improvement. The Plan will be complied with in managing air emissions from silvicultural burning in accordance with the Washington Clean Air Act and other applicable federal and state laws for this proposal and for all other proposals within the WAU.

Fire Prevention and Suppression. The Forest Protection regulations outline forest protection measures and give DNR authority over the prevention and suppression of fires on forested lands within the State. Landowners are required to comply with the regulations governing forest protection as set forth in WAC 332-24 in regards to specific rules for burning; closures and suspension; the felling of snags; spark emitting equipment requirements and all other rules in completing operations related to harvest activities. All applicable rules are required to be complied with in the implementation of the Middle May Timber Sale.

- c. *Briefly describe any specific mitigation measures proposed, in addition to the mitigation provided by plans and programs listed under question A-13-b.*

There are two site specific mitigation measures included with this proposal that are planned to address potential cumulative impacts to the elements of the environment listed in A.13.a.

(1) Stream "D" as shown on the Middle May Forest Practices Application Activity Map will have restoration work done to restore the natural bank. It involves removing material associated with an orphaned road from the stream channel to prevent future potential avulsion of the stream channel. The details for this work are included with the *Forest Practices Application* for this proposal. Forest Practices Informal Conference Note # 135621 provides additional details regarding an Interdisciplinary Team site visit reviewing this location; and

(2) A short spur road (MY-12) is being constructed to access Unit 3 of this proposal through a channel migration zone (CMZ) of a type 3 stream. This road will not remain

open during the entire life of the project or after project completion. This road will be abandoned within 18 months after its construction to reduce the potential for stream avulsion within the CMZ. Measures included in answer A.13.b.

In addition, in advance of this proposal DNR completed an exchange of NRF non-habitat designations within the site under the terms of the HCP as a mitigation measure to manage the aesthetics around existing and planned non-motorized recreation infrastructure. DNR managed State owned trust lands in and around the proposal are designated as Nesting Roosting and Foraging (NRF) habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. NRF lands not designated as habitat fall in two categories: Next-Best (non-habitat) and Non-Habitat. Areas designated as Next-Best (non-habitat) and Non-Habitat were exchanged, as a means to retain a greater amount of mature forest adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park and to create a forested corridor between the Snohomish County Trailhead and the boundary of Wallace Falls State Park.

Lastly, the Timber Sale Contract, which incorporates the *Middle May Road Plan* as a contract term, includes a number of Best Management Practices that are required to be complied with by the purchaser of the timber sale. The BMP's are discussed in more detail in Section B, the road plan and the timber sale contract provisions. Some of the BMPs include the requirement to prepare an emergency response plan, a spill kit, and have on-site tools and other equipment needed to respond to medical emergencies, fire, and hazardous spills, or any other environmental hazard; and compliance with a number of protective measures to prevent, or respond to, a release of any hazardous or toxic materials.

d. Based on the answers in questions A-13-a through A-13-c, is it likely potential impacts from this proposal could contribute to any environmental concerns listed in question A-13-a?

No. It is not likely that potential impacts from this proposal could contribute to any environmental concerns listed in A.13.a., or in the other environmental elements in WAC 197-11-444 as discussed in Section B., in a manner that would significantly affect the quality of the environment. The proposal has been designed and will be implemented consistent with Washington State's forest practices laws, along with the policies, plans, programs, and guidance documents described in A.13.b, and in Section B., so that any concerns resulting have been adequately addressed through appropriate mitigation to ensure that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposal. Moreover, this proposal exceeds the regulatory requirement set forth in our State's Forest Practices laws by following the more stringent standards in DNR's Policy for Sustainable Harvest for even-aged final harvest units, and in meeting DNR's commitments of the 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan as regards riparian and wetland buffers, habitat requirements for wildlife species, and the standards for leave trees.

Nor will they be any significant adverse environmental impact that is likely to result from the proposal when considered in relationship to past, present and reasonably foreseeable future harvest activities within the WAU. This includes any future timber sales within the WAU not yet planned but that will use the road network constructed for the Middle May Timber Sale. DNR has assessed the potential for impacts from such activities at various intensities and geographic scales through its Forest Practices Rules, the 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan (including amendments and implementing procedures), and the Policy

for Sustainable Forest. All harvest activity on forest lands must comply with the requirements of the Forest Practice Rules, state and federal laws addressing the requirements of the Washington Clean Air Act (RCW 70.94), Forest Protection laws (RCW 76.04), the United States Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.), and other applicable laws. DNR must manage State forest lands within the WAU in compliance with the more stringent requirements of the HCP and Policy for Sustainable Forests as noted above. In addition, DNR manages these lands consistent with the requirements of the other policies, plans, programs, and laws as discussed in this checklist. The Forest Practices Board Manual provides guidance regarding technical and scientific issues that require further analysis in evaluating a proposed timber sale. Consequently, the proposal's effects, when considered in the context of past, present and future permitted forest practices within the WAU, results in a determination that no significant adverse environmental impact is likely to result from implementation of the Middle May Timber Sale.

e. Complete the table below with the reasonably foreseeable future activities within the associated WAU(s) (add more lines as needed). Future is defined as occurring within the next 7 years.

The proposal is located within the Upper Wallace River Watershed Administrative Unit (WAU). The following table is an estimated summary of the acres of harvest activity, including any associated road building, on State owned lands managed by DNR and privately owned and managed forest lands within the WAU for which a Forest Practices Application has been approved by DNR within the last seven years (as of February 5, 2020). This is intended to show those past completed harvest activities; present ongoing activities (but not including this proposal); and reasonably foreseeable future harvest activities (within the next seven years) on DNR managed state and privately owned forest lands.

At present, no FPAs have been issued for harvest on other state or local government owned land (i.e., Washington State Park land. Nor, are any anticipated at this time. The Federal Government has no planned harvest activities within the WAU at present or the reasonably foreseeable future.

WAU Name	Total WAU Acres	DNR-owned WAU Acres	Acres of DNR proposed even-aged harvest in the future	Acres of DNR proposed uneven-aged harvest in the future	Acres of proposed harvest on non-DNR-managed lands currently under active FP permits
UPPER WALLACE RIVER	20136	5628	1104	1636	598

Other management activities, such as stand and road maintenance, will likely occur within the associated WAU(s).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (check one):

Flat, Rolling, Hilly, Steep Slopes, Mountainous, Other:

1. *General description of the associated WAU(s) or sub-basin(s) within the proposal (landforms, climate, elevations, and forest vegetation zone).*

WAU:	<u>UPPER WALLACE RIVER</u>
WAU Acres:	<u>20136</u>
Elevation Range:	<u>150 - 5277 ft.</u>
Mean Elevation:	<u>2324 ft.</u>
Average Precipitation:	<u>73 in./year</u>
Primary Forest Vegetation Zone:	<u>Western Hemlock</u>

2. *Identify any difference between the proposal location and the general description of the WAU or sub-basin(s).*

This proposal is representative of the WAU between 350-1800 feet in elevation and generally a southwest aspect.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

One isolated area of the proposal has a slope of 113%. This area is a fill slope below an orphaned road grade. It is located inside a leave tree area.

The steepest sustained slope in the proposal is 85%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Note: The following table is created from state soil survey data. It is an overview of general soils information for the soils found in the entire sale area. The actual soil conditions in the sale area may vary considerably based on land-form shapes, presence of erosive situations, and other factors.

State Soil Survey #	Soil Texture
2461	GRAVELLY SILT LOAM/SILT LOAM
1956	GRAVELLY LOAM/SILT LOAM
7409	GRAVELLY LOAM
1949	SILT LOAM
7585	GRAVELLY LOAM

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No, go to question B-1-e.

Yes, briefly describe potentially unstable slopes or landforms in or around the area of the proposal site. For further information, see question A-8 for related slope stability documents and question A-10 for the FPA number(s) associated with this proposal.

The right stream bank at the proposed bridge at 7+42 of the MY-21 road meets the definition of an inner gorge slope. See *Engineering Geologic Risk Assessment Middle May Timber Sale* (January 3, 2020); Singletary Timber Sale Engineering Geologic Letter Report (December 12, 2014), both available upon request at Northwest Region Office.

The Statewide Landslide Inventory (LSI) screening tool indicates no presence of polygons mapped as landslides within the proposed harvest unit boundaries. This landslide database is maintained by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Forest Practices Division. The LSI includes landslides mapped during many different projects including large-scale geologic mapping, watershed analyses, landscape planning, and landslide hazard zonation, in addition to other case studies and mapping efforts. A large majority of landslides identified by these projects are mapped by remote review with minimal field verification. In addition, dormant and ancient deep-seated landslides are mapped in many projects included in the LSI. A large number of the remotely identified landslides and deep-seated features have been mapped with a questionable, probable, or unknown certainty. As a result, the LSI database is meant to be used as a screening tool and field verification is a necessary step in confirming the absence, presence, and extent of mapped features, as well as their actual level of activity/instability. The field verification for the proposal confirmed that no landslides were present within the areas where operations will occur. See *Engineering Geologic Risk Assessment Middle May Timber Sale*, available upon request at Northwest Region Office.

1) Does the proposal include any management activities proposed on potentially unstable slopes or landforms?

No Yes, describe the proposed activities:

The bridge proposed on the MY-21 road is located at a feature that meets the definition of an inner gorge.

- 2) Describe any slope stability protection measures (including sale boundary location, road, and harvest system decisions) incorporated into this proposal.

The proposal area was office and field reviewed by a DNR State Lands Licensed Engineering Geologist. See *Engineering Geologic Risk Assessment Middle May Timber Sale (January 3, 2020)*. Based on the professional judgments of this expert, a number of slope stability protection measures were incorporated into this proposal.

