MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: The Lone Spruce Sale, Application No. 30-102834 and FPA No. 2707305 is a 111 acre uneven-aged harvest of approximately 310 MBF of merchantable timber. The site will be harvested with ground-based equipment and there are two Ns watercourses within the proposal, as well as two Ns and one F watercourses, and Type A and Type B wetlands adjacent to the proposal. 719 feet of temporary spur roads will be constructed. Existing forest roads will be used of which 8,430 feet will have maintenance.

Description of mitigation:

All Ponderosa Pine and Douglas fir larger than 20” dbh, and all Larch, Lodgepole Pine, Aspen, Cedar, and Western Yew across all DBHs will be retained will be retained, unless they pose a safety hazard as defined by Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. Any trees over 20” dbh or of the species described above that must be felled for safety considerations will be left on site.

Snags that pose a safety hazard to the 3100 Road will be felled. Otherwise, existing snags and snag recruitment trees will be left for wildlife, and will only be felled if they pose a safety hazard as defined by Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

A portion of the timber sale area is within 1.8 miles of a northern spotted owl nest site center that was last occupied in 2000. The thinning in Unit 2 is designed to retain and enhance northern spotted owl habitat features by retaining 152 trees/acre after thinning, the majority of which are 12 inch diameter or larger with mature crowns. A seasonal timing restriction will limit operations in Unit 1 within 0.7 miles of the nest site.

Areas within the proposal that have concentrations of rare plants have been excluded from proposed timber sale activities. Around these areas, the timber harvest prescription is designed to enhance habitat for the rare plants by reducing shading and competition.

719 feet of temporary spur roads will be abandoned upon completion of the project.

In the event that any unknown archaeological resources are discovered during operations, ground disturbing activities will be halted and the Department of Natural Resources Archaeologist will be contacted to develop a site protection plan.

Proponent: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: Section 27 of Township 23 North, Range 18 East, in Chelan County approximately 6 miles southwest of Cashmere, Washington.

Lead agency: Department of Natural Resources
The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from May 24, 2022. Comments must be submitted by June 7, 2022.

Responsible official: TODD WELKER

Position/title: SOUTHEAST REGION MANAGER           Phone: 509.925.8510

Address: 713 Bowers Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Date: 5/19/2022                       Signature: Todd Welker

There is no DNR administrative SEPA appeal.