



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
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In Reply Refer to:  
FWS/R1/AES

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### Port Gamble Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration: Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

The United States Department of the Interior, the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, the Skokomish Tribe, the Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation, the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and the State of Washington (collectively “the Trustees”) have completed the “Port Gamble Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment” (“Final RP/EA”) that describes the Trustees’ decision to implement restoration by accepting two restoration projects in a pending settlement with Pope Resources, L.P., OPG Properties LLC, and OPG Port Gamble LLC (collectively, “the PRPs”). The restoration projects will be located in Port Gamble, Kitsap County, Washington.

#### Preferred Alternative

The Trustees’ Preferred Alternative consists of two actions: restoration projects to be implemented by the PRPs to offset the PRPs’ natural resource damages liability associated with their releases of hazardous substances to Port Gamble Bay. The first project will restore and protect approximately nine acres of shoreline habitat in and adjacent to Port Gamble Bay. The second project will cap wood debris in Port Gamble Bay and restore eelgrass habitat. Approximately 11 acres of restored eelgrass habitat along with nearby buffer areas will be protected by property restrictions. Together, the restoration projects will provide benefits to support fish, wildlife, and other resources injured by releases of hazardous substances from the PRPs’ activities. Because the PRPs will be required to fund or conduct future maintenance, monitoring, and stewardship, the Trustees anticipate long-term ecological benefits to be provided by the restoration under the Preferred Alternative.

#### Public Involvement

The “Port Gamble Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration: Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment” (“Draft RP/EA”) was available for public review and comment from June 20, 2024 through July 22, 2024. A Notice of Availability for the

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### **PACIFIC REGION 1**

IDAHO, OREGON\*, WASHINGTON,  
AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

\*PARTIAL

Draft RP/EA was published in the Federal Register on June 20, 2024 and the Draft RP/EA was posted to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Service website. No comments were received.

### Finding of No Significant Impact

The Service concludes that the selected actions will not have a significant effect on the human environment. The Final RP/EA supporting this conclusion is incorporated by reference. There are no highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique risks, elements of precedence, or cumulatively significant effects identified. Implementation of the selected actions will not result in long-term negative impacts to air quality, wetlands, cultural resources, special status species, aesthetics, or water quality.

Based on a review and evaluation of information contained in the Final RP/EA, I have determined that the selected actions will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, the preparation of an environmental impact statement on the actions is not required.

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Acting Regional Director, Pacific Region  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service