



August 10, 2015

Notice of Final Determination
North Zender Timber Sale, App. No. 91633
FPA No. 2814641
File No. 15-071401

The Department of Natural Resources issued a Determination of Non-significance (DNS), Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS), Modified DNS/MDNS on July 14, 2015 for this threshold determination under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and WAC 197-11-340(2).

This determination is hereby:

Retained.

Modified. Modifications to this threshold determination include the following:

Withdrawn. This threshold determination has been withdrawn due to the following:

Delayed. A Final Determination has been delayed due to the following:

Summary of Comments and Responses (if applicable):

Comment from Kara Whittaker, Washington Forest Law Center, dated July 28, 2015, regarding slope stability concerns.

Response from Chris Hankey, Baker District Manager, Department of Natural Resources, dated August 6, 2015.

Please see attached.

Jean Fike, Northwest Region Manager

Date: 8-10-15



8/6/2015

Kara Whittaker, PhD
Dan McShane
Washington Forest Law Center
615 Second Ave., Suite 360
Seattle, WA 98104-2245

Subject: Response to SEPA comments received for the North Zender Timber Sale #91633,
(SEPA File No. 15-071401)

Dear Ms. Whittaker and Mr. McShane,

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding our proposed "North Zender" timber sale, Agreement No. 91633, SEPA File No. 15-071401. Your comments have been reviewed by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff in the Product Sales and Leasing Division, Forest Resources Division and by staff in Northwest Region. The DNR believes that the memorandum dated May 15, 2015 by John McKenzie, a licensed engineering geologist and a Forest Practices Qualified Expert, adequately addresses potential slope stability impacts from the proposed timber sale. Mr. McKenzie completed both an office review that included the review of LiDAR data, geologic maps, and historical air photos, and field reconnaissance of the proposed timber sale. During field reconnaissance, Mr. McKenzie did not find any evidence of historic or recent movement of soil associated with landslide activity and confirmed the interpretation that the landslides are best classified as dormant mature. Typical signs of instability such as ground cracks, jack-strawed trees, fresh angular topography, disturbed stumps from previous entries or other signs of soil movement were not observed in the proposed timber sale.

This timber sale contains previously harvested areas; in some areas this will be the third time harvest activities have occurred. The DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) requirements for stream protection and for legacy tree retention all help reduce any impacts to soil from proposed logging operations. As described in B.1.d.5 and B.3.a.9 of the North Zender SEPA environmental checklist, harvest and road building techniques are designed to limit impacts to soil and water resources. The DNR believes this proposed timber sale meets all the requirements of our HCP, the Policy for Sustainable Forests and the Forest Practices Rules, including Section 16 of the Board Manual.

Thank you again for your questions and concerns. For further inquiries about our proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me or our State Lands Assistant Region Manager, Laurie Bergvall, through the Northwest Region office at 360-856-3500.

Sincerely,



Chris Hankey
Baker District Manager
Northwest Region
Washington Department of Natural Resources

cc:

Jean Fike, Northwest Region Manager
Laurie Bergvall, Northwest Assistant Region Manager, State Lands