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Northwest Region

Forest Practices Program Coordinator

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: **SCHOONER**
Agreement # **30-107296**

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

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

DNR Northwest Region
919 North Township Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 856-3500
Contact person: Laurie Bergvall

4. Date checklist prepared: **10/10/2024**

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

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

a. *Auction Date:*
06/11/2025

b. *Planned contract end date (but may be extended):*
03/31/2029

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:*

Portions of the proposal may be treated with herbicides prior to planting. Assessment for treatment will occur after completion of harvest.

b. *Regeneration Method:*

Hand plant conifer seedlings within two years after completion of harvest.

c. *Vegetation Management:*

Treatment to be assessed in 3-5 years. Competing vegetation may be treated by manual cutting and/or herbicide. Treatment to be assessed in 10 to 15 years for pre-commercial thinning. A commercial thinning is possible in 25 to 45 years.

d. Other:

Road maintenance assessments will be conducted and may include periodic ditch and culvert cleanout, and grading as necessary. Onsite rock may be used for road construction, if rock sources are discovered along haul routes or within the sale area.

The ED-ML, ED-36, and ED-55 roads will be used for future management activities.

The Santa Maria pit will be used for future management activities.

Firewood from piled material, if available, may be sold following the completion of harvest 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 available upon request at the DNR Region Office.*

303 (d) – listed water body in WAU:

South Fork Nooksack River, Cavanaugh Creek, Edfro Creek

temp

sediment

completed TMDL (total maximum daily load)

Landscape plan:

Watershed analysis: **Skookum Creek**

Interdisciplinary team (ID Team) report:

Road design plan: **Schooner Road Plan**

Wildlife report:

Geotechnical report: **Engineering Geology Risk Assessment dated 11/7/2024**

Other specialist report(s):

Level 1 Hydrologic Change Analysis For Proposed Timber Sales in Sub-basins 7 and 9 of the Skookum WAU dated 9/9/2024

Electrofishing Protocol Survey Report Unnamed Streams, Tributaries to Cavanaugh Creek dated 9/12/2024

Marbled Murrelet Occupied Site Buffer Harvest – Schooner Timber Sale dated 10/30/2024

Washington DNR West Side Old Growth Assessment Form dated 11/23/2023

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

Rock pit plan:

Other:

The following analyses, policies, procedures, documents, and data layers directly pertain to or were reviewed as part of this proposal and are incorporated by reference:

- **DNR Policies and Implementation**
 - **Policy for Sustainable Forests (PSF; 2006a)**
 - **Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests (2006b)**
 - **Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019)**
 - **Landscape Assessment to Identify and Manage Structurally Complex Stands to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington, May 2024 (Revised September 2024).**

Geo Tech Report, 303(d), Watershed Analysis Worksheet, Hydrologic Change Analysis, Electrofishing Survey, and Marbled Murrelet Checklist available on FPARS w/FPA 2819673 3/3/2025 BH

- Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Western Washington by Robert Van Pelt (2007).
- Silvicultural Rotational Prescriptions
- Land Resource Manager Reports and associated maps
- **DNR Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan and Supplemental Information**
 - Final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP; 1997)
 - Final (Merged) Environmental Impact Statement for the Habitat Conservation Plan (1998)
 - Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019)
 - Final State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment: Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy
 - Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy (RFRS; 2006)
 - Spotted Owl Habitat GIS Layer
 - Marbled Murrelet Habitat GIS Layer
 - WAU Rain-On-Snow GIS Layer and Reports
 - Biological Opinion on the HCP, USFWS; January 27, 1997
 - Biological Opinion on the HCP, NMFS; January 29, 1997
 - Biological Opinion on the HCP Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy Amendment, USFWS; November 7, 2019
 - Reinitiated Biological Opinion on the Incidental Take Permit (PRT-812521), USFWS; March 21, 2024
- **Forest Practices Regulations and Compliance**
 - Forest Practices Board Manual
 - Forest Practices Activity Maps
 - Trust Lands HCP Addendum and Checklist
- **Supporting Data for Unstable Slopes Review**
 - State Lands Geologist Remote Review (SLGRR)
 - Lidar Data and Derivatives
 - Draft Landform Remote Identification Model (LRIM) screening tool
 - Published Landslide Inventories
 - Historic Aerial Photographs
 - Published Geologic Mapping
- **Supporting Data for Cultural Resources Review**
 - Historical Aerial Photographs
 - USGS and GLO maps
 - Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation database for architectural and archaeological resources and reports (WISAARD)
- **Additional Supporting Data for Policy Compliance**
 - Weighted Old Growth Habitat Index (WOGHI)
 - State Soil Survey
 - Stand Development Stage Assessment form

Referenced documents may be obtained at the region office responsible for this proposal.

