



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:** WDFW WOOTEN WILDLIFE AREA SPRING CREEK RESTORATION AND RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENT

**Description of Proposal:**

WDFW added 187 acres to the Wooten Wildlife Area in April 2009 by purchasing the Murphy Russell property. The newly acquired property has an important spring fed (~2-3cfs) tributary of the Tucannon that historically was utilized by rearing Spring Chinook and Steelhead. The spring tributary has a culvert approximately 100 meters from the Tucannon River that is a fish passage barrier to nearly ½ mile of off channel rearing habitat. Additionally, the spring tributary habitat has been degraded by livestock use and will benefit from work to enhance stream complexity, large wood, pools, etc. Additionally, the project will include riparian enhancement along the Tucannon River.

Project objectives

- ✓ Restore fish passage at the existing culvert by removing material at the upstream end and elevating the exit pool.
- ✓ Restore spring channel complexity, adding pools with large wood and cobbles, multiple channels ranging from runs/glides to higher velocity riffled reaches.
- ✓ Remove car bodies, and other junk dumped in the floodplain and riparian along the Tucannon River, transport scrap for recycling.
- ✓ Plant willow and cottonwood in areas disturbed by the project and in reaches that lack proper riparian function and shade.
- ✓ Plant riparian enhancement plots (Tucannon R)

**Proponent/Applicant:**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
David Karl, WDFW Watershed Steward, Snake Region  
PO Box 456 Walla Walla, WA 99362

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Counties: Columbia and Garfield, Washington State Wooten Wildlife Area. Sections 13,14,16,21,22,23,26,27,34,35,36 Township 9N, Range 41E, Sections 1,2,3, 10 &15. Township 10N, Range 41East WM, A map of the Project sites for LWD structures attached with lat/long GPS readings for each site.

**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 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.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> 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 **August 26, 2009**

You can submit your comments by email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto: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.<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:** August 12, 2009 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 09 -062. dns