I have reviewed this SEPA checklist and provided comments in blue. 2619056

Krista Pagel
Forest Practices Coordinator
Olympic Region

4/6/2026 KP

STATE FOREST LAND
SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

Questions in italics are supplemental to Ecology's standard environmental checklist. They have been added by the DNR to assist in the review of state forest land proposals. Adjacency and landscape/ watershed-administrative-unit (WAU) maps for this proposal are available on the DNR internet website at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa. These maps may also be reviewed at the DNR regional office responsible for the proposal. This checklist is to be used for SEPA evaluation of state forest land activities.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

   Timber Sale Name: **PEDERING OUT**
   Agreement # **30-109557**
   FPA 2619056

2. Name of applicant: **Washington Department of Natural Resources**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

   Dylen Siepka
   Department of Natural Resources
   411 Tillicum Lane
   Forks, WA 98331
   (360) 374-2800

4. Date checklist prepared: **03/22/2026**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Department of Natural Resources**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
   a. *Auction Date:*
   06/10/2026

   b. *Planned contract end date (but may be extended):*
   10/31/2027

   c. Phasing:
   None

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
☐ *No, go to question 8.* ☒ *Yes, identify any plans under A-7-a through A-7-d:*

   a. Site Preparation: **For all VRH units: Assessment for treatments will occur after completion of harvest. Site preparation including a chemical herbicide application, may be used to ensure that planting is successful at acceptable levels to meet or exceed Forest Practice standards.**

   b. Regeneration Method: **All VRH units will be hand-planted with native tree species seedlings within three years of harvest activity completion.**

   c. Vegetation Management: **A continued assessment of units to determine future vegetation management strategy will be required. Treatments will be based on vegetative competition and will ensure a free-to-grow status that complies with Forest Practice standards. PCT needs will be assessed in 10 to 15 yrs. after planting in units.**

d. Other: **Road maintenance assessments will be conducted and may include periodic ditch and culvert cleanout and grading as necessary. Biomass not removed during harvest may be piled near roads and landings. After the project is complete, any remaining piles may be offered for public firewood cutting, burned, or sold.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. *Note: All documents are available upon request at the DNR Region Office.*

- ☐ *303 (d) – listed water body in WAU:*
  - ☐ *temp*
  - ☐ *sediment*
  - ☐ *completed TMDL (total maximum daily load)*
- ☐ *Landscape plan:*
- ☐ *Watershed analysis:*
- ☐ *Interdisciplinary team (ID Team) report:*
- ☒ *Road design plan:* **Pedering Out Road Plan 07/23/2025**
- ☐ *Wildlife report:*
- ☒ *Geotechnical report:* **Engineering Geologic Risk Assessment for Pedering Out Timber Sale**
- ☒ *Other specialist report(s):* **Washington DNR West Side Old Growth Assessment**
- ☐ *Memorandum of understanding (sportsmen's groups, neighborhood associations, tribes, etc.):*
- ☒ *Rock pit plan:* **McSplit Pit**
- ☒ *Other:* **West Side Stand Development Stages Form**

GEO assessment available with FPA 2619056 on FPARS.

The following analyses, policies, procedures, documents, and data layers directly pertain to or were reviewed as part of this proposal:

- **DNR Policies and Implementation**
  - **Policy for Sustainable Forests (PSF; 2006a)**
  - **Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Policy for Sustainable Forests (2006b)**
  - **Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019)**
  - **Landscape Assessment to Identify and Manage Structurally Complex Stands to Meet Older Forest Targets in Western Washington (Revised September 2024)**
  - **Landscape Assessment to Quantify Structurally Complex Forests to Meet Older Forest Targets in Western Washington, February 2026. (2026 Quantification)**
  - **Van Pelt, R. 2025. Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Western Washington. 2nd ed. Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Olympia, WA. 106 p.**
  - **Silvicultural Rotational Prescriptions**
  - **Land Resource Manager Reports and associated maps**
  - **DNR's Carbon and Forest Management Work Group 2025 Final Legislative Report (Appendix D. 1.2.2 Impacts to Carbon Stocks)**
- **DNR Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan and Supplemental Information**
  - **Final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP; 1997)**
  - **Final (Merged) Environmental Impact Statement for the Habitat Conservation Plan (1998)**
  - **Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019)**
  - **Final State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan Amendment: Marbled Murrelet**

Long-term Conservation Strategy
  - **Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy (RFRS; 2006)**
  - **Spotted Owl Habitat GIS Layer**
  - **Marbled Murrelet Habitat GIS Layer**
  - **WAU Rain-On-Snow GIS Layer and Reports**
  - **Biological Opinion on the HCP, USFWS; January 27, 1997**
  - **Biological Opinion on the HCP, NMFS; January 29, 1997**
  - **Biological Opinion on the HCP Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy Amendment, USFWS; November 7, 2019**
  - **Reinitiated Biological Opinion on the Incidental Take Permit (PRT-812521), USFWS; March 21, 2024**
- **Forest Practices Regulations and Compliance**
  - **Forest Practices Board Manual**
  - **Forest Practices Activity Maps**
  - **Trust Lands HCP Addendum and Checklist**
- **Supporting Data for Unstable Slopes Review**
  - **Landslide Remote Identification Model (LRIM) tool**
  - **Forest Practices Statewide Landslide Inventory (LSI) screening tool**
  - **State Lands Geologist Remote Review (SLGRR)**
  - **LiDAR Data and Derivatives**
  - **Draft Landform Remote Identification Model (LRIM) screening tool**
  - **Published Landslide Inventories**
  - **Historic Aerial Photographs**
  - **Published Geologic Mapping**
- **Supporting Data for Cultural Resources Review**
  - **Historical Aerial Photographs**
  - **USGS and GLO maps**
  - **Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation database for architectural and archaeological resources and reports (WISAARD)**
- **Additional Supporting Data for Policy Compliance**
  - **Weighted Old Growth Habitat Index (WOGHI)**
  - **State Soil Survey**
  - **Stand Development Stage Assessment form**
- **Appendix A: DNR's Consideration of Alternatives, Comparison of Environmental Impacts Parts A, B, & C**

Referenced documents may be obtained at the region office responsible for this proposal.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
None known.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

FPA 2619056

☒ *FPA #* **TBD** ☒ *FPHP* ☒ *Board of Natural Resources Approval*
☐ *Burning permit* ☐ *Shoreline permit* ☐ *Existing HPA*
☐ *Other:*

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The Pedering Out timber sale, agreement #30-109557, is located in Clallam County approximately 8 miles east of Port Angeles off of Conner Rd and the PA-F-3200, PA-F-3500, and PA-F-3700 road systems. It encompasses approximately 259.4 gross acres with a cruised volume of 2,738 MBF. This sale consists of four variable retention harvest units; all of which are located within the Siebert-McDonald WAU. Within the proposal area, there are 49.8 acres of riparian management zone and unstable slopes protections, 3 acres of forested wetland, 8 acres of wetland management zone, 7.1 acres of area designated as Leave Tree Areas (LTAs), 45.5 acres of old growth protections, and 2.8 acres of pre-existing road. Overall, the net harvest acreage is 143.2 acres. Approximately 2,130 feet of new road construction, 3,285 feet of road reconstruction, and 35,255 feet of road pre-haul maintenance been proposed to meet access needs to the sale area. The designated rock sources will be McSplit Pit and commercial sources.

Proposal also includes 0.25 acres of rock pit expansion per FPA 2619056 Q17.

a. *Complete proposal description:*

Unit	Proposal Acres (*gross*)	RMZ/Unstable Slope Acres	WMZ Acres	Wetland Acres	Old Growth Acres	Existing Road Acres *(within unit)*	Leave Tree Area Acres	Net Harvest Acres
Unit 1	131.1	35.6	0	0	0	0.2	4.2	91.1
Unit 2	8	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Unit 3	19.3	10	0	0	0	0	0.3	9
Unit 4	48.5	0	8	3	0	2.6	1.6	33.3
Unit 5	52.5	4.2	0	0	37.5	0	1	9.8
Totals	**259.4**	**49.8**	**8**	**3**	**45.5**	**2.8**	**7.1**	**143.2**

Unit 2 was removed from the proposal.

Net harvest acres match FPA 2619056 Q19.

b. *Describe the stand of timber pre-harvest (include major timber species and origin date), type of harvest and overall unit objectives.*

Pre-harvest Stand Description:

Unit	Origin Date	Major Timber Species	MBF/acre	Slope %	Elevation Range
1	Post 1865	Western hemlock, red alder, western redcedar, Douglas-fir	16	86%	640' – 840'
3	Post 1870	Douglas-fir, western redcedar, western hemlock	35	82%	510' – 690'
4	Post 1975	Douglas-fir, western hemlock	18	29%	1310' – 1580'
5	Post 1880	Western hemlock, Douglas-fir, western redcedar	37	71%	1400' – 1515'

The Stages of stand development for the harvest areas within the proposal on the stand level scoring using the Van Pelt guide (Van Pelt 2007) includes stands in the stages of Maturation I in Units 1 and 4 along with stands in the stage of Maturation II in Units 1, 3 and 5.

Pre-harvest Stand Description:

Unit	Harvest Type	Volume to be Harvested (*MBF*)	Volume to be Harvested (%)	Individual Leave Trees	Clumped Leave Trees	Total Leave Trees
1	VRH	1,463	95%	172	572	744
3	VRH	315	95%	28	49	77
4	VRH	601	95%	78	201	279
5	VRH	359	95%	25	60	85

Overall Unit Objectives:

The overall objectives for this sale includes the production of saw logs and pulp material to generate revenue for trusts while expediting the development of a more diverse multistoried canopy layer in the future stand. This will be accomplished through the leave tree retention strategy and riparian management zones. These stands will be managed to protect site productivity and maintain the integrity and water quality of adjacent streams. At this site, no other specific, income-producing proposal exists. The uses at this site are consistent with the uses of land surrounding the site and do not affect those uses. Timber harvest is consistent with the historic use of this site.

Other site objectives include:

Ecological - promote diverse forest structure across the landscape while preserving ecological integrity and function.

Economic - Generate revenue for the State trust beneficiaries.

Statute - Comply with the DNR's HCP, the Policy for Sustainable Forests, and Forest Practice Rules and Regulations.

Social - Accommodate dispersed informal recreational activities on DNR managed lands and identify and protect historical and archaeological sites consistent with state/federal law.

c. Describe planned road activity. Include information on any rock pits that will be used in this proposal. See associated forest practice application (FPA) for maps and more details.

Road con/recon amounts match FPA 2619056 Q16.

Type of Activity	How Many	Length (feet) (Estimated)	Acres (Estimated)	Fish Barrier Removals (#)
Construction		2,130	0.4	0
Reconstruction		3,285		0
Maintenance		35,255		0
Abandonment		0	0	0
Bridge Install/Replace	0			0
Stream Culvert Install/Replace (fish)	0			0
Stream Culvert Install/Replace (no fish)	0			
Cross-Drain Install/Replace	14			

Rock Pits: The designated rock sources will be McSplit Pit and commercial sources.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist *(See "WAU Map(s)" and "Timber Harvest Unit Adjacency Map(s)" as referenced on the DNR website: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa. Click on the DNR region of this proposal under the Topic "Current SEPA Project Actions - Timber Sales." Proposal documents also available for review at the DNR Region Office.)*

a. Legal description:

T29-0N R04-0W S07 --- Unit 4
T29-0N R04-0W S18 --- McSplit Pit
T29-0N R05-0W S14 --- Unit 5
T29-0N R05-0W S15 --- Unit 5
T30-0N R04-0W S31 --- Unit 1
T30-0N R05-0W S36 --- Unit 1
T30-0N R05-0W S26 --- Unit 3

Legal description matches FPA 2619056 Q7.

b. Distance and direction from nearest town:

Approximately 8 miles east of Port Angeles.

13. Cumulative Effects

a. Briefly describe any known environmental concerns that exist regarding elements of the environment in the associated WAU(s). (See WAC 197-11-444 for what is considered an element of the environment).

This proposal is located within the Siebert-McDonald WAU. Ownership across the WAU includes large industrial forests, private landowners, federal government managed forestland, and Department of Natural Resources managed forests. Forests within the WAU appears to be primarily second and third growth stands with some old growth stands. The number of forest practice activities shown on the WAU maps, along with observations within the WAUs indicates that the WAUs are intensively managed for timber production.

DNR analyzed carbon sequestration and carbon emissions from projected land management activities within its final environmental impact (FEIS) statement for the 2015-2024 Sustainable Harvest Calculation and the FEIS for the 2019 HCP Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet. At the western Washington scale, land management activities on DNR-managed lands sequester more carbon than emitted. Individual activities, such as this proposal, are likely to emit some greenhouse gases, including CO2; however, at the landscape scale, DNR's sustainable land management activities, including this proposal, sequester more carbon than they emit. Evaluating carbon sequestration at the western Washington scale is appropriate because a determination of net carbon emissions must consider both the carbon sequestered and the carbon emissions from management within the same analysis area (western Washington).

Recognizing the climate and carbon benefits of working forests in Washington's Climate Commitment Act (RCW 70A.45.005), the legislature found that Washington should maintain and enhance the state's ability to continue to sequester carbon through natural and working lands and forest products. Further, "Washington's existing forest products sector, including public and private working forests and the harvesting, transportation, and manufacturing sectors that enable working forests to remain on the land and the state to be a global supplier of forest products, is, according to a University of Washington study analyzing the global warming mitigating role of wood products from Washington's private forests, an industrial sector that currently operates as a significant net sequesterer of carbon. This value, which is only provided through the maintenance of an intact and synergistic industrial sector, is an integral component of the state's contribution to the global climate response and efforts to mitigate carbon emissions." RCW 70A.45.090(1)(a).