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 known.

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

- FPA # 2819673* *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 is a variable retention harvest (VRH) with an estimated harvest volume of 6,309 MBF of timber.

Approximately 248 acres were originally evaluated for harvest with this proposal. This has been reduced to approximately 98.1 gross acres due to operational feasibility, adjacent riparian management zones, wetland management zones, potentially unstable slopes, and a marbled murrelet occupied site buffer. The resulting timber sale area, including road right-of-way, consists of approximately 93.8 net harvest acres after deducting leave tree areas.

Road construction, road maintenance, and rock pit operations will be conducted as part of the project.

This proposal is being submitted as part of a Class IV Forest Practices Application.

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:

The stands within the harvest units are comprised predominately of naturally regenerated Douglas-fir (DF) with a lesser component of western hemlock (WH), western redcedar (RC), red alder (RA), and black cottonwood (BC) in the canopy. The understory vegetation is sparse, consisting primarily of sword fern and huckleberry. According to agency data, stand origin ranges from 1930-1945.

In the Schooner Timber Sale 93.8 net acres are being harvested, while 150.3 acres (61% of the proposal area) are being conserved from the overall proposal area that was evaluated for harvest. These conservation areas may include potentially unstable slopes, riparian and wetland management zones and other conservation areas. Many of these conservation areas are regeneration harvest deferred and will contribute to older-forests over time. The stage of stand development for the harvest areas within this proposal on the stand level scoring using the Van Pelt guide (Van Pelt 2007) is Maturation I.

Type of Harvest:

Variable Retention Harvest (VRH): Even-aged harvest with a component of retention of structures such as large and old live trees, snags, and logs to provide for continuity in

structure, function, and composition between forest generations.

Overall Unit Objectives:

- **To support healthy forest ecosystems, protect water quality, maintain site productivity, and maintain wildlife habitat while providing sustainable, economic, ecological and social benefits from these forested trust lands.**
- **Generate revenue for the State trust beneficiaries from the production and sale of sustainably produced, climate friendly wood products.**
- **This proposal meets or exceeds all guidelines set forth in the DNR Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy, Policy for Sustainable Forests, and Forest Practices Rules and Regulations.**

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 (Estimated) | Fish Barrier Removals (#) |
|--|----------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Construction** | | 4,753 | 2.0 | |
| Reconstruction | | 0 | | 0 |
| Maintenance | | 36,960 | | 0 |
| Abandonment | | 2,445 | 1.0 | |
| Bridge Install/Replace | N/A | | | |
| Stream Culvert Install/Replace (fish) | 0 | | | |
| Stream Culvert Install/Replace (no fish) | 3 | | | |

****Of the length listed for 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 during the life of an approved forest practices application/notification, then abandoned.**

FPA 2819673 includes 0.5ac of rock pit expansion and 6,500cy of spoil deposits 3/3/2025 BH

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:

**Harvest Area:
 Township 37 North, Range 5 East, Section 36
 Township 37 North, Range 6 East, Section 31
 Township 36 North, Range 5 East, Section 1
 Township 36 North, Range 6 East, Section 6**

**Rock Pit:
Township 37 North, Range 5 East, Section 36**

**Pre-haul Maintenance:
Township 36 North, Range 6 East, Section 6
Township 37 North, Range 5 East, Section 23, 25, 26, 27, and 36
Township 37 North, Range 6 East, Section 31**

Activity maps are available w/FPA 2819673 on FPARS, pre-haul maintenance not included in FPA 2819673 3/3/2025 BH

b. Distance and direction from nearest town:

This proposal is approximately 10 miles southeast of Acme, WA.

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).

Small shallow slope failures are known to exist in the Skookum Creek WAU, associated with over-steepened slopes and inner gorge stream channels. The potential for natural delivery of sediment to typed waters is present, especially during peak flow events. Also, there are two marbled murrelet occupied sites within the Skookum Creek WAU.

DNR analyzed carbon sequestration and carbon emissions from projected land management activities within its final environmental impact (FEIS) statement for the 2015-2024 Sustainable Harvest Calculation and the FEIS for the 2019 HCP Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet. At the western Washington scale, land management activities on DNR-managed lands sequester more carbon than emitted. Individual activities, such as this proposal, are likely to emit some greenhouse gases, including CO₂; however, at the landscape scale, DNR's sustainable land management activities, including this proposal, sequester more carbon than they emit. Evaluating carbon sequestration at the western Washington scale is appropriate because a determination of net carbon emissions must consider both the carbon sequestered and the carbon emissions from management within the same analysis area (western Washington).

