



**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
FINAL DETERMINATION OF  
NON-SIGNIFICANCE  
July 12, 2004**

State of Washington

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

**Name of Proposal:** WILLAPA RIVER ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT

**Description of Proposal:** This is a fish, wildlife, and habitat restoration project that will be self-mitigating. The proposed project has been significantly modified from the original version due to concerns of local citizens and public officials. The project outlined in this SEPA Environmental Checklist reflects the changes made to the project scope. The 422-acre proposed project will restore tidal inundation to approximately 300 acres of diked pastureland adjacent to the Willapa River. These lands have been diked for the past 90-years. Actions will also be taken to enhance approximately 122 acres of freshwater wetlands to offset the loss of freshwater habitat that will occur when the adjoining area is restored to estuarine habitat. Removing approximately 10,000 lineal feet of dikes would restore tidal influence. Dike material would be used to backfill the borrow ditches adjacent to the dikes. Farm drainage ditches and borrow ditches along US101 would also be filled. Remnant tidal channels would be excavated to restore natural tidal hydrology. One cross dike would be constructed to prevent tidal inundation of neighboring properties. Most of the earthwork would occur during the dry summer months, prior to the dike removal. This project would be constructed over the course of two summers, 2005 and 2006.

**Proponent:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 48 Devon shire Road, Montesano, WA 98563 Project Contact: Kevin Farrell (360) 753-2600 x 241

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** The project area is located on the left bank of the Willapa River approximately one mile downstream of the City of South Bend, Washington, Pacific County; Sections 17,18,19,20, Township 14 North, Range 09 WestWM

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of the completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date of issue below. Comments must be submitted by: **July 9, 2004**

**Responsible Official:** Teresa A. Eturaspe

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

**Please contact:** Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or  
**e-mail:** habitatSEPA@dfw.wa.gov if you have questions or comments about this determination.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** June 25, 2004

**SIGNATURE:**



SEPA Log Number: 04-053. dns

**Distribution of Environmental Document:**

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia  
Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Office, Lacey  
NOAA - Fisheries, Seattle  
Pacific County Planning Department, South Bend  
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia  
WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 6, Montesano  
WDFW, Fish Program, Region 6, Montesano  
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 6, Montesano

**Interested Parties:**

County Staff  
Libraries  
Elected Officials  
Commenters