The legislature also found that the 2019 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report "identifies several measures where sustainable forest management and forest products may be utilized to maintain and enhance carbon sequestration. These include increasing the carbon sequestration potential of forests and forest products by maintaining and expanding the forestland base, reducing emissions from land conversion to non-forest uses, increasing forest resiliency to reduce the risk of carbon releases from disturbances such as wildfire, pest infestation, and disease, and applying sustainable forest management techniques to maintain or enhance forest carbon stocks and forest carbon sinks, including through the transference of carbon to wood products" (2020 Washington Laws Ch. 120 §1(2)).

DNR is legally required (RCW 79.10.320) to periodically calculate a sustainable harvest level and manages state trust lands sustainably. DNR has also maintained (statewide) a forest management certificate to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standard since 2006. In managing state trust lands sustainably, DNR sequesters more carbon than it emits while conducting land management activities such as this proposal.

The timber harvested from DNR-managed lands is used to produce climate-smart forest products. The climate impacts of DNR's land management are analyzed in multiple environmental impact statements that have informed the Board of Natural Resources' decisions and are consistent with the IPCC, which states that "meeting society's needs for timber through intensive management of a smaller forest area creates opportunities for enhanced forest protection and conservation in other areas, thus contributing to climate change mitigation."

b. Briefly describe existing plans and programs (i.e. the HCP, DNR landscape plans, retention tree plans) and current forest practice rules that provide/require mitigation to protect against potential impacts to environmental concerns listed in question A-13-a.

The Department of Natural Resources has a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service concerning threatened and endangered species and their habitats. The HCP requires the Department to manage landscapes to provide and sustain long-term habitat in exchange for an Incidental Take Permit. This agreement helps the Department mitigate for cumulative effects related to management activities. The Department follows Forest Practices Rules as applicable to roads and potentially unstable slopes. The Department follows forest protections related to fire hazard mitigation.

The Department's management of trust lands is also guided by a suite of policies compiled and titled the "Policy for Sustainable Forests" (PSF). In the General Silvicultural Strategy (Strategy), the PSF sets a target of achieving 10-15% older forests across each HCP planning unit within 100 years of the PSF's adoption. "Older-forests" that contribute to the target are defined as stands in the fully functional or niche diversification stage of stand development. The Strategy provides that DNR will utilize active management of suitable structurally complex stands to facilitate development of these older forest structures over time.

DNR manages approximately 1.6 million acres of forested land in western Washington under the HCP. Approximately 675,000 acres (42 percent) of that land is permanently deferred from regeneration harvest by the HCP or PSF or has been incorporated into a Natural Area. These conserved areas provide good connectivity with other conserved and federal land, may be centered around old growth, provide optimal wildlife habitat, and contain the majority of older-forest structure on DNR-managed lands. Based on these factors, DNR has determined that conserved areas are the most suitable places to manage for older-forest targets. These stands include areas identified as long-term forest cover under the marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy, riparian areas, areas conserved under the multispecies conservation strategy, potentially unstable slopes, spotted owl nest patches, old growth, Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas, and other conservation areas permanently deferred from stand replacement harvest.

In February 2026, the DNR published a document titled 'Landscape Assessment to Quantify Structurally Complex Forests to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington' (2026 Quantification). The analysis was conducted to quantify structurally complex forests within areas that are permanently deferred from stand replacement harvest. These structurally complex stands are those designated to be managed to meet older-forest targets. The 2026 Quantification defines Areas Managed for Ecological Value (AMEV), Areas Managed for Timber Value (AMTV), and quantifies the acreage of structurally complex forests within each by HCP planning unit. AMEV encompasses areas that are permanently deferred from stand replacement harvest.

Some of these conservation areas within AMEV are based on specific HCP strategies that are spatially fixed and conserved on the landscape, such as marbled murrelet occupied sites or spotted owl nest patches. However, other conservation areas are modeled and must be field verified based on HCP strategies, such as riparian areas or unstable slopes. There is naturally some adjustment to the location, absence, or presence of conservation areas upon field verification. This timber sale has been field verified for compliance with all conservation objectives and the planned harvest units are determined not to be stand replacement harvest deferred and are available for harvest.

The 2026 Quantification demonstrates that the acreage of structurally complex forests within stand replacement harvest deferred areas managed for ecological value exceeds 10% of the total HCP planning unit acreage in each planning unit. (See Table A)

Table A. Percent area western Washington HCP planning units with structurally complex forests in areas managed for ecological value.

Landscape Assessment to Quantify Structurally Complex Forests (Subject to Change Without Notice - 2/25/2026)

HCP Units	HCP Land Acres	Managed for Ecological Value			Managed for Timber Value			Total Acres	Total SCF Acres	Total SCF%
		Acres	SCF Acres	SCF%	Acres	SCF Acres	SCF%			
COLUMBIA	(305,699 ac)	104,656	47,491	15.5%	201,043	30,145	9.9%	305,699	77,636	25.4%
N PUGET	(458,272 ac)	228,765	67,026	14.6%	229,507	24,503	5.3%	458,272	91,528	20.0%
OESF	(275,336 ac)	143,395	55,566	20.2%	131,940	9,797	3.6%	275,336	65,363	23.7%
S COAST	(260,418 ac)	95,107	38,522	14.8%	165,310	20,486	7.9%	260,418	59,008	22.7%
S PUGET	(177,415 ac)	67,440	24,632	13.9%	109,974	14,547	8.2%	177,415	39,178	22.1%
STRAITS	(127,690 ac)	48,621	20,951	16.4%	79,069	6,952	5.4%	127,690	27,903	21.9%
Total	(1,604,829 ac)	687,985	254,187	15.8%	916,844	106,430	6.6%	1,604,829	360,617	22.5%

In May 2024, the DNR published a document titled 'Landscape Assessment to Identify and Manage Structurally Complex Stands to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington, May 2024' (revised, September 2024) (2024 Assessment). This document describes the context of the PSF's 10-15% older-forest target, the historical analyses regarding attainment of older-forest conditions in western Washington, and updated data and modeling analyses showing when each HCP planning is expected to attain older-forest structure. The 2024 assessment anticipates reaching these targets through implementation of the HCP conservation strategies and other conservation objectives.

The 2024 Assessment and the 2026 Quantification demonstrate that while the Straits HCP Planning Unit does not currently contain 10 to 15 percent older-forest conditions, the structurally complex and other suitable stands designated to be managed for older-forest targets are projected to develop into older-forest structure that meets or exceeds this threshold by 2090 (Table B) through implementation of the HCP and other policies and laws. Stands identified to be managed toward older-forest targets, including currently older-forests and stands projected to develop older-forest structure in the future, are depicted in associated maps within the 2024 Assessment document for each western Washington HCP planning unit.

Table B. Percent area western Washington HCP planning units with older-forest stands in conservation areas by decade through 2120. With plot discounts and disturbance factor. Landscape Assessment to Identify and Manage Structurally Complex Stands to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington, May 2024 (Revised September 2024).

ADJUSTED QUERY OUTPUT (WITH PLOT DISCOUNT & DISTURBANCE FACTOR)											
HCP Planning Unit	**Year**										
	2021	**2030**	**2040**	**2050**	**2060**	**2070**	**2080**	**2090**	**2100**	**2110**	**2120**
COLUMBIA	1.0%	1.2%	1.4%	1.7%	2.4%	3.9%	6.2%	9.4%	**13.3%**	**16.5%**	**18.2%**
N. PUGET	3.2%	3.9%	4.9%	6.2%	7.9%	**10.2%**	**13.2%**	**16.7%**	**20.5%**	**23.9%**	**25.0%**
OESF	**10.2%**	**10.7%**	**11.0%**	**11.7%**	**12.6%**	**13.9%**	**15.9%**	**20.0%**	**24.9%**	**28.3%**	**29.5%**
S. COAST	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	1.2%	2.1%	3.6%	5.9%	8.8%	**12.2%**	**15.9%**	**18.6%**
S. PUGET	1.7%	2.2%	2.7%	3.6%	4.6%	6.1%	8.4%	**11.3%**	**14.4%**	**17.1%**	**18.7%**
STRAITS	1.9%	2.6%	3.2%	4.3%	5.6%	7.4%	9.9%	**12.6%**	**15.1%**	**18.0%**	**19.5%**

DNR has designated forest stand acreage within stand replacement harvest deferred areas in each HCP planning unit to meet or exceed the policy's 10% older-forest target. This identified acreage is designated in DNR's GIS database as the Areas Managed for Ecological Value (AMEV) and Structurally Complex Forests in AMEV layers. Acreage that will become older-forests over time are identified in the Westside Forest Cover (Conservation Areas) and Older-Forest in Conservation Areas layers.

This timber sale is not identified as one of those stands designated to meet older-forest targets over time. Following the timber sale, the variable retention harvest units will be replanted with native, conifer tree species that will be supplemented by natural regeneration expected to occur as a result of the conservation areas in and around the harvest units.

c. Briefly describe any specific mitigation measures proposed, in addition to the mitigation provided by plans and programs listed under question A-13-b.

All mitigation measures are clearly outlined in the HCP. See B.1.d, B.3.c., B.4.d, B.5.d, and B.13. for more details. No additional mitigation measures have been developed for this proposal.

d. Based on the answers in questions A-13-a through A-13-c, is it likely potential impacts from this proposal could contribute to any environmental concerns listed in question A-13-a?

No, it is not likely that potential impacts from this proposal will contribute to the environmental concerns listed in question A-13-a. DNR's HCP, the Policy for Sustainable Forests, and the Forest Practice rules substantially helps the Department to mitigate for cumulative effects related to management activities. These strategies have been incorporated in this proposal.

e. Complete the table below with the reasonably foreseeable future activities within the associated WAU(s) (add more lines as needed). Future is generally defined as occurring within the next 7 years. This data was obtained from DNR's Land Resource Manager System on the date of processing this checklist and may be subject to change.

WAU Name	Total WAU Acres	DNR-managed WAU Acres	Acres of DNR proposed even-aged harvest in the future	Acres of DNR proposed uneven-aged harvest in the future	Acres of proposed harvest on non-DNR-managed lands currently under active FP permits
SIEBERT MCDONALD	88238	9839	451	469	224

Other management activities, such as stand and road maintenance, will likely occur within the associated WAU(s).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (check one):
☐ Flat, ☒ Rolling, ☐ Hilly, ☐ Steep Slopes, ☐ Mountainous, ☐ Other:

1. *General description of the associated WAU(s) or sub-basin(s) within the proposal (landforms, climate, elevations, and forest vegetation zone).*

WAU:	SIEBERT MCDONALD
WAU Acres:	88238
Elevation Range:	0 - 5927 ft.
Mean Elevation:	486 ft.
Average Precipitation:	21 in./year
Primary Forest Vegetation Zone:	Western Hemlock

2. *Identify any difference between the proposal location and the general description of the WAU or sub-basin(s).*

This proposal is a representative example of the WAUs at the same elevation and aspect.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
86% Steepest slope percent matches FPA 2619056 Q19.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Note: The following table is created from state soil survey data. It is an overview of general soils information for the soils found in the sale area. The actual soil conditions in the sale area may vary considerably based on land-form shapes, presence of erosive situations, and other factors.

State Soil Survey #	Soil Texture
1643	LOAMY SAND
1958	GRAVELLY SANDY LOAM
5257	V.COBBLY SANDY LOAM
5260	V.GRAVELLY LOAMY SAND

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

☐ *No, go to question B-1-e.*
☒ *Yes, briefly describe potentially unstable slopes or landforms in or around the area of the proposal site. For further information, see question A-8 for related slope stability documents and question A-10 for the FPA number(s) associated with this proposal.*

Inner gorges, Glacial Deep-Seated Landslides (GDSLs), shallow landslides, and bedrock hollows have all been excluded from harvest. One bedrock hollow lacking delivery potential is included within the proposed harvest area; see the Engineering Geologic Risk Assessment for the Pedering Out Timber Sale for additional information.

Geo report, Slope Stability Form, and maps are available on FPARS with FPA 2619056.

1) *Does the proposal include any management activities proposed on potentially unstable slopes or landforms?*

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, describe the proposed activities:*

Cable yarding will occur over Siebert Creek, a fish bearing Type-2 stream with associated convergent inner-gorge slopes, to extract felled timber from Unit 3 of the proposal. These corridors may necessitate the felling of timber within riparian management zones and along inner-gorge slopes associated with the typed water.

Additionally, harvest will occur in no more than 31% of a Groundwater Recharge Area (GWRA) to a GDSL adjacent to Unit 3 of the proposal. Optional road construction may occur through another GWRA to a GDSL near the cable yarding landing site for this unit.

