WAC 197-11-970 Determination of nonsignificance (DNS).

Site: Yacolt

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal The 2015 Gypsy Moth Eradication Project, involves aerial application of the insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, (Btk).

Proponent Washington State Department of Agriculture

Location of proposal, including street address, if any Clark County, Washington, (S26,25 T5N R3E) The 220-acre site is centered (approximately) 1.5 miles northeast of the town of Yacolt.

Lead agency Washington State Department of Agriculture

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.

☐ **There is no comment period for this DNS**

☒ **This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 30 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by:** April 9, 2015

Responsible Official Kelly McLain

Position/title Senior Natural Resource Scientist/Western WA Supervisor **Phone** (360) 902-2067

Address P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA. 98504-2560

Date 3/06/2015 **Signature** Kelly McLain

(OPTIONAL)

☐ **You may appeal this determination to (name)** _____

at (location) _____

no later than (date) _____

by (method) _____

You should be prepared to make specific factual objections.
Contact _____ **to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.**

☐ **There is no agency appeal.**

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
WAC 197-11-960

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the question now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

2015 Gypsy Moth Eradication Project – Yacolt, WA

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

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

Rian Wojahn
3939 Cleveland Ave. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 481-6219

4. Date checklist prepared:

January 28, 2015

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Agriculture

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

Between April 15 and June 30, 2015

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

Yes, the success of the project will be determined by the results of WSDA's summer gypsy moth trapping program. WSDA will install and monitor gypsy moth traps in the treatment area during the summers of 2015, 2016, and 2017.

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

The Washington State Department of Agriculture will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will be tiered to a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) prepared by the USDA-Forest Service and USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service entitled "Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: a cooperative approach, 2012" (FSEIS). Relevant sections of the FSEIS will be incorporated herein by reference. Copies of the EA and FSEIS will be available for review at the Washington State Library, 6880 Capitol Blvd. S, Tumwater, WA. The USDA is taking part in Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with both the United States Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

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.

The above mentioned Environmental Assessment (EA) which will be tiered to the FSEIS.

WSDA will work with local governments to ensure compliance with all applicable local ordinances (Critical Areas Ordinance, etc.)

WSDA will consult with other agencies in order to implement appropriate mitigating measures with regard to Threatened or Endangered species and high quality ecosystems. The Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations are also being conducted by USDA.

WSDA will be working under NPDES permit #WA0039047, issued by the Department of Ecology to the WSDA, for the purpose of invasive moth control. The permit, titled "Invasive Moth Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Waste Discharge Permit", authorizes discharge of insecticides into surface waters of the state of Washington that are consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit for the purpose of invasive moth control.

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.)

WSDA proposes to eradicate an infestation of gypsy moth in Clark County, Washington by taking the following action:

Three to five aerial applications of the biological insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki (Btk) (Foray 48B, EPA Reg. No. 73049-427) will be applied to all foliage (according to label) within an area of approximately 220.3 acres. The exact timing of the Btk applications will depend on the weather as well as larval and foliage development. Btk treatments would likely begin in late April or early May 2015.

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.

Clark County, Washington, (S26,25 T5N R3E)
The proposed site is approximately 220.3 acres in an area northeast of the town of Yacolt.

(See attached maps)

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT **FOR AGENCY EVALUATION**

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

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

Approximately 40%

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 prime farmland.

The underlying soil is best classified as "silt loam" or a soil consisting of roughly equal parts clay, silt, and sand. Classifications: Rockland, Cinebar sit loam, Yacolt loam, and Gumboot silt loam.

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

Yes. The Clark County Slopes and Geologic Hazards map ranks two areas at 40-100%.

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

Does Not Apply

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

Does Not Apply

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

Does Not Apply

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

Btk will be applied to trees and shrubs from aircraft only. No on-the-ground activities will be conducted in areas of high erosion or landslide potential.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the 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.

Helicopter or fixed wing airplane will apply Btk from a height of approximately 200 feet above treetops. Btk droplets will not remain suspended for any measurable time.

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:

Btk treatments will be limited to times when conditions do not promote prolonged droplet suspension. Use of aircraft will be temporary and limited to time required to effectively apply product.

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.

Yes, the Ceder Creek runs through the proposed treatment area. There is also three small ponds, and two small perennial streams. Both streams run into Cedar Creek.

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. Host vegetation adjacent to the described water bodies will be treated with Btk. Any overhanging host vegetation will also be treated.

