



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 (DNS)

**Name of Proposal:** SKAGIT COUNTY DIKING DISTRICT #3 DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT AND DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE PLAN

**Description of Proposal:** Conduct routine maintenance of drainage infrastructure within the jurisdictional boundary of the Drainage and Irrigation District consistent with the provisions and elements of the attached Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Maintenance Plan which were developed collaboratively and cooperatively between the duly elected Commissioners of the District and WDFW, and in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative.

**The drainage maintenance activities of DD #3 do not include culvert, bridge or tidegate maintenance. The following types of drainage maintenance activities are considered typical of work necessary to routinely maintain the watercourses that comprise the district's drainage infrastructure.**

Trash Racks - debris removal, minor repairs, major repairs and replacement

Flood Gates - debris removal, minor repairs, major repairs and replacement

Channel In-water Bucket Mowing - channel maintenance

Channel Out-of-Water Mowing - channel Maintenance

Dredging - channel maintenance and debris removal

#### Drainage Maintenance Activities – General Descriptions

##### Trash Racks

Trash racks are systems designed to prevent foreign material from getting into a pump facility or tide gate. Foreign material is any man made or natural material that could be carried by the water and get lodged in the system or accumulate and cause flow disruption or prevent a pump or tide gate from functioning properly. Normal maintenance of trash racks includes removal of accumulated debris as necessary, replacement of worn or damaged trash rack components or replacement of structure. Typical design of trash racks include a constructed lumber unit with vertical spaced 2 inch dimensional boards that at approximately 3-5 inches apart. The unit is set down in the water usually set in the water at an incline down to or near the bottom of the drainage ditch. The incline allows for cleaning debris by raking it to the top and removing from the ditch.

##### Flood Gates

Floodgates are one-way check valves that allow accumulated water to move from a field into a drainage system during and after a high water event. The maintenance of such structures is same as tide gates and must have debris removed in order to function properly. Necessary repair and replacement must be done as needed.

##### Channel In-Water Bucket Mowing

Channel in-water bucket mowing is a technique using a hydraulically operated sickle bar mower that is mounted on the front edge of a dredging bucket. The machine mows vegetative material below the water line and accumulates the material in the bucket. The material is then deposited

on the ground away from the ditch. This type of mowing provides removal of vegetative material but does not remove root system or remove soil.

#### Channel Out of Water Mowing

Channel out of water mowing is routine removal of vegetative material above the water line to the bank top. It is completed using various types of mechanical mowers (rotary or flail designs) and reduces the vegetative material during the growing cycle.

#### Dredging

Dredging is completed, as needed utilizing a hydraulically operated boom type excavator. The excavator has a wide flat bottomed bucket that scraped down one side, rounds the bottom and come up opposite side in one continuous motion. Thus the result leaves the ditch with inclined side and a round bottom feature that minimizes side sloughing and erosion in bottom of ditch. All material removed is deposited landward of the ditch so that it will not return to the ditch and will later be moved back into the adjoining field or hauled away as necessary. When work is completed in ditches too large for the boom type excavator, a drag-line type excavator is utilized. The process is the same except that the drag line will work from the middle of the ditch to one side and then work the opposite side.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Skagit County Diking District #3

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Skagit County Diking District #3, is located within the Skagit River Delta of Skagit County south of the City of Mount Vernon and north of Stanwood. Refer to the attached Drainage Management Plan for location maps.

Sections: 05,06,08,17,18,19,20, 30,31 Township: 33N, Range 04E

Sections: 31,32, Township: 34N, Range 04E EastWM

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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 13, 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](mailto: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:

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](mailto:SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov)

**DATE OF ISSUE:** July 30, 2007 **SIGNATURE:** 

SEPA Log Number: 07 -064. dns

**Distribution of Environmental Document:**

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