2) *Describe any slope stability protection measures (including sale boundary location, road, and harvest system decisions) incorporated into this proposal.*

The following mitigation measures are required for all cable yarding corridors across Siebert Creek and associated inner-gorge slopes:

- **Logs cable yarded across the typed stream shall be fully suspended so that no portion of the logs or limbs can enter the typed water or cause damage to associated inner-gorge slopes.**
- **Bumper logs may be placed over-top of significant slope breaks to reduce suspended soil disturbance and log contact with the ground, as necessary.**
- **Stumps must remain in-place within the yarding corridors.**

- **Prior to the yarding of timber, yarding corridor locations must be approved by the Contract Administrator.**
- **The Contract Administrator will continually monitor cable yarding operations for impacts to the soil, Siebert Creek, and associated inner-gorge slopes.**
- **Cable yarding operations across Siebert Creek will be carried out in accordance with WAC 222-30-060.**

This proposal was remotely and field reviewed by a Licensed State Lands Engineering Geologist and qualified field staff. All other areas with a moderate to high-risk potential of slope failure and delivery to a public resource have been excluded from the proposed sale area.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Approx. acreage new roads: **2 acres**
Approx. acreage new landings: **<1 acre**
Fill Source: **McSplit Pit and commercial sources**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Yes. Some erosion could occur as a result of building new roads, installing culverts, and hauling timber.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? *Approximate percent of proposal in permanent road running surface (includes gravel roads):*

Approximately 1% of the site will remain as gravel roads.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: *(Include protection measures for minimizing compaction or rutting.)*

Harvesting and road construction will be restricted during periods of heavy rainfall when rutting and surface erosion may occur. Roads will be constructed with properly located ditches, ditch-outs, and cross-drains to divert water onto stable forest floors and/or into stable natural drainages. Best management practices will be utilized as necessary in proximity to live waters. Ground based operations will be suspended during periods of wet weather or wet soil conditions when rutting of skid or shovel roads begins.

Rock identified to be used out of a State lands rock pit shall meet specifications as identified within the Road Plan, which will be determined by the Contract Administrator. If the rock does not meet the specifications, a commercial source shall be used that does at the Purchaser's expense.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Minor amounts of engine exhaust from logging and road construction equipment and dust from vehicle traffic on roads will be emitted during proposed activities. If landing debris is burned after harvest is completed, smoke will be generated. There will be no emissions once the proposal is complete.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Carbon dioxide emissions associated with harvested wood products are analyzed in Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019) and the Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019).

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Following harvest, native tree species will be planted on site at a level higher than existed prior to harvest resulting in regeneration of the forest stand and initiating carbon sequestration through forest stand growth.
If landing debris is burned, it will be in accordance with Washington State's Smoke Management Plan. A burn permit will be obtained before burning occurs.

Per FPA 2619056 Q20, planned species for planting include a mix of douglas fir, western red cedar, grand fir and western hemlock.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. *(See "WAU Map(s)" and "Timber Harvest Unit Adjacency Map(s)" as referenced on the DNR website: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa. Click on the DNR region of this proposal under the Topic "Current SEPA Project Actions - Timber Sales." Proposal documents also available for review at the DNR Region Office.)*

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, describe in 3-a-1-a through 3-a-1-c below*

a. Downstream water bodies: **Siebert Creek, McDonald Creek, Pederson Creek, two forested wetlands, and 11 unnamed tributaries all lie within and/or directly adjacent to the proposed sale area. McDonald Creek is a "Shoreline of the State". All are tributaries of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.**

b. Complete the following riparian & wetland management zone table:

Wetland, Stream, Lake, Pond, or Saltwater Name (if any)	Water Type	Number (how many?)	Avg RMZ/WMZ Width in feet (per side for streams)
McDonald Creek	1	1	200 feet, shoreline of the state
Siebert Creek	2	1	157 feet
Pederson Creek	3	1	172 feet
Stream	3	1	157 feet
Stream	4	2	100 feet
Stream	5	8	30-foot equipment limitation zone, applies to all typed waters
Forested Wetland	<1 acre	1	100 feet
Forested Wetland	>1 acre	1	127 feet

FW2
FW1

Per FPA 2619056 Q18.

c. List any additional RMZ/WMZ protection measures including silvicultural prescriptions, road-related RMZ/WMZ protection measures and wind buffers.

McDonald Creek is designated as a "Shoreline of the State" (Type-1 water) and is protected with a 200-foot no-harvest buffer.

Siebert Creek (Type-2 water) is protected with a 157-foot full site index buffer based on the Douglas-fir site potential height at a base age of 100.

Pederson Creek (Type-3 water) is protected with a 172-foot full site index buffer based on the Douglas-fir site potential height at a base age of 100.

There is one unnamed Type-3 stream associated with this proposal and is protected with a 157-foot full site index buffer based on the Douglas-fir site potential height at a base age of 100.

There are two Type-4 streams associated with this proposal and are each protected with a 100-foot no-harvest buffer.

There are eight Type-5 waters associated with this proposal. They area each protected as part of leave tree areas, as part of no-harvest buffer zones, and/or with 30-foot equipment limitation zones.

All typed waters have a 30-foot equipment limitation zone applied.

All unstable features with the potential to deliver to a public water resource have been excluded from harvest. In the event that cable yarding corridors necessitate the felling of trees within no-harvest buffer zones detailed in B-1-d-2, mitigations and procedures will be followed.

The work detailed in the road plan has been designed to improve surfacing on the haul roads and provide for better drainage by installing additional culverts that will divert storm water onto stable forest floor. These actions will minimize the potential for delivery of sediment to streams. Soils exposed during road construction activities will be protected from erosion by grass seeding and mulching with hay.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Per FPA 2619056 Q15, the following activities are proposed in or over typed water: suspending cables, cable yarding, felling and bucking.

☐ *No*
☒ *Yes (See RMZ/WMZ table above and timber sale maps which are available on the DNR website: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa. Timber sale maps are also available at the DNR region office.)*

Description (include culverts):

Timber felling, bucking, yarding, road maintenance and construction will occur within 200 feet of the described waters above (with the exception of McDonald Creek, as designated with "Shoreline of the State"). All activities will be done in accordance with the DNR's HCP and Forest Practice rules. Timber harvest will occur within 200 feet of typed waters, but no closer than described above in questions B.3.a.1.b and B.3.a.1.c. Culvert work listed in A.11.C will occur within 200 feet of the described waters above.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. *(Include diversions for fish-passage culvert installation.)*

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, description:*

All water flow may be temporarily diverted through bypass culverts or retained behind (or pumped around) coffer dams during culvert installation and replacement. Other typed waters may be temporarily diverted if additional culvert replacements are deemed necessary on existing roads.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

☒ *No* ☐ *Yes, describe activity and location:*

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

It is not likely that any waste materials will be discharged into the surface water(s). However, minor amounts of oil, fuel, and other lubricants may inadvertently be discharged to the adjacent surface water(s) as a result of heavy equipment use or mechanical failure. No lubricants will be disposed of on-site.

7) *Is there a potential for eroded material to enter surface water as a result of the proposal considering the protection measures incorporated into the proposal's design?*

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, describe:*

Soils and terrain susceptible to surface erosion are generally located on slopes steeper than 70%. The potential for eroded material to enter surface water is minimized due to the erosion control measures and operational procedures outlined in B-1-h.

8) *What are the approximate road miles per square mile in the associated WAU(s)?*

SIEBERT MCDONALD = 1.9 (mi./sq. mi.)

9) *Are there forest roads or ditches within the associated WAU(s) that deliver surface water to streams, rather than back to the forest floor?*

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, describe:*

It is likely some roads or road ditches within the WAU intercept sub-surface flow and deliver surface water to streams, however current road work standards will be applied that address this issue by installing cross-drains to deliver ditch water to stable forest floors.

10) *Is there evidence of changes to channels associated with peak flows in the proposal area (accelerated aggradations, surface erosion, mass wasting, decrease in large organic debris (LOD), change in channel dimensions)?*

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, describe observations:*

There is evidence of changes to channels across the WAU. These changes are a result of natural events such as spring runoff from snowmelt and significant storm events. Channel migration, scouring, and deposition of material can be seen in channels across the WAU; this indicates those channels historically experience higher water levels and peak flows

11) Describe any anticipated contributions to peak flows resulting from this proposal's activities which could impact areas downstream or downslope of the proposal area.

It is not likely the proposed activity will change the timing, duration, or volume of water during a peak flow event. This proposal limits harvest unit size and proximity to other recent harvests, minimizes the extent of the road network, incorporates road drainage disconnected from stream networks, and implements wide riparian buffers which all have mitigating effects on the potential for this proposal to increase peak flows that could impact areas downstream or downslope of the proposal area.

12) Is there a water resource (public, domestic, agricultural, hatchery, etc.), or area of slope instability, downstream or downslope of the proposed activity?

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, describe the water resource(s):*

McDonald Creek, Siebert Creek, and Pederson Creek all lie downslope and/or downstream of the proposed harvest area. All are tributaries of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. All unstable features with the potential to deliver to a public water resource have been excluded from harvest. In the event that cable yarding corridors necessitate the felling of trees within no-harvest buffer zones detailed in B-1-d-2, mitigations and procedures will be followed.

a. Is it likely a water resource or an area of slope instability listed in B-3-12 (above) will be affected by changes in amounts, quality or movements of surface water as a result of this proposal?

☒ *No* ☐ *Yes, describe possible impacts:*

13) *Describe any protection measures, in addition to those required by other existing plans and programs (i.e. the HCP, DNR landscape plans) and current forest practice rules included in this proposal that mitigate potential negative effects on water quality and peak flow impacts.*

Restricting timber harvest and road maintenance activities during peak rain events will allow for increased resource protection. Road development and maintenance standards will minimize impacts by using cross-drains and ditch-outs to release ditch water onto stable forest floors where flow energy can dissipate prior to reach stream channels. Maintaining RMZs on streams will aid bank stability, hydrologic functions, and provide recruitment of LWD. See B1.d.2, B.1.h, and B.3.a.1 for additional details on protections measures within this proposal.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No water will be withdrawn or discharged.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Minor amounts of oil, fuel, and other lubricants may inadvertently be discharged to the ground as a result of heavy equipment use or mechanical failure. No lubricants will be disposed of on-site. All spills are required to be contained and cleaned-up. This proposal is expected to have no impact on ground water.

3) Is there a water resource use (public, domestic, agricultural, hatchery, etc.), or area of slope instability, downstream or downslope of the proposed activity?

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, describe:*

McDonald Creek, Siebert Creek, and Pederson Creek all lie downslope and/or downstream of the proposed harvest area. All are tributaries of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. All unstable features with the potential to deliver to a public water resource have been excluded from harvest. In the event that cable yarding corridors necessitate the felling of trees within no-harvest buffer zones detailed in B-1-d-2, mitigations and procedures will be followed.

a. Is it likely a water resource or an area of slope instability listed in B-3-b-3 (above) could be affected by changes in amounts, timing, or movements of groundwater as a result this proposal?

☒ *No* ☐ *Yes, describe possible impacts:*

Note protection measures, if any:

Harvest will occur in no more than 31% of a GWRA to a GDSL adjacent to Unit 3 of the proposal. The site and proposed harvest activities were reviewed by a licensed State Lands Geologist and Qualified Expert who determined there to be a low likelihood of exacerbated slope instability. See the Engineering Geologic Risk Assessment for the Pedering Out Timber Sale for additional information.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Water runoff, including storm water, from road surfaces will be collected by roadside ditches and diverted onto the forest floor via ditch-outs and cross drain culverts.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, describe:*

Waste materials, such as sediment or slash, may enter surface water.

Note protection measures, if any:
No additional protection measures will be necessary to protect these resources beyond those described in B-1-d-2, B-1-h, B-3-a-2, and B-3-a-13.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No changes to drainage patterns are expected.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

See surface water, ground water, and water runoff sections above, questions B-3-a-1-c, B-3-a- 13, B-3-b-3, and B-3-c-2.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

☒ Deciduous tree:
☒ Alder ☐ Aspen ☐ Birch ☒ Cottonwood ☒ Maple ☐ Western Larch
☐ Other:

☒ Evergreen tree:
☒ Douglas-Fir ☐ Engelmann Spruce ☒ Grand Fir ☐ Lodgepole Pine
☐ Mountain Hemlock ☐ Noble Fir ☐ Pacific Silver Fir ☐ Ponderosa Pine
☐ Sitka Spruce ☒ Western Hemlock ☒ Western Redcedar ☐ Yellow Cedar
☒ Other: **Madrone**

☒ Shrubs:
☒ Huckleberry ☐ Rhododendron ☒ Salmonberry ☒ Salal
☒ Other: **Currant, wild rose, elderberry, thimbleberry**

☒ Ferns
☒ Grass
☐ Pasture
☐ Crop or Grain
☐ Orchards ☐ Vineyard ☐ Other Permanent Crops

☒ Wet Soil Plants:
☐ Bullrush ☐ Buttercup ☐ Cattail ☒ Devil's Club ☒ Skunk Cabbage
☒ Other: **Horsetail**

☐ Water plants:
☐ Eelgrass ☐ Milfoil ☐ Water Lily
☐ Other:

☒ Other types of vegetation: **Trailing blackberry, stinging nettle, Oregon grape**

☐ Plant communities of concern:

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? *(Also see answers to questions A-11-a, A-11-b and B-3-a-2).*

Approximately 2,738 MBF of timber will be harvested with this proposal.

Approximately 143.2 acres will be harvested per FPA 2619056.

1) *Describe the species, age, and structural diversity of the timber types immediately adjacent to the removal area. (See "WAU Map(s)" and "Timber Harvest Unit Adjacency Map(s)" on the DNR website: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sepa. Click on the DNR region of this proposal under the Topic "Current SEPA Project Actions - Timber Sales." Proposal documents also available for review at the DNR Region Office.)*

Unit 1 is bordered to the north by 40 year-old State timber and private forestland, to the east and south by 40 year-old timber, and to the west by 54 year-old State timber.

