



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: USK HATCHERY WATER RIGHT APPLICATION

Description of Proposal:

This SEPA document solely addresses the water right application process, and is a non-project action. The purpose of the water rights is to redevelop the old Usk Hatchery into a native fish conservation facility. The water right will allow diversion of water for operation of the facility. Since the use is non-consumptive, all water will be returned to the creek. The facility once operated as a trout fish hatchery with valid a state water right, but it has been inoperable for many years. If water rights are re-established and the site is feasible for the intended purpose; proposed future redevelopment, operation, and maintenance of the facility will fulfill a mitigation obligation in the Settlement Agreement for the Boundary Dam, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing. This facility will be used for the purpose of native fish species conservation and recovery in tributaries to the Pend Oreille River basin. Water from an un-named spring and Skookum Creek will be used to propagate fish as well as sustain fish that are held at the facility. The proposed redeveloped facility may cover up to two acres of a forty-acres site owned by WDFW

Proponent/Applicant:

John Whalen, Fish Program
2315 North Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: 3.5 miles east of city of USK Washington, Pend Oreille County; Section 22, Township 33 North, Range 44 East WM
Parcel No. 443322220001

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 **January 20, 2011**

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>

- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

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://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> 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: January 6, 2011 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 10 -097. dns