5/9/2022

Notice of Final Determination
Bedford Sorts Timber Sale, App. No. 30-102790
SEPA File No. 22-041203
FP No. 2940140

The Department of Natural Resources issued a [ X ] Determination of Non-significance (DNS), [ ] Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS), [ ] Modified DNS/MDNS on 4/12/2022 for this proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and WAC 197-11-340(2).

This determination is hereby:

[ X ] Retained.

[ ] Modified. Modifications to this proposal include the following:

[ ] Withdrawn. This proposal has been withdrawn due to the following:

[ ] Delayed. A Final Determination has been delayed due to the following:

Responsible Official:  Eric Wisch
Position/title:  Pacific Cascade Region Manager  Phone:  (360) 577-2025
Address:  P.O. Box 280 Castle Rock, WA 98611

Date:  5/9/22  Signature:  Eric Wisch

Summary of Comments and Responses (if applicable):

This proposal received on informational comment and one specific comment.

Informational Comment Summary:

State of Washington Department of Ecology – No specific concerns. Contact information for Solid Waste Management and Water Quality /Watershed Resources Unit.
Specific Comment Summary:

**Center for Responsible Forestry** – Comments received with feedback on harvesting 86 acres of 80-90 year old forest.

**Response:** The stands contained within this proposal are representative of those found within this landscape. Like many of the stands in the area, they appear to have originated after clear cut timber harvest activities in the first half of the 1900’s. This is supported by aerial photos from the 1950’s and 1980’s as well as the DNR’s tract book records. Additionally, the majority of Unit 2 is modeled in RS-FRIS as having a stand establishment date of 1950 to 1989 and the remainder is modeled as having and establishment date of 1900 to 1949. RS-FRIS combined origin year is a modeled inventory and when cumulatively used across a stand can be used to estimate stand age. It is not accurate at the single raster level.

**Center for Responsible Forestry** – Comments received with feedback on leave trees.

**Response:** Leave trees in this sale were marked in accordance with DNRs Management of Forest Stand Cohorts (Westside) Procedure. To meet the procedure, not all large and structurally unique trees needed to be retained. In this sale large and structurally unique trees were retained where necessary to meet DNRs policy and procedures in a manner that provides for safe operations. Otherwise, the remaining trees, even if large or structurally unique, are available for harvest.

**Center for Responsible Forestry** – Comments received with feedback on older forest thresholds.

**Response:** DNR implements practices to achieve older forest structures across 10-15% of the South Coast HCP Planning Unit over the next 70-100 years. Stands designated to meet this goal include old growth stands and structurally complex forests located in special ecological management areas such as Marbled Murrelet habitat areas, riparian and wetland management zones, areas of potentially unstable slopes, natural areas, gene pool reserves, etc. The South Coast Planning Unit is on track to meet at least 10% older forest within conservation areas by 2100.

**Conclusion:**

The review of Bedford Sorts timber sale has been conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and agency policies. No new information has been provided to change the DNS for this proposal.