



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 21-049: SOUTH PUGET SOUND WILDLIFE AREA  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Description of Proposal:**

This is a new management plan for the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area. Over the next 10 years the plan will direct management activities on the following wildlife area units:

1. Big Beef Creek (1,071 acres)
2. Stavis Creek (41 acres)
3. Lake Koeneman (150 acres)
4. McNeil Island (3,119 acres)
5. Nisqually (654 acres)
6. Skokomish (225 acres)
7. South Puget Sound (72 acres)
8. Union River (458 acres)

Proposed uses include fish and wildlife conservation; protecting and restoring oak woodlands, forests, wetlands, estuary, and riparian habitats. Examples of management activities under this plan include: weed management; Oregon spotted frog and western pond turtle monitoring, restore/maintain habitat for the western pond turtle; waterfowl surveys; wetland inventory; complete estuarine, nearshore, and riparian habitat restoration projects at McNeil Island, Union River, and Skokomish units; eelgrass monitoring.

Recreational projects include: Increase waterfowl hunting opportunities; increase public awareness of wildlife viewing opportunities, improve recreational access and establish unit rules; develop a plan to manage access on Lake Koeneman; improve recreational facilities on the wildlife area; and maintaining fishing opportunities.

The draft plan is available for review at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02276>

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
Contact: Lauri Vigue  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** The WDFW South Puget Sound Wildlife Area in western Washington:

- Big Beef Creek (Kitsap County), Township: 25N Range: 02W Sections: 26
- Stavis Creek (Kitsap County), Township: 24N Range: 02W Sections: 36
- Lake Koeneman Unit (Kitsap County), Township: 22N Range: 01W Section: 10
- McNeil Island Unit (Pierce County), Township: 20N Range: 01E Section: ALL
- Nisqually (Thurston County), Township: 19N Range: 01W Sections: 36
- Skokomish (Mason County), Township: 21N Range: 04W Sections: 9
- South Puget Sound (Pierce County), Township: 20N Range: 02E Sections: 41
- Union River (Mason County), Township: 23N Range: 01W Sections: 31

**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 law<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> **We will not act on this proposal for 30 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 October 14, 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](mailto: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.<sup>1</sup>

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](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov).

**DATE OF ISSUE:** September 14, 2021

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 21-049.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](mailto:Title6@dfw.wa.gov)).*