



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 23-003: BEAVER LAKE INLET MAINTENANCE

**Description of Proposal:**

The Tucannon Lakes were constructed in the early 1950s to provide a put-and-take fishery to the public. There are 8 man-made lakes of which 6 are fed by diversions from the Tucannon River. Each of the lakes with river diversions has its own unique set of challenges in keeping water flowing into the lake during the summer months when river levels are at their lowest.

This project focuses on the Beaver Lake inlet. The water flows from the Tucannon River through the Beaver Lake inlet structure into Beaver Lake, then over the Beaver Lake overflow structure into Watson Lake. The Tucannon River has moved and changed over the years and it is more challenging some years to keep water flowing into Beaver and Watson lakes to keep the hatchery-raised rainbow trout alive during the summer months.

The purpose for instream work at the Beaver Lake inlet is to keep the inlet channel clear of debris and to keep water flowing into Beaver and Watson lakes. Annually there is a need to hand-place rocks from the riverbed and an 8-foot piece of plywood in the Tucannon River to construct a wing-dam to divert streamflow into the Beaver Lake inlet. Occasionally, after a spring high-flow event, there is a need to use a large excavator to clear sediment and debris out of the Beaver Lake inlet channel and rebuild the permanent wing-dam structure to get water flowing into the lakes again.

The project site is approximately .13 acres in size and the majority of the work will occur instream during the summer months. During the periods when an excavator is needed the excavator will operate as minimally as possible on the bank to reduce the amount of damage caused to the adjacent wetland. The minimum amount of material needed to re-establish water flow to the diversion site will be removed, and all waste material from cleaning out the inlet channel will be deposited above the high-water mark in an upland area near the site.

This environmental review covers only the Beaver Lake Inlet Annual Summer Maintenance which consists of placing rocks and plywood and occasional excavator use. This maintenance work needs to be conducted annually but details and funding are not yet available for the larger Beaver and Watson Lakes project under the Wooten FMP. This review is not intended to circumvent any requirement for environmental review of an individual project, where required under SEPA.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Beaver Lake inlet on the Tucannon River within the WT Wooten Wildlife Area, approximately 15 miles east of Dayton, Columbia County, Washington: Township 9N, Range 41E, Section 3.

**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 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, 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 February 3, 2023**.

**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/BeaverLakeInlet>
- Email to: [BeaverLakeInlet@PublicInput.com](mailto:BeaverLakeInlet@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.<sup>1</sup>

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

**DATE OF ISSUE:** January 20, 2023

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 23-003.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)).*