

Don Hoch
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Description of proposal: This silvicultural prescription is designed to improve long-term forest health and improve stand development towards old-growth structure. Specifically, this prescription addresses five objectives: 1) decrease stand density favoring the healthiest trees and releasing them from density-dependent competition; 2) provide sufficient forest structure to support low-risk recreation and wildlife uses, including multiple age classes, snags, downed woody debris, and a diverse understory; 3) avoid unacceptable windthrow risks; 4) minimize disturbance to park infrastructure and visual resources; 5) reduce the risk of insect infestations; and (6) prevent the spread of invasive species, particularly English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). A total of 88 acres will be treated.

Proponent: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: The site is located in the northern half of Seaquest State Park in the SW ¼ of Section 33 of Township 10N, Range 1 W and the NE ¼ of Section 4 of Township 9N, Range 1 W of the Willamette Meridian. The park address is 3030 Spirit Lake Highway Castle Rock, WA 98611.

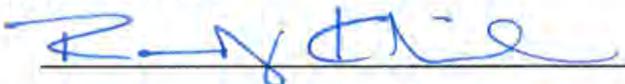
Lead agency: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under 197-11-340 (2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by **June 12, 2014** or they may not be considered.

Responsible Official: Randy Kline
Position/Title: Environmental Program Manager
Phone/Email: (360) 902-8632/randy.kline@parks.wa.gov
Address: P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504

Date: May 29, 2014

Signature: 

"All Washington State Parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all persons regardless of age, sex, creed, ethnic origin, or physical limitations."

There is no agency SEPA appeal; however all comments are welcome and will be thoroughly considered.

Seaquest State Park Forest Health

SEPA Environmental Checklist

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Seaquest State Park Forest Health Project – Stands 33, 33B, and 35

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

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

*Robert Fimbel
Restoration Ecologist
Washington State Parks
1111 Israel Road
Olympia, WA 98504
360-902-8592 (tel); 360-586-0207 (fax)
Robert.fimbel@parks.wa.gov*

4. Date checklist prepared:

March 3, 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

September 2014 – December 2014

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Seaquest Timber Salvage DNS 2007

Brodie, Leslie Chandler and Constance A. Harrington. 2013. Seaquest State Park Variable Density Thinning Prescriptions for Stands 33, 33A, 33B and 35. US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, Olympia, WA.

Ettl, Gregory J., Duane Emmons, and Nicholas Reep, 2009. Seaquest State Park Forest Health Plan. Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest. University of Washington.

Fischer, Paul., Chris Raynham, and Gregory Ettl. 2011. Seaquest State Park Forest Health Plan Addendum: Silvicultural Prescriptions for Stands 33, 33B, and 35. University of Washington.

Smith, H.M. IV and P.H. Morrison. 2006. Rare Plant and Vegetation Survey of Seaquest State Park. Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, Washington. 88 p.

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.

