



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: SPRING CREEK RESTORATION AND CHANNEL RE-LOCATION

Description of Proposal:

The goal of the project is to improve salmonid rearing habitat. The entire project area is 2,000 linear feet of Spring Creek. The entire length of the stream will be fenced to exclude livestock. A riparian buffer will be planted along the entire 2,000 linear feet.

The project will re-route 1,250 feet of Spring Creek away from existing and future development areas. In this re-channel reach, the creek will meander through a 90-foot wide, protected riparian buffer. (See site plan.) The 90 ft. wide buffer will be re-planted for the 1,250 foot long re-channeled reach. The remaining 750 feet (south end of the project area) of existing channel within the project area will have a 25 foot buffer on the west side of the creek. The east buffer width averages 120 feet between the stream and the freeway fence, with the widest area being 160 foot in width for this stream side. All of the riparian buffers will be re-planted with native shrubs. A re-vegetation plan is being developed by Mid-Columbia Fisheries with input from the landowner and WDFW. The re-vegetation plan will include details on site prep, species ratios and density, irrigation, weed abatement, and maintenance.

The 1,250 re-channeled reach will be designed to optimize rearing habitat and improve water quality. Woody debris and brush bundles will be installed in the channel to create complexity and hiding and foraging areas for juvenile salmonids. The new channel will provide increased habitat complexity by including meanders, woody debris, and an improved width to depth ratio.

Proponent/Applicant:

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Margaret Neuman

P.O. Box 1271

White Salmon, WA 98672

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: To reach the site, exit I-82 at Union Gap.

Travel north on Main Street. Turn west on E. Court Street until it turns into Tacoma Street and heads north. The middle of the proposed project reach on Spring Creek is due west, across an undeveloped pasture. (The landowner and project sponsor should be contacted prior to any site visits) Union Gap, Washington, Yakima County; Section 7, Township 12 North, Range 19 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).