These measures include the following: (1) unstable slopes and landforms were bounded out of the timber harvest area and addressed in the road design (see road plan, available at Northwest Region office). (2) new road locations were chosen to avoid unstable slopes and landforms where feasible; (3) On several roads where side slopes exceed 50%, full bench construction shall be utilized for the entire subgrade width except as construction staked or designed (see road plan).

Cable and ground-based harvesting methods are proposed for this timber sale. The protection measures incorporated to address slope stability specifically for harvest operations include the design of roads to minimize ground-based yarding distance and access landing locations for areas requiring cable yarding. Ground-based operations are restricted to sustained slopes equal to 35% or less. A self-leveling harvester may be utilized on sustained slopes equal to 55% or less. In addition, a tethered harvester and/or shovel may be utilized in areas as approved by the Contract Administrator.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Approx. acreage new roads: 10.2

Approx. acreage new landings: 1.5

Fill Source: Native fill or rock and rock from proposed hard rock pits.

Road construction will utilize standard cut and fill methodology, and full bench construction with end haul or side cast (if necessary) to obtain grade and alignment. Native soil and rock will be excavated from the road prism and used for fill in the sub-grade and over cross drains and stream crossings.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Yes. Some erosion could occur as a result of building new roads, installing culverts, and hauling timber. However, the proposal requires mitigation to address this concern as more fully detailed in B.1.h. and A.13.b.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? *Approximate percent of proposal in permanent road running surface (includes gravel roads):*

Less than 6% of the site will remain as gravel roads upon completion of all operations under the proposal.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
(Include protection measures for minimizing compaction or rutting.)

A number of proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, are required to be implemented under the proposal. In addition to the riparian and wetland buffers required as described in B.3.a.1.b and B.3.a.1.c, all roads were designed, and are required to be constructed, to meet or exceed the requirements of the State's Forest Practices Rules, and the *Habitat Conservation Plan*, including the *Implementation Procedures for the HCP Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy* (April 2006). Appropriate drainage devices including proper culvert size and placement, drain dips, water bars and ditching, will be used as necessary to reduce surface erosion.

DNR ensures compliance with all applicable laws and procedures through the application of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for timber harvest and related road construction activities. The required BMPs for this proposal are set forth in the timber sale contract, and the *Middle May Road Plan* (which is incorporated by reference and included as a contractual provision). Some of the BMPs that will be implemented as necessary to prevent sediments from being transported to streams include: log landing and skid trail erosion prevention and control requirements during timber sale operations; revegetation of disturbed surface areas; special erosion prevention measures on areas disturbed by harvest and road construction activities; soil moisture limitations for tractor operations; seasonal restrictions on road construction and hauling activities; and requirements for log landing, design, size and location. See *DRAFT Middle May Bill of Sale and Contract for Forest Products*, and *Middle May Road Plan* for a more complete description of all BMPs incorporated into the proposal to reduce or control erosion.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Minor amounts of engine exhaust from logging and road construction equipment and dust from vehicle traffic on roads will be emitted into the air during proposed activities. If landing debris is burned after harvest is completed, smoke will be generated and emitted into the air. There will be no emissions once the proposal is complete.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

None are known to exist.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

If landing debris is burned, it will be in accordance with the *State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources Smoke Management Plan (Plan)*. The *Plan* is designed to

meet the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 USC §7401 et seq.), the Washington Clean Air Act (RCW 70.94), the Forest Protection Act (RCW 76.04), and the Forest Practices Rules (WAC 332-24) in regards to DNR’s burning of forest lands and resulting debris left remaining after harvest operations. This includes the requirement that a written burn permit be obtained, as required by RCW 76.04.205, prior to the burning of any landing debris.

Dust abatement measures during operations will be required to be performed by the purchaser in compliance with all applicable state laws.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. (See “WAU Map(s)” and “Timber Harvest Unit Adjacency Map(s)” as referenced on the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>. Click on the DNR region of this proposal under the Topic “Current SEPA Project Actions - Timber Sales.” Proposal documents also available for review at the DNR Region Office.)

No Yes, describe in 3-a-1-a through 3-a-1-c below

a. Downstream water bodies: All streams associated with the proposal are tributaries to the Skykomish River.

b. Complete the following riparian & wetland management zone table:

Wetland, Stream, Lake, Pond, or Saltwater Name (if any)	Water Type	Number (how many?)	Avg RMZ/WMZ Width in feet (per side for streams)
Wallace River	1	1	200
May Creek	1	1	200
Unnamed Stream	3	4	165
Unnamed Stream	4	3	100
Unnamed Stream	5	8	N/A
Unnamed Forested Wetland (greater than 1 acre in size)	Forested	2	165

c. List any additional RMZ/WMZ protection measures including silvicultural prescriptions, road-related RMZ/WMZ protection measures and wind buffers.

Streams as listed in B.3.a.1.b. above are protected with buffers, none of which will receive any harvest treatments in compliance with the *Implementation Procedures for the Habitat Conservation Plan Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy (RFRS)*. All type 3 and type 4 stream buffers that encompassed a Channel Migration Zone

(CMZ) began off of the outer edge of the CMZ. No wind buffers were applied to any of the stream buffers based on the low susceptibility to wind throw in this area. Low susceptibility was determined by assessing where streams were located on the landscape and comparing the success of stream buffers left with no wind buffers on adjacent sales.

Type 5 streams within the proposal area have 30-foot equipment limitation zones, except at designated crossings. The crossings will be as close to perpendicular as possible and may require log cribbing, culvert installation, or other approved methods to be in place to protect channels and banks. Timber will be felled and yarded away from all streams when possible.

Two forested wetlands are protected with buffers. No harvest will occur within the WMZ buffers established for these wetlands, except for tree removal in the course of road construction. To mitigate this impact, acre-for-acre replacement of affected wetland management zones (WMZs) will be implemented.

Ditchwater will be diverted through relief culverts or by using topographical controls prior to stream crossing to keep sediment out of streams. Exposed soils will be grass seeded. Stream crossing structures have been designed to exceed best practices.

Portions of the MY-ML and MY-12 will be constructed within the CMZ associated with stream "D" as depicted on the Forest Practices Activity Map. These are designed to minimize the road profile. Where the proposed MY-ML road crosses an historic channel a rolling dip is required to reduce the risk of channel capture in the case of channel avulsion. During abandonment of the MY-12 it is required to reshape the road within the CMZ to more closely mimic the natural landscape. Cable yarding through this CMZ may be necessary. Except within the road right of way, no timber will be removed from this CMZ.

This proposal includes stream bank restoration work to remove orphaned grade road fill material from within a segment of a stream channel. The intent of this work is to reduce the risk of possible stream channel avulsion and water piracy.

Upon abandonment select segments of the MY-2106 road passing through a WMZ will have the fill slope pulled up onto the grade to mimic the natural slope condition and encourage revegetation. Portions of the MY-21 and MY-ML passing through WMZs which are permanent construction require placement of Large Woody Debris to discourage unauthorized access to the wetland below.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

Yes (See RMZ/WMZ table above and timber sale maps which are available on the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>. Timber sale maps are also available at the

DNR region office.)

(Note: Timber Sale maps are DRAFT at the point of submission of this SEPA.)

Description (include culverts):

Timber will be felled immediately adjacent to RMZs described in the table in B.3.a.1.b. Timber will be felled away from the RMZs where practical in order to avoid damage to trees within the RMZs. Timber will be felled for road construction stream crossing in which culverts and bridges will be installed. In addition, stream restoration work will be accomplished with the abandonment of an orphaned grade. For a more detailed description of the requirements, see the *Middle May Road Plan*.

Cable yarding could occur over type 5 streams. The timber sale contract contains language that provides for the protection of stream bank integrity during yarding over streams not protected with buffers. Crossings of stream channels with cable are required to be as close to perpendicular as possible as a means to avoid sediment delivery. For a more detailed description of the requirements, see the *Middle May Road Plan*.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None. However, the proposal includes a stream bank restoration project which requires moving road bed material (part of an orphaned road grade) out of a stream channel. This material will be left within the RMZ at the location of this work but placed on the orphaned grade to reduce avulsion risk downstream.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. *(Include diversions for fish-passage culvert installation.)*

No *Yes, description: When necessary to protect water quality, or as required by permit, stream flow may be temporarily diverted around construction area.*

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No *Yes, describe activity and location:*

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

It is not likely that any waste materials will be discharged into the surface water(s). However, minor amounts of oil, fuel, and other lubricants may inadvertently be discharged to the adjacent surface water(s) as a result of heavy equipment use or mechanical failure. No lubricants will be disposed of on-site.

7) *Is there a potential for eroded material to enter surface water as a result of the proposal considering the protection measures incorporated into the proposal's design?*

No Yes, describe:

Soils and terrain susceptible to surface erosion are generally located on slopes steeper than 70%. The potential for eroded material to enter surface water is minimized due to the erosion control measures and operational procedures outlined in B.1.h.

8) *What are the approximate road miles per square mile in the associated WAU(s)?*

Upper Wallace River = 3.1 (mi./sq. mi.)

9) *Are there forest roads or ditches within the associated WAU(s) that deliver surface water to streams, rather than back to the forest floor?*

No Yes, describe:

It is likely that some roads or road ditches within the WAU intercept sub-surface flow and deliver surface water to streams. However, current road construction, reconstruction, and/or maintenance standards will be applied that address this issue by installing cross-drains to deliver ditch water to stable forest floors. See *Middle May Road Plan* for a more detailed description of these requirements for the proposal.

10) *Is there evidence of changes to channels associated with peak flows in the proposal area (accelerated aggradations, surface erosion, mass wasting, decrease in large organic debris (LOD), change in channel dimensions)?*

No Yes, describe observations:

At the WAU and sub-basin level, there is some evidence of aggradations and channel scouring from naturally occurring erosion.

