



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE
December 17, 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 AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

Name of proposal: WAPATO DAM FLOOD CONTROL MEASURES, CHANNEL STABILIZATION AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Description of proposal: The U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Wapato Irrigation Project (WIP) operates and maintains a network of irrigation facilities and water courses that serve approximately 140,000 acres of irrigated land on the Yakama Reservation. In February 1996, the Yakima Basin experienced severe flooding that caused extensive damage to the infrastructure. A project to evaluate long-term solutions at the Wapato Dam and other WIP facilities across the Yakama Reservation was initiated in 1998.

The goals of the project were to:

1. Protect facilities operated by the WIP, including the two concrete dam segments, interconnecting sheet piling reinforced earth dike, the diversion head works, and the main Wapato Canal
2. Protect three fish ladders and associated Bureau of Reclamation facilities
3. Allow flooding events of the 1996 magnitude to safely pass without causing major damage.
4. Improve fish passage
5. Improve floodplain ecological function
6. Increase juvenile salmon and steelhead rearing habitat.

Proposed Wapato Dam Flood control Measures, Channel Stabilization and Habitat Enhancement:

- It is proposed that the Island Spillway and Overflow Channel be utilized as a “fail safe” spillway and overflow channel during flows above approximately 4000 cubic feet per second (CFS) at the existing spillway crests.
- Grade control structures are also proposed for both the East and West active channels to protect the concrete dam segments and abutments from scour, raise the tail water pools to improve the function of the fish ladders, and to reduce the difference in elevation between the island overflow channel and the East and West active channels.
- A total of 12 grade control structures are proposed, requiring an estimated quantity of approximately 9,800 Cubic Yards of large rock weighing approximately 17,500 tons. Approximately 3,550 Cubic Yards of rock will be placed within the Ordinary High Water Line.
- It is proposed that two rock cross-dikes be constructed in the swale between the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad grade and the US Highway 97 road prism to reduce the potential for flood waters overtopping the railroad grade to concentrate and enter the WIP Main Canal.
- It is proposed that approximately 2,000 CY of gravel be removed to promote a more even and controlled overtopping of the Island Spillway.

Proponent: U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs- Wapato Irrigation Project
Attention: Pierce Harrison, Project Administrator

Location of current proposal: Near the Town of Union Gap, Washington, Yakima County;
SW 1/4 of Section 17, Township 12 North, Range 19 East WM

Title of documents being adopted, agency that prepared document being adopted and date adopted document was prepared:

1. Finding Of No Significant Impact for Wapato Dam Flood Control Project –Yakama Agency 12/19/03
2. Wapato Dam Flood Control Project Environmental Assessment- USDI-Bureau of Indian Affairs and Confederated Tribes and Band of the Yakama Nation 11/10/03
3. Biological Opinion- NOAA 5/12/03
4. Biological Opinion- US. Fish and Wildlife Service 6/8/00
5. Flood Control Measures Wapato and Olney Dams Biological Assessment- US Bureau of Indian Affairs Wapato Irrigation Project, Eco-Northwest, Selah, Washington 3/2001

If the documents being adopted has been challenged (197-11-630), please describe: No

The document is available to be read at:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Natural Resources Building,
1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Or

Yakama Indian Agency- Richard Beams Environmental Coordinator (509-865-5121) 401 Fort Road, Toppenish, Washington 98948

We have identified and adopted these documents as being appropriate for this proposal after independent review. The documents meet our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

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: December 16, 2004

Name of agency adopting the document: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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: December 2, 2004 **SIGNATURE:** 