

## Columbia County Response #12-2012 AND WDFW REPLY

**From:** Richard Hendricksen [Richard\_Hendricksen@co.columbia.wa.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 15, 2012 9:24 AM  
**To:** SEPADesk2 (DFW)  
**Cc:** Olson, Theodore (ECY); Sikes, Jeremy (ECY)  
**Subject:** RE: #12-012 MDNS Wooten WA Floodplain Restoration

Mr. Karl:

1. We would appreciate receiving copies of any existing or proposed documents, studies, plans, etc. related to watersheds in Columbia County.
2. The SEPA checklist (8-l) mentions consultation with Columbia Co. on land use and SEPA issues. We assume that means early consultation prior to determination of lead agency status and preparation of a checklist as encouraged by SEPA. It should be noted that this consultation did not happen. It appears this project is located inside the boundary of the National Forest; should not the Forest Service also be included in discussion of existing land use plans?
3. The Checklist should discuss local land use and environmental planning and permits including comprehensive plan, zoning and development regulations (including Critical Areas Ordinance, Shoreline Master Plan and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and related permits) and building codes (related demolition permits required by the IBC for any structure removal).
4. Sec 8-f; "what is current Comprehensive Plan designation of the site": this question refers to the to the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan not to the item mentioned.
5. You have completed the Section for "Non-Project" actions. As far as we can see this is a "Project" action. A Non-Project action would be the adoption of the Wooten Wildlife Area Floodplain Management Plan referred to.
6. How does this project related to and how is it consistent with the; Columbia County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan; Columbia county Comprehensive Water Plan for WRAs 32, 33, and 35; existing Tucannon River Watershed Plan; TDML report for the Tucannon River and Pataha Creek; and the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ord., Critical Areas Ordinance, Shoreline Master Plan and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance?
7. Sec A.9 regarding other applications and permits for government approvals; in addition to potential Columbia County applications and permits, (demolition, shoreline, flood plain and critical areas) are there not federal (corps and FW) permits applicable? What approvals have been received from the Forest Service and what is their roll in the project?

We suggest that in planning future projects all parties be brought together for early consultation.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Richard Hendricksen, AICP

WDFW REPLY **From:** Karl, David B (DFW) **Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:27 PM

**To:** Richard\_Hendricksen@co.columbia.wa.us

**Cc:** Grandstaff, Mark (DFW); Zeigler, Robert C (DFW); Olson, Theodore (ECY); Sikes, Jeremy (ECY)

**Subject:** SEPA #12-012 MDNS Wooten WA Floodplain Restoration

Richard,

I am going to try to address your SEPA comments/questions in order, so I've used the corresponding numbers.

1. This is a general request for documentation that Columbia County should already have, however documentation specifically related to the proposed projects is being distributed next week in the JARPA for these projects. Columbia County was involved with Watershed Planning WRIA 35&32, Model Watershed Plans, Subbasin Planning, and Snake River Salmon Recovery Planning. The Snake River Board includes Columbia County Commissioner, Dick Jones. If there are specific documents, studies, etc. that I can help you retain, I'd be glad to assist.
2. The projects are located on WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area, and for that reason WDFW has Lead Agency Status (RCW 43.21C.110; WAC 197-11-050, 197-11-926). The United States Forest Service is a project partner, and has been involved in development and design of the project. Consultation with Columbia County was reference to permit consultation intended to take place for the project. I'm hoping to get the JARPA applications to all of the permit agencies by the end of next week. I was planning on scheduling a meeting to discuss County permitting after you received that application.
3. The landuse on the State Wildlife Area is recreation and conservation. The projects are both part of the 10 year and 3 year plan for salmon restoration projects for the Snake Region Salmon Recovery Board. Restoring river function and natural channel migration, removing infrastructure from and restoring floodplain is a central principle in any of the plans and ordinances that you have listed. WDFW is a partner in these planning processes and dedicated to implementing restoration of critical habitats, floodplain, riparian, and shorelines on State owned properties. WDFW staff has contacted Columbia County staff regarding building codes and demolition of buildings prior to development of the related project.
4. Please advise us on the current designation under the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan.

5. The non-project section was completed, because originally WDFW intended on including the development of the Wooten Wildlife Area Floodplain Management Plan (WWAFMP). We decided to include mention of the WWAFMP but address the plan in a separate SEPA. I should have deleted the non-project section.
6. All of the plans listed are focused on the function and health of the watershed. The proposed projects are designed to improve natural functions and connections between the river and the floodplain. The current condition of the river is generally incised and confined. The LWD project will initiate roughness and structure within the channel to encourage aggradation and restore connection with the floodplain. Additionally, the stream habitat will increase in complexity and retain more water, nutrients, and sediments to improve water quality and primary production. Reconnection of the river and floodplain will help distribute energy from high flows out onto the floodplain rather than being focused in a confined channel. Secondary channels will become activated encouraging channel migration and increasing available habitat for Fish and Wildlife. The LWD project is using whole trees to reduce the distance that the trees will move in the channel. Tree length is the primary key for stability followed by mass and complexity (branches), whole trees have all of these features and will be selected based on the WA State Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines (SHRG). Constructed Engineered Log Jams will be built at the downstream end of the project reach to manage trees or materials that move further than anticipated. There are no major bridges or private property within 5-6 miles of the project, the project is being done in a remote reach of the Tucannon River on the Wildlife Area. The Hartsock Project will remove an old Quonset hut, Bunkhouse, various impervious concrete pads, and 2 obsolete culverts from the floodplain. Also the project will restore the area to native grasses and shrubs. The project goal is to open floodplain and allow natural processes to restore the area back into riparian wetland habitats.
7. There are a number of permits required for the project, both Federal and State. ESA consultation, USACE 404 permit, WDOE water quality Certification, WDFW HPA, Cultural Resource Permit, and County permits. All of the permits are in process or will be applied for next week. The USFS is a project partner and have offered trees that have blown down in an existing timber sale area on the Umatilla National Forest. Please advise us on the specific permits you believe Columbia County will be requiring so that we can include them in the project application (JARPA).

Dave Karl

WDFW Watershed Steward, Region 1 Snake

1340 N 13<sup>th</sup> Ave Walla Walla, WA 99362

(509) 527-4138