Recognizing the climate and carbon benefits of working forests in Washington's Climate Commitment Act (RCW 70A.45.005), the legislature found that Washington should maintain and enhance the state's ability to continue to sequester carbon through natural and working lands and forest products. Further, "Washington's existing forest products sector, including public and private working forests and the harvesting, transportation, and manufacturing sectors that enable working forests to remain on the land and the state to be a global supplier of forest products, is, according to a University of Washington study analyzing the global warming mitigating role of wood products from Washington's private forests, an industrial sector that currently operates as a significant net sequesterer of carbon. This value, which is only provided through the maintenance of an intact and synergistic industrial sector, is an integral component of the state's contribution to the global climate response and efforts to mitigate carbon emissions." RCW 70A.45.090(1)(a).

The legislature also found that the 2019 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report "identifies several measures where sustainable forest management and forest products may be utilized to maintain and enhance carbon sequestration. These include increasing the

carbon sequestration potential of forests and forest products by maintaining and expanding the forestland base, reducing emissions from land conversion to non-forest uses, increasing forest resiliency to reduce the risk of carbon releases from disturbances such as wildfire, pest infestation, and disease, and applying sustainable forest management techniques to maintain or enhance forest carbon stocks and forest carbon sinks, including through the transference of carbon to wood products” (2020 Washington Laws Ch. 120 §1(2)).

DNR is legally required (RCW 79.10.320) to periodically calculate a sustainable harvest level and manages state trust lands sustainably. DNR has also maintained (statewide) a forest management certificate to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standard since 2006. In managing state trust lands sustainably, DNR sequesters more carbon than it emits while conducting land management activities such as this proposal.

The timber harvested from DNR-managed lands is used to produce climate-smart forest products. The climate impacts of DNR’s land management are analyzed in multiple environmental impact statements that have informed the Board of Natural Resources’ decisions and are consistent with the IPCC, which states that “[m]eeting society’s needs for timber through intensive management of a smaller forest area creates opportunities for enhanced forest protection and conservation in other areas, thus contributing to climate change mitigation.”

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 Department of Natural Resources has a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service concerning threatened and endangered species and their habitats, which requires the Department to manage landscapes to provide and sustain long-term habitat in exchange for an Incidental Take Permit. This agreement substantially helps the Department to mitigate for cumulative effects related to management activities. The Department follows Forest Practices Rules as applicable to roads and potentially unstable slopes. The Department follows Forest Protections related to fire hazard mitigation.

The General Silviculture Strategy (policy) in the Policy for Sustainable Forests (PSF) emphasized that older-forest targets will be accomplished over time and that DNR intends to actively manage structurally complex forests to achieve older-forest structures (i.e. stands with older-forests identified by structural characteristics) across 10 to 15 percent of each western Washington HCP planning unit in 70 to 100 years from the adoption of the PSF.

In September 2024, the DNR revised a document titled ‘*Landscape Assessment to Identify and Manage Structurally Complex Stands to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington, May 2024*’ (landscape assessment). This document describes the background, historical analyses regarding attainment of older-forest conditions in western Washington, and updated data and modeling analyses showing when the various HCP planning units across western Washington are expected to attain a level of older-forest conditions through implementation of the HCP and other conservation objectives, and outlined as targets within the PSF.

This landscape assessment identifies the existing structurally complex stands, and additional suitable stands, to be managed for older-forest targets over time. The identified stands are

located in conservation areas and deferred stands unavailable for regeneration harvest. These stands include areas identified as long-term forest cover under the marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy, riparian areas, areas conserved under the multispecies conservation strategy, potentially unstable slopes, spotted owl nest patches, old growth, Natural Areas and Natural Resource Conservation Areas, and other conservation areas permanently deferred from regeneration harvest.

Some of these conservation areas are based on specific HCP strategies that are spatially fixed and conserved on the landscape, such as marbled murrelet occupied sites or spotted owl nest patches. However, other conservation areas are modeled and must be field verified based on HCP strategies, such as riparian areas or unstable slopes. There is naturally some adjustment to the location, absence, or presence of conservation areas upon field verification. This timber sale has been field verified for compliance with all conservation objectives and the planned harvest units are determined not to be regeneration harvest deferred and are available for harvest. These harvest areas also do not count towards the attainment of older-forests over time and have been excluded from the calculations and tables included in the landscape assessment. Conversely, when field verification identifies specific areas required for conservation, they will be protected from harvest and included in future conservation area modeling.

