



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: STATEWIDE FRESHWATER SMALL SCALE MINERAL PROSPECTING

Description of Proposal: WDFW accepts individual applications for small scale mineral prospecting using equipment, timing or methods not authorized under the Gold and Fish pamphlet. These applications are exceptions to the activities in the Gold and Fish pamphlet. When an applicant for a HPA proposes excavating 50 cubic yards or more of streambed materials, SEPA review is required under WAC 197-11-835(3). WDFW is proposing a statewide programmatic SEPA determination for certain mineral prospecting not covered by the Gold and Fish pamphlet and that will excavate 50 cubic yards or more of streambed material. This proposal includes only projects that use the types and sizes of equipment authorized by the Gold and Fish pamphlet, but that propose some other exception to the pamphlet, such as operating outside of the authorized work windows. Proposals for different equipment types than authorized by the Gold and Fish pamphlet will require separate SEPA review.

Tools and equipment authorized under this proposal are limited to the following:

- Hand-held mineral prospecting tools
- Pans
- Spiral wheels
- Sluices, concentrators, rocker boxes, and high-bankers with riffle areas totaling 10 square feet or less, including ganged equipment
- Suction dredges that have suction intake nozzles with inside diameters that should be 4 inches or less, but shall be no greater than 4-1/4 inches to account for manufacturing tolerances and possible deformation of the nozzle. The inside diameter of the dredge hose attached to the nozzle may be no greater than 1 inch larger than the suction intake nozzle size
- Power sluice/suction dredge combinations that have riffle areas totaling 10 square feet or less, including ganged equipment, suction intake nozzles with inside diameters that should be 4 inches or less, but shall be no greater than 4-1/4 inches to account for manufacturing tolerances and possible deformation of the nozzle, and pump intake hoses with inside diameters of four inches or less. The inside diameter of the dredge hose attached to the suction intake nozzle may be no greater than 1 inch larger than the suction intake nozzle size
- High-bankers and power sluices that have riffle areas totaling 10 square feet or less, including ganged equipment, and pump intake hoses with inside diameters of 4 inches or less.

Proponent/Applicant:

Applicant:

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Contact:

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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The proposed programmatic SEPA will apply to all freshwaters of Washington.

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

WDFW has determined that this proposal likely will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us. If you want to review this information, please contact WDFW at the address below.

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

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. If you have comments about this DNS or the proposal, you must send your comments to us so that we receive them within 14 days. This means we must receive your comments by **March 4, 2009**.

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

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

You can also send your comments via email to SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov, or via fax to (360) 902-2946.

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Teresa Eturaspe at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2575.

DATE OF ISSUE: February 18, 2009 **SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 09 -012dns