



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: BOOM INSTALLATION (3 SITES) TO LAUNCH & RETRIEVE PUMP SCREENS INTO YAKIMA RIVER

Description of Proposal: The Benton Conservation District (BCD) is working with three private landowners to ensure their irrigation diversions are compliant with NMFS and WDFW criteria. The new screens at these sites will require booms to be installed near the existing pump stations in order to safely launch and retrieve the fish screens. **At three sites along the Yakima River, a 2.5' wide and 4' deep hole will be dug using hand tools near the existing pump stations. A 30' tall steel truss will be placed into the hole and anchored with concrete and supported with steel guy wires. The truss will attach and swivel on a 6" steel mast.** The boom will provide 1600 pounds lifting capacity for each screen. The proposed installation of NOAA Fisheries and WDFW compliant fish screens on pre-existing pump diversions will reduce these risks to aquatic life.



Proponent/Applicant:

Benton Conservation District (BCD)

Mark Nielson, BCD manager

415 Wine Country Road

Prosser, WA 99350

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Lower Yakima River, Washington, Benton County; Section 30 & 06, Township 10 & 09 North, Range 27 East WM

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 **June 30, 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 16, 2009 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)

2. WAC 197-11-340(2).