No

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

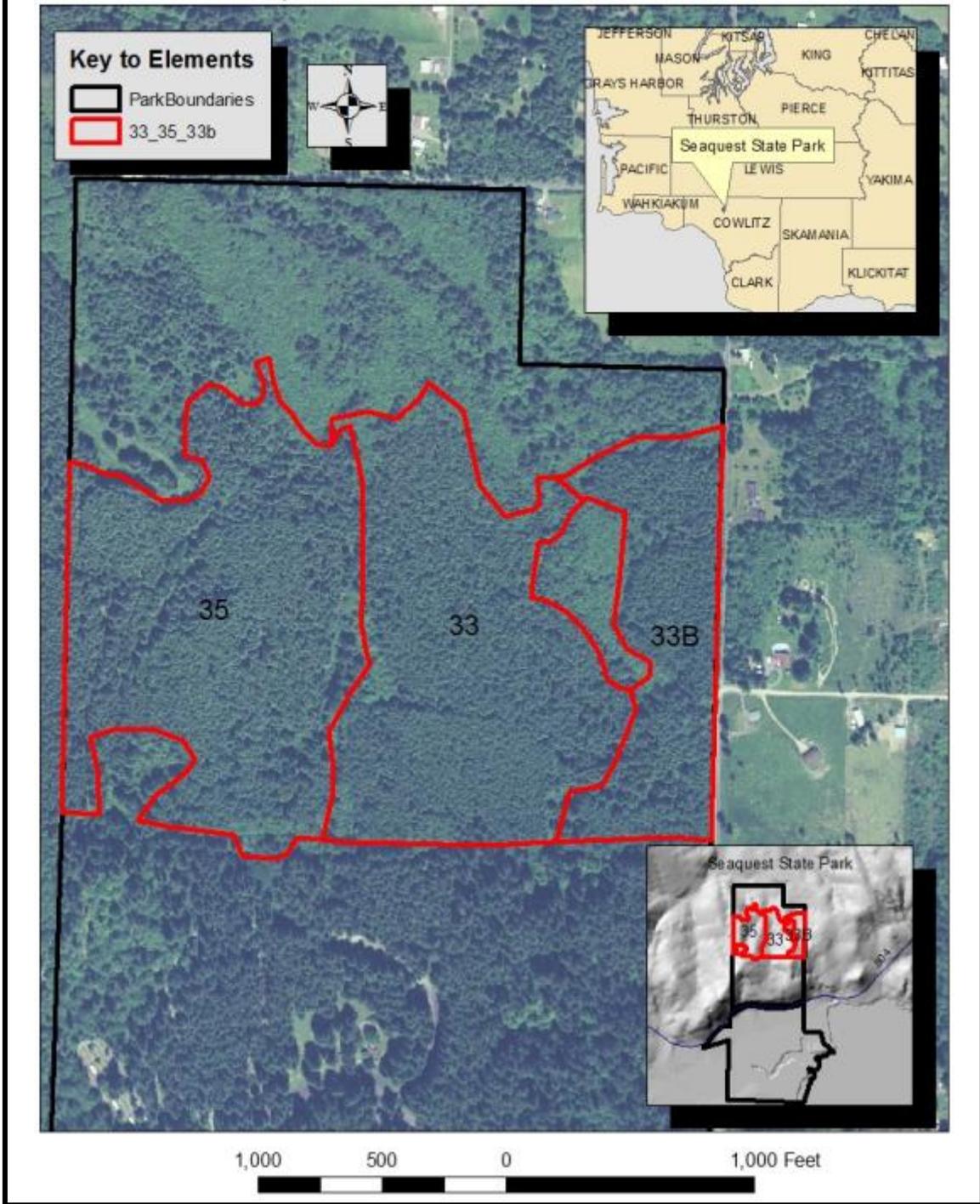
I. FPA from WA DNR (contacted Cowlitz County DNR forest practices 6-29-11. If no land conversion occurs, all permitting goes through DNR).

11. Give 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.)

This silvicultural prescription is designed to improve long-term forest health and improve stand development towards old-growth structure. Specifically, this prescription addresses five objectives: 1) decrease stand density favoring the healthiest trees and releasing them from density-dependent competition; 2) provide sufficient forest structure to support low-risk recreation and wildlife uses, including multiple age classes, snags, downed woody debris, and a diverse understory; 3) avoid unacceptable windthrow risks; 4) minimize disturbance to park infrastructure and visual resources; 5) reduce the risk of insect infestations; and (6) prevent the spread of invasive species, particularly English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). A total of 88 acres will be treated.

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.

Seaquest State Park Forest Health



The site is located in northern half of Seaquest State Park in the SW ¼ of Section 33 of Township 10N, Range 1 W and the NE ¼ of Section 4 of Township 9N, Range 1 W of the Willamette Meridian. The park address is 3030 Spirit Lake Highway Castle Rock, WA 98611.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other

The site is composed of flat rolling hills and gradual sloping ravines.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steep slopes are in the ravines with the steepest being ~ 60%. This equates to a 30 foot rise over a horizontal distance of 50 feet.

c. What general types of soils (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The soils found on site are mapped as: Olympic silt loam 2 to 20% slope and Seaquest silt loam 0-20% slope, as referenced in the U.S.D.A. 5011 Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Cowlitz Area, Washington (1974).

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

There is no surface indication or history of unstable soils in the area. The soil type listed above is classified as having a slight to moderate chance of erosion, with slow to medium surface runoff flow.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

None

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

Minor erosion could occur from logging equipment (tracked equipment can dig into the earth when turning).