11) *Describe any anticipated contributions to peak flows resulting from this proposal's activities which could impact areas downstream or downslope of the proposal area.*

This proposal may slightly change the timing, duration, and amount of peak flow. Flow rates may increase slightly during low and high flow periods due to decreased transpiration and interception during the first decade of new forest growth. To minimize impacts, riparian buffers are established on type 3 and 4 streams and prudent road-building techniques as more fully detailed in the *Middle May Road Plan* are required to be followed in the implementation of the proposal. (See B.3.a.1.b, B.3.a.1.c, B.3.a.2, B.3.a.9, and B.1.h)

12) *Is there a water resource (public, domestic, agricultural, hatchery, etc.), or area of slope instability, downstream or downslope of the proposed activity?*

No *Yes, describe the water resource(s):* **The WDFW Wallace River fish hatchery is located downstream of the proposal area. The Skykomish River system is located downstream of the proposal area. It is not likely that the water quality will be affected due to the distance between the proposal area and these waters.**

a. Is it likely a water resource or an area of slope instability listed in B-3-12 (above) will be affected by changes in amounts, quality or movements of surface water as a result of this proposal?

No *Yes, describe possible impacts:*

13) *Describe any protection measures, in addition to those required by other existing plans and programs (i.e. the HCP, DNR landscape plans) and current forest practice rules included in this proposal that mitigate potential negative effects on water quality and peak flow impacts.*

As stated in B.3.a.11, this proposal is not expected to cause a damaging increase in peak flows. In order to minimize the risk of road failures during peak flow events, all culverts utilized in new road construction will be sized to withstand a 100-year flood event. Culverts and ditches will be maintained so that they remain functional. DNR will conduct storm patrols as necessary on existing and newly constructed roads within the proposal area during and after completion of the proposal, to identify and address potential erosion problems.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No groundwater will be withdrawn; nor will any water be discharged to groundwater.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Minor amounts of oil, fuel, and other lubricants may inadvertently be discharged to the ground as a result of heavy equipment use or mechanical failure. No lubricants will be disposed of on-site. All spills are required to be contained and cleaned up. This proposal is expected to have no impact on ground water.

3) Is there a water resource use (public, domestic, agricultural, hatchery, etc.), or area of slope instability, downstream or downslope of the proposed activity?

No Yes, describe:

a. Is it likely a water resource or an area of slope instability listed in B-3-b-3 (above) could be affected by changes in amounts, timing, or movements of groundwater as a result this proposal?

No Yes, describe possible impacts:

Note protection measures, if any: Groundwater will be collected in ditches and diverted to stable areas on the forest floor through the use of ditches, culverts, and energy dissipaters.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Water runoff, including storm water, from road surfaces will be collected by roadside ditches and diverted onto the forest floor via ditch-outs and cross drain culverts.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.
 No Yes, describe:

Waste materials, such as sediment or slash, may enter surface water.

Note protection measures, if any:

No additional protection measures will be necessary to protect these resources beyond those described in B.1.d.2, B.1.h, B.3.a.2, and B.3.a.13.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No changes to drainage patterns are expected.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

The *Middle May Road Plan* provides in detail the measures that will be required for this proposal to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts. These measures include, among others, the: construction of ditches, cross-drain culverts, drain dips, and water bars to control runoff; placement of straw mulch, grass seeding, or the use of other appropriate methods on any soil exposed cut and fill slopes during the course of this proposal in order to prevent sediment movement; crowning of

roads and landings to avoid water accumulation. In addition, falling and yarding of logs away from all seasonal streams will be applied where feasible. All activities associated with this proposal will meet or exceed Forest Practices Rules, and in compliance with the *Habitat Conservation Plan*. See also B.1.d.5., B.1.h, B.3.a.1.c, B.3.a.13, B.3.b.3, and B.3.c.2.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

Deciduous tree:

Alder Aspen Birch Cottonwood Maple Western Larch

Other:

Evergreen tree:

Douglas-Fir Engelmann Spruce Grand Fir Lodgepole Pine

Mountain Hemlock Noble Fir Pacific Silver Fir Ponderosa Pine

Sitka Spruce Western Hemlock Western Redcedar Yellow Cedar

Other:

Shrubs:

Huckleberry Rhododendron Salmonberry Salal

Other:

Ferns

Grass

Pasture

Crop or Grain

Orchards Vineyard Other Permanent Crops

Wet Soil Plants:

Bullrush Buttercup Cattail Devil's Club Skunk Cabbage

Other:

Water plants:

Eelgrass Milfoil Water Lily

Other:

Other types of vegetation:

Plant communities of concern:

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? (Also see answers to questions A-11-a, A-11-b and B-3-a-2).

In addition to the species of timber identified in A.11.a. and A.11.b., it is expected that activities under the proposal will remove other understory vegetation existing within the proposal site. This could include small patches of wetland emergent plants, and other forest community plants, grasses, and shrubs located within the road right-of-way and harvest units.

1) Describe the species, age, and structural diversity of the timber types immediately adjacent to the removal area. (See "WAU Map(s)" and "Timber Harvest Unit Adjacency Map(s)" on the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa>. Click on the

DNR region of this proposal under the Topic “Current SEPA Project Actions - Timber Sales.” Proposal documents also available for review at the DNR Region Office.)

Washington State owned lands managed by DNR, State Park land and private lands immediately adjacent to the proposal area consist of timber ranging in age from approximately 66 years to 108 years of age based on the Department’s Lidar derived inventory data which covers State Trust lands. The species, composition, and structural diversity on these lands is similar to that in the stands described in A.11.a. and b., with stands being primarily single canopy conifer dominated with lesser components of hardwood species. There are several parcels immediately adjacent to the south of the site that include residences.

DNR’s “Weighted Old Growth Habitat Index” (WOGHI) was reviewed in 2014 for stands within and immediately adjacent to the proposal when these areas were included in one of the units for the Singletary Timber Sale. The WOGHI is a screening tool that uses data from DNR’s Forest Resource Inventory System to compare the structure of stands on DNR managed land with a reference condition from known old growth stands in Western Washington. At this time, the WOGHI showed a polygon mapped as having high potential for the presence of old growth covering a portion of the sale area. This area is now included within the proposal for the Middle May Timber Sale for road construction; no other harvest is planned within the identified area. Regardless, DNR’s field review by professionals trained in the identification of old growth forest found no stands meeting the definition of old growth forest as defined in the Department’s Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). See, also, DNR’s Westside Old Growth Assessment Singletary (April 7, 2014).

- c. List threatened and endangered *plant* species known to be on or near the site.

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be on or near the site. This determination is based on a review of DNR’s “Special Concerns Report” and a search of the relevant associated corporate databases conducted on December 10, 2019, and from observations made during field work for this proposal by DNR staff. None of this research and field work revealed the presence of any threatened or endangered plant species within or near the proposal.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

RMZ and WMZ buffers will be retained as listed in B.3.a.1.b. Harvested areas will be planted with native conifers to allow for regeneration of native species. In addition, landings, skid trails, roads, and other disturbed areas with exposed soils will be grass seeded to minimize erosion and re-establish vegetation following the completion of timber harvest.

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

No noxious weeds or invasive species were listed in DNR’s Special Concerns Report, generated by a database search conducted on August 15, 2019. However, Himalayan

blackberry has been found in small amounts on or near the site.

5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals *or unique habitats* which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

birds:

eagle hawk heron owls songbirds

other:

mammals:

bear beaver coyote cougar deer elk

other:

fish:

bass herring salmon shellfish trout

other:

amphibians/reptiles:

frog lizard salamander snake turtle

other:

unique habitats:

balds caves cliffs mineral springs oak woodlands talus slopes

other: **Northern Spotted Owl Management Area: Northern Spotted Owl Nesting, Roosting, and Foraging (NRF) Habitat, Sub-Mature Habitat, Next Best Non-Habitat and Non-Habitat.**

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site (*include federal- and state-listed species*).

No threatened or endangered animal species were found in a search of relevant databases which generates DNR's Special Concerns Report (December 10, 2019). During field work for this proposal, no threatened or endangered animal species were observed on site.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Pacific flyway Other migration route:

Explain: All of Washington State is considered part of the Pacific Flyway. No impacts are anticipated as a result of this proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

1) Note existing or proposed protection measures, if any, for the complete proposal described in question A-11.

A DNR Region Wildlife Biologist conducted multiple field visits to the proposal area, consulted with DNR Region Foresters, and conducted a Geographic Information System (GIS) review of the proposal area See *DNR Wildlife Biologist Wildlife Review of the Proposed Middle May Timber Sale (December 20, 2019)*. The Wildlife Biologist's report contains a detailed description of the measures implemented for this proposal to maintain and enhance wildlife. A summary of her findings, and the proposed mitigation

measures, is set forth below. In addition, see A.11.b. for a discussion of other measures being taken to minimize impacts to current wildlife populations while retaining unique habitat characteristics for future wildlife needs.

Species /Habitat: Marbled Murrelet

Following a GIS review of WDFW and DNR wildlife and habitat databases by DNR's Wildlife Biologist, it was determined that the nearest occupied marbled murrelet site is located approximately 3.4 miles to the north-northeast of the proposal.

This proposal was originally developed under the Marbled Murrelet Interim Strategy for the North Puget Planning Unit. See *DNR Letter to K. Berg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, (submitted February 23, 2007; approved March 9, 2007). DNR Field Technicians and Foresters performed a delineation of the proposal area in the field to verify and map the extent of suitable marbled murrelet habitat under this interim strategy. The DNR Region Wildlife Biologist confirmed the findings of these delineation efforts that no suitable marbled murrelet habitat as defined in the Habitat Conservation Plan exists within the proposal area.