The landscape assessment demonstrates that while the North Puget HCP Planning Unit does not currently contain 10 to 15 percent older-forest conditions, the structurally complex and other suitable stands designated to be managed for older-forest targets are projected to develop into older-forest structure that meets or exceeds this threshold by 2070 (Table A) through implementation of the HCP and other policies and laws. Stands identified to be managed toward older-forest targets, including currently older-forests and stands projected to develop older-forest structure in the future, are depicted in associated maps within the landscape assessment document for each western Washington HCP planning unit.

Table A. Percent area western Washington HCP planning units with older-forest stands in conservation areas by decade through 2120. With plot discounts and disturbance factor. Landscape Assessment to Identify and Manage Structurally Complex Stands to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington, May 2024 (Revised September 2024).

| ADJUSTED QUERY OUTPUT (WITH PLOT DISCOUNT & DISTURBANCE FACTOR) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| HCP Planning Unit | Year | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2021 | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 | 2060 | 2070 | 2080 | 2090 | 2100 | 2110 | 2120 |
| COLUMBIA | 1.0% | 1.2% | 1.4% | 1.7% | 2.4% | 3.9% | 6.2% | 9.4% | 13.3% | 16.5% | 18.2% |
| N. PUGET | 3.2% | 3.9% | 4.9% | 6.2% | 7.9% | 10.2% | 13.2% | 16.7% | 20.5% | 23.9% | 25.0% |
| OESF | 10.2% | 10.7% | 11.0% | 11.7% | 12.6% | 13.9% | 15.9% | 20.0% | 24.9% | 28.3% | 29.5% |
| S. COAST | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.6% | 1.2% | 2.1% | 3.6% | 5.9% | 8.8% | 12.2% | 15.9% | 18.6% |
| S. PUGET | 1.7% | 2.2% | 2.7% | 3.6% | 4.6% | 6.1% | 8.4% | 11.3% | 14.4% | 17.1% | 18.7% |
| STRAITS | 1.9% | 2.6% | 3.2% | 4.3% | 5.6% | 7.4% | 9.9% | 12.6% | 15.1% | 18.0% | 19.5% |

DNR has designated forest stand acreage within regeneration harvest deferred areas in each HCP planning unit to meet or exceed the policy’s 10% older-forest target. This identified

acreage is designated in DNR’s GIS database as the Westside Forest Cover (Conservation Areas) and Older-Forest in Conservation Areas layers.

The Schooner Timber Sale is not identified as one of those stands designated to meet older-forest targets over time. Following the timber sale, the variable retention harvest units will be replanted with native, conifer tree species that will be supplemented by natural regeneration expected to occur as a result of the conservation areas in and around the harvest units.

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

- **Retaining Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) to protect water quality, stream bank integrity, stream temperatures, and provide down woody debris. RMZ/WMZs will develop older riparian forest characteristics that, in combination with other strategies, will help support older riparian forest dependent wildlife and aquatic species.**
- **Analyzing, designing, and constructing roads to minimize effects on the environment.**
- **Remote and field reviews were conducted to ensure that all identified potentially unstable slopes that were interpreted as having potential to adversely impact public resources or public safety were excluded from the harvest areas.**
- **No tailholds will be allowed within any identified Forest Practice rule-identified landforms.**
- **Cross-drains and ditch-outs will be utilized to minimize the potential for mass wasting and slope failures associated with poor drainage by dispersing water onto stable forest floor.**
- **Skid trails may be water barred post harvesting activities, if necessary to avoid concentrating surface water runoff.**

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.

e. Complete the table below with the reasonably foreseeable future activities within the associated WAU(s) (add more lines as needed). Future is generally defined as occurring within the next 7 years. This data was obtained from DNR’s Land Resource Manager System on the date of processing this checklist and may be subject to change.

| WAU Name | Total WAU Acres | DNR-managed 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 |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| SKOOKUM CREEK | 23172 | 5634 | 403 | 71 | 335 |

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: | SKOOKUM CREEK |
| WAU Acres: | 23172 |
| Elevation Range: | 374 - 7001 ft. |
| Mean Elevation: | 2782 ft. |
| Average Precipitation: | 84 in./year |
| Primary Forest Vegetation Zone: | Pacific Silver Fir |

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

This proposal is a representative example of the WAUs at the same elevation and aspect.

