



HILARY S. FRANZ  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**PACIFIC CASCADE REGION**  
601 BOND ROAD  
PO BOX 280  
CASTLE ROCK, WA 98611

**360-577-2025**  
TRS 711  
PACIFIC-CASCADE REGION@DNR.WA.GOV  
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

Date: April 17, 2020

**Notice of Final Determination**  
Irish Coffee RMZ Sorts Timber Sale, App. No. 30-100283  
**SEPA File No. 20-031101**  
FP No. 2937370

The Department of Natural Resources issued a [ ] Determination of Non-significance (DNS), [ X ] Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS), [ ] Modified DNS/MDNS on 03/11/2020 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[ ] Withdrawn. This proposal has been withdrawn due to the following: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: 4/17/20

Signature:  Eric Wisch

Summary of Comments and Responses (if applicable):

We received one informational comment from the Washington State Department of Ecology. We received a comment letter from Mr. Stephen Kropp.

Summary of Comments: Specific comments on stand age, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Performance Measure 4.1, Older Forest targets within DNR's Policy for Sustainable Forests, questions about Marbled Murrelet habitat, and observations on the boundary in Unit 7.

Response:

After checking the original forest resource inventory system (FRIS), the measured origin date for much of this unit, including the area you specifically mention, is 1932. The origin dates listed in the SEPA checklist appear to be consistent with best available information.

This proposal is consistent with Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Performance Measure 4.1. DNR's policies and procedures under the HCP and PSF do conserve biological diversity at the stand and landscape levels and support a diversity of native forest cover types across landscapes. Using this proposal as an example, we originally considered 112 acres for harvest in Unit 4, but that was reduced to 62 net harvest acres after taking into account riparian buffers, leave trees, and other factors. This means that almost 45% of the proposal will remain mature forest, which will further develop towards a fully-functional condition.

Regardless of the stand origin date, the stand itself has been evaluated for the presence of remnant and unique trees. Indeed, policy (PO14-008) defers from harvest all stands of trees which exhibit the fully functional stage of development and originated in 1850 or earlier; including individual trees. These are stands which have never undergone extensive active management or harvest. In addition, procedure (PR 14-006-090) on management of forest stand cohorts in western Washington directs the retention of at least 8 trees per acre, of which, two are from either the dominant diameter class of the harvested stand or the dominant crown class of the harvested stand. The Irish Coffee RMZ Sorts timber sale is compliant with both PO14-008 and PR 14-006-090, as well as, all other governing laws, policies, and procedures.

After review, this proposal is consistent the *Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy* and documented in the Implementation Memo – Phase one.

Comments on Unit 7 of this proposal are largely in regards to the location of the boundary markers. This riparian management zone (RMZ) has been identified as having the potential to respond favorably to the prescribed habitat enhancement thinning. "Timber Sale Boundary" tags do not, in this case, designate where harvest is to occur. To implement this activity, the department has developed a prescription to be followed which outlines which trees in Unit 7 are to be harvested. The trees to be harvested and removed in Unit 7 are marked with a single band of orange paint as outlined in Schedule A of the sale contract and discussed in both the forest practices application and the SEPA checklist. To further ensure compliance, Unit 7 was revisited and to ensure no boundary tags are within 25 feet of the 100-year floodplain of Mill Creek.

After reviewing the proposal checklist and the comments it was determined that this proposal is consistent with all applicable laws, rules, policies and procedures, including the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Policy for Sustainable Forests (PSF). In doing so, the Irish Coffee Sorts timber sale as currently designed avoids significant adverse impacts to the environment