



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: CLE ELUM RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Description of Proposal:

Kittitas Conservation Trust (KCT) through the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) proposes to introduce large woody debris in the form of engineered log jams at specific locations in the Cle Elum River (Figure 1). The proposed project is intended to enhance instream, floodplain, and riparian function by distributing and maintaining perennial flow in the right bank Domerie Creek side channel complex (Table 1 & Figure 2) that is predominately dewatered after irrigation storage releases from Lake Cle Elum are discontinued each fall. Flows in the lower Cle Elum River are controlled by irrigation releases from Lake Cle Elum Dam. The resulting regulated flow scenario delivers an annual hydrograph that is radically skewed from a natural flow scenario (Figure 3). The “flip flop” flow regime in the lower Cle Elum River, coupled with the presence of Cle Elum Dam, negatively impacts sediment and organic debris transport. Over time, the stream and floodplain processes have been degraded. The proposed project is designed to help restore these processes while increasing and enhancing salmonid habitat. Implementation of this project will reduce stranding of fish and other aquatic species when irrigation releases from Lake Cle Elum are reduced, resulting in the annual dewatering of the Domerie Side Channel Complex.

Proponent/Applicant:

Kittitas Conservation Trust (KCT)
David Gerth-Executive Director KCT
PO Box 428
Roslyn, WA 98941

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Located in the Cle Elum River, approximately 1 mile downstream of Cle Elum Dam, near Ronald, Washington, Kittitas County; Section 11, Township 20 North, Range 14 East WM

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 **April 21, 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, 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.¹

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: April 7, 2009 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 09 -030. dns