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

90% FPA 2819673 indicates that ground-based equipment will be limited to sustained slopes 40% or less, self-leveling equipment may be used on sustained slopes 55% or less, and tethered equipment may be used on sustained slopes 65% or less 3/3/2025 BH

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 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 |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4790 | V.GRAVELLY LOAM |
| 4788 | GRAVELLY LOAM |
| 7498 | V.GRAVELLY LOAM |
| 9164 | GRAVELLY SILT LOAM/V.GRAVELLY LOAM |

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

No, go to question B-I-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 unstable slopes review included published landslide inventories as screening tools. Landslide inventories come from many different projects including published geologic mapping, watershed analyses, landscape planning, landslide hazard zonation, and other case studies and mapping efforts. Other than the Washington Geology Survey landslide inventory, most of these landslide data sources predate lidar availability. A large majority of remotely identified landslides have not been verified in the field and were mapped with various levels of certainty. Dormant and relict deep-seated landslides are included in many databases. 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. These datasets are not intended as substitutes for a detailed investigation of potential slope instability by slope stability trained field staff. Available landslide inventories and other remote screening tools were reviewed for this proposal by foresters and state lands geologists. Site-specific analysis may result in conclusions that are different from the information available in the screening tools.

Potentially unstable rule identified landforms (RILs) around the harvest were identified by slope stability trained field staff and/or a licensed geologist through office and field review in accordance with the Washington State Forest Practices rules.

Inner gorges are present within the proposal. Bedrock hollows and portions of active bedrock deep seated landslides are present around the proposal.

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

No Yes, describe the proposed activities:

Timber may be yarded over inner gorge topography, and trees may be cut on inner gorge topography. Temporary road construction will include a stream crossing structure installed on inner gorge topography.

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

Harvest boundaries have been designed to exclude inner gorge slopes, bedrock hollows, and areas exhibiting signs of recent slope movement. No timber yarding or road work will occur on unstable slopes with greater than a low likelihood for potential to deliver debris to surface waters or other public resources.

Roads were designed to minimize ground-based yarding distances to an average of 400 feet or less and to access cable or tether landing locations.

The area of the proposal where trees may be yarded over an inner gorge was assessed by a licensed engineering geologist. The alternative to this method is re-constructing abandoned/orphaned road grades through geologically sensitive ground above Cavanaugh Creek, which would include building a road crossing over a 10'-15' wide

fish bearing stream. The following recommendations from the licensed engineering geologist will be followed:

- Full suspension over the stream and inner gorge will be achieved when possible.
- Corridor locations will be selected to avoid cutting trees on inner gorges, as practical
- All trees cut on inner gorges for cable corridors will be felled perpendicular to the slope and left in place
- Understory vegetation will be retained on inner gorge slopes
- In the unlikely event that full suspension is not attainable over inner gorge slopes, bumper logs will be placed over inner gorge slopes to reduce log contact and soil disturbance
- Stumps will remain in place in the corridors to maintain rooting strength until they degrade
- State Land foresters will monitor operations for potential soil disturbance or inner gorge impacts
- As practical, corridors will be spaced at least 50 feet apart to reduce potential yarding impacts. The 50-foot spacing will be measured from where they cross the type 4 stream below.

- 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: 2.0 acres

Approx. acreage new landings: 2.0 acres

Fill Source: Native fill or rock.

Road construction will utilize standard cut and fill methodology 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. **Road construction, yarding, and skid trails will expose bare soil. Road plan and contract requirements include the use of grass seed or other revegetation methods to protect exposed soils from erosion.**

- 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 2 percent of the site will be covered with permanent new rock covered (gravel) roads.

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

The following strategies will be applied to proposed road work:

- **No road construction or rock haul will occur from November 1 to March 31 unless the operator formulates an adequate plan to prevent sediment from entering surface waters.**

- All roads will be constructed to meet or exceed Forest Practices standards and the Habitat Conservation Plan guidelines.
- Full bench construction with endhaul will be utilized on slopes over 60%
- Appropriate drainage devices including proper culvert size and placement, drain dips, water bars and ditching, will be used as necessary to reduce surface erosion.
- Riprap will be utilized at culvert inlets and outlets as necessary to prevent erosion at these vulnerable points.
- Existing roads will be maintained so that drainage structures remain functional.
- In areas adjacent to constructed roads where soil disturbances have occurred, straw mulch, grass seed or some other appropriate measure will be used to prevent sediments from being transported.
- Storm patrols will be conducted as necessary on existing and newly constructed roads to identify and address potential erosion problems.

