



## Chelan County Natural Resource Department

411 Washington Street, Suite 201  
Wenatchee, Washington 98801

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### *STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT*

### **Determination of NonSignificance**

April 19, 2019

Lead agency: Chelan County Natural Resource Department

Agency Contact: Mike Kaputa, Director Chelan County Natural Resource Department

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(509) 670-6935

The purpose of the Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Plan is to provide guidance and recommendations for managing recreation in the Stemilt-Squilchuck basin in a manner that provides for the types of recreational opportunity desired by the community while also protecting the values of wildlife, water, and natural resources. It is designed to provide a path forward for managing recreation on County and State lands in the Stemilt-Squilchuck area over the next decade. The planning area falls within the scope of the 2015 Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan, and the recommendations in the plan are designed to fit within and compliment those of the Naneum Plan.

The planning area contains portions of Township 21N Range 19E and 20E and Township 20N Range 20E, and spans an area of ~17,000 acres. Most of the project area falls on State and County lands within Chelan County, with the southern-most portion occurring on state lands in Kittitas County. All of the planning area occurs within the Stemilt-Squilchuck watershed, in WRIA 40A.

Chelan County Natural Resource Department has determined that this proposal 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). We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist and Non-Project Action Form. This information is available at: <https://www.co.chelan.wa.us/natural-resources/pages/recreation-planning-documents-and-maps>.

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

The recommendations included in the plan are generally geared toward decreasing the overall impact of recreation within the planning area. While some of the recommendations aim to increase the amount of recreation access and infrastructure, these are crafted to encourage low impact recreation (generally non-motorized, occurring within impact buffers of existing infrastructure such as green-dot roads, located in areas of less importance to wildlife and away from critical areas, and incorporating season closures to protect wildlife, if appropriate). Many of the recommendations are intended to reduce existing impacts, particularly in areas of high importance to wildlife and in critical areas. Recreation facility development, such as improved campsites and vault toilets, are identified in areas of high use and specify that these improvements will occur within the footprint of areas already impacted by recreation use. The goal with recommended improvements in these areas is to consolidate use and avoid continued spread of impacts, especially in sensitive areas such as shorelines of reservoirs and streambanks.

Prior to implementation, individual actions will undergo SEPA to assess impacts and mitigation measures. All necessary permits and public process documents will be procured prior to undertaking any actions. While the intent of this plan is to protect wildlife and natural resources through thoughtful recreation planning, individual project SEPA will ensure the intentions of the plan are carried through implementation.

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 shown below. Comments must be submitted to the Chelan County Natural Resource Department at [NR.StemiltRecSEPA@CO.CHELAN.WA.US](mailto:NR.StemiltRecSEPA@CO.CHELAN.WA.US) or the address below by the end of the comment period on May 3, 2019.

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Signature Mike Kaputa  
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)

Date 4/19/19

Appeal process: Appeal of this determination must be received in writing within 14 days of the final determination date under Chelan County Code 14.12.040.