



**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

REVISED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (Revised DNS)

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has considered comments received on the original Threshold Determination for this project and is providing additional information that may be of interest to other agencies or the public. The information provided does not substantially change the analysis of the significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist.

Name of Proposal: WILLAPA RIVER ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT

Date Of Issue: July 12, 2004

Description of Original 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.

The proponent/applicant has made the following changes to the project:

1. Due to cost issues 1,211 feet of dike will be removed. In place of total dike removal, tidal openings will be created in the levee that allows the historic channels to flow. A grading plan will address issues related to standing water (mosquitoes and fish stranding)
2. There will be a reduction in wetland conversion quantities of 8 acres and 27,000 CY.
3. If additional funds are available, further dike removal will be conducted and distribution of excess material beyond that needed to fill the borrow ditches will be spoiled to areas within the project site that have been pre-determined by WDFW and NRCS engineers to be suitable for this material. Based on this spoils cut/fill plan option, the following dike removal alternatives shall be considered based on their priority to restore estuary restoration functions and feasibility to complete:

- a) Option #1: Remove dike in area from SR 101 to Channel #7 and place spoils in pre-determined on-site disposal areas. Dike removal in this option accounts for approximately 35% of the entire dike. This area allows the greatest distribution of spoils and minimizes logistical coordination and transport costs.
- b) Option # 2: Remove dike between Channel #5 to Channel #7 and place spoils in pre-determined on-site disposal areas. Dike removal in this option accounts for approximately 24% of the entire dike. This option also minimizes spoils distribution, logistics and transport costs.
- c) Option #3: Remove dike between Channel #1 to Channel #5 to pre-determined on-site disposal areas. Dike removal in this option accounts for approximately 41% of the entire dike. While this option allows the greatest amount of dike removed, it presents the most difficulty in terms of spoils disposition and transport costs.

In addition the following (correction/change/modification/addition) (has/have) been made to the initial SEPA Checklist, dated: June 17, 2004

See attached revised checklist. Changes are shown as ~~strikeout~~ and new additions are shown in bold

See attached revised and new project drawings.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 48 Devonshire Road, Montesano, WA 98563
Project Contact: Greg Schirato (360) 490-0781

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

WDFW has determined that this proposal will have no probable significant adverse impacts on the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). We made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after review of the environmental checklist and other information on file with us. This information is available to the public on request.

Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal.

We issued this DNS under WAC 197-11-340(2). We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date of issuance of this DNS. If you have comments about this DNS or this proposal, we must receive your comments by **August 3, 2007**.

When you send us your comments, please provide the name of proposal in your comment letter and mail it to:

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

You can also send your comments via email to: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov

You can also send you comments via fax to: (360) 902-2946.

If you have questions about details of the proposal, contact: Greg Schirato (360) 490-0781

If you have questions about this action, please contact:

Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or

email: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov

DATE OF ISSUE: July 20, 2007

SIGNATURE:



SEPA Log Number: 07 -061. rdns

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