MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Q North Wenas Timber Sale, Application No. 30-102509 and FPA No. 2707318 is 435 proposed acres in seven units, harvesting 2,343 mbf of timber. Unit 1 consists of 15 acres of Uneven-aged harvest. Unit 2 consists of 13 acres of Shelterwood Intermediate harvest. Unit 3 consists of 27 acres of Uneven-aged harvest. Unit 4 consists of 17 acres of Variable Density Thinning. Unit 5 consists of 327 acres of Shelterwood Intermediate harvest. Unit 6 consists of 4 acres of Uneven-aged harvest. Unit 7 consists of 32 acres of Variable Density Thinning. This proposal also includes 388 feet of road construction; 17,329 feet of road reconstruction; 13,166 feet of road maintenance and 2,913 feet of road abandonment. The site has low to moderate gradient slopes and will utilize ground based logging systems.

Description of mitigation:

- Skid trails will be water barred to reduce channelization of runoff, and roads will have drainage structures (cross drains, ditch outs, etc.) to collect runoff and distribute it back to the forest floor.
- Selected roads will be abandoned post-harvest to reduce the potential for sedimentation and runoff.
- Existing snags, legacy, and snag recruitment trees will be left for wildlife, where those trees pose a hazard as defined by Washington State Department of Labor and Industries those trees may be felled, but must be left on site.
- All Ns streams will be protected with a 30 foot Equipment Limitation Zone.
- Skid crossings of Ns streams will utilize puncheons within the bankfull width of typed streams, as well as utilize slash on the approaches to minimize impact and delivery potential. These crossings will not be used until flow and presence of water has stopped for the season.
- Where possible, healthy advanced regeneration will be protected from harvest operations.
- The proposal has been designed to avoid impact to all known cultural resources. Any cultural resources identified during operations will be protected. Should archaeological materials or cultural items be discovered during the course of operations, all work in the vicinity will be stopped and the associated tribes and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be contacted.

Proponent: State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources.

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: Parts of Section 5 and 6 in Township 16 North, Range 17 East, W.M., Yakima County; parts of Section 25 in Township 17 North, Range 16 East, W.M., Kittitas County; Parts of Section 19, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Township 17 North, Range 17 East, W.M. Kittitas County, approximately 16 miles northwest of Naches, WA.
Lead agency:  State of Washington, 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.

[ ] There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.

[X] This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from __June 17, 2022__. Comments must be submitted by __July 1, 2022__.

Responsible official: Todd Welker

Position/title: Southeast Region Manager  Phone: 509-925-8510

Address: 713 Bowers Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926-9301

Date: 6/17/2022  Signature: Todd Welker

There is no agency SEPA appeal.

11/09/00