The following strategies will be applied to the proposed timber harvest:

- Riparian management zone (RMZ) buffers as described in B.3.a.1.b. and B.3.a.1.c., will be retained.
- The leading end of logs will be suspended when being yarded to reduce soil disturbance.
- No timber haul will occur from November 1 to March 31.
- No falling or yarding operations will occur from November 1 to March 31 during times of heavy precipitation and/or soil saturation unless the operator formulates an adequate plan to prevent erosion and channeling water towards sensitive slopes.
- Any equipment trails will be water-barred and/or grass-seeded if necessary.
- Untethered, non-self-leveling, ground-based equipment will be restricted to operating on sustained slopes of 40% or less. Self-leveling, untethered equipment will be restricted to operating on sustained slopes of 55% or less. Tethered equipment will be restricted to operating on sustained slopes of 65% or less.

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 during proposed activities. If landing debris is burned after harvest is completed, smoke will be generated. There will be no emissions once the proposal is complete.

Harvest operations and the removal of timber will result in minor amounts of CO2 emissions from the direct proposal site. See A.13.a. for details regarding completed analyses of carbon emissions and sequestration on DNR-managed lands in western Washington.

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

Carbon dioxide emissions associated with harvested wood products are analyzed in Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019) and the Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019).

- 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 Washington State’s Smoke Management Plan. A burn permit will be obtained before burning occurs.

Following harvest, native tree species will be planted on site at a level higher than existed prior to harvest resulting in regeneration of the forest stand and initiating carbon sequestration through forest stand growth.

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 surface water in and around this proposal flows into the South Fork Nooksack River via Cavanaugh Creek.

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) |
|---|------------|--------------------|--|
| Cavanaugh Creek | 1 | 1 | 156' |
| Unnamed Stream | 3 | 2 | 156' |
| Unnamed Stream | 4 | 8 | 100' |
| Unnamed Stream | 5 | 7 | 30' Equipment Limitation Zone |
| Wetland >1/4 ac, <1 ac | Forested | 1 | 100' |

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

No harvest will occur in the RMZs with the exception of that required for new road construction, yarding corridors, and skid trails. RMZ buffers as listed in B.3.a.1.b. as well as the proposed measures to reduce or control erosion described in B.1.d.2 and B.1.h provide protection measures for the surface waters in the vicinity of the proposal area.

All existing roads through RMZs will be monitored during haul to ensure ditchwater and road runoff will not enter or otherwise adversely affect water

quality or RMZ function. Corrective action such as straw bales, silt fencing, rock-lined ditches, and sediment traps will be installed/constructed if necessary.

No wind buffer was deemed necessary due to low windthrow hazard along Type 3 waters.

- 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 the RMZs as described in B.3.a.1.b. Timber will be felled away from streams where safely possible to avoid damage to residual trees and protect stream bank integrity.

All timber will have the leading end of the logs elevated during yarding to prevent soil disturbance near these features. There are 30-foot equipment limitation zones on all typed waters within the proposal.

Several stream crossings may be constructed as part of this proposal. This work will be done per contract specifications, exceeding Forest Practices regulations. Several yarding corridors and skid trails within RMZs may be utilized as part of this proposal. See B.1.d.2.

- 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.

- 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:

All water flow may be temporarily diverted through bypass culverts or retained behind (or pumped around) coffer dams during culvert installations.

- 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.d.2, B.1.h, and B.3.c.
- 8) *What are the approximate road miles per square mile in the associated WAU(s)?*
- SKOOKUM CREEK = 4.3 (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 some roads or road ditches within the WAU intercept sub-surface flow and deliver surface water to streams, however current road work standards will be applied that address this issue by installing cross-drains to deliver ditch water to stable forest floors.
- 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:
There is evidence of changes to channels across the WAU(s). These changes are a result of natural events such as spring runoff from snowmelt and significant storm events. Channel migration, scouring, and deposition of material can be seen in channels across the WAU(s); this indicates those channels historically experience higher water levels and peak flows
- 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.*
The Skookum Creek Watershed Analysis requires a forest hydrologist to assess the potential impacts this harvest would have on hydrological maturity and peak flows. The result of the analysis determined that the increase in peak flows would be less than 10%; therefore, standard Forest Practice Rules apply. For more information, see the Level 1 Hydrologic Change Analysis dated September 9, 2024.