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts on the earth, if any:

Used of tracked equipment (versus equipment with wheels) can help mitigate potential rutting. Covering skid trails with slash can also help mitigate erosion.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during *construction* and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

There will be dust from logging vehicles and exhaust from logging vehicles and small engines.

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

No

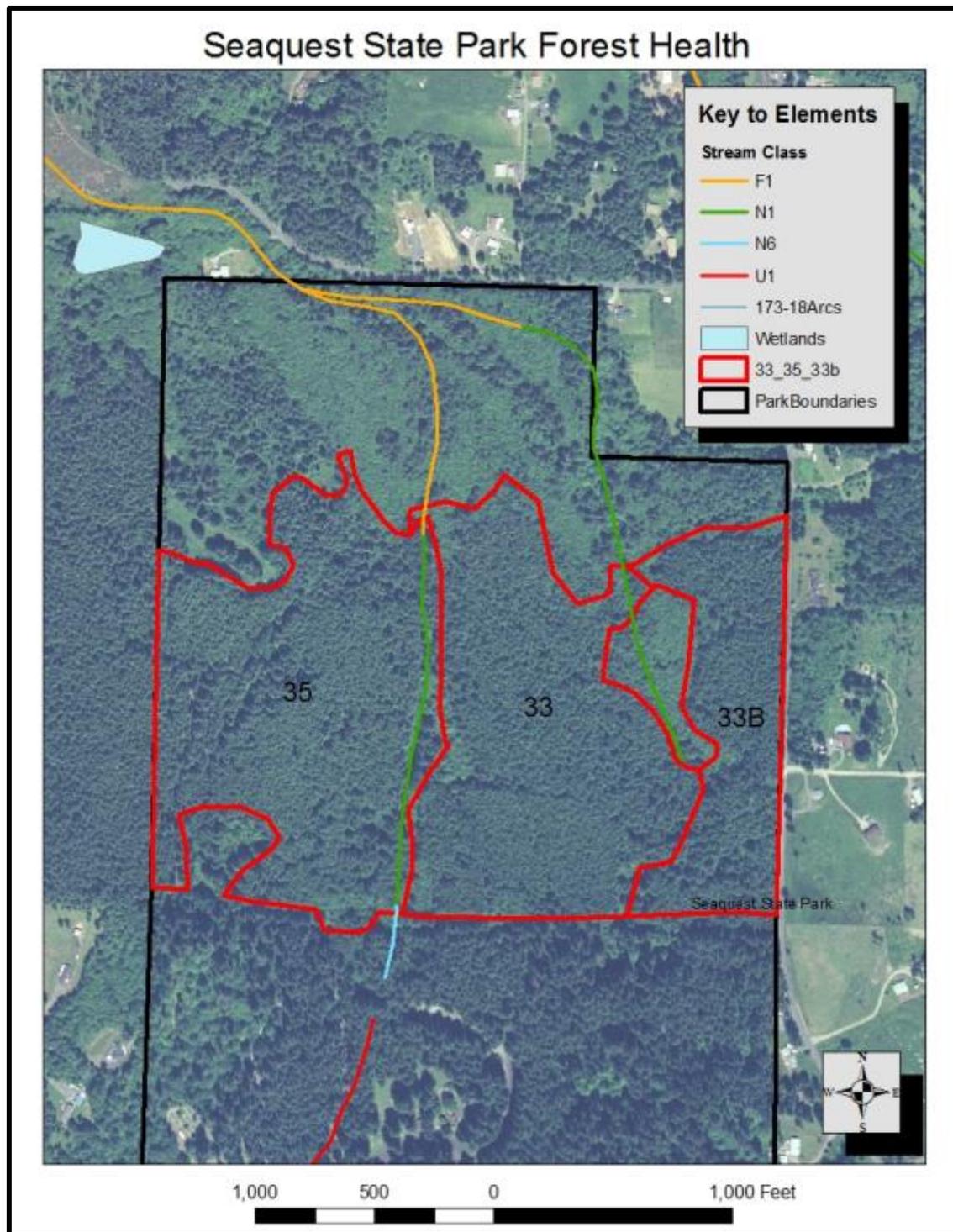
c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air if any:

Original equipment manufactured exhaust systems on equipment and vehicles. Partially wet conditions could offer some reduction of dust.

