



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

OLYMPIC REGION
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MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Higher Grounds timber sale, agreement #30-094424 and associated forest practice number 2614491, is a variable retention harvest (VRH) with 11 VRH units and 1 right-of-way (ROW) unit in the Upper Clearwater WAU's. It encompasses approximately 265 gross acres with 144 net acres of VRH, 1 acre of ROW, 2 acres of wetlands, 4 acres of wetland management zones (WMZ), 93 acres of riparian management zones (RMZ), 10 acres of existing roads, and approximately 11 acres of leave tree areas (LTA) with an estimated sale volume of 4,510 MBF. Approximately 5,397 feet of new road construction, 3,985 feet of reconstruction, and 3,760 feet of pre-haul maintenance are proposed to meet access needs into the sale area. Additionally there will be 2,225 feet of deactivation. The designated rock sources for this proposal are Dry Creek Pit located in Section 15, Township 26 North, Range 11 West, W.M. and Red Creek Quarry, which is located in Section 3, Township 26 North, Range 11 West, W.M.

Description of mitigation: The Higher Grounds timber sale was designed under the guidelines of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). No mitigation of current HCP procedures is planned in conjuncture with this proposal. The following HCP procedures applied:

- Northern Spotted Owl- (PR-14-004-120)
- Marbled Murrelet- (PR-14-004-320) Interim Strategy for the OESF
- Slope Stability- (PR-14-004-050)
- Riparian and Wetland Management Zones (RMZ) - (PR-14-004-160)
- Forest Roads- (PO14-020)
- Retention Trees (PR-14-006-090)

Proponent: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Location of proposal, including street address, if any:

The Proposal is located 21 miles south of Forks, Washington

T26N R11W S9

T26N R11W S16

T26N R11W S17

T26N R11W S20

T26N R11W S15 (Dry Creek Pit)

T26N R11W S3 (Red Creek Quarry)

Lead agency: Washington State 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 August 31, 2016. Comments must be submitted by September 14, 2016.

Responsible official: Mona Griswold

Position/title: Olympic Region Manager **Phone:** 360-374-2800

Address: 411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA 98331

Date 8.30.16

Signature Mona Griswold

There is no DNR administrative SEPA appeal.