



Notice of Final Determination
Power Saw Timber Sale, App. No. 30-085538
SEPA File No. 11-022204
FP No. 2922015

The Department of Natural Resources issued a [] Determination of Non-significance (DNS), [X] Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS), [] Modified DNS/MDNS on February 17, 2011 for this proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and WAC 197-11-340(2).

This determination is hereby:

[] Retained.

[X] Modified. Modifications to this proposal include the following:

To minimize the potential for disturbance of the occupied site during the critical nesting season for marbled murrelets, the original mitigation measure has been modified as follows:

- Within 0.25 miles of occupied stands, heavy equipment operation (including operations in the Sawmill Quarry) and power saw operation; (including felling and bucking) will be restricted from operating one hour before to two hours after official sunrise and one hour before to one hour after official sunset between April 1 and August 31. ~~This will be required in Unit 4.~~

[] Withdrawn. This proposal has been withdrawn due to the following:

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

Responsible Official: Eric Wisch

Position/title: Pacific Cascade Region Manager

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Address: P.O. Box 280 Castle Rock, WA 98611

Date: 5/9/11

Signature: Eric Wisch



Summary of Comments and Responses (if applicable):

One comment letter was received on this proposal. Three general areas of concern were expressed including (1) protection of marbled murrelet habitat, (2) variable retention harvest in proposed marbled murrelet management areas, and (3) SEPA process. DNR has responded by letter to this comment which is summarized as follows.

- (1) The proposal is near a buffered, occupied site but is not a proposal to harvest occupied or reclassified habitat. DNR evaluated the proposal site and surrounding area for potential impacts to wildlife and documented this in the SEPA checklist Questions A.13 and B.5. Habitat will be protected consistent with the department's HCP Interim Strategy. In addition, after careful consideration of the comments and additional analysis, one mitigation measure was modified to reduce the potential for disturbance during the critical nesting season near the occupied marbled murrelet site.
- (2) DNR is still in the early stages of the non-project proposal for the development of the Long Term Conservation Strategy consistent with DNR's HCP. DNR's HCP requires that it develop a Long Term Conservation Strategy for the marbled murrelet, but provides an Interim Strategy for DNR management activities until that is completed. The Science Team Report, including marbled murrelet management areas, provides information for that development process, but is not the strategy. DNR's proposal is designed to be in compliance with its HCP and the existing programmatic framework including the Interim Strategy and site specific impacts of this proposal have been analyzed to support this MDNS. Occupied habitat, adjacent intact buffers, and reclassified habitat are not part of the harvest area. The proposal as defined and mitigated will not cause a probable significant adverse impact on the marbled murrelet.
- (3) During the environmental review process for prior nonproject proposals, segmentation and cumulative impacts were addressed supporting DNR's programmatic 1997 HCP, 2004 Sustainable Harvest Calculation, and 2006 Policy for Sustainable Forests. The prior environmental documents and the SEPA checklist for this proposal contained adequate information about nearby past, present and future harvests to evaluate cumulative impacts and conclude no probable significant adverse impacts would occur as a result of this proposal. Other timber sales identified in the comment letter are not part of the Power Saw Timber sale proposal and each sale stands on its own as a separate proposal that does not need to be implemented simultaneously. The Power Saw Timber Sale proposal is the entire proposal that needs to be analyzed to support this MDNS.

As a result of specific comments in issue area (1), the original MDNS was modified to provide additional mitigation for the proposal.