



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 24-050: WENAS/BERTELTSEN LAND EXCHANGE AND PURCHASE

Description of Proposal:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) desires to acquire 150 acres of land and proposes to exchange forty (40) acres purchased in 2012 with USFWS funds for fifty (50) acres of the 150 acres, and to purchase the remaining 100 acres of adjacent land using a Recreation and Conservation Office Grant. All parcels are located in the rural foothills on the north side of the Wenas Valley, Yakima County, Washington. The purpose of the exchange is to improve access and management efficiency for both WDFW and the private landowner. In the current configuration, 150 acres of the private landowner's land is bordered on three sides by WDFW's property, requiring extensive fencing and limited access. Under WDFW ownership, the fencing would be reduced by 2/3rds and access would be off a public road. The exchange 40 acres is bordered on three sides by the private landowner, requires extensive fencing, is bisected by a county road, and is difficult to manage. Under private ownership, fencing could be eliminated, access would be from the adjacent lands, and WDFW would not need to manage an isolated parcel. WDFW has evaluated the proposal and supports the exchange for reasons of improved neighbor relations and access, more efficient weed control, and more effective management of WDFW land for habitat and wildlife values. WDFW has completed the notification of the Washington SHPO/DAHP, the tribal notification, and has the Fish and Wildlife Commission review and approval.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Thom Woodruff
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
360-870-3999
Thomas.Woodruff@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Both parcels are located in the Wenas Valley, approximately 8 miles north of Naches, Yakima County, Washington: Township 16N, Range 17E, Sections 28 and 30.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS).

WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this determination according to state rules.² Agencies, tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this determination. We must receive your comments within 31 days of the date of this document. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on December 2, 2024**.

Method of Comment:

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: [SEPA documents available for public comment | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA determinations. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal. You can submit your comments through one of the following ways:

- Online at the Public Input comment portal for this proposal: [Bertelsen Land Exchange](#)
- Email to: BertelsenLandExchange@PublicInput.com

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA Responsible Official and SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Director's Office

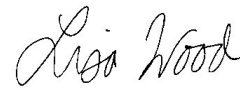
Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this determination on the WDFW SEPA website: [Final SEPA documents | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#). After the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this determination or the details of the proposal, or have difficulty with the Public Input comment portal, contact Lisa Wood at: SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: November 1, 2024

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 24-050.dns

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).