This proposal limits harvest unit size and proximity to other recent harvests, minimizes the extent of the road network, incorporates road drainage disconnected from stream networks, and implements wide riparian buffers which all have mitigating effects on the potential for this proposal to increase peak flows that could impact areas downstream or downslope of the proposal area.

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 Skookum Creek Hatchery is located downstream of the proposal.

Hatchery is approx. 2.60 miles from the proposal area per FPRAM 3/3/2025 BH

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.*

This proposal is not expected to cause a significant increase in peak flows. In order to minimize the risk of road failures during peak flow events, all culverts and ditches will be maintained so that they remain functional. Additional relief culverts will be installed on existing roads to disperse ditch water across the hillslope. On particularly sensitive slopes, road running surfaces may be outsloped to further decrease the potential to concentrate/re-direct water. Storm patrols will be conducted as necessary on existing and newly constructed roads 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 water will be withdrawn or discharged.

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:

The Skookum Creek Hatchery is located downstream of the proposal.

Hatchery is approx. 2.60 miles from the proposal area per FPRAM 3/3/2025 BH

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:

- 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:

See surface water, ground water, and water runoff sections above, questions 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: **White Pine**
- 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).

As described in A.11, the overstory vegetation will be removed, with the exception of an average of eight trees per acre of 10 inches DBH or greater. This will ensure that a portion of the live trees that are best suited to the site, and /or exhibits desirable wildlife habitat characteristics will be left on site. Most of the current shrubs and herbaceous plants will be disturbed to varying degrees during the timber removal process of this proposal.

Second-growth conifer and hardwoods will be removed using a VRH prescription.

FPA 2819673 indicates harvest of approx. 6,309 mbf of timber 3/3/2025 BH

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.)

The adjacent areas' timber types range from young, uniform conifer stands, approximately 8 years of age to mature timber similar to the proposed removal area as described in A.11.b.

- c. List threatened and endangered *plant* species known to be on or near the site.
None found in corporate database.
None found per FPRAM 3/3/2025 BH
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
An average of 8 trees per acre in the variable retention harvest areas will be left as scattered leave trees and in clumps that are distributed across the proposal area. These clumps include all tree species currently found in the proposal area. These clumps were located around features that will contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity such as snags, down logs, areas with extensive understory development, small streams, small wet areas, and large wind firm conifer trees. These placements will contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity by modeling natural biological legacies that often follow natural disturbances, such as wildfire, wind, and flood. This in combination with landscape level stand retention will provide for continuity in structure, function, and composition between forest generations.

The site will be revegetated after harvest. See green tree retention plan in A.13.b, and regeneration method in A.7.b.
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.
The corporate database indicates no known noxious weeds or invasive species. However, it is likely that Himalayan blackberry, bull thistle, Canadian thistle, or Scotch broom may be found 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: **Northern Goshawk, marbled murrelet**
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:

FPHCP Bull Trout Populations of Concern, Northern Goshawk Nests, and Elk Winter Range per FPRAM 3/3/2025 BH

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

| TSU Number | Common Name | Federal Listing Status | State Listing Status |
|------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| SCHOONER | Marbled murrelet | Threatened | Endangered |

Following observation of marbled murrelet occupancy in Cavanaugh Creek in 2006, the department delineated a 38-acre area that is now managed as an “occupied site” south of the proposed harvest area. The “occupied sites,” along with associated “occupied site buffers,” have been deferred from harvest for the duration of the DNR State Lands Habitat Conservation Plan.

Within Marbled Murrelet Detection Area & within 0.25mi of Marbled Murrelet Occupied Site per FPRAM 3/3/2025 BH

- 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.

Species /Habitat: **Fish/Riparian Habitat**

Protection Measures: Stream protection measures listed in B.3.a.1.b., B.3.a.2., and c; soil protection measures in B.1.h.; slope stability protection in B.1.d.2; and peak flows protection in B.3.a.13. Riparian buffers are designed to maintain the functions of riparian ecosystem processes that influence the quality of salmonid freshwater habitat. Water temperature, stream bank integrity, sediment load, detrital nutrient load, and the delivery of large woody debris were the principle considerations used for designing the riparian buffer widths.

Species /Habitat: **Marbled Murrelet**

Protection Measures: The agency established and maintains a 38-acre occupied site adjacent to the sale. Additional protection for this site includes a 100-meter vegetated buffer. In order to minimize impacts to a fish-bearing stream and reduce amounts of new road construction, an equipment trail is planned within the outer portion of this occupied site buffer. Timing restrictions will be placed on this work prohibiting heavy equipment operation from 2 hours before official sunset to 2 hours after official sunrise from April 1 to September 23.