Unit 3 is bordered to the north and west by 102 year-old State timber and to the east and south by private property.

Unit 4 is bordered to the north by 39 year-old State timber, to the east and south by 25 year-old State regen, and to the west by private property.

Unit 5 is bordered to the north by private forestland, to the east and south by 105 year-old State timber, and to the west by 94 year-old State timber.

c. List threatened and endangered *plant* species known to be on or near the site.
None found. No T&E plant species found during FPRAM review.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Measures include retaining existing stands within bounded out areas throughout the proposal. Also retaining individual leave trees and leave tree clumps within harvest units (minimally 8 trees per acre of harvest), including structurally unique and/or of the largest diameter class. Specifically, trees larger than 60 inches in diameter or greater will remain on-site. All trees 60 inches in Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) and greater shall not be felled unless for safety reasons, which must be approved by the contract administrator. If trees 60 inches in DBH or greater need to be felled for safety reasons, trees will be left where felled. Replanting with native conifer species in the VRH units will also occur following harvest. Other native conifer and deciduous species may regenerate naturally on-site.

All of the proposed Pedering Out timber sale units were reviewed by an Old Growth Designee as well as qualified field staff for the presence of old growth and older trees; including individuals and clumps greater than 5 acres per DNR policy. These units were also screened via ArcGIS spatial datasets to identify areas with a moderate or high probability of old growth occurrence (RS-FRIS Combined Origin Year raster layer, and Weighted Old Growth Habitat Index points and polygon layers). These units were also screened via old aerial photography.

As a result of the above review, two DNR policy-definable old growth stands greater than 5 acres in size were identified as part of this proposal. No harvest will occur within these delineated old growth stands. Unit 5 of the proposal will be harvested around one of the two delineated old growth stands. Remnant old growth trees found scattered throughout the units that do not meet stand delineation criteria have been grouped into Leave Tree Areas or individually marked for retention. In the event that one of these trees needs to be cut to facilitate road building or for safe and feasible harvesting operations it will be left on site and serve as downed wood recruitment.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Himalayan blackberry, holly, fox glove, scotch broom.

5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals *or unique habitats* which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

birds:
☒ eagle ☒ hawk ☐ heron ☒ owls ☒ songbirds
☐ other:
mammals:
☒ bear ☒beaver ☒ coyote ☒ cougar ☒ deer ☐ elk
☒ other: **Pacific Fischer**
fish:
☐ bass ☐ herring ☒ salmon ☐ shellfish ☒ trout
☐ other:
amphibians/reptiles:
☒ frog ☒ lizard ☒ salamander ☒ snake ☐ turtle
☐ other:
unique habitats:
☐ balds ☐ caves ☐ cliffs ☐ mineral springs ☐ oak woodlands ☐ talus slopes
☐ other:

FPRAM review indicates proposal is within the East Fork Siebert Creeek, Buck Knoll, and Maiden Creek-Morse status 1 owl circles. Proposal is outside the SOSEA and not in best 70.

Proposal is located within 0.25 miles of an occupied site, within a 1.5 mile buffer of an occupied site and within a detection area for marbled murrelet.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site (*include federal- and state-listed species).*

TSU Number	Common Name	Federal Listing Status	State Listing Status
PEDERING OUT U4	Northern Spotted Owl	Threatened	Endangered
PEDERING OUT U4	Marbled murrelet	Threatened	Endangered
PEDERING OUT U5	Northern Spotted Owl	Threatened	Endangered
PEDERING OUT U5	Marbled murrelet	Threatened	Endangered

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
☒*Pacific flyway* ☐*Other migration route:*
Explain:

All of Washington State is considered part of the Pacific Flyway. No impacts are anticipated as a result of this proposal.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

1) *Note existing or proposed protection measures, if any, for the complete proposal described in question A-11.*

Species /Habitat: **Marbled Murrelet**
Protection Measures: **Proposed harvest units do not occur within Marbled Murrelet special habitat areas, occupied sites, occupied site buffers, or Marbled Murrelet habitat (P-stage) that has been designated for metering. Previously modeled long term forest cover (LTFC) is being updated per this proposal. In guidance with our Habitat Conservation Plan, no special Marbled Murrelet protections are needed.**

Species /Habitat: **Northern Spotted Owl**
Protection Measures: **Harvest units are located within the Buck Knoll, Maiden Creek-Morse, and East Fork Siebert Creek Status 1 owl circles. No activity will occur within corresponding Northern Spotted Owl best 70 habitat acres.**

Species /Habitat: **Wetland & Riparian**
Protection Measures: **No-harvest buffer zones have been applied to all Type-1, Type-2, Type-3, and Type-4 streams in addition to two forested wetlands. Equipment limitation zones are on all typed waters as described in B.3.a.1)b). Riparian buffers are designed to protect the unstable portions of the stream banks and help to protect waters from siltation and increased temperature by providing shade and cover. Buffers also allow the natural occurrence of woody debris that provides pools and eddies for fish habitat along stream banks. Furthermore, these buffers will develop old-forest characteristics that, in combination with the owl and murrelet strategies, will help support old-forest dependent wildlife. In the event that cable yarding corridors necessitate the felling of trees within no-harvest buffer zones detailed in B-1-d-2, mitigations and procedures will be followed.**

Species /Habitat: **Uplands**
Protection Measures: **Harvest will not occur in areas with a moderate or high-risk of slope failure or delivery to a public water resource. Wind-firm, dominant, and structurally unique trees were targeted for retention. A minimum of 8 trees per acre were retained individually and in clumps to provide habitat structures for wildlife species within VRH units. Timber removal will temporarily create open environments that provide valuable foraging and potential habitat for a variety of wildlife species associated with early-stage forest environments.**

Species /Habitat: **Old Growth and Older Forests**
Protection Measures: **Two DNR policy-definable old growth stands greater than 5 acres in size were identified as part of this proposal. No harvest will occur within these delineated old growth stands. Remnant old growth not constituting a stand (as defined by the DNRs PSF) within the harvest areas have been marked for retention. In the event that one of these trees needs to be cut to facilitate road building or for safe and feasible harvest operations, it will be left on site to serve as downed wood recruitment.**

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Petroleum fuel (diesel or gasoline) will be used for heavy equipment during active road building, timber harvest operations, and for transportation. No energy sources will be needed following project completion.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None known.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None known.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Petroleum-based fuel and lubricants may be used and stored on site during the operating life of this project.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The Department of Natural Resources, private, and fire protection district suppression crews may be needed in case of wildfire. In the event of personal injuries, emergency medical services may be required. Hazardous material spills may require Department of Ecology and/or county assistance.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

No petroleum-based products will be disposed of on site. If a spill occurs, containment and cleanup will be required. Spill kits are required to be onsite during all heavy equipment operations. The cessation of operations may occur during periods of increased fire risk. Fire tools and equipment, including pump trucks and/or pump trailers, will be required on site during fire season.

NOTE: If contamination of the environment is suspected, the proponent must contact the Department of Ecology.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

There will be short term, low level and high level noise created by the use of harvesting equipment and hauling operations within the proposal area. This type of noise has been historically present in this geographical area.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None.

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. *(Site includes the complete proposal, e.g. rock pits and access roads.)*

The current use of adjacent properties is working forest land and/or small private landowners. This proposal will not change the use of or affect the current/long term land use of areas associated with this sale.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

This proposal site has been used as working forest lands. This proposal will retain the site in working forest lands.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:
No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.
None.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Commercial forest.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Commercial forest.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
No.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
Does not apply.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
This project is consistent with current comprehensive plans and zoning classifications.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
None.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Does not apply.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
None.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

1) *Is this proposal visible from a residential area, town, city, recreation site, major transportation route or designated scenic corridor (e.g., county road, state or interstate highway, US route, river or Columbia Gorge SMA)?*

☐ *No* ☒ *Yes, name of the location, transportation route or scenic corridor:*

Private residence.

2) *How will this proposal affect any views described above?*

Views from adjacent properties may be impacted by resulting harvest activities.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

All VRH units will be replanted with native species following harvest. Long term forest cover created as a result of harvest activities will provide visual breaks and the distribution of harvest units within the landscape will reduce the aesthetic impact.

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
None.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Dispersed informal recreation in the form of hiking, hunting, fishing, berry picking, and sightseeing is common in the area as well. Logging roads are also used for ATV/motorcycles, mountain bike riding, and horseback riding.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

There may be some disruptions to recreational use during periods of harvesting and hauling.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Measures will include posting signs notifying users of the ongoing timber sale activities including cutting, yarding and hauling.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

Yes, eligible sites were documented as part of this proposal.

DAHP hit found during FPRAM review. The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) reviewed the proposal and found no conflict.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Yes, see B.13.a.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

d.

A check of the Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation (DAHP) database, historic USGS map on available GIS layer, and Land Resource Manager (LRM) Special Concerns Report was used to identify cultural resources in the proposed project area. A DNR Cultural Resource Technician was consulted; a remote and field review of the site was conducted to ensure the necessary preservation of any culturally and/or historically significant resources identified. Representatives of the Jamestown S'Klallam, Port Gamble S'Klallam, and Lower Elwha Klallam tribes were also contacted for consultation regarding discovered cultural resources and appropriate, feasible mitigation measures.

e. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Sale design considerations and the incorporation of specific contract language will be implemented to avoid impacts to cultural resources. If presently-unknown skeletal remains, cultural resources, or both become known during project operations, DNR will comply with the Discovery of Skeletal Remains or Cultural Resources procedure.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Highway 101, Blue Mountain Rd, O'Brien Rd, and Erving Jacobs Rd.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No. Nearest transit spot is approximately 2 miles away.

c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Yes, see A-11-c.

1) *How does this proposal impact the overall transportation system/circulation in the surrounding area and any existing safety problem(s), if at all?*

This project will have minimal to no additional impacts on the overall transportation system in the area.

d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
No.

e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Approximately 10 to 15 truck trips per day while the operation is active. Peak volumes would occur during the yarding and loading activities between 4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. of the operating period. The completed project will generate less than one vehicular trip per day. Estimates are based on the observed harvest traffic of past projects.

f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.
No.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
None.

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
None.

16. **Utilities**

a. Check utilities currently available at the site:
☐ electricity ☐ natural gas ☐ water ☐ refuse service ☐ telephone ☐ sanitary sewer
☐ septic system ☐ other:

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.
None.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Dylen Siepka

Name of signee **Dylen Siepka**

Position and Agency/Organization **Straits District Unit Coordinator – WA DNR**

Date Submitted: 3/30/2026

2619056

DRIVING MAP

SALE NAME: PEDERING OUT
AGREEMENT#: 30-109557
TOWNSHIP(S): T30NR05W, T30NR04W, T29NR05W, T29NR04W
TRUST(S): State Forest Transfer (01), Common School and Indemnity (03)

REGION: Olympic Region
COUNTY(S): Clallam
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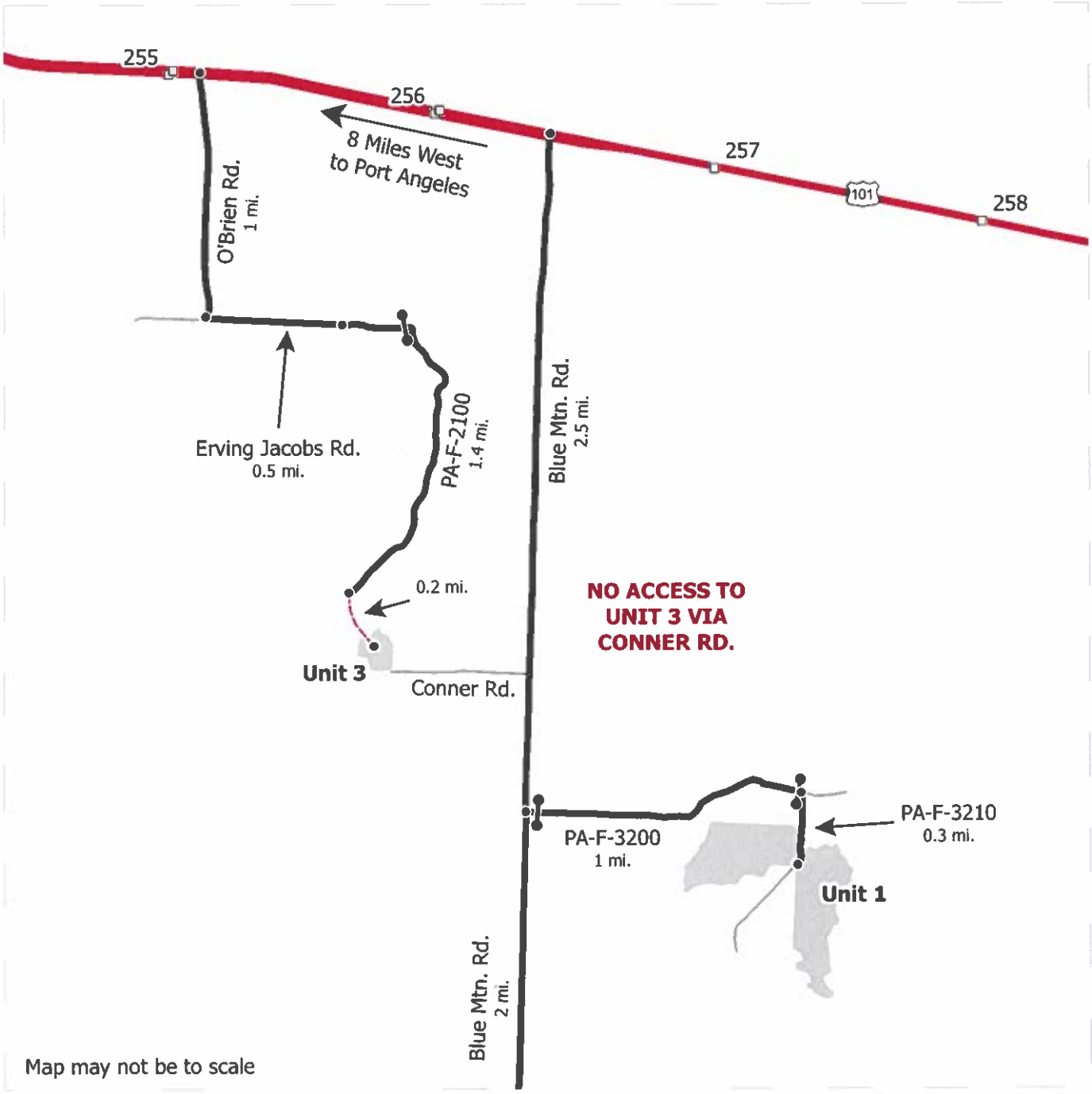