3. Water

a. Surface:

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.



F1 = Modeled as fish habitat, occurring downstream of a modeled end of fish habitat point.

N1 = Modeled as non-fish habitat, occurring upstream of a modeled end of fish habitat point.

N6 = Former untyped/unknown hydrographic stream feature (type 9) occurring upstream of a modeled end point. May or may not have a matching DEM-modeled stream.

U1 = Un-modeled stream that was formerly untyped/unknown and remains unverified (type 9).

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.

Yes. The streams that run through Stands 35 and 33 are modeled as non-fish bearing, but will be treated as fish bearing. The prescription will follow Washington State Forest Practice Rules. There will be a 50 foot buffer (core zone) on either side of the streams that will have no harvest. Stands 33, 33b, and 35 are Site Class II forest (WA DNR Forest Practice Application Review System Mapping Tool). Site Class II forest has an Inner and Outer Zone width (regardless of bankfull width) of 120 feet (WA DNR 2007). There are two options under state law for working in these zones: (1) thinning from below where 57 TPA are left in the Inner Zone and 20 TPA (greater than 12" DBH) are left in the Outer Zone and (2) leaving trees closest to water where in both the Inner and Outer Zone at least 20 TPA (over 12" DBH) are left. This prescription is thinning from below to 120 TPA, therefore thinning can be conducted in both Zones with no change in the prescription. Although we will treat the streams as fish-bearing, the streams will be treated as Np in the FPA.

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 the fill material.

None

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

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

No.

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.

No

b. Ground:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

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.

N/A

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

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.

There will be soil disturbance from the thinning and some of this material may flow into the two streams running through the project area. These two streams join and eventually flow into the Toutle River.

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

No.

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

Follow best management practices to protect water quality as outlined by the Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices.

4. Plants

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

deciduous tree: alder, bigleaf maple, vine maple, cottonwood, cherry

evergreen tree: Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, pacific yew, madrona

shrubs

grass

pasture

wet soil plants: *skunk cabbage*

water plants:

other types of vegetation: *sword fern, salal, snowberry, service berry, thimble berry,*

Oregon grape, inside out flower, vanilla leaf, gallium, elderberry, false Solomon seal, oxalis,

lupines, ocean spray, Douglas' silene, bolandra, fox glove, orchids, paintbrush, ferns,

mosses and lichens

b. What

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

An estimated 439,000 board feet of Douglas-fir will be harvested, equating to a removal of roughly 60 to 109 trees per acre, including up to 65 trees per acre over 10 inches in diameter at breast height.

C. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

According to a rare plant survey performed by the Pacific Biodiversity Institute in 2006 (referenced above) there are no rare plant species within 200 feet of the proposed treatment area.

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

Project will enhance remaining vegetation in the project area, by reducing canopy cover and reducing competition for resources. Western red cedar, western white pine and big leaf maple will be planted in gaps and throughout the matrix. Removal and management of Ilex aquifolium will occur after harvest activities.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Birds: Bald Eagles, Purple Martins, waterfowl concentrations, hummingbirds, ducks, ravens, crows, geese, hawks, osprey, owls (including Barred Owls), woodpeckers, wrens, etc

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, cougar

Fish: chum salmon, coho salmon, fall chinook, searun cutthroat, resident cutthroat, winter steel head, sculpin. All PHS (listed and sensitive) fish have been observed within the park but are in waters that will not be affected by this project.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

C. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

This site is part of the Pacific Flyway. Perching birds use this woodland habitat during migration.

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

One of the objectives of the thinning prescription is to provide sufficient forest structure to support wildlife habitat, including multiple age classes, snags, downed woody debris, and a diverse understory.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electrical, 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.

N/A

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:

N/A

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.

Minor potential for spilling fuel or lubricants during projects.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Possible EMS should an accident occur involving project staff.

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

Store fuel in OSHA approved safety tanks; fuel and lubricate equipment over an impervious surface.

b. Noise

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

N/A

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.