The sale overlaps areas that our predictive model indicates are “Possible” Long-term Forest Cover (LTFC) in the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy (LTCS). LTFC are the combination of lands that provide marbled murrelet conservation throughout the landscape through other forest retention measures associated with the 1997 HCP (e.g. riparian management, unstable slopes, old-growth, northern spotted owl), as well as natural areas, gene pool reserves, and marbled

murrelet specific conservation as outlined in the MM LTCS. "Possible" suggests that some feature which would require retention of forest cover (e.g. stream, unstable slope) may exist in those areas, but requires field verification to confirm the actual existence and map the specific location of such features. Following "verification", LTFC is maintained as applicable. This proposal excludes all verified LTFC and associated habitat and is consistent with the requirements of the MM LTCS.

Species /Habitat: **Northern Goshawk nest site**

Protection Measures: **Northern Goshawks are known to have been present in the vicinity of the proposal. If an active Northern Goshawk nest is discovered, HCP requirements will be met to ensure the nest is protected. The area will be field reviewed by the Region Biologist and additional protections may be applied.**

Species /Habitat: **Mature Forest Components**

Protection Measures: **Retention tree plan described B.4.d and A.13.b.**

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
None known.

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.
 - 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 may be used and stored on site during the operating life of this project.

- 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 county assistance.

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

No petroleum-based products will be disposed of on site. If a spill occurs, containment and cleanup will be required. Spill kits are required to be onsite during all heavy equipment operations. The cessation of operations may occur during periods of increased fire risk. Fire tools and equipment, including pump trucks and/or pump trailers, will be required on site during fire season.

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.

There will be short term, low level and high level noise created by the use of harvesting equipment and hauling operations within the proposal area. This type of noise has been historically present in this geographical area.

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

None.

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.*)

Current use of site and adjacent land types: Commercial timber production.

This proposal will not change the use of or affect the current/long term land use of areas

associated with this sale.

- 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?

This proposal site has been used as working forest lands. This proposal will retain the site in working forest lands.

- 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.

None.

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

No.

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

Commercial forestry

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

Commercial forestry

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

Not applicable.

- 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:

This project 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.

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?
Does not apply.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
See B.4.d.
 - 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:*
 - 2) *How will this proposal affect any views described above?*
Not applicable.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
Timber harvest is a regular occurrence on this and the surrounding hillsides and this activity is unlikely to significantly alter views on a broad scale. Within and around the proposal area, un-harvested stands, stream buffers, and leave tree clumps will remain to reduce the visual impact. These residual stands will break up the view of the harvested area considerably, and will help maintain the aesthetic quality of the area. Additionally, the proposal area will be revegetated.

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?
Informal recreational opportunities exist in the vicinity. These include hiking, hunting, berry picking, and mushroom picking.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
There may be some disruptions to recreational use during periods of harvesting and hauling.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
None.

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.
Yes. A site was identified and documented during sale layout. This site is not eligible for State or National register listing. Verified per FPRAM- Cavanaugh Creek Trestle Archaeological Site SK00591 not eligible for National Register 3/3/2025 BH
- 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.
Yes. See B.13.a. Verified per FPRAM- Cavanaugh Creek Trestle Archaeological Site SK00591 not eligible for National Register 3/3/2025 BH
- 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 corporate database, historical GLO maps, USGS maps and aerial photos were reviewed.

A DNR archaeologist and cultural resource technician reviewed the proposal area on December 6, 2023.

The Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation were notified of the proposal on January 31, 2024. No concerns have been raised.

- 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.

If presently-unknown skeletal remains, cultural resources, or both become known during project operations, DNR will comply with the Discovery of Skeletal Remains or Cultural Resources procedure.

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.
Please see WAU and adjacency maps on the DNR website under “SEPA”. There are no public streets or highways that serve the site. There will be no addition of public roads to access the site as a result of this proposal.
- 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?
The site is not served by transit. The distance to the nearest transit stop is unknown.
- c. 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, see A-11-c.
 - 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 to no additional impacts on the overall transportation system in the area.
- d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
No.
- e. 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?
Approximately 10 to 15 truck trips per day while the operation is active. Peak volumes would occur during the yarding and loading activities between 4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. of the operating period. The completed project will generate less than one vehicular trip per day. Estimates are based on the observed harvest traffic of past projects.
- f. 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.
- g. 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:  _____

Name of signee FINN HOPPER _____

Position and Agency/Organization STATE LANDS FORESTER, DNR _____

Date Submitted: _____