Highway	Rock Pit
Haul Route	Gate (AA1)
Other Route	Milepost Marker
View Only Route	Distance Indicator

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

N

Prepared By: dsie490

Modification Date: dsie490 10/29/2025

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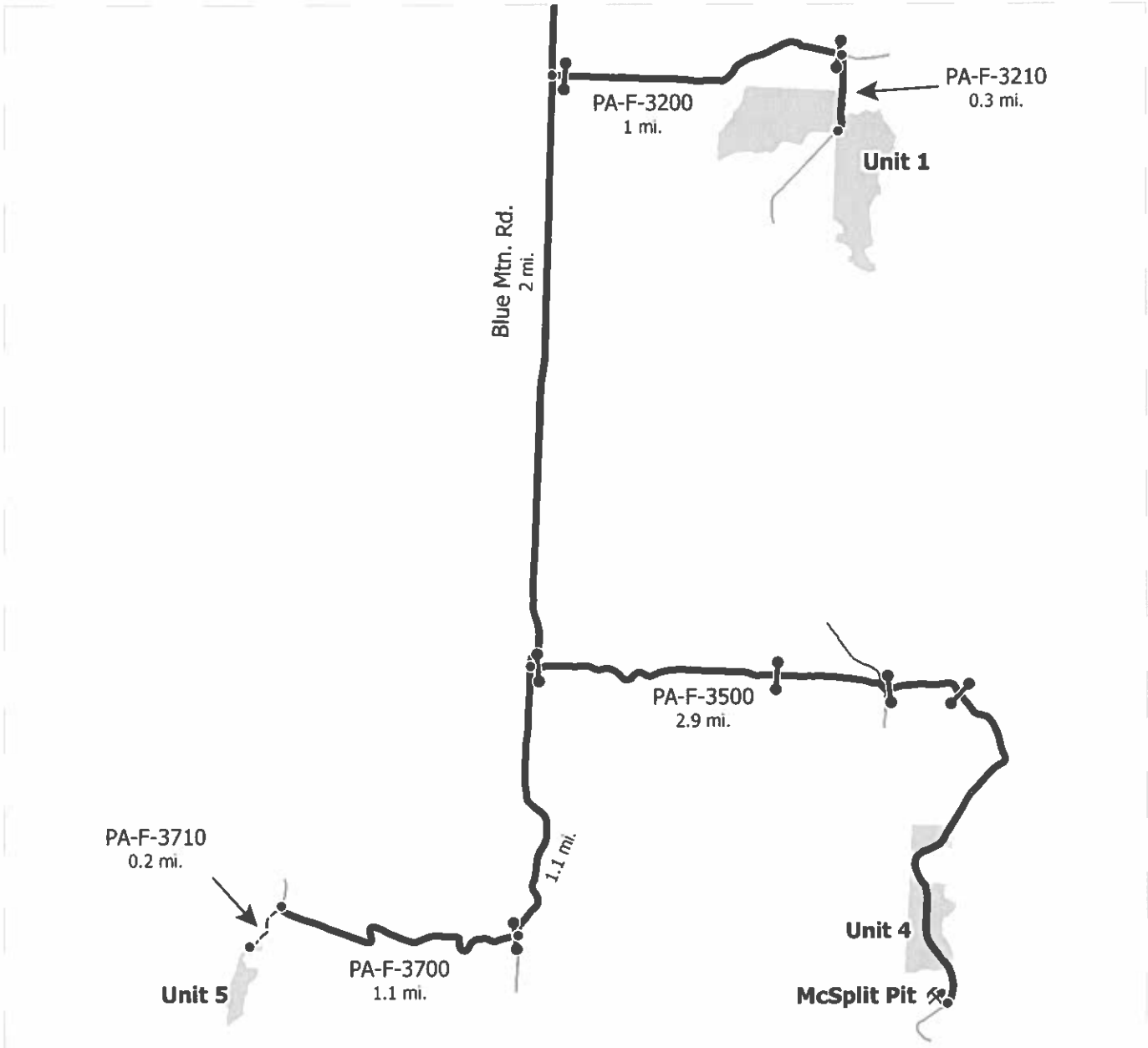

Map may not be to scale

- Highway
- Haul Route
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DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT.

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Pedering Out Driving Directions

Unit 3: Turn south onto O'Brien Rd from Hwy 101 and drive for 1 mile before turning left onto Erving Jacobs Rd. Proceed east for 0.5 miles then continue forward onto the PA-F-2100 and through the gate for an additional 1.4 miles. Park along the PA-F-2100 and proceed 0.2 miles southeast on-foot into Unit 3. Note that approaching the unit along this route requires traversing a steep ravine and Siebert Creek. There is no DNR or public access to Unit 3 via Conner Rd.

Unit 1: Turn south onto Blue Mtn Rd from Hwy 101 and drive for 2.5 miles before turning left onto the PA-F-3200. Proceed east for 1 mile and past both gates before turning right and heading south on the PA-F-3210 for an additional 0.3 miles to reach Unit 1.

Unit 4 and McSplit Pit: From the intersection of Blue Mtn Rd with the PA-F-3200, continue south on Blue Mtn Rd for 2 miles then turn left onto the PA-F-3500. Drive 2.9 miles east and then south past four gates to reach Unit 4 and McSplit Pit.

Unit 5: From the intersection of Blue Mtn Rd with the PA-F-3500, continue south on Blue Mtn Rd for another 1.1 miles then turn right onto the PA-F-3700. Drive west and past the gate for 1.1 miles. Park and proceed southwest on-foot for 0.2 miles to reach Unit 5.

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TIMBER SALE MAP

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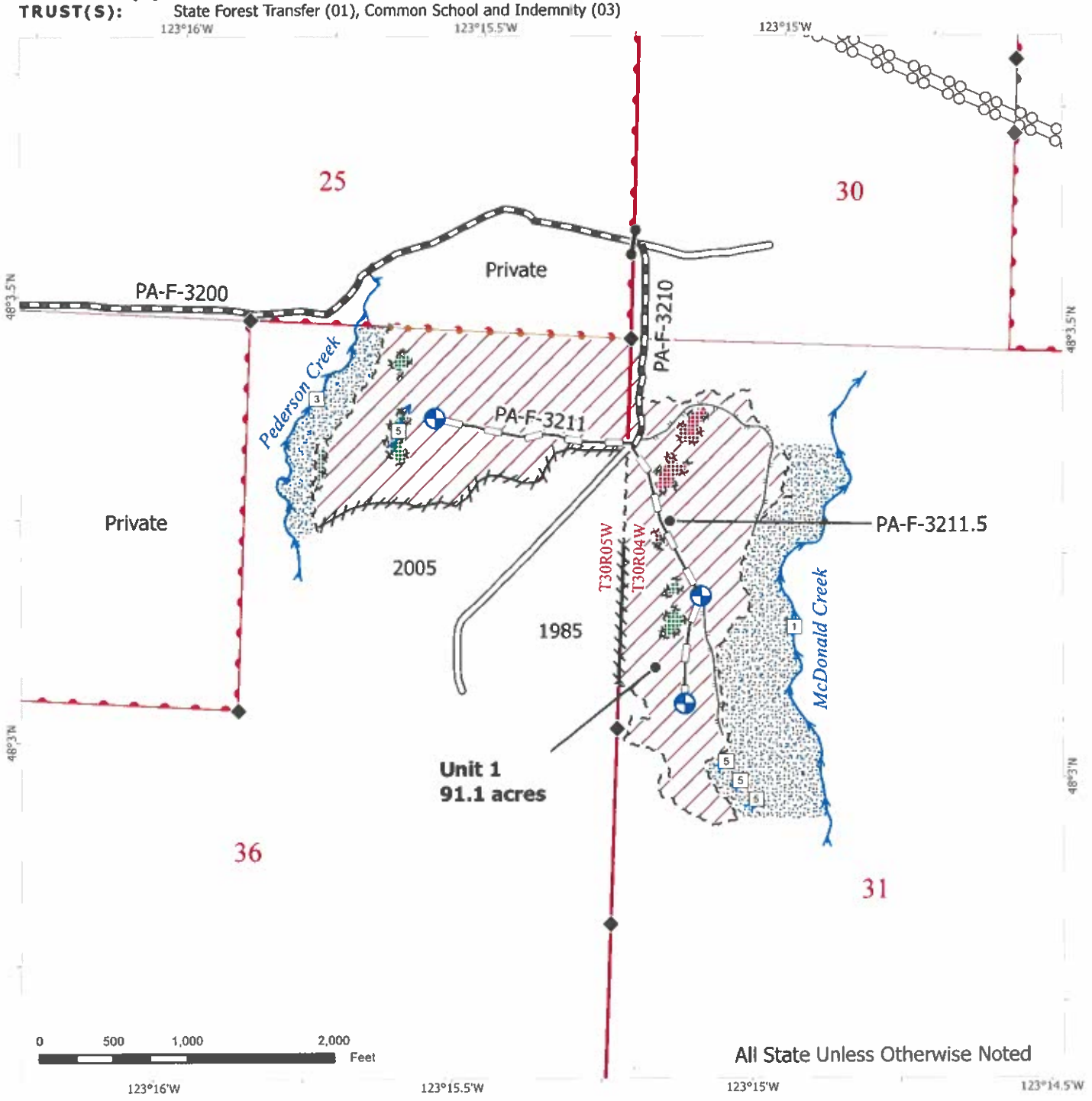

- Variable Retention Harvest
- DNR Managed Lands
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- Wetland Management Zone
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- Hazard Abatement Area
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- Optional Reconstruction
- Designated Skid Trail
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- Stream Break
- Survey Monument
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- Gate Installation
- Structure

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Modification Date: dsie490 10/29/2025

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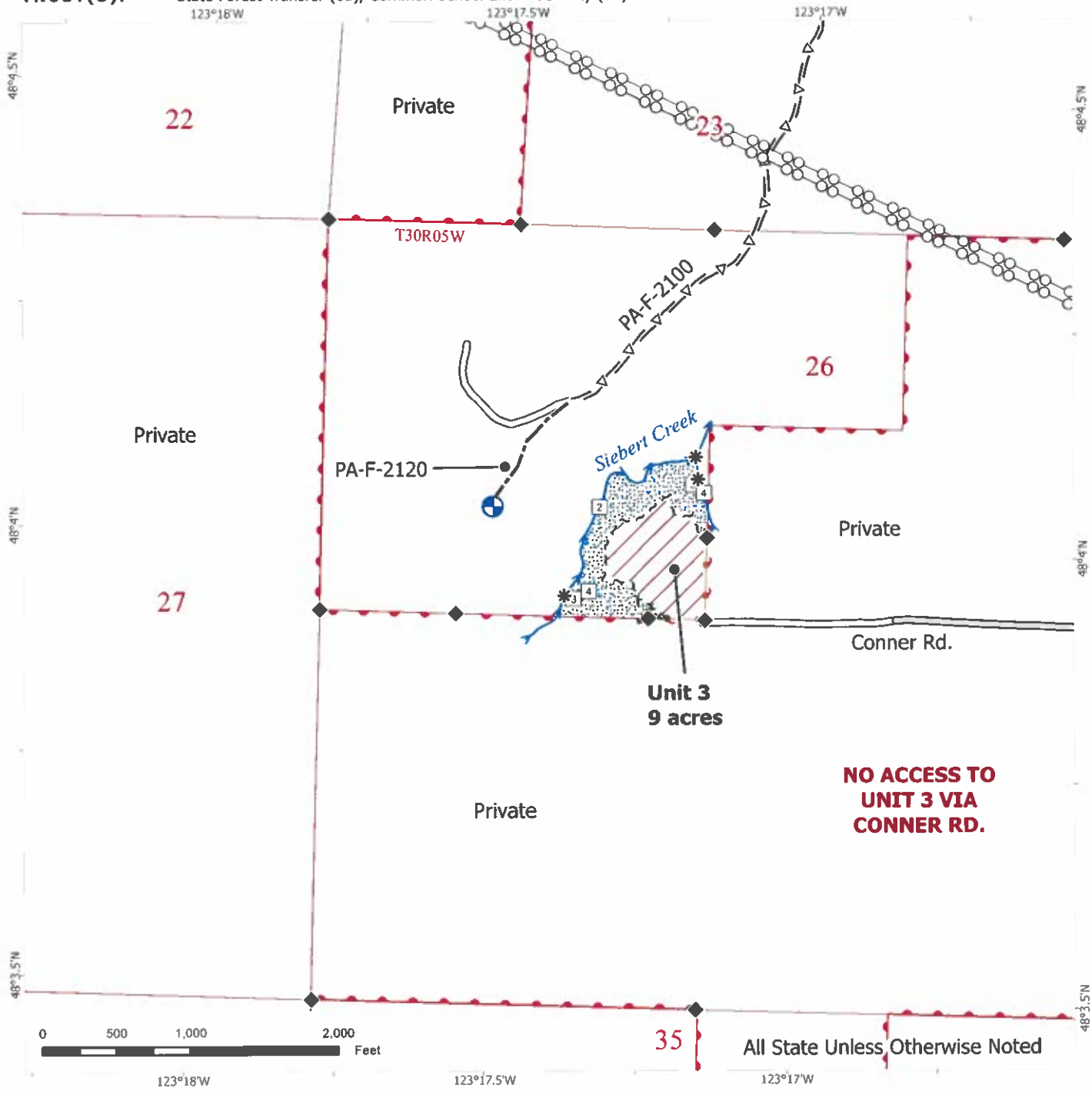

