



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: COWLITZ WILDLIFE AREA BEAVER DAM BREACH – KOSMOS UNIT

Description of Proposal: This site is owned by Tacoma Power and managed by the WDFW as wildlife mitigation lands. The beaver dam complex (< 2-acres) and the associated wetland is a great example of the type of habitats the Cowlitz Wildlife Area is protecting through management activities. However, private property is being negatively impacted and we have an obligation to remove / prevent this impact. Therefore, work to be done includes partial breaching of the beaver dams (2 - 4) in this complex utilizing hand tools. As per the preferred method the breaching will be done slowly in stages to prevent scouring and debris flows. The breaching will begin with a partial drawdown to eliminate immediate impacts to neighboring private property. If further partial breaches are determined to be necessary to reach desired goals they will be conducted in the lower reach first progressing upstream as the project advances. Placement of beaver deceivers is planned as well as initial trapping efforts. Though fish presence is unlikely, staff will observe the site during water drawdown to prevent fish kill and to watch for redds. The finished project should allow for coexistence between private property and the beaver dam complex through water level management.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Cowlitz Wildlife Area
Richard Vanderlip
PO BOX 758, Morton, WA 98356

360.496.6263

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The site is located on the Cowlitz Wildlife Area's Kosmos Unit. It is along a seasonal unnamed tributary to Rainey Creek in T12N R5E Sec. NE ¼ of 27; Cowlitz County & Lewis County Washington. The center of the site is located at approximately 46° 50'21.8" LAT, 122° 16'50.6" LON. Additionally it is contained within Lewis County tax parcel number 030753000000

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 **December 26, 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 this action, please contact:

Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or
email: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov

DATE OF ISSUE: December 12, 2007 **SIGNATURE:** 

SEPA Log Number: 07 098. dns

Distribution of Environmental Document:

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