



Energizing Life in Our Communities

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

Date of Issuance:

December 23, 2025

Name of Proposal:

Spada Lake Wildlife Habitat Improvement Thinning

Description of Proposal:

The proposed project includes thinning twelve units across approximately 155 acres of forest on Snohomish PUD's Spada Lake Tract. The goal is to improve wildlife habitat by creating structural complexity in the stands and increasing sunlight to the forest floor, thereby increasing understory forage and berry production in accordance with the FERC approved Terrestrial Resource Management Plan for the Henry M. Jackson Hydroelectric Project. Approximately 0.56 miles of road construction is planned to access landlocked units, of which approximately 90% consist of reconstructing/restoring existing road grades; these grades will be abandoned when work is complete. Access to several units is through State-owned roads and will require cutting of access right-of-way through DNR property onto Snohomish PUD property.

Stands to be thinned are predominantly comprised of homogeneous, even-aged western hemlock, silver fir, and Douglas fir, with smaller proportions of western redcedar and red alder. The stands range in age from approximately 40 to 60 years. Understory vegetation includes sword fern, deer fern, salmonberry, and western hemlock seedlings and saplings.

Proponent:

Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County

Location of Proposal, including address, if any:

This project is located on PUD's Spada Lake Tract in Snohomish County, about 13 miles northeast of Sultan, WA. The legal description for the parcel is sections 20, 26, 27, 29, 33, and 34, Township 29 North, Range 9 East W.M. The parcels on which the project will take place do not have a street address but they are located at the end of Sultan Basin Road around the Spada Lake reservoir.

Lead Agency:

Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County

Threshold Determination:

The PUD, the lead agency for this proposal, has evaluated this proposal and determined that it will 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, including the following:

1. SEPA Environmental Checklist, PUD No. 1 of Snohomish County, November 2025
2. Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Practices Application – Roots Forestry Consulting, LLC, 2025

3. Geologic Evaluation, Spada Lake Thinning – GeoEngineers, Inc, June 2025
4. Terrestrial Resource Management Plan, Henry M. Jackson Hydroelectric Project – Snohomish County PUD, et. al, May 2009

Information and documents used to reach this determination are available upon request.

☐ There is no comment period for this DNS.

☒ This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below.

Public and Agency Comments:

Public and agency comments on this DNS must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. Comments may be submitted to the mailing address or email address provided below.

Responsible Official: Andrew McDonnell, Manager – Natural Resources
PO Box 1107, Everett, WA 98206
AWMcDonnell@SNOPUD.com
425-783-1841 or 1-877-783-1000 extension 1841

Signature:

AD MCD

Date:

12/23/25

Agencies Notified:

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snohomish Tribe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Department of Health |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stillaguamish Tribe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Department of Ecology |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tulalip Tribes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Everett |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snohomish County Planning and Development Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Sultan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington Department of Natural Resources |