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Modification Date: dsie490 11/25/2025

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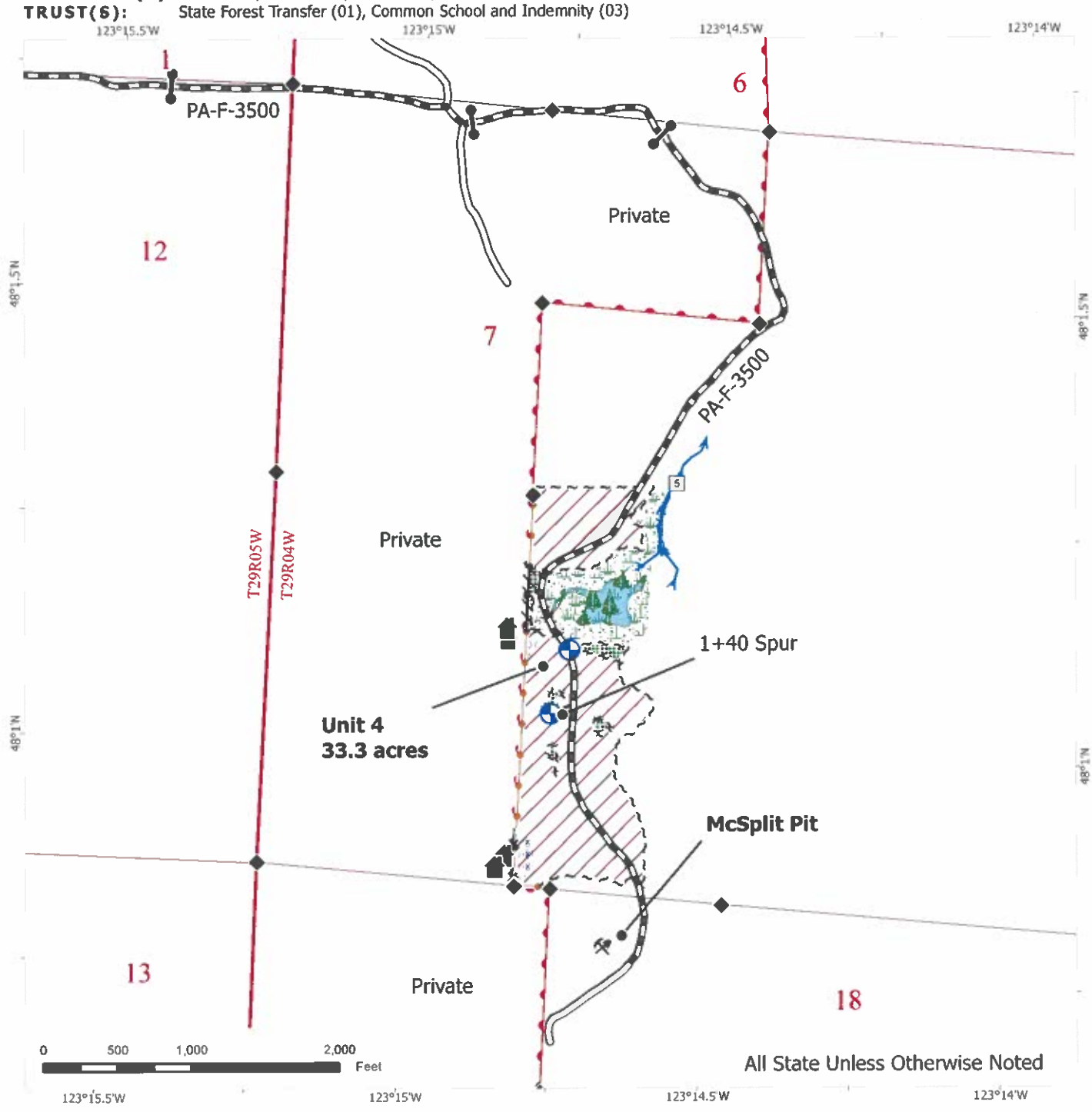

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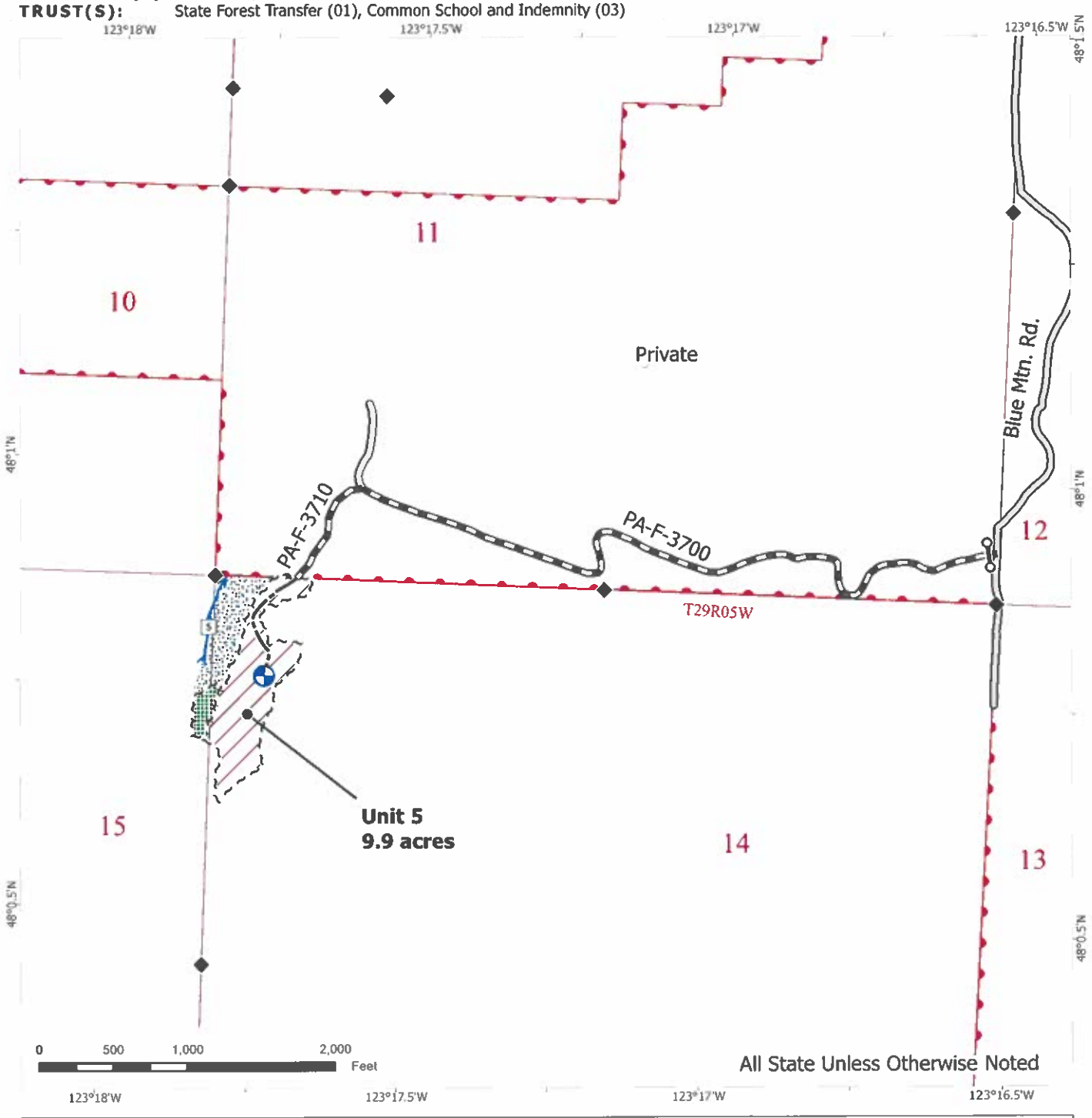

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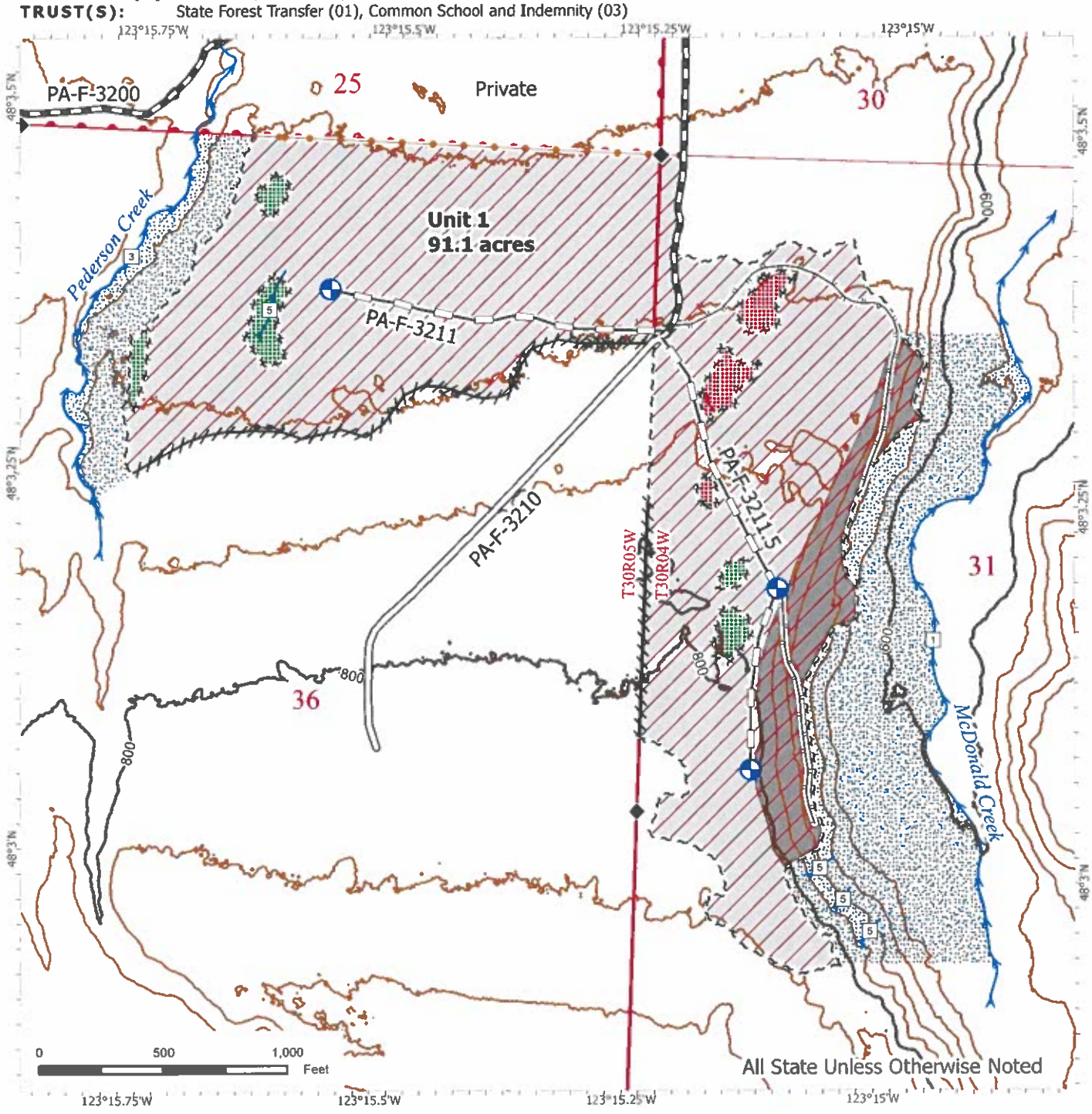