The Department of Ecology has issued the WSDA an NPDES permit (refer to Section A, item #10 of this SEPA checklist). The permit and fact sheet may be viewed on the Department of Ecology web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final_pesticide_permits/invasive_moth/mothfinalpermit.pdf. WSDA and its contractors for this proposal will comply with all terms and conditions set forth in the NPDES permit.

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.

No

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

Yes, an area on the western boundary of the proposed treatment area.

(See attached topo. map)

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.

Some pesticide residue could enter surface water as a result of spraying overhanging vegetation. Precision spraying equipment will minimize the likelihood of material entering the water. WSDA and its contractors will comply with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned NPDES permit #WA0039047.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? 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.

None

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.

Storm water runs off to Cedar Creek, perennial streams, and ponds in the proposed treatment area.

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

Possibly

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

Due to the timing of applications and precision of aerial spray equipment, it is unlikely that any material would enter the water system. To maximize product efficacy and to minimize potential runoff, no applications (Btk) will be conducted when it is raining or when rain is in the immediate forecast.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:
_X_ deciduous tree: **alder**, **maple**, aspen, **other**
_X_ evergreen tree: **fir**, **cedar**, pine, **other**
_X_ shrubs
_X_ grass
___ pasture
___ crop or grain
_X_ wet soil plants: **cattail**, **buttercup**, bullrush, **skunk cabbage**, **other**
_X_ water plants: **water lily**, eelgrass, milfoil, **other**
_X_ other types of vegetation

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

None

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

A search of the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources Natural (DNR) Heritage Information System found no records for rare plants or high quality native ecosystems in the vicinity of this project. It is not anticipated that any threatened or endangered species will be affected by this proposal.

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

The gypsy moth feeds on more than 500 different species of trees and shrubs. Establishment of the gypsy moth in Washington State would seriously damage our environment, economy, and quality of life. WSDA's measures to eradicate gypsy moth will preserve native plants, landscaping, and other vegetation.

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: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, **other**:
mammals: **deer**, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, **salmon**, **trout**, herring, shellfish, **other**:

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

The information provided by WDFW Priority Habitats and Species Program identified areas approximately one-mile east of the proposed treatment area as Northern Spotted Owl management zones. Clark Creek, two streams, and three ponds run through the proposed site. WDFW lists the presence of priority anadromous fish including Coho salmon, fall chinook, spring chinook, chinook, winter steelhead, steelhead, rainbow trout, cutthroat, and residential coastal cutthroat. Information provided by WDFW from their lepidopteran database found NO butterfly species of concern in the immediate area. Any butterflies of concern are at a distance of >6 miles SW of the project site.

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

Yes, Pacific Flyway for migrating birds.

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

WSDA will coordinate with other agencies in order to implement any appropriate mitigating measures with regard to the previously mentioned species. It is not anticipated that any threatened or endangered species will be adversely affected by this proposal as none are expected to be in the treatment area at the time of application. WSDA's measures to eradicate gypsy moth will preserve native plants, landscaping and other vegetation, thereby protecting the habitat needed by wildlife.

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.

Does Not Apply

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

Does Not Apply

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:

Does Not Apply

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.

Yes, exposure to the insecticide during mixing and application, and some potential for spills. The potential for health hazards associated with this project are addressed in the FSEIS referred to in Section A, item #8 of this SEPA checklist. According to the FSEIS, there is minimal potential for significant adverse impacts on human health in projects of this type. It is the intent of the WSDA to reduce that minimal potential through compliance with the label, and actions detailed in #2 below.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Some potential need for the Dept. of Ecology "spill response" in the event of a major spill.

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

Mixing and application of insecticide will be done in accordance with the label. A WSDA representative will be present during loading and application of the insecticide and will monitor compliance with treatment specifications. Containment and clean-up materials will be on-site during applications. Interested stakeholders will be supplied with information about the materials to be applied. Stakeholders will also be given the

opportunity to be placed on a call-ahead list and notified of dates and times of activity and of measures they may wish to take to protect themselves and their property.

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.

Short-term noise will be created by aircraft. Operations will be conducted during daylight hours, timing would be variable.

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

WSDA will conduct treatment operations at a time when they are least likely to impact residents.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

Commercial, residential

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

Logging, Timber tract operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The proposed treatment area contains single family homes.

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

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site

Forest tier II-40 (FR-40), Forest tier I-80 (FR-80)

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

Forest-20, Forest-40, Forest-80

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

Yacolt does not have, and is not required to adopt, a shoreline master program.

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

No

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Does Not Apply

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Does Not Apply

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:

Does Not Apply

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:

Does Not Apply

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?

Does Not Apply

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

Does Not Apply

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?