Since then, the Final Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan AMENDMENT Marbled Murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy (LTCS) was adopted by the Board of Natural Resources on December 3, 2019. The GIS layer addressing murrelet habitat management under the LTCS shows some "possible LTFC" (long-term forest cover) that overlaps with p-stage habitat in the north central portion of Unit 2. However, field reconnaissance determined that this portion of the "possible LTFC" does not represent a stream/riparian corridor. The portion of it that does represent a stream has been bounded out of the unit. There are no "Special Habitat Areas" for marbled murrelets in the vicinity of the proposal.

Protection Measures: There is no need for mitigation measures for marbled murrelets given the distance of the nearest occupied marbled murrelet site to the proposal area. The proposal is consistent with the newly adopted *Long Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet*, and the previous *Marbled Murrelet Interim Strategy for the North Puget Planning Unit*. No areas identified for protection as part of this newly adopted strategy fall within the proposal area.

Species /Habitat: Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Nesting, Roosting and Foraging (NRF) Habitat

The proposal is located in the Upper Wallace River Spotted Owl Management Unit (SOMU). A SOMU is a geographic unit used to analyze thresholds and current habitat levels within a NRF Management Area under the *Habitat Conservation Plan*. DNR determined that this SOMU is below the 50% target threshold for current habitat levels within the NRF Management Area. Consequently, only non-habitat will be harvested within the units for the Middle May Timber Sale. There is a section of the new road that is planned to be built through small portions of the "sub-mature" habitat polygons that are designated for NRF management as authorized by the *Habitat Conservation Plan*.

Protection Measures: This proposal complies with DNR's Northern Spotted Owl Management (Westside) PR 14-004-120 in providing for harvest and road construction within the NRF Management Area.

Species/Habitat: Small Bald in Unit 1

A small bald in Unit 1 was found during reconnaissance work for the Singletary Timber Sale. This bald was also identified during field work for this proposal. It was determined that it would not be operationally feasible to mark leave trees around the bald.

Protection Measures: The purchaser of the timber sale will be required to fell trees away from the bald in order to avoid significant disturbance to this feature.

Species/Habitat: Rock Knob in Unit 2

A rock knob was documented in Unit 2. There are several relatively small cliff faces on the north and south side of this feature. None of these near-vertical rock faces contain any special habitat features such as ledges, overhangs or fissures.

Protection Measures: Only the cliff faces on the north side of the knob are contained within the unit. They are located close to the unit boundary, making it unlikely that they will be disturbed by harvest activities. Therefore, no protection measures are provided for these features.

Species/Habitat: Large Cliff Face in Unit 3

There is a large cliff face with many special habitat features including ledges, overhangs, and fissures located immediately to the north of Unit 3. Although located outside of the unit, there is a very slight chance that tailholds (for downhill yarding of timber) may be needed in the vicinity of the cliff.

Protection Measures: The timber sale contract will require that if tailholds are determined to be needed on or near the cliff, a DNR Region Wildlife Biologist will be contacted to conduct an on-site review of the proposed tailhold location(s) to ensure protection of this feature.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

No invasive animal species were found in a corporate database search on 12/10/2019. During field work for this proposal no threatened or endangered animal species were observed on site.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Petroleum fuel (diesel or gasoline) will be used for heavy equipment during active road building, timber harvest operations, and for transportation. No energy sources will be needed following project completion.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

There is always a risk of environmental hazards occurring during the operations on a timber sale. These risks include accidental spills of petroleum-based fuel, lubricants, anti-freeze and other related products during the operation of heavy equipment for planned road construction and harvesting operations. Likewise, the potential risk of a fire is always present especially in moderate to severe fire weather conditions that are likely to occur during the summer months. Exposure to chemical herbicides (used to ensure achievable stocking levels post-harvest and control noxious weeds) can also present a risk if not used with required precautions.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None known.

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None known.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Petroleum-based fuel and lubricants will be used during active road building and timber harvesting and may be stored on site during the operations conducted for this proposal. Typically, these substances are stored in small transfer tanks located in small commercial vehicles. No toxic or hazardous chemicals will be stored on site following active operations.

In addition, various herbicides may be used on the site for vegetation management.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The Department of Natural Resources, private, and fire protection district suppression crews may be needed in case of wildfire. In the event of personal injuries, emergency medical services may be required. Hazardous material spills may require Department of Ecology and/or assistance from Snohomish County.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

If a spill occurs, containment and cleanup will be required.

The timber sale contract for this proposal will require the purchaser to comply with several protective measures during operations to prevent or, if necessary, control the occurrence of any potential environmental health hazard during planned operations. In general, this includes a contractual provision providing that operations will not be allowed to commence until such time that the purchaser has provided DNR's Contract Administrator with an Emergency Response Plan that includes, among other things, valid contact numbers and procedures for medical emergencies, fire, and hazardous spills. The contract also requires the purchaser to have the emergency contact information readily available on site to ensure that adequate resources can be timely mobilized to respond to an unexpected wildfire, hazardous waste spill, or other emergency health hazard. Significantly, the contract also authorizes DNR's Contract Administrator to suspend any operation of the purchaser if the State is suffering, or there is a reasonable expectation the State will suffer, environmental, monetary or other damage if the operation is allowed to continue.

More specifically, the contract will require the purchaser to comply with a number of protective measures to prevent, or respond to, a release of any hazardous or toxic materials. This includes provisions requiring the purchaser to: comply with all applicable state and federal hazardous materials laws; keep a spill kit on each piece of heavy equipment, with materials necessary to respond to an unexpected spill, during all heavy equipment operations; keep

equipment maintained in good working condition to prevent fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, lubricating grease, antifreeze and other hazardous materials from being released into the environment; and a prohibition on the disposal of any oil or lubricants on site.

The protective measures required for an unexpected fire include compliance by the purchaser with the requirements of WAC 332-24-405 (mandatory spark emitting equipment requirements); and the obligation to perform the contract under the highest degree of care to ensure that the use and maintenance of equipment is not done in a manner that could start a wildfire. The contract will further require the purchaser to have onsite fire tools and equipment, including pump trucks and/or pump trailers, during fire season. Under WAC 332-24-301 (providing for closure and suspension for logging and other industrial operations), DNR's Regional Manager may cease operations during periods of increased fire risk. In the event of an uncontrolled fire, the purchaser is obligated to provide equipment and personnel working at the site to safely and effectively engage in any necessary first response fire suppression activity.

Lastly, the handling, storage, and application of herbicides will comply with the rules governing the handling, storage and application of forest chemicals set forth in WAC 222-38-010 through -.040.

NOTE: If contamination of the environment is suspected, the proponent must contact the Department of Ecology.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Noise from activities created by, or associated with, road building and the use of harvest equipment will occur during operations conducted for this proposal. The noise generated from these activities will be heard within areas within, and near, the site. This includes the area within the immediate vicinity of Wallace Falls State Park. However, the majority of the proposal site is located outside of this area. Therefore, it would be difficult for individuals in the State Park to hear noise from operations conducted on a majority of the site. Moreover, noise from activities associated with the proposal would only be present during the duration of operations for this proposal. In addition, any noise should not exceed customary levels for the area given the noise associated with industrial activities existing in the

general geographic area coupled with the site's close proximity to U.S. Highway 2 and rail lines.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None. It will be difficult to distinguish from the existing levels and sources of noise that occur in the WAU at the current time.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. (*Site includes the complete proposal, e.g. rock pits and access roads.*)

The proposal is located on Washington State owned trust forest land within the Reiter Hills State Forest in Snohomish County. The Department of Natural Resources currently manages the trust lands within the proposal area as a working forest, and for various recreational uses as described in B.12. This proposal will not affect current, or long term, land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

Yes, see answer to B.8.a. This proposal will retain the site in working forest lands. No agricultural or forest lands will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The proposal area consists of two cribbed log structures on each side of May Creek where large cedar logs were stacked in a rectangular pattern and filled with boulders. Presumably, log stringers and bridge decking were placed on top of the abutments. However, no such deck has existed on the bridge abutments since at least the early 1990s.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Yes, the proposal involves removal of the relict bridge abutments discussed in B.8.c. and installation of a span bridge over May Creek. See the *Middle May Road Plan* for a detailed description of the design of the bridge and its placement within the proposal area.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The current zoning classification for the site is “Industrial Forest – Natural Resource” (IF-NRL). See *Snohomish County Code* (SCC 14.16.410).

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The Snohomish County Comprehensive Code designation of the site is “Industrial Forest – Natural Resource Lands” (IF-NRL).

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

May Creek is a “shoreline of the state” under Washington’s Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). It is designated an “aquatic” shoreline environment within the ordinary high water mark, and a “resource” shoreline environment landward thereof within the 200-foot zone of shoreline jurisdiction.

For more information, see *Snohomish County Shoreline Management Program: Shoreline Environment Designations, Policies and Regulations* available at: <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/68998/SMP-Policy-Amend-FINAL-20191009>.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

No.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None, as this proposal is consistent with current comprehensive plans and zoning classifications.

- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

None, as compatible with forest lands of long-term commercial significance.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The tallest structure within the site after completion of the proposal will be a 78-foot span bridge installed in May Creek.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

- 1) *Is this proposal visible from a residential area, town, city, recreation site, major transportation route or designated scenic corridor (e.g., county road, state or interstate highway, US route, river or Columbia Gorge SMA)?*

No Yes, name of the location, transportation route or scenic corridor:

Some views from the Reiter non-motorized trailhead and trail system will be visually altered. However, a portion of Snohomish County forest land divides the proposal area from the proposed future trailhead. Therefore, the visual impacts, if any, will be minimal to those persons using trails on State forest land within the site for recreational purposes. Parts of the proposal will be visible from U.S. Highway 2, May Creek Road, the city of Gold Bar, and from residences located south of the site. The proposal will also be visible from the Mount Index area and other high peaks in the area.

