



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: COWLITZ WILDLIFE AREA BEAVER DAM BREACH – SPEARS UNIT

Description of Proposal: This site is owned by Tacoma Power and managed by the WDFW as wildlife mitigation lands. The beaver dam is impounding approximately 3 feet of water. Permitting is in place to breach a berm that has also been identified as contributing to the problem. Breaching the beaver dam may eliminate the need to breach the berm which has a greater environmental impact through the removal of established vegetation and excavation. As per the preferred method, the breaching will be done slowly in stages to prevent scouring and debris flows. The breaching will be conducted with a DNR labor crew and hand tools to allow better control of the drawdown. Staff will observe the site during water drawdown to prevent fish kill and to watch for redds. The finished project will further the overall objectives of restoring fish passage to the upper Siler Creek watershed, restoration of a diverse vegetation population and the suppression of the dominant reed canarygrass.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Cowlitz Wildlife Area
PO BOX 758
Morton, WA 98356
360.496.6263

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Cowlitz Wildlife Area's Spears Unit, Washington, Lewis County; Northeast 1/4 of Section 20, Township 12 North, Range 07 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 **August 3, 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: July 20, 2010 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 10 -058. dns