Short-term noise will include noise from small and large equipment and traffic noises. There will be no long term noise. Noises could come from site between 0800 hrs. and 1700 hrs., during project periods. See below table for details on DbA level ranges for typical equipment used in an operation such as this (from Cornelis F. de Hoop and Neil J. Lalonde, "Some Measured Levels of Noise Produced by Logging Equipment in 1998 Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, August 7,

Machine	Idle (dB)	Full throttle (dB)
Skidder 1997 Franklin Tree Farmer 170 (enclosed cab)	73	100
Skidder 1997 Caterpillar 515 (enclosed cab)	72	84
Skidder 1995 Caterpillar 518C	82	94
Skidder 1964 Franklin Tree Farmer C6	78	102
Skidder 1960 Franklin Tree Farmer C5	82	100
Cutter 1998 Tigercat 845	74	90 (not cutting)
Cutter 1996 Barko 885	76	96 (not cutting)
Loader 1998 Tigercat 860S	68	74
Loader 1998 Tigercat 860S with fan on		82
Loader 1998 Tigercat 860S with fan and radio on		90
Loader 1996 Barko 169B	78	92
Loader 1996 Prentice 210E	80	90
Loader 1960 Barko 160	90	108
Bulldozer 1997 Caterpillar D4H XL	98	102
Bulldozer 1976 John Deere 450 bulldozer	85	98 (¾ throttle)
Bulldozer 1964 Caterpillar D5	84	112
Chainsaw 1998 Stihl 044 (measured 10 feet away)	78	106
Chainsaw 1997 Husqvarna 272 (measured 10 feet away)	76	102
Chainsaw 1995 Husqvarna 268 (measured 10 feet away)	82	104
Chainsaw 1990 Stihl 038 (measured 10 feet away)	80	100
Chainsaw 2002 Stihl 026	80	110
Chainsaw 1994 Shindaiwa 757	85	115 – 120
Chainsaw 1984 Stihl 038	90	112

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

Original equipment manufactured muffling devices on equipment and vehicles. Forestry operations will only be conducted between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM.

8 Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Current use of the site is as a state park used for recreation, open space, and habitat. The land to the west of the park is industrial forest land. Paine Road runs parallel to the eastern boundary of the park. There are scattered private residences and farms around the park.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

The park was the former homestead of Alfred E. Sequest, who donated the property to the state of Washington. Mr. Sequest once operated a homestead at this park location. The Sequest family raised cattle and had a home orchard.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures in the treatment area.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

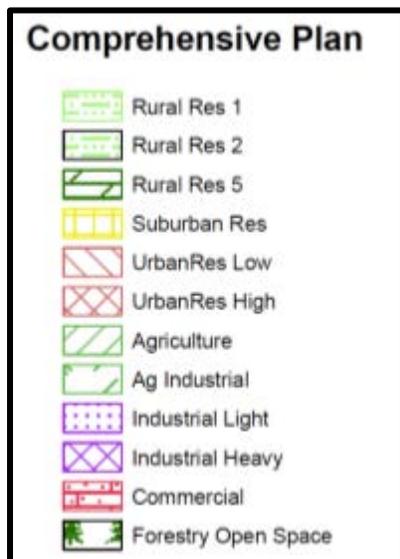
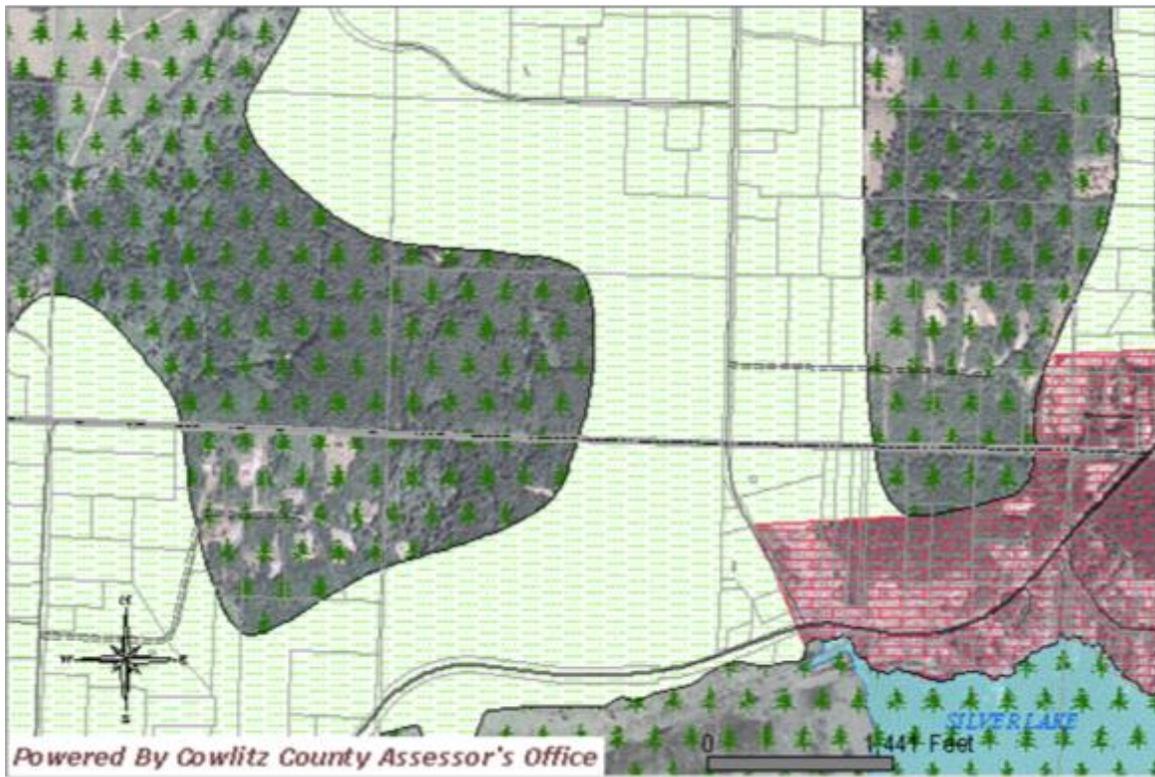
No