- 2) *How will this proposal affect any views described above?*

The visual modifications to the landscape occurring due to the removal of vegetation within the proposal area will result in scenery impacts after timber harvest. Likewise, some of the effects of temporary and new road construction, bridge construction, and other ground disturbing activities

related to harvest necessary to implement the proposal will also result in visual modifications within the proposal area. However, these changes will be temporary in nature as over time the altered portions of the view shed will return to a more natural appearance. This will occur as the result of new vegetative growth within the units due to regeneration of the stands from the planting of the area post-harvest, from the occurrence of natural seeding, and from the grass seeding of exposed soils on landings, skid trails and rights-of-way within the proposal area.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

This proposal utilizes a range of methods to address visual impacts to the extent practicable and feasible. In addition to the retention of required buffers on streams and wetlands, trees will also be retained throughout the harvest area as individual and clumped leave trees. These retained trees will reduce the visual continuity of the harvest area. Topographic features were incorporated in sale layout as a means to limit visibility of some areas of the proposal from a distance. The forested corridor along the trail immediately adjacent to Unit 1 and the State Park will be retained to further reduce aesthetic impacts in the immediate vicinity. Additionally, a forested corridor will remain around designated trails adjacent to the harvest area. Refer to B.12.c for blow down trees.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There are designated non-motorized trails in the immediate vicinity of the proposal on State lands (i.e., DNR managed forest lands and Wallace Falls State Park) that provide a variety of recreational opportunities for the public. In addition, there are State lands within the proposal area managed by DNR that the public is allowed to

use for recreation. The recreational opportunities on all of these lands in the immediate vicinity include hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, rock climbing, mushroom foraging, and wildlife viewing.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

There will be some disruptions to recreational use of DNR managed State forest lands within the proposal area during periods of road building, harvesting and the hauling of logs. However, no permanent displacement of existing designated or informal recreation opportunities will occur as a result of this proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

The proposal is located on DNR managed trust lands within the Reiter Foothills Forest. In managing these lands as a working forest, DNR balances the need to responsibly generate revenue for the trust beneficiaries as mandated by law; protect the long-term health of the forest's ecosystem; and, provide safe, sustainable recreational opportunities where they are consistent with trust responsibilities consistent with DNR's obligations as the manager of these state forestlands under RCW 79.10.120.

Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan: In 2010, DNR issued the *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan* (April 2010) for the management of the State trust lands within this Forest consistent with these goals. This recreation plan was created through a public planning process that brought together users, neighbors, interest groups, citizens, and staff from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a comprehensive plan to direct the future use of recreation and public access within the area. Public input was a key component, and the first step, in developing the Plan. Members of the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Committee consisted of a variety of recreation interests including fishing, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, motorcycle, ATV and four-wheel drive (4x4) recreationists. In addition, there was conservation representation as well as representatives from Snohomish County, Wallace Falls State Park and the surrounding municipalities of Gold Bar, Index, Monroe, and Sultan. This proposal is consistent with the goals outlined in the *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan*.

Wallace Falls State Park Classification and Management Planning (CAMP): In 2019, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a land classification for Wallace Falls State Park. See *Wallace Falls State Park Classification and Management Planning (CAMP)* (July 18, 2019). The CAMP was developed by the Commission's staff and involved a year and a half public planning process for Wallace Falls State Park. The CAMP for the Reiter Foothills State Forest discusses the State lands owned by the State and managed by DNR as follows:

Reiter Foothills Forest, a DNR managed working forest that includes recreation, is located east, west and south of the park. DNR lands are managed to provide revenue for trust beneficiaries and to provide wildlife habitat. Recreation can occur in these landscapes as a secondary use provided it does not impact the primary objectives required of the trust. Many opportunities exist to provide trail

connections and recreation facilities in this landscape along with opportunities to coordinate with DNR to provide a range of user experiences in the area.

The Wallace Falls CAMP also directly addresses the area around Unit 1 of this proposal which is adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park that included some of Unit 1 of the Singletary Timber Sale:

Much of the DNR managed land surrounding the park will be harvested in coming years. In particular, DNR manages land adjacent to the southeast boundary of the park. 187 acres of this DNR managed area are proposed for harvest, likely in a 2-year timeframe. This harvest, known as the “Singletary Timber Sale, Application 89462 and Forest Practice Application 2813860”, has been a topic of controversy and subject to much discussion in the community. DNR lands are located adjacent to the park and can encourage and facilitate recreation opportunities including non-motorized trail connections between DNR public lands and the park. State Parks seeks to establish agreements accomplished in the least burdensome and most advantageous manner. With the surrounding DNR lands recreational connections are best achieved through a management agreement that articulates shared recreation goals. Washington State Parks has no plans to acquire any DNR properties at present. DNR will continue to manage their lands as working forest under the multiple use concept described in RCW 79.10.110.

State Parks staff visited the boundary between the proposed harvest Unit 1 and Wallace Falls State Park on July 30, 2015. They agreed on the survey work that established the property line. They also understood the effects of the adjacent harvest and were accepting of the proposal. They voice no additional concerns during or after the site visit.

General Comments: This proposal upon completion will continue to provide access onto lands within the Reiter Foothills Forest for use by the public for the various recreational opportunities as described above. This includes the establishment of a forested trail corridor between the Snohomish County trailhead and Wallace Falls State Park to support non-motorized trail development, as mentioned in A.11.b. The road network and infrastructure in this proposal will provide significant cost savings to develop and maintain recreation infrastructure and opportunities in the future. The road network in this proposal will allow staff, volunteers, equipment, and materials to access the landscape more easily and safely. The road infrastructure, specifically bridges and other stream crossings, can be used by recreation users in the future thus limiting the need for excessive stream crossings for recreation.

Blowdown of trees along the common boundary of Unit 1 and the Wallace Falls State Park was discussed on site, and in the Wallace Falls CAMP as anticipated by the land classification system. An expected event normally occurs in tree stands and is an important mechanism for providing down woody debris for habitat. The DNR’s *Habitat Conservation Plan* provides an explanation of the importance of this habitat component.

Down wood is essential for small mammal communities (Maser and Trappe 1984; Harmon et al. 1986). Carey and Johnson (1995) found that the abundance of small mammal species was related to the amount of dead and down wood in both managed and naturally regenerated stands. From their empirical observations, they recommend that retention of 15 to 20 percent cover of coarse woody debris would allow most small mammal species to reach their potential abundances.”(Section IV page 16). Field observations of the parks lands have not shown this recommended level of down woody debris, especially in the larger sized trees. Any trees blown down along the common boundary would be contributing to the down woody habitat either in the park or on DNR managed lands.

Historically, the harvests adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park have shown only limited blow down events.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

No.

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Site number 45SN623 was surveyed and evaluated by DNR’s State Lands Archaeologist. The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred in 2015 that this resource is not eligible for listing on state or national heritage registers. Additional survey work and resource documentation were prepared in 2020. See *Letter from DNR State Lands Archaeologist to DAHP’s Local Government Archaeologist (June 11, 2015)* *Letter from DAHP’s Local Governments Archaeologist to DNR’s State Lands Archaeologist (July 9, 2015)*. This did not result in any change to the eligibility determination. *RE: Middle May Timber Sale, 2020-01-00561, Update to 45SN623 (January 31, 2020)*.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

DNR’s State Lands Archaeologist conducted desk research (i.e. historical research, map review, DNR tract book review, and personal communications with DNR staff), along with field visits to the sale area in 2014 and 2015 when parts of units 1 and 2 were included as part of the Singletary Timber Sale. This resulted in the recording and evaluation of 45SN623.

In 2019, DNR conducted additional research of those areas within the proposal not reviewed as part of the Singletary Timber Sale. A “LRM (Land Resource Manager) Special Concerns Report” for the updated Middle May timber sale proposal area was accessed by DNR’s Forester on December 10, 2019. In 2019 and 2020, DNR’s State Lands Archaeologist conducted supplemental field investigations within the proposal area, which resulted in an update to the site record for 45SN623 and a memo describing the additional survey work completed. See *Re: Middle May Timber Sale Unit 2 and Road Right-of-Way, Township 28 North, Range 9 East, Section 34, Willamette Baseline and Meridian, Skagit County, Washington* (January 6, 2020).

The Tulalip Tribes, Stillaguamish Tribes of Indians, and Snoqualmie Indian Tribes were contacted September 2019, and provided an opportunity to respond. As of the date of completion of this checklist, DNR did not receive any comments from the Tribes. See email *DNR Letter to Tulalip Tribes, Stillaguamish Tribes of Indians, and Snoqualmie Indian Tribes*, September 2019.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

DNR’s timber sale contracts contain enforceable measures for protecting any undiscovered historic and cultural resources that might be encountered during operations. If a presently unknown resource is discovered during project operations, DNR will comply with all applicable federal and state laws requiring the documentation and protection of such resources, and will comply with *DNR’s Cultural Inadvertent Discovery Guidance* (March 2010). Additionally, DNR is required under the terms of the shoreline substantial development permit to notify Snohomish County if archeological materials are uncovered during excavation or development of the May Creek bridge.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The site can be accessed via U.S. Highway 2, exiting off onto Reiter Road and following this county road until it merges with May Creek Mainline DNR managed forest road. See *Middle May Road Plan*; and *Middle May Timber Sale Maps*; these documents are available upon request at the Northwest Region Office. (Note: Timber Sale maps are DRAFT at the point of submission of this SEPA.)

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No. The nearest transit stop is approximately 3 miles from the site.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

None.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Yes. The proposal will require construction of new roads and improvements to existing roads as briefly described in A.11.c. A more detailed description of this work can be found in the *Middle May Road Plan*, available upon request at the Northwest Region Office.

