



**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE
February 27, 2007**

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: NORTH FORK NOOKSACK RIVER ACCLIMATION POND

Description of Proposal: This proposed acclimation pond would be component of the Nooksack Spring Chinook Recovery Plan. This has been an ongoing project since 1979 that is intended to supplement a depressed population of spring chinook on the North Fork of the Nooksack River. Currently spring chinook juveniles (originating from wild spring chinook broodstock) are being raised at the Nooksack hatchery each year and prior to release are taken to several acclimations ponds within the system in an attempt to get fish to utilize more of the river system. Genetically these fish are the same as native spring chinook in this system and the goal is to increase natural spawning through supplements from the broodstock program fish.

This acclimation pond site has been used in the past for this purpose incorporating temporary structures. This project is intended to provide a more suitable, yet portable structure with which to acclimate chinook juveniles to the water from the upper watershed. This pond will accommodate three consecutive batches of juvenile chinook a year with 133,000 fish in each batch for a total 400,000 fish. The size will be 100 fish to the pound and each batch will weigh 1300 pounds. This number of fish represents what is typically released in this area and is not an increase.

Specific components of this project includes:

1. Placing a 30' x 95' compacted gravel pad alongside an existing road. The pad depth will be 2 feet.
2. Placing a 10' x 60' fiberglass fish rearing pond on the gravel pad.
3. A 4" pipe will be buried from the pond up to an existing hydropower penstock, which will be the pond's source of 330 gallons per minute of water or .75 cubic feet per second.
4. The gravel pad will include space for a 24' travel trailer, one vehicle and one self-contained Sani-can.
5. Install one pole-mounted floodlight at the pond location.

Proponent:

Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Marty Peoples, Engineering Division
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Project is located in Whatcom County off of Highway 542. The site is approximately one mile below Nooksack Falls at an existing privately owned hydropower site next to Excelsior Springs US Forest Service campground, Township 40 North, Range 8 East, SE1/4 of Section 31, Latitude 48° 54.47 N, Longitude -121° 48.96 W.

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: **February 26, 2007**

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: February 12, 2007 **SIGNATURE:** 

SEPA Log Number: 07 -016dns

Distribution of Environmental Document:

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia
Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia
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