



**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE
January 24, 2005**

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: GOLD CREEK DIVERSION BLOCKADE

Description of Proposal: The purpose of the proposed work is to block an unscreened irrigation ditch to prevent stranding of fish. All work is to be conducted in the dry in an irrigation ditch, outside of the Ordinary High Water (OHW) mark of Gold Creek, a right bank tributary to the Methow River in Okanogan County. The work will consist of construction of a 4 feet high dam across the irrigation canal, approximately 60 feet from the head of the canal. The dam will be constructed by a backhoe or excavator of 2 courses of stacked ecology blocks' (2' x 2' x 6' concrete blocks) wrapped in geotextile that will ensure that fish will be unable to pass through or around the structure. For stability, the dam will be buttressed from behind by two stacks of ecology blocks placed perpendicular to the dam.

The bed of the ditch will be smoothed within the footprint of the structure prior to construction. Following construction, bed material from the ditch downstream of the structure will be used to backfill against the structure. This will serve to further stabilize the structure. The adjacent floodplain is at a lower elevation than the crest of the proposed dam, so the dam will be subject to overtopping only during extreme high flow events. However, the combination of geotextile underlying the structure, and backfilled bed material that can function as a spillway if the structure is overtopped will protect against undermining.

The location of the dam was determined by a combination of site factors, such as the presence of well defined banks and a distance from the stream that will create back-watering in the head of the ditch and cause bed load accumulation to form a natural plug at the head of the ditch.

After the dam is installed, the ditch will no longer convey flows away from the creek. This will result in greater in stream flows during both high and low-flow periods. This project will protect fish by precluding them from an unscreened diversion that causes stranding. This project will not affect water quality in the creek, and recreation may be benefited by higher flows. The 4 foot high dam will be visible from the creek, but plugging of the head of the ditch during bed load-moving events should reduce the visibility of the dam over time.

Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Contact: Eric Egbers
(509) 575-2734

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Site is locate approximately 150 feet south of Gold Creek Road, Approximately 4 mile south of the town of Carlton, Okanogan , Washington, Section 18, Township 31 North, Range 22 EastWM

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: **January 21, 2005**

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: January 7, 2005