- 1) *How does this proposal impact the overall transportation system/circulation in the surrounding area and any existing safety problem(s), if at all?*

This project will have minimal, if any, additional impacts on the overall transportation system in the surrounding area. Nor does the proposal impact any existing safety problems existing in regards to the overall transportation system/circulation in the surrounding area.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

It is anticipated that approximately 10 to 15 truck trips per day would be generated while operations are active under the proposal. Peak volumes for vehicular trips would occur between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during log yarding and loading activities performed as part of the planned harvest operations. The completed proposal will generate, on average in a given year, less than one vehicular trip per day for activities predominately related to forest management activities. Estimates are based on the observed harvest traffic of past projects relating to the same types of activities as planned for this proposal.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None.

16. Utilities

- a. Check utilities currently available at the site:

electricity natural gas water refuse service telephone sanitary sewer
 septic system other:

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Allen McGuire

Name of signee Allen McGuire

Position and Agency/Organization CASCADE DIST MANAGER DNR

Date Submitted: 2/6/2020



Forest Practices
Informal Conference Note

ICN No. 135622	Legal Subdivision	Section 33, 34	TWP 28	RGE E/W 9E	Application / Notification #	Class
Landowner Department of Natural Resources – Tyson Whiteid		Timber Owner Same as landowner		Operator		
Mailing Address 919 N. Township St.		Mailing Address		Mailing Address		
City, State /Province), Zip /Postal Code) Sedro-Woolley WA 98284		City, State /Province), Zip /Postal Code		City, State /Province), Zip /Postal Code)		
Meeting Location On site		Telephone Conference <input type="checkbox"/>	Date 11/21/2019	Time 0900	Region NW	
Subjects Discussed:						
<p>Follow up site visit to review the proposed “Middle May” timber sale.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the review of the delineation of avulsion potential areas of the alluvial fan identified by the applicant from the harvest unit that was not reviewed from the previous site visit. 2. Review of potential Inner gorge along the Wallace River in unit 1. 						
Decisions Made:						
<p>The decision for the items listed above are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The avulsion potential site was reviewed and appeared to be correctly delineated. 2. The unit boundary is correctly bounded at that location. <p>Also, A follow up to ICN 135621. I did not include that the proposed harvest would be classed as a class IVSP FPA because crossing #4 or D was determined to be an inner gorge crossing. And the number for the bridge is changed to crossing #5. In addition, the proposed culvert crossing reviewed in the previous site visit has been redesigned to be a bridge crossing and will be designated as bridge crossing #4.</p>						
PRINT Participants' Names Tyson Whiteid Jennifer Parker Derek Marks Neil Shea Josh Hardesty		*SIGNATURES of Participants		Representing landowner landowner Tulalip Tribes Tulalip Tribes forest practice		Copies Mailed <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Position No. 2925	Signature & Title of DNR Representative Steven Huang, Forest Practice Forester <i>Steven Huang</i>		Date 12/26/2019	Work Phone (360)770-9806		
<p>* (Participant signature means Note is correct for subjects discussed and decisions made at the meeting.) Did not attend -- mail copies to: WFPARM, FPDm, FPCOORD, SKY30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Timber Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others: SNOCO, ECY, DW, DOR, TULALIP</p>						

