



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: BEAVER DAM DISPERSAL AT BELLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BLI)

Description of Proposal: Phase one of this project has been completed in which six beaver dams have been breached allowing the stream to return to its normal flow and releasing the impounded water into Bellingham Bay. The next phase is to disperse the dam material to be able to effectively manage the beavers according to the BLI's Wildlife Plan.

The proposed activity is to disperse six beaver dams that have been constructed by beavers over the last five years. The dispersal of approximately 20' of dam material on either side of the creek will allow Airport Creek to return to its normal flow rate, allow the impounded water to be released into Bellingham Bay, and deter additional beaver activity in this area. Release of the impounded water is critical to minimizing waterfowl attractants at the airport, reducing wildlife hazards and creating safer airport operations.

The dams will be dispersed in a controlled manner, as to not have adverse effects on downstream features. There will be two methods of dispersion: Method one will involve using mechanical equipment such as a back-hoe or excavator, to disperse the dams to the elevation of the adjacent ground. This method will be employed only where there is an existing upland access, an access road. Method two will involve using directional explosives, this method will be employed only where there is no existing upland access for mechanical equipment, because to install an access road would be considerable more destructive to the environment.

Proponent: Port of Bellingham, 1801 Roeder Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98226. Project Contact: Scott Wendling (360) 676-2500 ext. 340

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Bellingham International Airport, Wynn Road and Country Lane, Bellingham Washington, Whatcom County; NW 1/4 of Section 15, Township 38 North, Range 02 East WM

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: **June 28, 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: June 14, 2005 **SIGNATURE:** 

SEPA Log Number: 05 -054. dns