



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 22-016: STOCKING GRASS CARP IN SMALL PONDS
STATEWIDE

Description of Proposal:

WDFW proposes to allow for a streamlined application process to stock triploid Grass Carp *Ctenopharyngodon idella* for applicants whose water bodies meet certain criteria.

This proposal would generically analyze in a single threshold determination Grass Carp stocking applications for small backyard ponds and golf course ponds that meet certain “Small Pond” criteria as set forth below. These applications are similar because, when limited to the Small Pond criteria below, they have common aspects that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental impacts together. Relevant similarities include common impacts, methods of implementation, environmental media, and subject matter. For Grass Carp stocking applications that do not meet the “Small Pond” criteria, or that are determined to have a probable significant adverse environmental impact, WDFW will prepare a separate, individual SEPA determination.

Upon application approval, triploid Grass Carp could be stocked into small backyard ponds and golf course ponds that are not located adjacent to floodplains and are not adjacent to or connected to lakes or streams. The “Small Pond” criteria for the appropriate use of grass carp under this determination include:

1. State waters on private lands
 - a. Golf courses or
 - b. Single owner/single parcel, or
 - c. Documented unanimous vote from homeowners association
 - d. May be constructed or natural ponds
 - e. Stable soil types, not in areas that are subject to slides that would displace stocked fish
 - f. Other waters not meeting these requirements can still go through normal (individual) SEPA process to obtain an individual SEPA determination
2. Screening
 - a. When site visit confirms that no screening is required,
 - b. When site visit confirms that screening that meets WDFW standards is already in place, or
 - c. When applicant installs screening that meets WDFW standards after a site visit and is subsequently verified by WDFW staff.
3. Surface water
 - a. No surface water connection

- b. No outlet or seasonal overflow
 - i. except when appropriately blocked or screened and verified or
 - ii. overflow can not go to stream or other water body.
4. Must be outside of 100-year flood plain
 - a. But can still go through normal (individual) SEPA process for others within floodplain.
5. Site visits are not required by WDFW Policy 5103 but are usually conducted to confirm presence of outlets and screening and native species present. Site visits will be even more important when using the Small Pond SEPA.
6. Threatened, Endangered, or Species of Concern:
 - a. No planting of Grass Carp where there would be probable significant adverse environmental impact, including impact to any federal or state threatened, endangered, or species of concern.
 - b. If there are any listed species present, an individual SEPA determination is required.

Upon receiving an application to stock Grass Carp, including a completed SEPA Environmental Checklist for planting Grass Carp, Fish Program staff would be able to either use the Small Pond SEPA, or request an individual SEPA determination if the location does not clearly meet the specific parameters in the Small Pond criteria above.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: This proposal is to stock Grass Carp in certain freshwater waterbody types, as described above, statewide.

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 April 14, 2022.**

Method of Comment:

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>.

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 through one of the following ways:

- Online at the Public Input comment portal for this proposal:
<https://publicinput.com/GrassCarpSmallPonds>
- Email to: GrassCarpSmallPonds@PublicInput.com

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, or have difficulty with the Public Input comment portal, contact Lisa Wood at: SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: March 31, 2022

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 22-016.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).