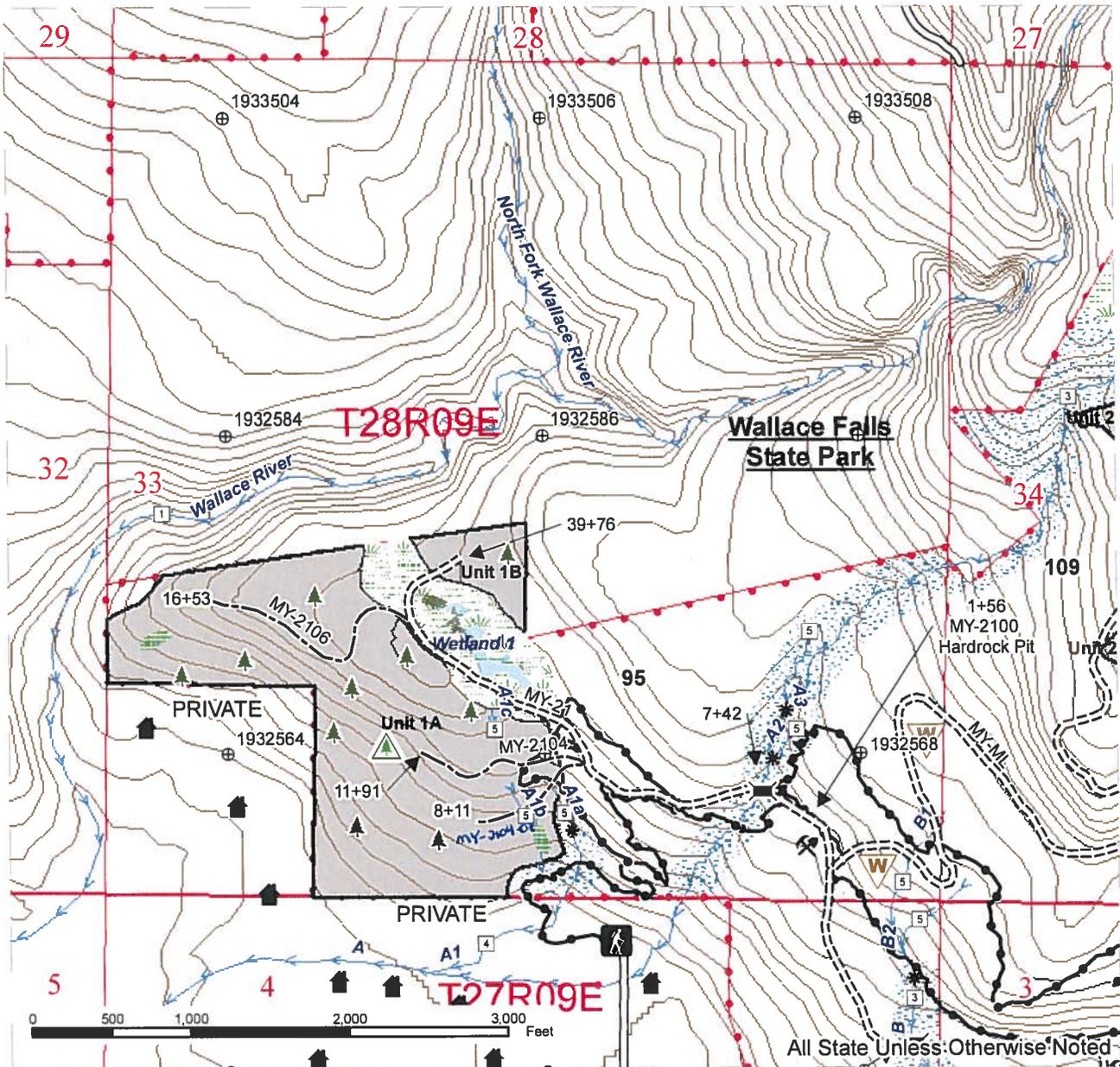
E-MAILED 12-26-19

2817340

FOREST PRACTICES ACTIVITY MAP

SALE NAME: MIDDLE MAY
 APPLICATION #: TBD by FP Staff

COUNTY(S): Snohomish
 TOWNSHIP(S): T27R9E, T28R9E

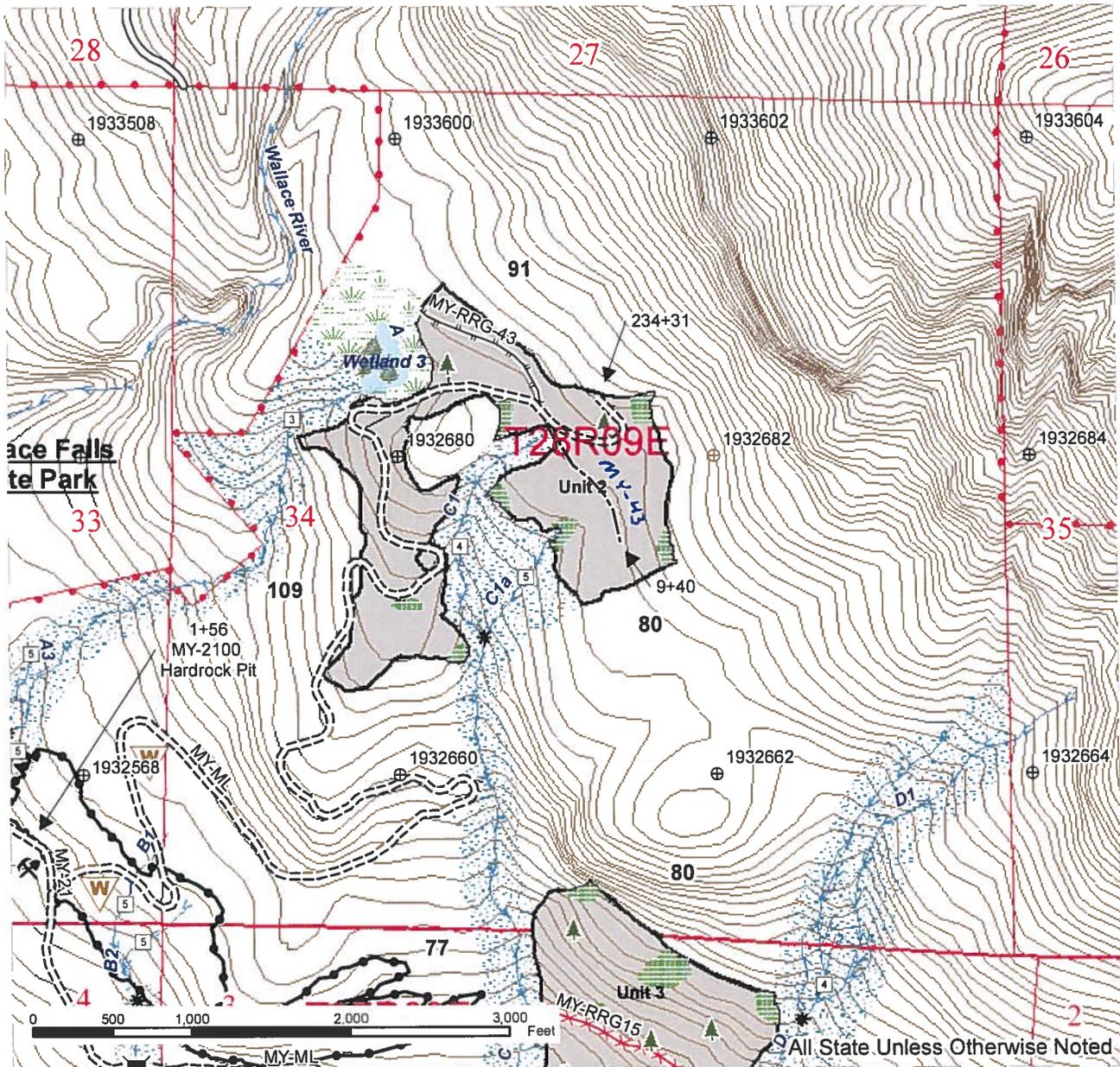


- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| DNR Managed Lands | Existing Roads | Bridge |
| Sale Area | New Construction | Leave Tree Area <1/4-acre |
| Leave Tree Area | Temporary Construction | Non-Tradeable Leave Trees |
| Riparian Mgt Zone | Old Grades/Trails | occupied Structure |
| Forested Wetland | Streams | Trailhead |
| Wetland Mgt Zone | Stream Type | Rock Pit |
| | Stream Type Break | Waste Area |

FOREST PRACTICES ACTIVITY MAP

SALE NAME: MIDDLE MAY
 APPLICATION #: TBD by FP Staff

COUNTY(S): Snohomish
 TOWNSHIP(S): T27R9E, T28R9E

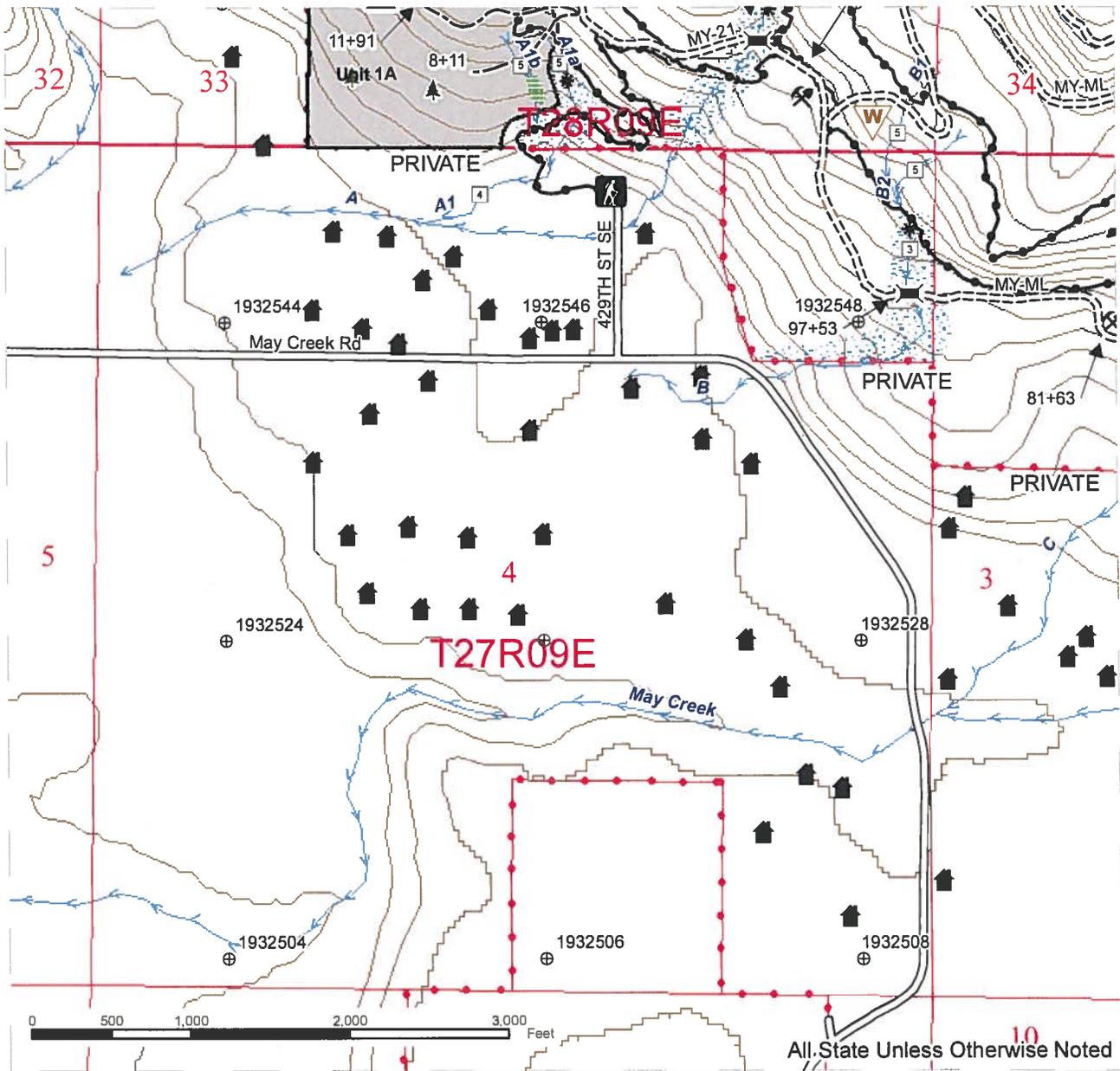


DNR Managed Lands	Existing Roads	Bridge
Sale Area	New Construction	Leave Tree Area <1/4-acre
Leave Tree Area	Temporary Construction	Rock Pit
Riparian Mgt Zone	Orphaned Grade	Waste Area
Forested Wetland	Old Grades/Trails	
Wetland Mgt Zone	Designated Skid Trail	
	Streams	
	Stream Type	
	Stream Type Break	

FOREST PRACTICES ACTIVITY MAP

SALE NAME: MIDDLE MAY
 APPLICATION #: TBD by FP Staff

COUNTY(S): Snohomish
 TOWNSHIP(S): T27R9E, T28R9E



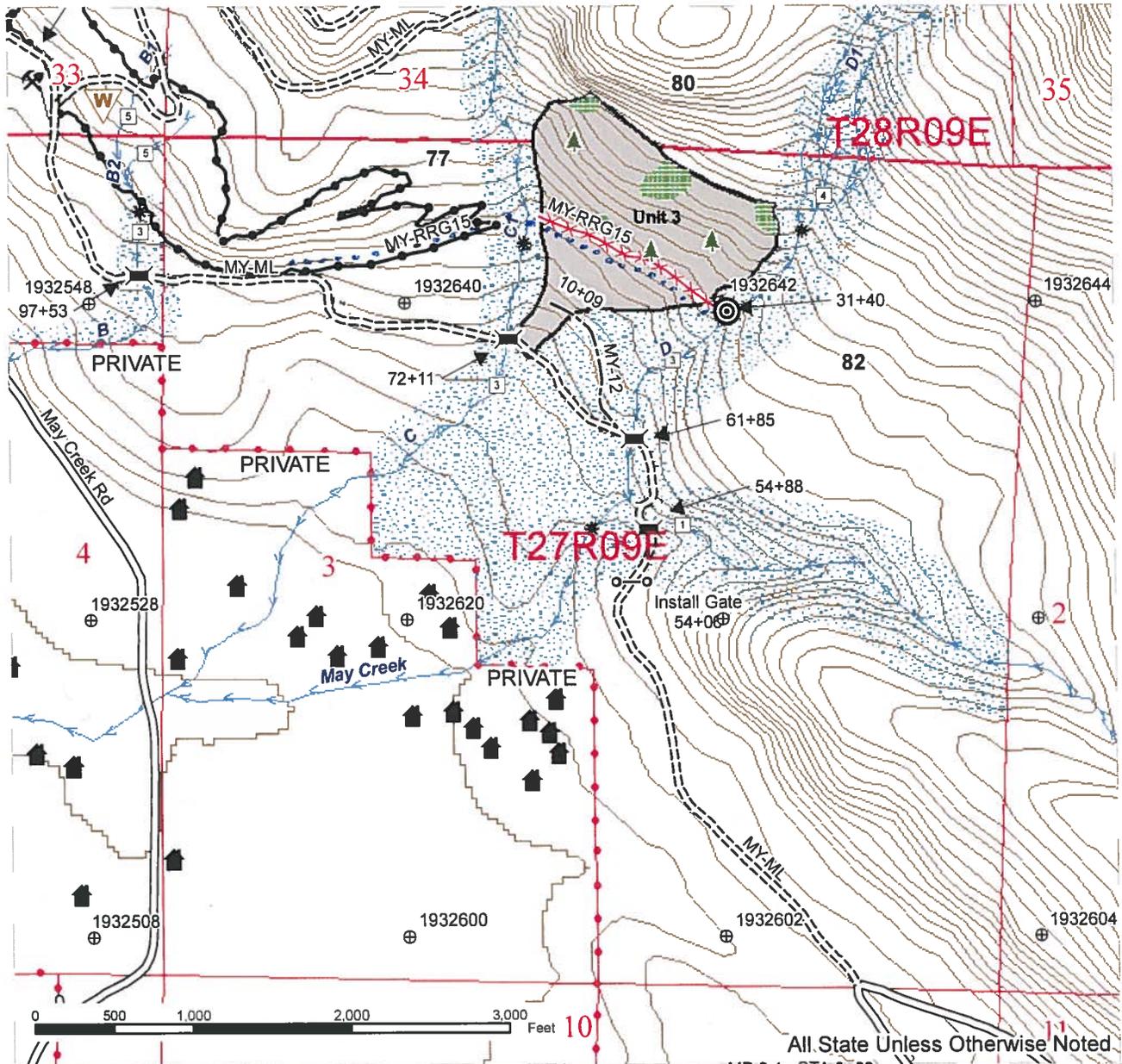
DNR Managed Lands	Existing Roads	Bridge
Sale Area	New Construction	Leave Tree Area <1/4-acre
Leave Tree Area	Temporary Construction	Non-Tradeable Leave Trees
Riparian Mgt Zone	Old Grades/Trails	occupied Structure
	Streams	Trailhead
	Stream Type	Rock Pit
	Stream Type Break	Waste Area