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

Only a portion of Cowlitz County is regulated through zoning. Sequest State Park is not. The park is not within any city limits, so no municipal zoning applies.

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

A portion of the treatment area (west side) is designated as Forestry Open Space and the east side is Rural Residential 2.



g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

N/A

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

The treatment area is part of the Cowlitz (26) Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA). Every piece of land in Washington State is in a WRIA – this will not affect the thinning. The treatment area is also designated as a moderate sensitivity Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA). Critical aquifer recharge areas (CARAs) are those areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water as defined by WAC 365-190-030(2). CARAs have prevailing geologic conditions associated with infiltration rates that create a high potential for contamination of ground water resources or contribute significantly to the replenishment of ground water. A Moderate Aquifer Sensitivity includes those areas with aquifers likely present, but which have a surface soil material that encourages run-off and slows water entry into the ground. Uses Prohibited From Moderate and Severe Sensitivity Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

(CARAs) include

- 1. Landfills. Landfills, including hazardous or dangerous waste, municipal solid waste, special waste, woodwaste, and inert and demolition waste landfills;*
- 2. Wood Treatment Facilities. Wood treatment facilities that allow any portion of the treatment process to occur over permeable surfaces (both natural and manmade);*
- 3. Storage, Processing, or Disposal of Radioactive Substances. Facilities that store, process, or dispose of radioactive substances.*

This regulation will not affect this thinning.

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:

N/A

Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Project is consistent with approved Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission Lands Classifications and Uses. The project is also consistent with Pierce County zoning codes and its comprehensive plan.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

N/A

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

N/A

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

N/A

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?

N/A

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

Stand density in treated forest zones would be reduced, allowing greater visibility into the forested area, from roads and trails. Views of homes and roads adjacent to the park would be temporarily increased, as would views into the park from the adjacent homes the roadways. After the understory re-initiates the views to adjacent roads and homes would once again become blocked.

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

None

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:

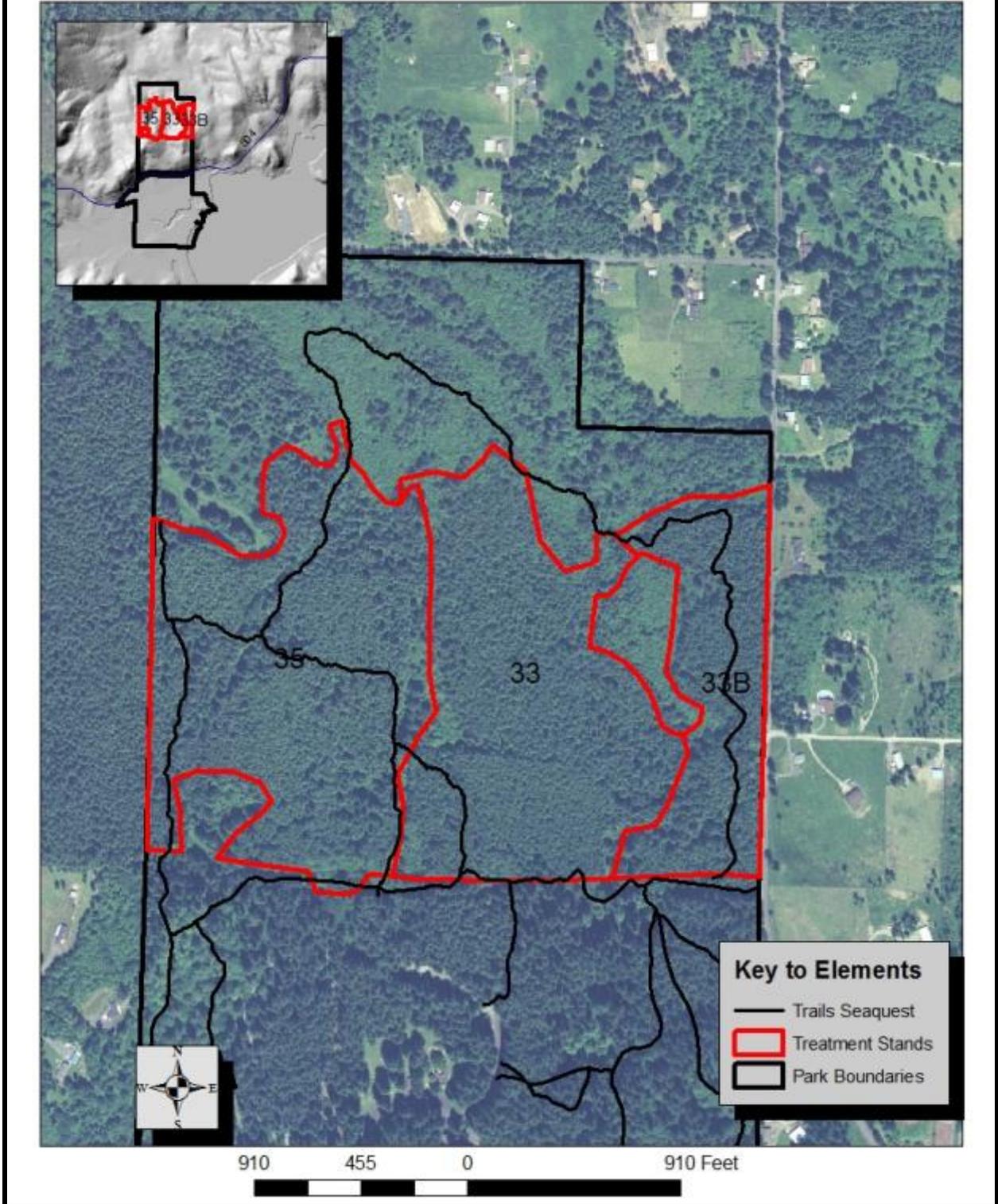
None

12. Recreation

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

The immediate vicinity contains numerous hiking trails for park visitors.

Seaquest State Park Trails



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

Trails in the site will be closed to access during thinning operations.

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

This project will be completed in less than three months, thus limiting any long-term recreational impact to the park.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) GIS data indicates that places/objects of significance occur within park boundaries.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site?

Results of a literature review Identified one homestead site, 45CW50H (Larson 1985b), within the project area. The site is thought to be the Seaquest Homestead built around 1870. The site consists of square nails, and glass fragments occurring over an area measuring 5 meters east to west by 15 meters north to south. During the course of five previous surveys no prehistoric archaeological resources have been recorded in the Park.