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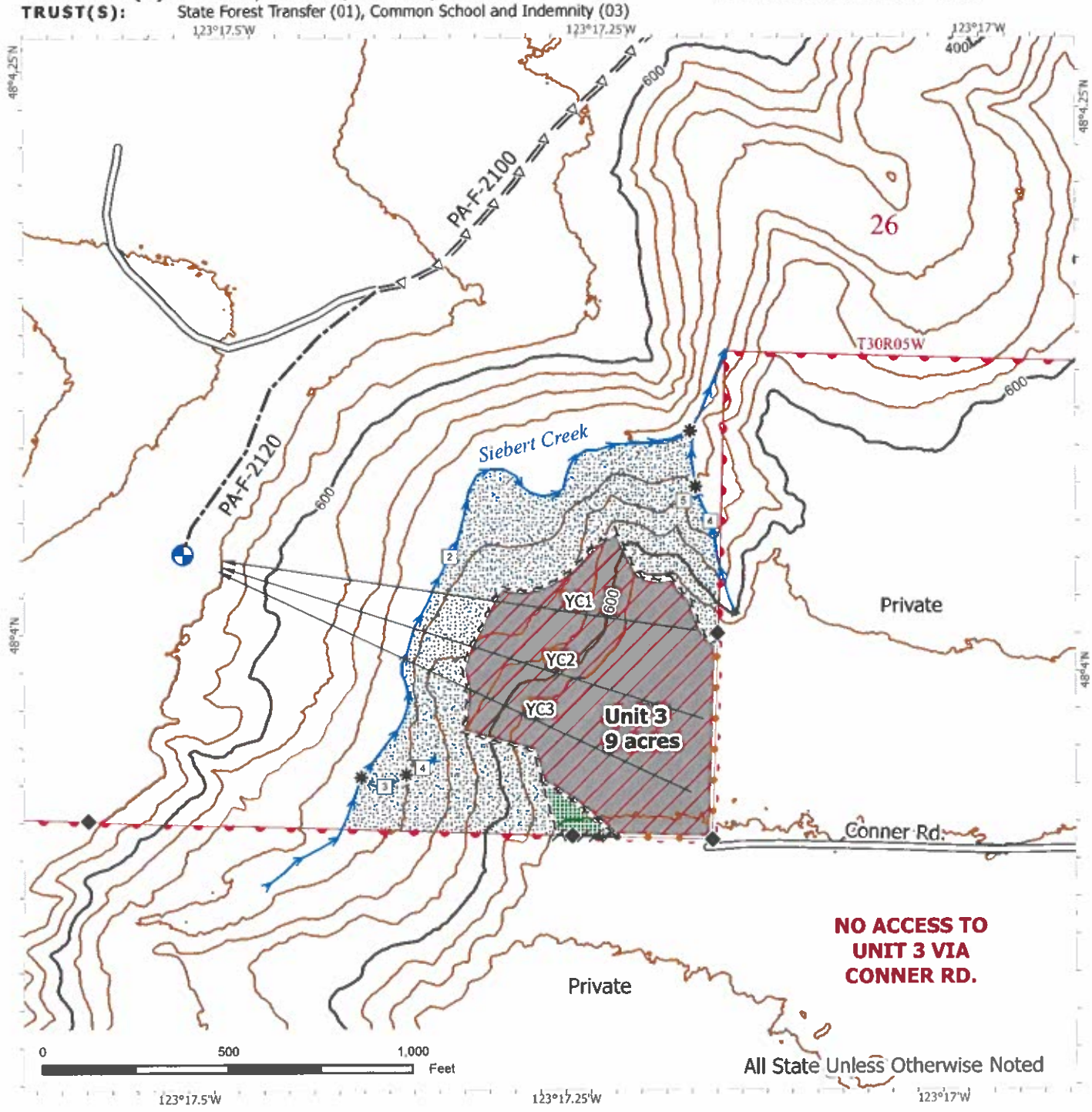

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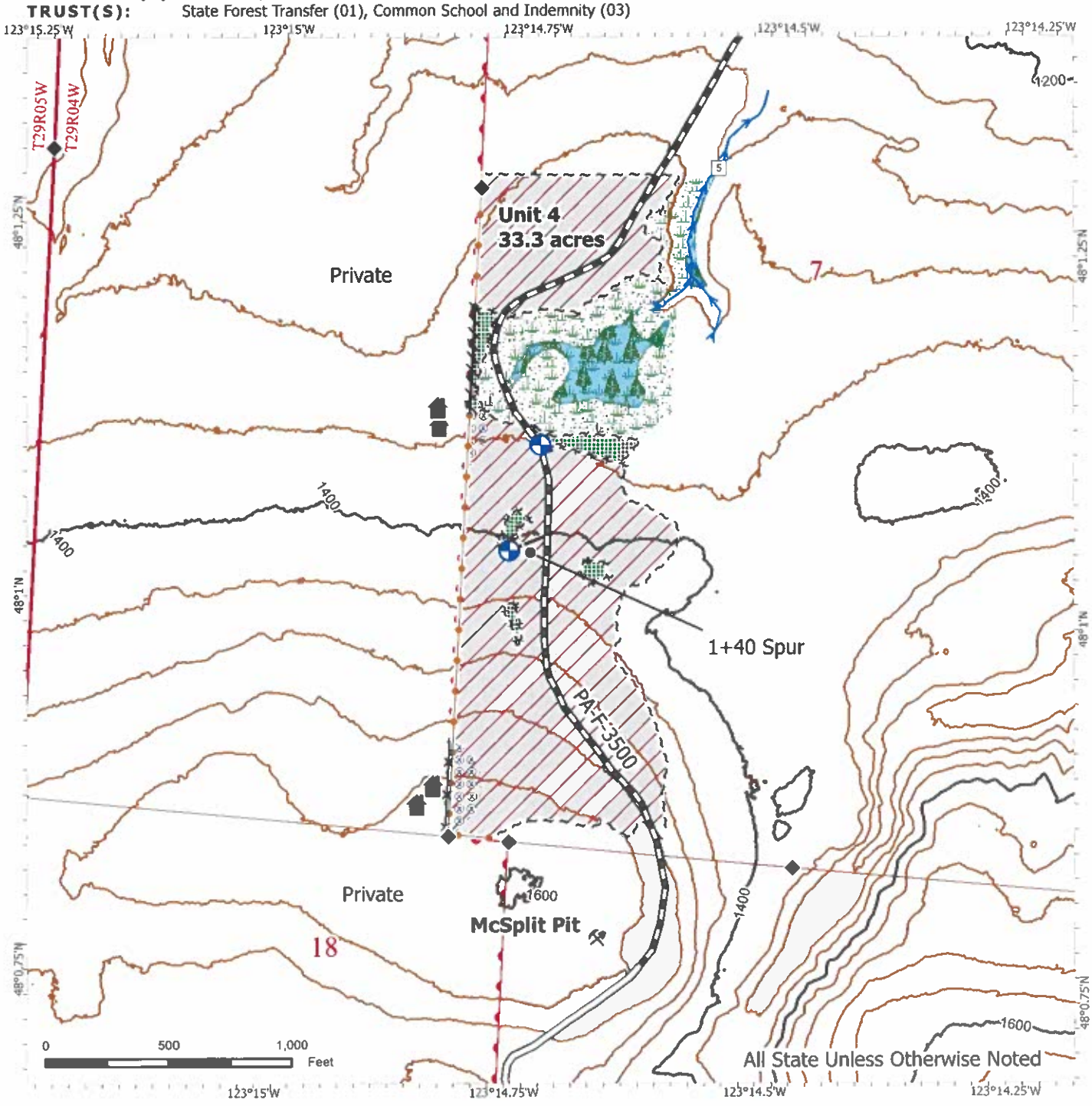

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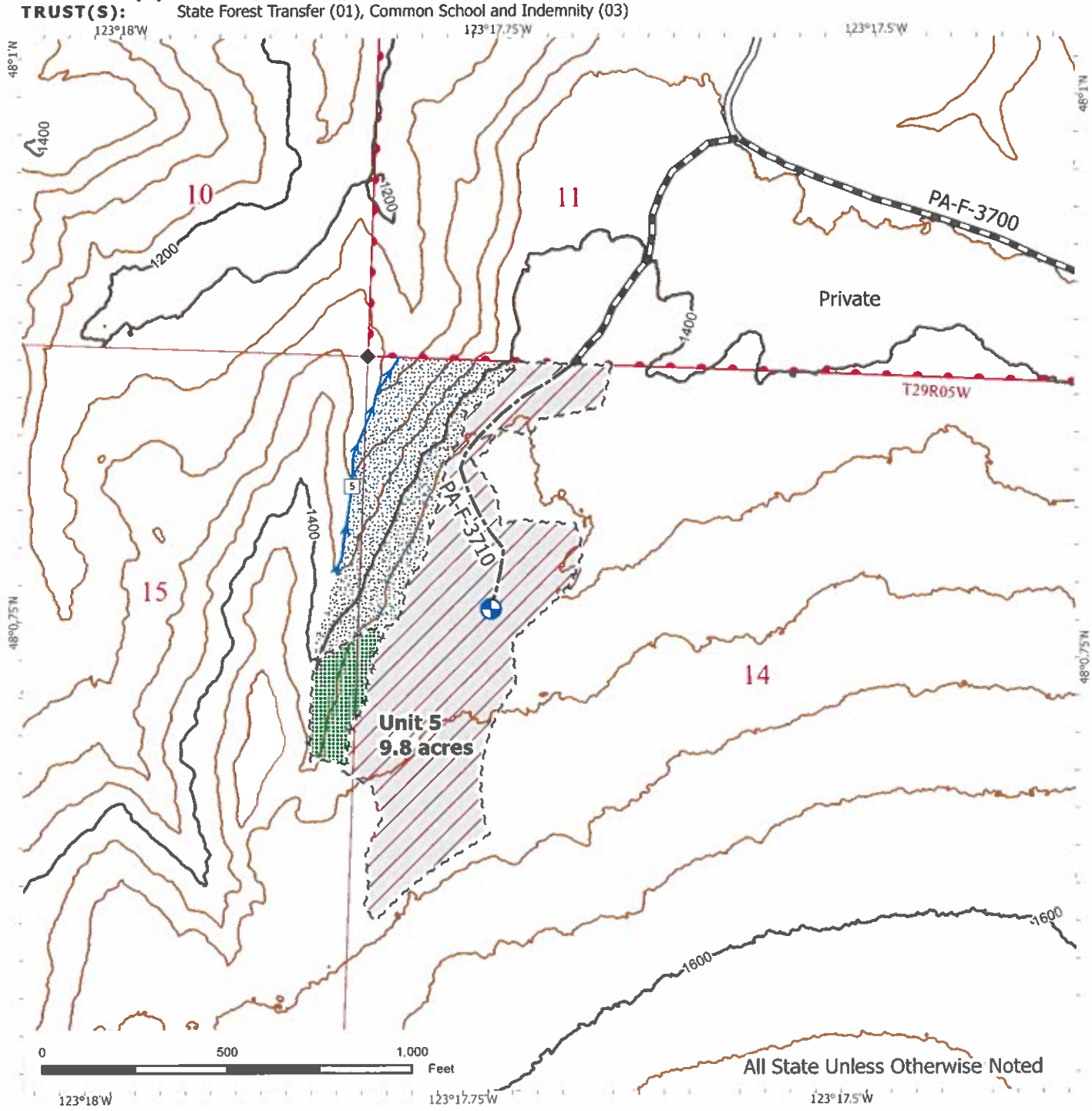

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Consideration of Alternatives

RCW 43.21C.030(2)(e) requires the Department to conduct an analysis of "appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources". The objective of the current proposal, a timber harvest conducted on state trust lands, is to generate revenue for the trust beneficiaries to fulfill DNR's fiduciary duty to make the trust lands productive. The proposal is consistent with statutory direction to sell timber from DNR-managed lands on a sustained yield basis. RCW 79.10.320, .340. DNR gives priority to revenue producing uses of lands which are chiefly valuable for the purpose of growing forest crops over other uses in accordance with the multiple use statutes. RCW 79.10.120 (uses not compatible with financial obligations of trust land management "may be permitted only if there is compensation from such uses satisfying the financial obligations.").

In addition to employing a multiple use concept, DNR manages trust lands to meet numerous statutory and contractual obligations, including habitat protection and development, riparian conservation, and revenue generation. In order to balance these management objectives, DNR identifies lands best used for conservation and for revenue generation for the trust beneficiaries. This determination is made as part of landscape level planning efforts such as the Sustainable Harvest Calculation, the Habitat Conservation Plan, and recurring landscape assessments (Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level for Forested State Trust Lands in Western Washington Final Environmental Impact Statement (2019), Final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP, 1997), and Landscape Assessment to Quantify Structurally Complex Forests to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington, (2026 Quantification)). The lands included in the Pedering Out sale have been designated as chiefly valuable for revenue generation through timber harvest. In the Straits HCP Planning Unit, 48,621 other acres have been determined to be best suited for ecological management (Landscape Assessment to Quantify Structurally Complex Forests to Meet Older-Forest Targets in Western Washington, (2026 Quantification)).

Most of the site (67%) was conveyed by Clallam County to the State Forest Board and was managed according to that intent and consistent with RCW 79.22.070, to be logged, protected, and cared for in such manner as to ensure natural reforestation of such lands. DNR has not identified an unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of these resources, which would trigger consideration of appropriate alternatives. But, DNR has nonetheless evaluated two potential action alternatives below.