Does Not Apply

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does Not Apply

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Does Not Apply

12. Recreation

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

Fishing, Hiking

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

None

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

WSDA will notify occupants in the affected area about the upcoming eradication activities. WSDA offers a prior notification list upon which interested parties can request to be placed. Persons on the prior notification list receive calls and/or e-mails the day before applications occur.

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.

No

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

Does Not Apply

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

Does Not Apply

14. Transportation

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

Three surface streets are in the proposed treatment area. NE Thompson Rd., NE Thompson Circle and NE Felkel Rd.

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

No, the closet stop is approximately 15-20 miles west.

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

Does Not Apply

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.

Aerial applicator will provide FAA with congested airspace plan and will comply with all applicable FAA rules, regulations and directives. The FAA will be the final authority on all aircraft operations associated with this project.

f. 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:

None

15. Public Services

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.

Does Not Apply

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

Does Not Apply

16. Utilities

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

All standard municipal utilities are 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.

Does Not Apply

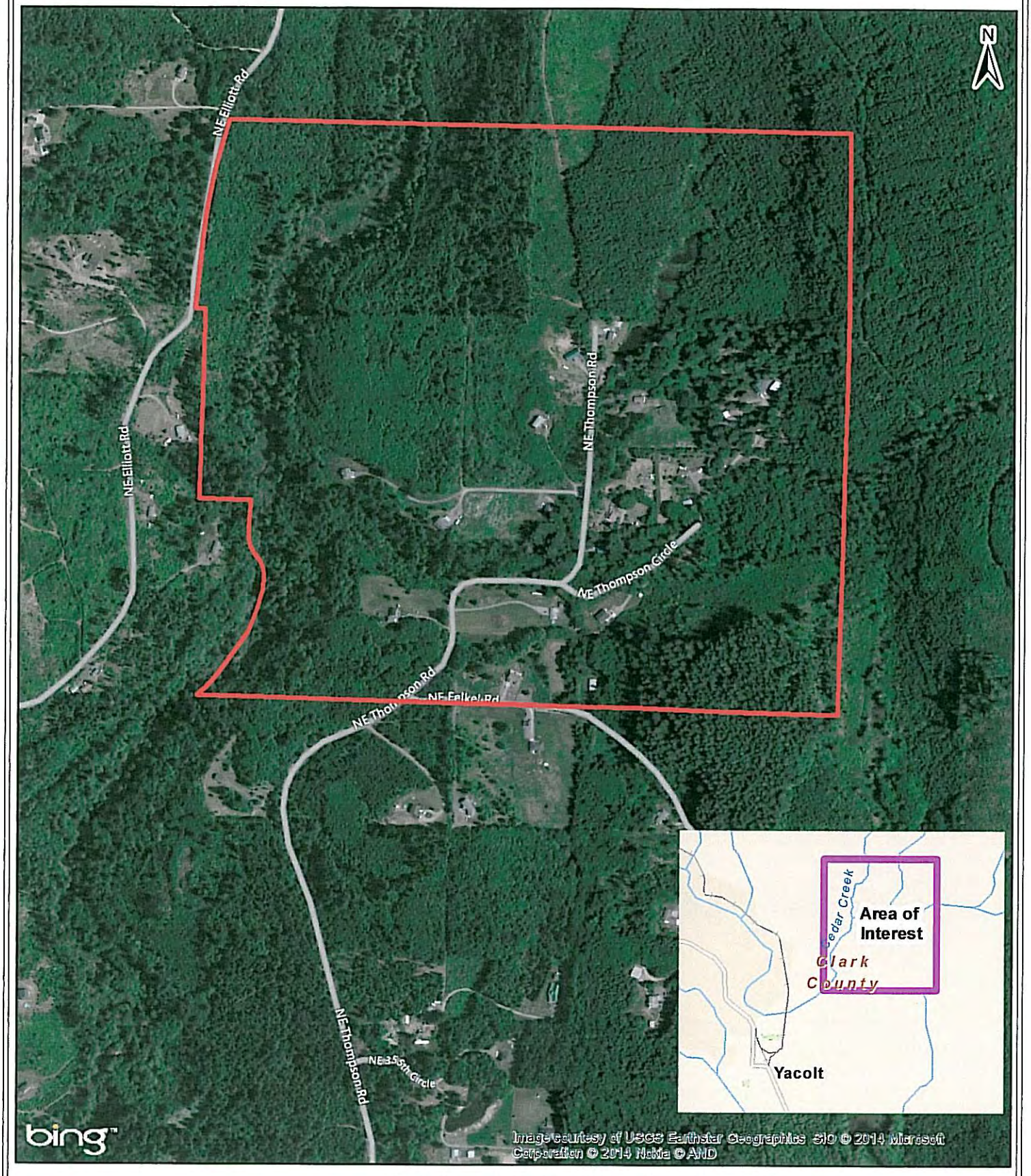
C. SIGNATURE

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: .....

