



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Central Region Office

1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

September 13, 2024

Isaac Nequette  
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1130 West University Way  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

**RE: 202403828, 24-035**

Isaac Nequette:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Determination of Nonsignificance for the Observatory Forest Health Thinning Proposal. We have reviewed the application and have the following comment.

**Water Resources Program**

If you plan to use water for dust suppression at your project site, be sure that you have a legal right. In Washington State, prospective water users must obtain authorization from the Department of Ecology before diverting surface water or withdrawing ground water, with one exception. Ground water withdrawals of up to 5,000 gallons per day used for single or group domestic supply, up to 5,000 gallons per day used for industrial purposes, stock watering, and for the irrigation of up to one-half acre of non-commercial lawn and garden are exempt from the permitting process. Water use under the RCW 90.44.050 exemption establishes a water right that is subject to the same privileges, restrictions, laws and regulations as a water right permit or certificate obtained directly from Ecology. Temporary permits may be obtainable in a short time-period. The concern of Water Resources is for existing water rights. In some instances water may need to be obtained from a different area and hauled in or from an existing water right holder. If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Resources comments, please contact Nathan Longoria at (509) 907-1752 or email at [nathan.longoria@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nathan.longoria@ecy.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Amber Johnson  
SEPA Coordinator, Central Region Office  
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