



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: COWYCHEE DITCH FISH SCREEN AND METER

Description of Proposal:

The NYCD proposes to install a WDFW and NMFS compliant fish screen and water meter on the Cowychee Ditch irrigation diversion through the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP). This diversion is located at river mile 12 on Cowiche Creek, a priority stream for salmonid recovery in the Yakima Basin. Currently, this diversion is unscreened and unmetered, putting juvenile salmonids and other resident fishes at risk of entrainment into the irrigation system. The existing headgate will be upgraded such that there is better water control and it can be completely sealed. The new fish screen will be installed behind the head gate with the fish bypass extending from the screen back to the creek as shown in the design drawing. Temporary access may include some vegetative clearing, but the entire area will be replanted with suitable native vegetation upon completion. Routine maintenance will be completed by members of the Cowychee Ditch Water Users Association using only hand tools.

Proponent/Applicant:

Mike Tobin-NYCD manager or Justin Bader-YTAHP coordinator
1606 Perry Street, Suite C
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 454-5736 x122

Location of Proposal, including street, if any:

Located on (South Fork) Cowiche Creek at River Mile 12
WRIA 38-Cowiche Creek is a tributary to the Naches River
Near 3000 Cowiche Mill Road, Cowiche, WA 98923; near intersection with Sunset Road
Parcel # 16143613403—Part of the Cowiche Unit of WDFW's Oak Creek Wildlife Area
NE ¼ Section 36, Township 14, Range 16 WM
46.66025° N; -120.762833° W

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, 2010**

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, 2010 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 10 -044. dns

Distribution of Environmental Document:

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia
Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Columbia River Basin Field Office, Spokane
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle
NOAA - Fisheries, Seattle
Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Yakima County Planning Department, Yakima
Yakama Nation, Toppenish
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, Portland, OR
Department of Transportation, So. Central Region, Yakima
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