



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: WATER CROSSING STRUCTURES (BRIDGES, CULVERTS, ETC) GUIDELINES

Description of Proposal:

This is a non-project proposal. State law requires fish passage and the protection of fishlife (RCW 77.57.030 and WAC 220-110-070, among others). The Water Crossing Design Guidelines were written to help the crossing owner and designer comply with these laws. They are recommendations on the design of water crossings for fish passage and habitat protection, to avoid or minimize impacts to fishlife. The Guidelines were written by the Dept of Fish and Wildlife, and others, and will be published through the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines program.

Water crossings are structures that allow roads to cross over rivers and streams, usually by means of bridges or culverts. This includes all roads from Interstate and State Highways, county and municipal roads, forest and farm roads, and vehicle access and driveways on public and private lands. Inappropriately designed bridges and culverts can prevent fish passage and deleteriously impact fish habitat, exacerbate flooding and cause streambank erosion. They can interfere with movement of water, stream sediments and wood in normal stream processes. In a successful suit filed by Washington Treaty Tribes against the State of Washington, inappropriately designed culverts were found to impact fishery resources and the State is required to replace barrier culverts using design recommendations like those found in these guidelines.

Most recent Draft of the guidelines is available on WDFW SEPA web site:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.html

Proponent/Applicant:

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Location of Proposal: Statewide waters, Washington State

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 **December 21, 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: Bob Zeigler

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 Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: December 6, 2011

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 11 -.093