



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 21-041: CHIEF JOSEPH WILDLIFE AREA ACCESS ROAD REPAIR

Description of Proposal:

WDFW proposes to create a long-term solution to an eroding bank of Joseph Creek, which threatens a single lane gravel access road to the WDFW Wildlife Area Headquarters Building and public access to the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area.

Using a bio-engineering approach, a design is proposed to provide erosion control to the Green Gulch access road running along Joseph Creek. The basis of the design comes from the living crib wall design from the USACE design manual. This proposal includes the installation of a wooden crib wall structure below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) to prevent further loss of the bank. This structure will be 50 ft long, 9 ft wide, and 9 ft in depth, protruding into the stream (120 SF if fill material below OHWM). The footprint of fill material above OHWM will be 161 SF. The crib wall structure will cut 62 CY of material below OHWM and will add 18 cubic yards CY of fill material below OHWM. Above OHWM, 8 CY will be excavated, and 48 CY of fill will be added. These quantities do not reflect woody material (logs/root wads) as fill, only the streambed cobble/soil mix material. The structure will be lined with a fine mesh, bio-degradable material (coconut husk fiber wrap) and back-filled with a cobble/soil. The fine mesh material will act to hold in fine soils. The crib wall structure will be planted with native willow stakes to provide additional stabilization (450 SF).

Four root wads (3 ft x 3 ft, 14"-18" DBH) will be incorporated into the crib wall structure within one layer of the crib wall lateral logs below OHWM. The root wads will be positioned perpendicular to the face of the crib wall to roughen the face, slowing the stream flow to create pools, provide refugia and collect and retain sediment and natural materials.

Fish Exclusion, Sediment Control

A sandbag coffer dam will be installed for the duration of work in water while excavating and installing the crib wall structure. This will exclude the creek bank location from fish as well as contain sediment. A CAMP Environmental Planner will be present on site during the installation of the coffer dam and will remove all fish from within the excluded area prior to any equipment working in water. This will require the use of seine nets, pushing fish downstream and out of the excluded area. This will occur at least three consecutive times and until no fish are visibly present within the excluded coffer dam.

Phase 1 – October 2019

An emergency, temporary bank support project was applied in October 2019. This temporary bank support consisted of an anchored series of logs at the base of the eroded bank. A jute mat

wrap was applied to the rest of the bank and keyed into the top with sandbags lining the top. All work was completed above OHWM.

The existing logs will remain in place and only moved to install the crib wall. Some logs may be incorporated into the crib wall.

Wetlands

A wetland reconnaissance survey was completed in February 2021, in the project area and no wetlands were identified.

Mitigation

The crib wall fill material will add 18 CY and 120 SF below OHWM. Adding root wads to the crib structure design will offset the impact of adding fill (dirt/rock) material below OHWM. Each root wad trunk will be 14"-18" DBH.

3 ft across x 3 ft beyond crib wall face = 9 SF per root wad x 4 root wads = 28 SF

The top of the structure will be planted with native willow stakes at 4 ft on center. This will be 450 SF mitigation to offset the fill material. This is 478 SF of mitigation (4:1). (450 SF + 28 SF = 478 SF).

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Joseph Creek Road on the WDFW Chief Joseph Wildlife Area, Asotin (Rogersburg), Asotin County, Washington: Township 7N, Range 46E, Section 2.

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 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on August 19, 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: August 5, 2021

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 21-041.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).