FOREST PRACTICES ACTIVITY MAP

SALE NAME: MIDDLE MAY
 APPLICATION #: TBD by FP Staff

COUNTY(S): Snohomish
 TOWNSHIP(S): T27R9E, T28R9E



All State Unless Otherwise Noted

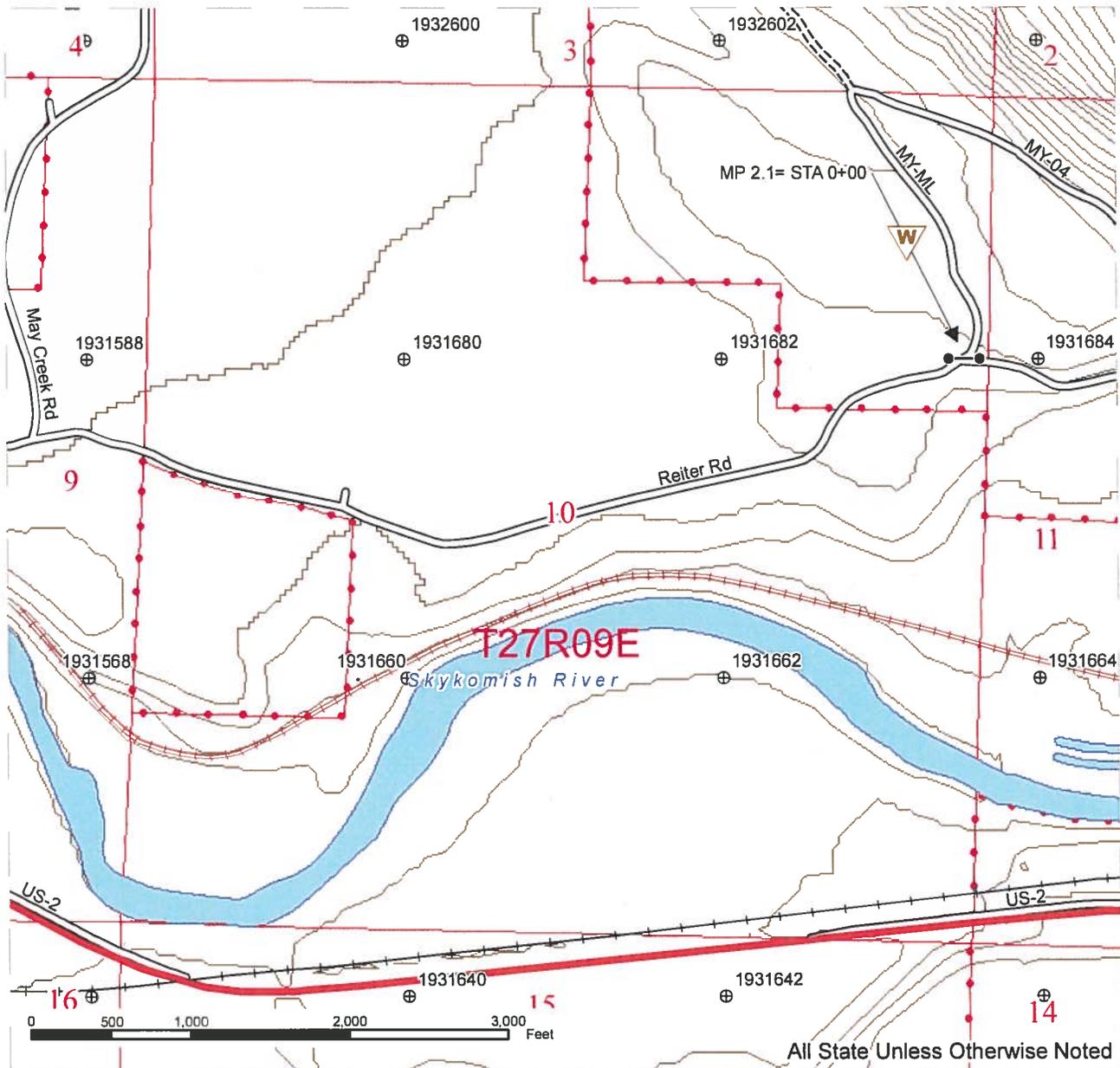
DNR Managed Lands	Existing Roads	Bridge
Sale Area	New Construction	Leave Tree Area <1/4-acre
Leave Tree Area	Temporary Construction	Gate Installation
Riparian Mgt Zone	Orphaned Grade	occupied Structure
	Old Grades/Trails	Stream Bank Restoration
	Streams	Rock Pit
	Stream Type	Waste Area
	Stream Type Break	
	<i>.... old Grade to be abandoned</i>	



FOREST PRACTICES ACTIVITY MAP

SALE NAME: MIDDLE MAY
 APPLICATION #: TBD by FP Staff

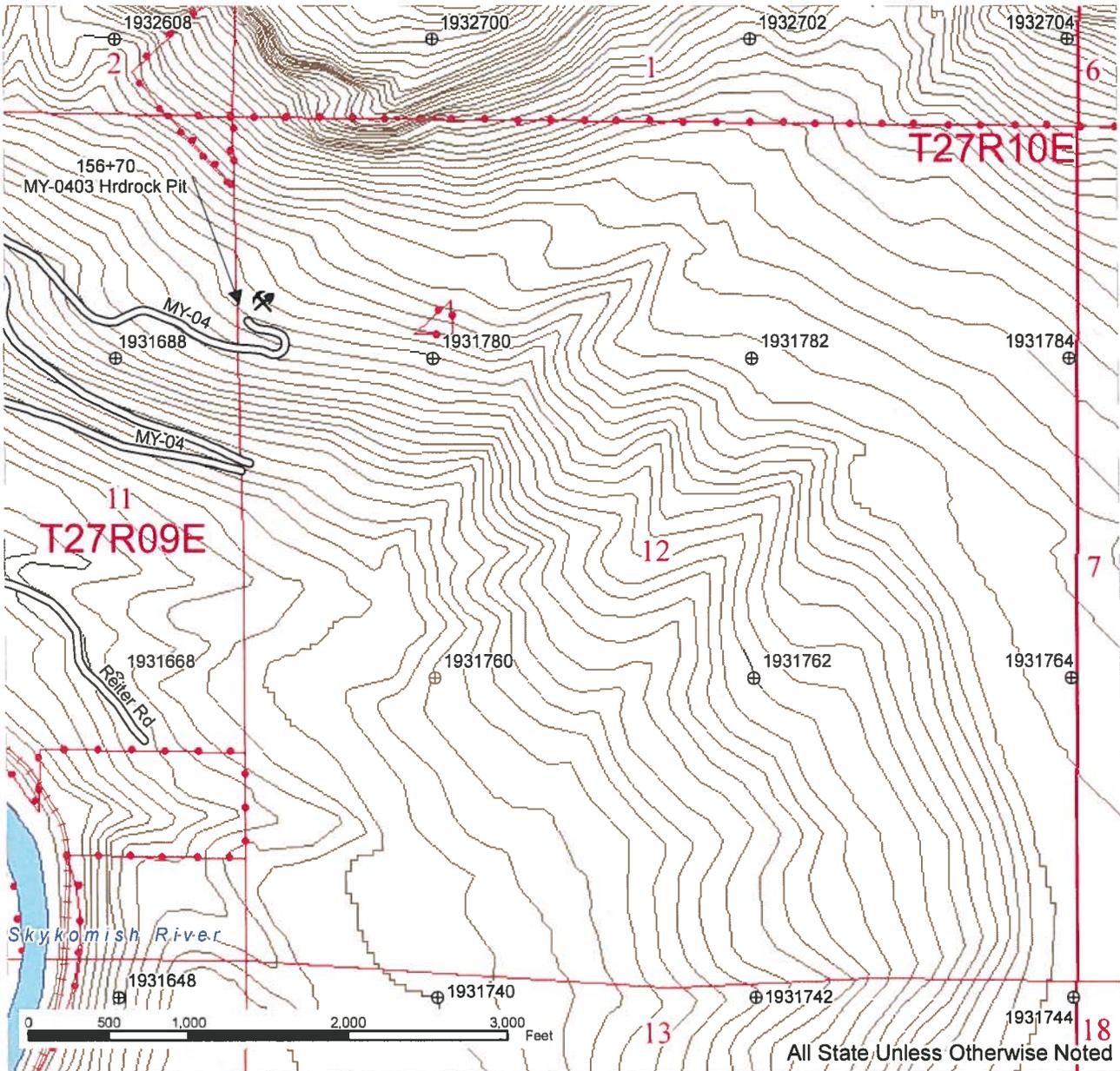
COUNTY(S): Snohomish
 TOWNSHIP(S): T27R9E, T28R9E



FOREST PRACTICES ACTIVITY MAP

SALE NAME: MIDDLE MAY
 APPLICATION #: TBD by FP Staff

COUNTY(S): Snohomish
 TOWNSHIP(S): T27R9E, T28R9E



-  DNR Managed Lands
-  Existing Roads
-  Rock Pit
-  Stream Type
-  Stream Type Break

2817340

