



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:** VOIGHTS CREEK FISH HATCHERY RENOVATION

#### **Description of Proposal:**

The Voights Creek Fish Hatchery is located near Orting, Washington on Voights Creek, a tributary of the Carbon River, which is in turn a tributary of the Puyallup River. It was initially constructed in 1917 and began hatchery production and release of salmon at that time. Currently, the hatchery raises fall Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and winter steelhead trout. Fish are raised in several existing raceways and ponds located at the facility, including nine standard concrete raceways, two 1/3-acre rearing ponds, and a large earthen pond used for dual purpose as a juvenile rearing and adult return trapping pond. Salmon and trout released from the facility provide significant sport, commercial, and tribal fishing opportunities in Puget Sound and the Puyallup River system.

The hatchery is outdated in many ways and needs to be renovated in order to become compliant with regulatory requirements set forth in the Clean Water Act. In particular, the pollution abatement pond, which is used to remove nutrient-rich sediment byproducts of fish rearing activities from discharge water, must be replaced to meet National Pollution Discharge Elimination System and Clean Water Act requirements. New adult holding ponds and a new trapping system are desirable to provide a more effective multi-species fish program.

The property is currently occupied by the existing hatchery facility, which includes two single-family residences, an adult return fish ladder, adult holding pond, pollution abatement pond, two separate raceway structures, a rearing pond, a hatchery building, and associated outbuildings. Prior to 2006, a weir across Voights Creek was in place and used to restrict upstream migration of returning adult fish. The Voights Creek stream banks are generally armored with riprap and sheet piles along much of the length of the creek adjacent to the hatchery. An old bridge abutment is also in place next to the stream.

The project does not change the current use of the property. Rather, the project consists of upgrades to existing facility structures and some new structures to bring the facility into compliance with current stormwater and water quality regulations. The proposed upgrades will be focused within the area of the existing hatchery facilities (see attached JARPA drawings, Sheets 2 and 3). Proposed upgrades include the following:

Phase 1: Replace the existing earthen adult holding pond with three new parallel concrete ponds in roughly the same location; construct a new fish ladder connecting Voights Creek to the new adult holding ponds; restore the stream bank adjacent to the fish ladder; construct a dedicated spawning shed adjacent to the new adult holding ponds; construct a new pump station to serve the new adult holding ponds; construct a new pollution abatement pond; remove the existing 1917 residence; and install two stormwater bio-infiltration cells on the site.

Phase 2: Replace the two rearing ponds with two new 42-ft by 140-ft rearing ponds in

approximately the same location and install comprehensive landscaping throughout the site using native species.

Proposed stream bank restoration and comprehensive landscaping with native species will result in direct mitigation of impacts resulting from other project elements.

**Proponent/Applicant:**

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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** The Voights Creek Fish Hatchery is located in southern Pierce County along State Route (SR) 162 near the town of Orting, Washington (see attached JARPA drawings, Sheet 1). The hatchery is located to the north of SR-162 in the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 33, Township 19N, Range 05E and the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 33, Township 19N, Range 05E of the Willamette Meridian. The hatchery is located on Parcel 0519333006, which is approximately 6.2 acres in size.

**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 law<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 21 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 21 days. This means we must receive your comments by **March 30, 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 98501-1091

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

After the closing date of the comment period, applicants are encouraged to view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>  
No additional notification will be made.

Applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal once the status is posted as final.

When a proposal is modified or withdrawn additional notice will be given, in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

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:** March 10, 2009

**SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

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