



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: SCOTT DITCH FISH SCREENING PROJECT

Description of Proposal:

The proposed project will replace an outdated, poorly functioning fish screen that does not meet WDFW or NOAA Fisheries criteria for the protection of fish life. The existing drum screen and paddle wheel will be removed from Scott Ditch at the completion of the irrigation season (sometime in October) and a horizontal flat plate fish screen (Farmers Screen Alliance-FSA) will replace it. The majority of the construction will occur within the existing Scott Ditch channel. The check dam in South Naches Channel will be updated to have higher walls and a new concrete center pier with angle iron for dam boards; this work will require a temporary stream bypass in the channel during construction. The existing dike upstream of the Scott Ditch checkdam will be raised by about one foot for roughly 110 feet along the left bank of the South Naches Channel to prevent it from overtopping at high flows. This slight raise in water surface elevation is required to operate the fish screen at WDFW and NOAA Fisheries criteria. Additionally, the fish bypass pipe will be buried through a pasture to return fish back to South Naches Channel. In order to bring in the appropriate equipment to complete this project, the existing bridge crossing South Naches Channel will need reinforced; no work within the OHWM is expected for this work. An access road will be improved to the fish screen site to minimize ground disturbance and minimize mud being tracked to and from the construction area. Scott Ditch serves irrigators near the town of Naches. The point of diversion is located on private property. WDFW and Yakama Nation are working cooperatively with landowners, irrigators, and the South Naches Irrigation District to complete this important fish screening project.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Yakama Nation Fisheries

Henry Fraser, Yakama Nation Fisheries, 201 North Pearl Street, Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 933-1210

Pat Schille, WDFW, 3705 W. Washington Avenue, Yakima, WA 98903
509-575-2735

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: 500 Craig Road, Naches, Washington, Yakima County; Southeast 1/4 of Section 4, Township 14 North, Range 17 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 9, 2012**

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: July 24, 2012

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 12 -056. dns