Comparison of Environmental Impacts, Part A

	No Action (Alt A)	Thinning Treatment (Alt B)	Project as Proposed
Natural Environment			
Earth	No change to existing conditions. Potentially unstable slopes including potential failing existing roads would not be assessed by licensed geologist and mitigation efforts may not occur.	Harvest and forest road operations are in proximity to the same potentially unstable slopes described in the checklist. Management associated with potentially unstable slopes is designed to minimize the impacts of activities. Higher retention of existing stand is anticipated to result in lower potential instability due to higher retention of rooting strength. Compaction from harvest operations would be concentrated on fewer skid trails resulting in higher concentration of use on those fewer skid trails. Same new forest road construction as described in checklist. Erosion potential similar to description in checklist. Impacts associated with potential sediment delivery to typed waters mitigated by buffers, leave tree areas, and road best management practices.	All Earth impacts and mitigation were fully described in the checklist. Overall environmental impacts to Earth elements are very similar to the thinning option. There may be a slightly higher risk of soil disturbance or slope instability due to activity associated with the higher level of tree removals, but no significant impacts are present in the proposal under any alternative due to mitigation implemented in design of harvest units. Mitigation measures for this sale include evaluation and risk assessment by licensed engineering geologist and qualified expert, avoiding potentially unstable landforms where needed, concentration of leave tree areas protecting landforms, buffers on riparian areas, and leave tree retention design. The proposal is compliant with all rules and regulations under the forest practices act and the Pedering Out timber sale was assessed under a forest practice application.

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	No Action (Alt A)	Thinning Treatment (Alt B)	Project as Proposed
Air & Climate	Existing carbon will remain onsite and additional carbon will continue to accumulate with forest growth until next stand-replacing disturbance resets the forest successional cycle.	Slightly lower emissions in the transportation and manufacturing process due to harvest of less timber products. Some of the existing carbon will remain onsite and additional carbon will continue to accumulate with forest growth until next stand-replacing disturbance resets the forest successional cycle. Potentially lower risk of stand-replacing fire due to lower tree density. Carbon sequestration benefits may be offset by leakage associated with increasing harvest on private lands as reported in DNR's Carbon and Forest Management Work group 2025 Final Legislative Report (Appendix D. 1.2.2 Impacts to Carbon Stocks).	Cumulative effects on climate change of timber harvest across DNR managed lands are assessed in the 2019 FEIS for the SHC. Short-term emissions from timber harvesting operations, hauling, and decay of harvest residuals. Carbon will remain onsite in approximately 113 acres designated for conservation for the Pedering Out timber sale proposal. Wood products from timber harvested from the project area will store carbon offsite. Carbon will accumulate at the project site in leave trees and other areas identified for conservation during project design, and with forest growth of the next stand following harvest. Cumulative effects on climate change of timber harvest across DNR managed lands are assessed in the 2019 FEIS. All Earth impacts and mitigation were fully described in the checklist for the Pedering Out timber sale.

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	No Action (Alt A)	Thinning Treatment (Alt B)	Project as Proposed
Water	No change to existing conditions. Existing road maintenance, would not occur, except for emergency road repairs.	Road work associated impacts to streams mitigated by Forest Practices Rules, best management practices and reviewed through a forest application. Potential for sediment delivery to streams and wetlands mitigated through riparian and wetland buffers and higher retention of existing stand. Lower impact to peak flows with greater retention of existing hydrologically mature stand. Thinning within riparian management zones per DNR's HCP Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy (RFRS) may occur up to 25 feet of the streams and to the wetland edge. Potential for sediment delivery to streams and wetlands mitigated through skid trail closure, remaining vegetated areas within riparian and wetland management zones, and seasonal timing restrictions limiting activities during wet weather conditions.	Road work associated impacts to streams mitigated by Forest Practices Rules, best management practices and reviewed through a forest practice application. Potential for sediment delivery to streams and wetlands mitigated through riparian and wetland buffers. Potential peak flow impacts mitigated by maintaining as described in the checklist.

	No Action (Alt A)	Thinning Treatment (Alt B)	Project as Proposed
Plants & Animals	Existing species use would likely continue, until trees die, blow down, or burn. Improvement of habitat to species dependent on older forest conditions as stand development continues.	Initial moderate impact to existing stand through retention of majority of existing overstory and less disturbance to understory vegetation may experience a much higher level of impact due to wind damage. Accelerated improvement of habitat to species dependent on older forest conditions, additional to designated habitat areas. Potential moderate impact to existing stand through higher overstory retention levels and less disturbance to understory vegetation.	Higher level of existing stand impact, mitigated by leave tree retention and long-term forest cover areas providing habitat. Creates mosaic of habitat and forest types on landscape with gaps providing forage habitat for large ungulates intermixed with conservation areas containing long-term forest cover, including areas conserved due to riparian/wetlands buffers, potentially unstable slopes, and/or leave tree retention areas.
Energy & Natural Resources	No change.	Petroleum fuel used by equipment during active operations and transportation of workers and forest products.	Petroleum fuel used by equipment during active operations and transportation of workers and forest products.

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	No Action (Alt A)	Thinning Treatment (Alt B)	Project as Proposed
Built Environment			
Environmental Health	No change.	Minor fire hazard and petroleum-based product spill potential during active operations mitigated as described in checklist. Moderate-to-high risk to worker's safety due to working around higher retainage of leave trees during active operations.	Minor fire hazard and petroleum-based product spill potential during active operations mitigated as described in checklist. Moderate risk to worker's safety during active operations.
Land/Shoreline Use	No change.	No change.	No change.
Transportation	No change. Forest roads may not receive necessary maintenance and would not be expanded.	Minimal impact. Road work as described in the checklist, forest practice application including maintenance improving existing forest road.	Minimal impact. Road work as described in the checklist, forest practice application including maintenance improving existing forest road.
Public Services/Utilities	No change.	No change.	No change.

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	No Action (Alt A)	Thinning Treatment (Alt B)	Project as Proposed
Recreation	Road maintenance upgrades would not be funded for the fiscal year and intentional maintenance in the area would be delayed. Roads utilized for recreation access would continue to degrade consistent with other grades lacking timber sale revenue to improve.	Recreation use may be temporarily impacted during operations. Forest roads will receive maintenance.	Recreation use may be temporarily impacted during operations. Forest roads will receive maintenance. New road construction will expand the road network available for recreation.
Cultural Resources	No assessment and no change.	No cultural or historic resources identified. DNR will comply with Discovery of Skeletal Remains or Cultural Resources procedure during active operations.	No cultural or historic resources identified. DNR will comply with Discovery of Skeletal Remains or Cultural Resources procedure during active operations.

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Comparison of Environmental Impacts, Part B

Earth: The direct impacts on soil productivity such as compaction, erosion and displacement are expected to be higher for the proposal than Alternative A and to a lesser degree higher than Alternative B. All types of harvesting can result in short-term surface erosion until the site is re-vegetated. Likelihood of compaction varies based on harvest systems. Ground based systems generally have the greatest potential to impact soils adversely because of the weight of the machinery and distribution of the weight. The difference between Alternative B and the proposal regarding these impacts vary based on harvest system; they are similar in areas of cable harvest methods (13% of the proposed sale area) and differ more in areas of ground-based harvest methods (87% of the proposed sale area) due to the percentage of the site where ground-based equipment operates. Due to slope stability protection measures and proposed measures to reduce erosion described in B.1.a.1.d.2 & B.1.h of the SEPA Checklist, there is little difference between Alternatives B and the proposal and no impact under Alternative A. These observations are all on a relative basis – because of the buffering systems and other mitigation, such as unstable slope avoidance, neither the proposal nor the alternatives would have significant impacts to earth/soils.

Air: Comparison of emissions and air pollutants across the three scenarios shows that emissions increase as the intensity of harvest increases. The Alternative A would result in minimal short-term mortality related emissions, while Alternative B and the proposal are net emitters of greenhouse gasses (GHG) from fossil fuel and biogenic sources in the short term. Alternative B is expected to result in fewer emissions than the proposal, as Alternative B would require less fuel from harvesting equipment and would result in fewer trips by logging trucks to mills and less logging residuals.

On westside forested trust lands, conservation strategies established in DNR's HCP create, protect, and enhance habitat for multiple riparian and upland species. As a result of these strategies, DNR leaves more carbon on the landscape when compared to even-age forest management that follows only forest practices rules. Examples include larger wetland and riparian buffers, more and larger leave trees and leave tree areas, down wood in riparian management zones, conservation of tens of thousands of acres of NSO and marbled murrelet habitat, management for other federal and state listed and candidate species, and protection of less common habitat elements such as caves, cliffs, and balds. In areas where DNR manages for timber production, DNR tends to employ longer rotation ages than the industry standard, which results in greater carbon sequestration. DNR has deferred from harvest old-growth stands and retains very large diameter and structurally unique trees on trust lands. Across western Washington, DNR conserves more than 120,000 acres of lands in natural areas. All of these conservation measures, combined with prompt reforestation following the harvest described in the proposal, result in carbon sequestration and storage across DNR lands that rapidly offset project emissions.

According to department's May/September 2024 landscape assessment, 1.9% of the Straits HCP planning unit has reached older forest conditions and will reach the 10-15% threshold by 2090. The 2026 Landscape Assessment's Quantification demonstrates that the acreage of structurally complex forests within stand replacement harvest deferred areas managed for ecological value is currently at 16.4% and is on a trajectory to becoming older forests through implementation of the HCP and other policies and laws.

Water: Comparison of water impacts considers the potential for surface erosion delivery, and effects to riparian function including water quality and peak flows. The potential impacts to water quality are anticipated to be low for Alternative B and mitigated by the implementation of unmanaged riparian buffers. The potential impacts to water quality is also anticipated to be low for the proposal and will be mitigated by unmanaged riparian buffers. DNR's policy of maintaining significant canopy cover and structure within stream and wetland buffers is a means of ameliorating harvest effects on the sub-basin and watershed level considering that the largest, direct contributor to riparian function is from mature trees providing shade, large woody debris, leaf and needle litter, and retained root structure. While Alternatives A and B have no to low expected impacts to water quantity due to retention levels of hydrologically mature conditions, the proposal is not anticipated to have significant changes in peak flows due to DNR's hydrologic maturity management in sub-basins and other mitigation measures outlined in the checklist.

Potential environmental impacts due to roads resulting from increased sedimentation affect both water quality and fish habitat. Alternative A has no added riparian impacts with no associated roadwork although no maintenance of roads and drainage structures would be performed under this alternative. Alternatives B and the proposal have the same road work, therefore are viewed as equivalent for road-related impacts, including maintenance of existing roads and drainage structures to reduce potential sedimentation. These observations are all on a relative basis – because of the buffering systems and other required regulation and mitigation in riparian areas discussed above, none of the alternatives would create significant impacts to waters or fish. The project as proposed is fully compliant with all regulatory rules and regulation under forest practice application (FPA) and the department's federally recognized HCP.

Plants/Animals: The higher level of harvest in the proposal is mitigated through stream and wetland buffers which maintain riparian function and provide intact habitat corridor connectivity for other wildlife. Alternative A will have little to no impact on vegetation. The proposal has the greatest impact due to the highest level of harvest with Alternative B impact in the range between Alternatives A and the proposal. Expectations of negative impacts are on a relative basis – because of the buffering systems and other mitigation incorporated into the proposal from DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan and other regulatory compliance discussed above, none of the alternatives would create significant impacts to vegetation and wildlife. A broader discussion of the expected impact of the proposal on riparian function, habitat for listed species, plant species, and forest biodiversity can be found in Section B of the SEPA Checklist, along with management strategies to mitigate those impacts.

Built Environment Elements: No meaningful differences in environmental impacts among alternatives emerge from the built environmental elements. The proposal is consistent with current and historical use of this land and current local land use ordinances per RCW 70A.45.090. The proposal site is zoned for commercial forestry.

Recreation: Alternative A provides no meaningful direct impact to recreation. However, there is an indirect impact from alternative A due to the absence or lack of road improvement and maintenance work being performed on forest roads associated with the

no harvest alternative. Alternative B and the proposal share similar temporary recreational impacts that will be mitigated to reduce public use impacts. The proposal will perform the most road maintenance work due to revenue generation and available funds to conduct road work. Alternative B would conduct some road maintenance but to a lesser extent than the proposal.

Cultural resources: Alternative A has no change and no assessment of the proposed sale area will occur. Under Alternatives B and the proposal, the agency will conduct a review and assessment of the proposed sale area for cultural significance and DNR will comply with Discovery of Skeletal Remains or Cultural Resources procedure during active operations.

Consideration Of Alternatives With Proposal Objectives, Part C

Alternative A does not meet the proposal objective of making the trust land productive nor does it provide an opportunity for active forest management. The expected revenue generated from Alternative B is very low (less than half expected revenue generated from the proposal based on past timber sale prices), with tentative financial viability based on current market conditions. Alternative B may not produce sufficient income to offset the expenses of harvest. The proposal clearly provides the greatest revenue to the trusts and is most consistent with the Legislature's directives to DNR to manage forest lands sustainably, including offering the sustainable harvest level of timber for sale. RCW 79.10.300 -.340. The proposal is in line with the intent of the legislature found in RCW 70A.45.090-Forests and Forest Products sector-Climate Response.

At this site, no other specific, income-producing proposal exists, the uses at this site are consistent with the uses of land surrounding the site, and do not affect those uses. Timber harvest is consistent with historic use of this site, dating back to the 1900s. While recreational uses may be temporarily displaced, such displacement is consistent with RCW 79.10.120. The proposal is consistent with all legal requirements associated with this type of forest management activity, including Forest Practices Rules and other binding natural resource protection. For these reasons, DNR does not believe Alternatives A or B are appropriate uses of the site.

Given DNR's statutory obligations to manage forested trust lands on a sustained yield basis, and its fiduciary duty to act with undivided loyalty and prudence on behalf of trust beneficiaries, proceeding with Pedering Out Timber Sale as proposed best satisfies both conservation commitments and long-term trust revenue objectives.