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

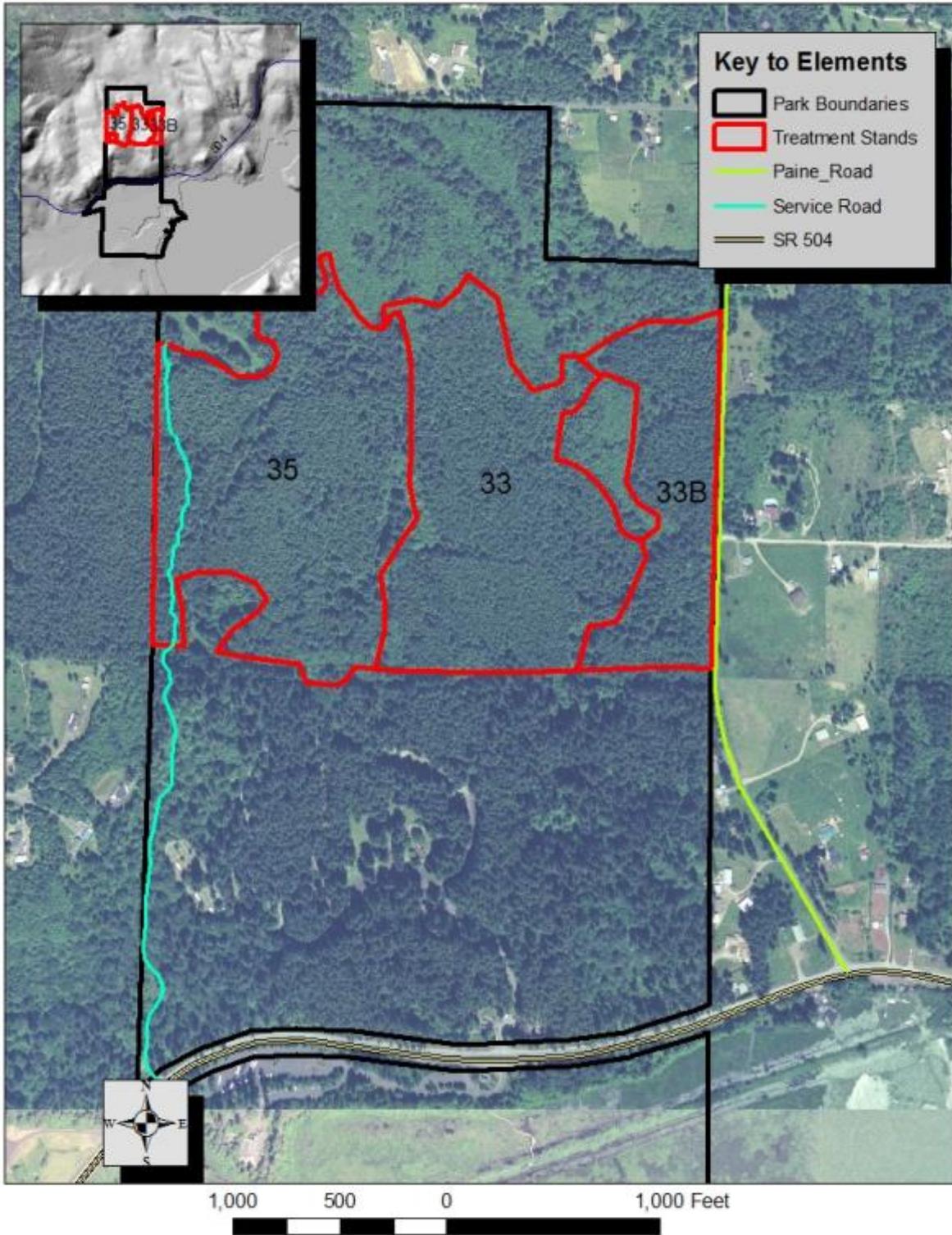
No impacts identified at this time. Final determination will be made upon completion of any needed cultural resource survey.

14. Transportation

a. Describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans if any.

Treatment stands can be access via State Route 504 connecting to either the service road running along the western side of the park, or Paine Rd running along the eastern side of the park.

Seaquest State Park Access Roads



b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No, the nearest transit stop is in the city of Kelso which is approximately 15 miles away.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None

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

No

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

r. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

There will be signs alerting park visitors of forestry operations along Paine Road adjacent to the operations area. Flaggers will direct traffic when necessary, particularly at landings and when trees adjacent to the road are cut.

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

N/A

16. Utilities

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

The proposed project is located in a forested area. No utilities are currently available at the site.

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: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D. J. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.

Date Submitted: 5-27-2014