Date Submitted: 2/27/2015

Yacolt Proposed Gypsy Moth Treatment, 2015



Proposed Eradication Boundary

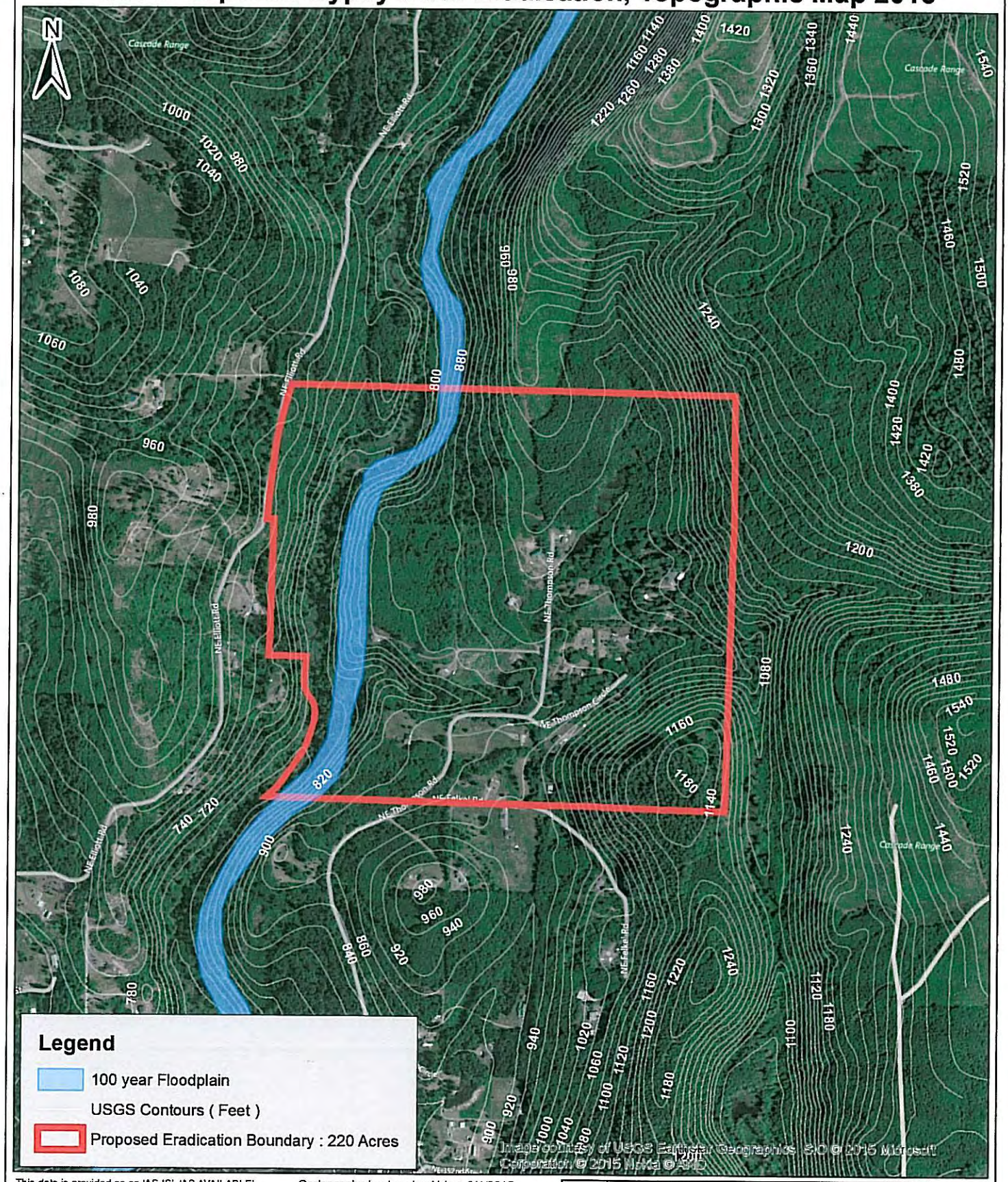
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Mil

Approx. 220 Acres

Cartography by: Landon Udo ; 12/15/2014

WSDA

Yacolt Proposed Gypsy Moth Eradication, Topographic Map 2015



This data is provided on an 'AS IS', 'AS AVAILABLE' and 'WITH ALL FAULTS' basis. The content of this map and data are from many sources and are NOT warranted to be complete, accurate or current. All critical information should be independently verified. WSDA and its officials and employees assume no responsibility or legal liability for the accuracy, completeness, reliability, timeliness, or usefulness of any of the information.

