



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 21-038: TANEUM CREEK RAG-HEART HABITAT
ENHANCEMENT

Description of Proposal:

Yakama Nation is proposing a habitat restoration and floodplain improvement project along a 1.4 mile-long segment of Taneum Creek between river miles (RM) 1.95 to 3.4 in Kittitas County, Washington. River Miles 1.95-2.4 is owned by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and is within the LT Murray Wildlife Area. River Miles 2.4-3.4 are primarily owned by BOR. The Kittitas Reclamation District operates irrigation infrastructure within the project area, including a siphon, flume and associated outfall near RM 2.85, a diversion facility below RM 2.7 and associated canals to the north and south of the valley bottom. The property was acquired for restoration of Taneum Creek and water conservation. WDFW and BOR have been mowing and spraying the thistle, knapweed, houndstongue and Scotch broom to abate the noxious weeds while encouraging woody recruitment. The proposed Taneum Rag-Heart Restoration Project would include in-stream wood placement, riparian planting and riparian corridor protection measures that are targeted to improve fish habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed summer steelhead, as well as Spring Chinook, Coho, cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout.

Wood for the project will be acquired from a private contractor. Wood will be delivered to the staging area via logging trucks for the project using Thorp Cemetery Road. Implementation will begin in September 2021 and will include the use of heavy equipment to place wood including skidders, excavators, and log loaders. Following construction, riparian plants will be installed using an expandable stinger mounted to the bucket of an excavator planting live stakes and container plants 4'-6' to groundwater depth. Hand crews may also access the site by foot for shallow plantings and the construction of a temporary elk enclosure to protect plantings from browse.

Proponent/Applicant:

Primary

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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Approximately 1.45 miles of Taneum Creek and its floodplain, from River Mile 1.95 to 2.4. Taneum Creek is a right bank tributary to the Yakima River that flows into the Yakima River, approximately 10 miles northwest of Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington: Township 18N, Range 17E, Sections 5 and 6.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² **We will not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 21 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on August 12, 2021**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address above or email SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: July 29, 2021

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 21-038.dns

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).