MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: The applicant is proposing timber harvest (thinning operation only) on approximately 1,123 acres. The applicant is also proposing 22,656 feet of new road construction, 13,208 feet of temporary road construction and 18,208 feet of road abandonment. The leave tree prescription will be 125-200 trees per acre after harvest; there will be no openings greater than ¼ acre in size. All trees 30 inches in diameter and greater and all trees 10 inches in diameter and less will not be harvested. The following features are associated with this proposal: inner gorges, bedrock hollows, convergent headwalls, shallow-transitional landslides, glacial recharge area and deep-seated landslides. The proposed forest practice activity is associated with FPA#2410330 and the timber sale name is 'Cougarilla'.

Description of applicant mitigation for unstable slopes:

1. All potentially unstable areas with a high likelihood of delivery to typed waters shall not be operated on – these areas have been identified as 'High' within FPA proposal
2. Prior to any harvest activity, unstable areas will be identified, boundaries marked with flagging and field verified by state lands geologist
3. A minimum 50-foot, no harvest buffer, shall be established around all unstable slope areas within and adjacent to proposal
4. No skid trails shall cross or be located adjacent to unstable slopes
5. Creating yarding corridors across any streams with associated unstable slopes - If full-suspension cannot be achieved without severely damaging standing timber and without creating ground disturbance then yarding shall not occur without an on-site evaluation from a licensed geologist and approval from DNR Forest Practice Forester

Description of DNR Forest Practices required mitigation for unstable slopes:

1. Prior to any timber harvest operations, sub-unit harvest plans are to be submitted and no activity shall occur prior to field review and acceptance by Forest Practices Forester
2. Skid trails and/or soil disturbance created from timber harvest activity that creates the potential for water delivery to unstable slope areas and/or sediment delivery to typed waters shall be water-barred, have straw or logging slash placement, seeded or any combination thereof as determined by Forest Practices Forester in order to prevent delivery to these sensitive sites/areas

Description of other applicant mitigation as required by State Lands HCP:

1. Spotted Owls: The Cougarilla Timber Sale is a variable density thinning. The prescriptions are designed to enhance habitat in stands that are currently considered "non-functional" habitat within designated Dispersal Management Areas. It is expected that thinning these stands now will move them towards a more complex forest structure over time. The overall proposal area will remain at an RD of 50 or above following harvest.
   PR14-004-120
2. Murrelets: Marbled Murrelet habitat was identified by the region biologist adjacent to North Fork Mineral Creek and will be excluded from the harvest area. During compliance, the DNR contract administrator will notify the region biologist if any platforms are found within the harvest area in order to verify potential habitat. If additional Marbled Murrelet habitat is identified the Forest Practices Forester shall be notified.
   PR14-004-320
3. Riparian Management Zones: Streams will be buffered according to the current DNR HCP strategies unless the proposed DNR's riparian strategies are adopted during the term of this proposal. If adopted, the new strategies will be applied and the Forest Practices Forester shall be notified. See Schedule D for specifics of the current and proposed strategies.
   PR14-004-150, PR14-004-160
4. Roads: Construction, pre-haul maintenance, abandonment, or rock haul will not be permitted when in the opinion of the Contract Administrator, excessive damage may occur, nor shall it be permitted from November 1 to May 31 unless authority to do so is granted, in writing, by the Contract Administrator. Construction and abandonment of the 232 Road shall be completed in one operating season.

Proponent: Washington Department of Natural Resources

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: The timber harvest portion of this proposal is located within sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17and 18 of Township 14 North, Range 6East, Lewis County.

Lead agency: 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.

[X] **This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from** November 23 2004. **Comments must be submitted by** December 7, 2004

Responsible official: Art Tasker

Position/Title: South Puget Sound Region Manager Resource Protection **Phone:** 360-825-1631

Address: 950 Farman Avenue North
Enumclaw, WA 98022-9282

Date: 11/22/04 **Signature:** _____

There is no agency SEPA appeal.