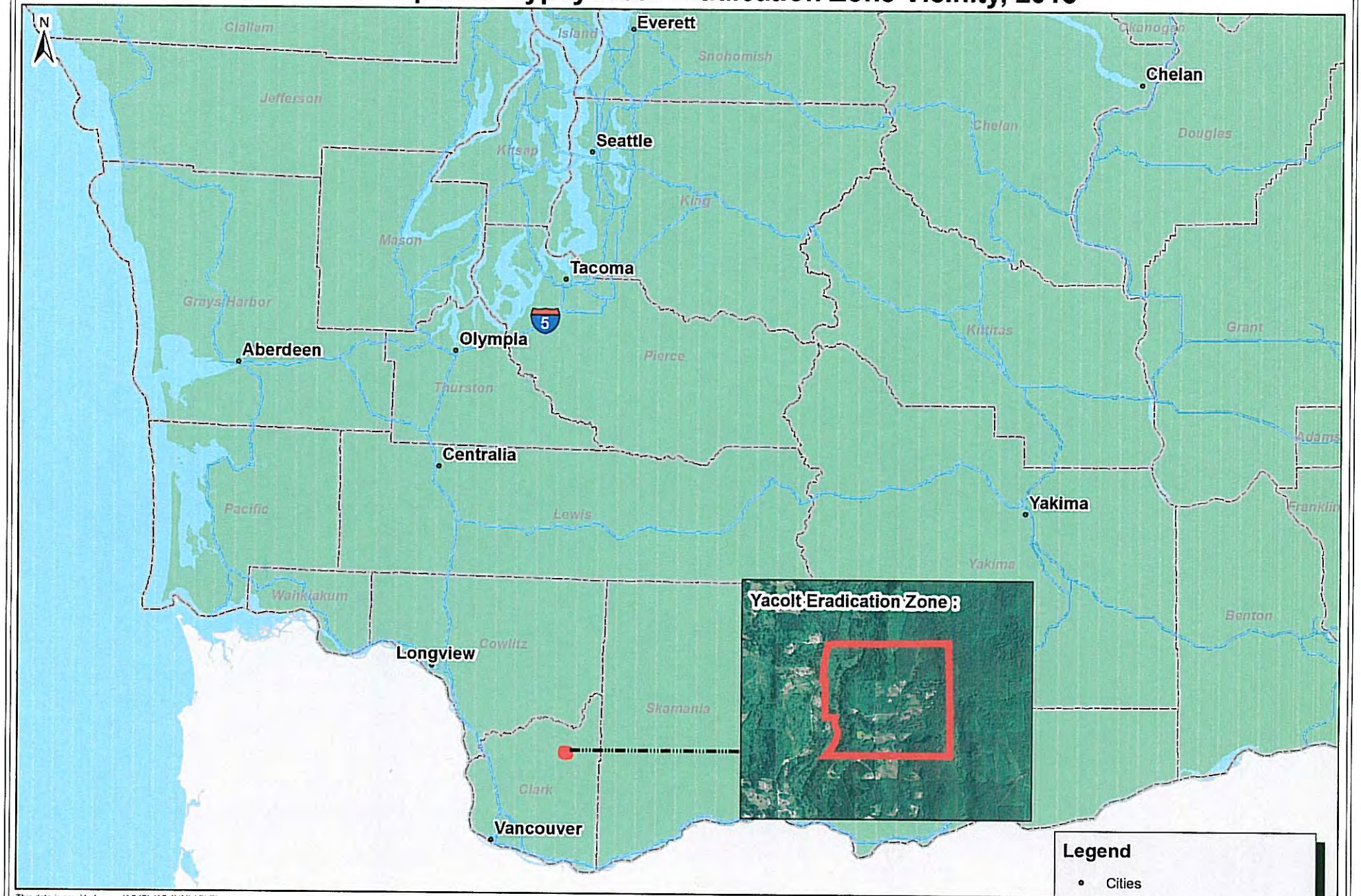
Cartography by: Landon Udo ; 2/4/2015

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Washington South FIPS 4602 Feet
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: North American 1983

WSDA

Yacolt Proposed Gypsy Moth Eradication Zone Vicinity, 2015



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2/4/2015

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