



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: SPEARS UNIT MILL POND STAND PIPE REPLACEMENT

Description of Proposal:

The Spears Unit of the Cowlitz Wildlife Area contains a 27 acre pond that once functioned as a mill pond. The pond was built to impound water for the purpose of log storage, fire control and other mill operations needing water. Water levels were maintained by a water control structure and water was drafted from nearby Siler Creek under a certified water right. The property was purchased because of the pond's ability to provide excellent deep water habitat however, the existing water control structure has failed due to attrition. A new structure needs to be installed. The scope of the work is to slowly drain the pond by removing the beaver dam that is now maintaining pond levels from around the old structure. The water will flow into the breach around the old outflow and into Siler Creek reducing the water levels in the pond so the work can be completed without adverse impacts to Siler Creek. The first step to replacing the standpipe will be to remove half of the dike (pond side), remove the existing water control structure, place the new standpipe and repair the dike. The second stage involves removing the other side of the dike (Siler Creek side), remove the old outflow pipe, place the new pipe and repair the dike. Finally the sides of the dike will be armored, seeded and straw spread to prevent future erosion events. Water levels in the pond will be restored by precipitation, seasonal flooding and drafting in accordance with the certified water right

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife –
Cowlitz Wildlife Area
Mark Grabski
PO BOX 758
Morton, WA 98356

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: South of Randle, Bordered by State Route 131, Cispus Road and Spears Road, Washington, Cowlitz County; Section 20,21, Township 12 North, Range 07 EastWM

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

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely 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.

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. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **July 1, 2009**.

You can submit your comments by email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov, through the WDFW

SEPA website comment link at <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>, fax to (360) 902-2946, or mail to the address below. When you send us your comments, please provide the name of the proposal in your comment letter.

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, 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: June 17, 2009 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 09 -050. dns

Distribution of Environmental Document:

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia
Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Office, Lacey
NOAA - Fisheries, Seattle
State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia
Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Cowlitz County Department of Community Development, Kelso
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, Portland, OR
WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 5, Vancouver
WDFW, Fish Program, Region 5, Vancouver
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 5, Vancouver