



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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March 25, 2013

Mr. Matt Mattson
Tribal Administrator
Snoqualmie Tribe
8130 Railroad Avenue
PO Box 969
Snoqualmie, Washington 98065

Dear Mr. Mattson,

Thank you for your letter regarding the SEPA Determination of Non-significance (DNS) issued January 4, 2013 for the Tokul Creek Hatchery Intake Diversion Dam and Fishway Replacement. You have raised a number of questions therefore this reply will sequence our response in the same order as the points you have raised:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has added the contact information to our SEPA contact list for any projects that occur in your area. We will confirm the list we have with you in separate correspondence through the agency's SEPA Responsible Official Robert Zeigler.

The anticipated capital budget requests for the Tokul Creek hatchery were posted incorrectly at the WDFW website. The total for all Tokul Creek proposed projects, is just over five million dollars. Of that \$5 million, \$3.7 million is budgeted for this fish passage and intake improvement project. The posting at the website has been updated.

The focus of the Tokul Creek Intake/Fishway Replacement project is to provide fish passage and improvements at the intake designed to benefit all fish near the facility. This project is the agency's on-going response to a 2003 Settlement Agreement between the Wild Fish Conservancy (formerly Washington Trout). Since the "Section 206 / Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)" project devolved into a WDFW-alone capital project, the agency has kept the project and funding requests going forward to the State Legislature. Adequate funding for project construction became available in the summer of 2012 and thus the environmental review under SEPA began on a project viewed as generally beneficial for fish.

The diversion dam, the third project component, was under consideration for removal in the original Section 206 project. This dam is in large measure now responsible for controlling movements of the streambed and its destabilization is a significant concern to the Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The Army Corps of Engineers Hydraulic and Sediment Analysis of Sediment Transport of Dam Removal at Tokul Creek Fish Hatchery (2004) references this concern and is attached with DOT's Tokul Creek Dam Removal: Review of USACE Analysis/Impacts to the WSDOT Infrastructure and Available Countermeasures (2005).

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WDFW considered your suggestion to transfer the facility to the Snoqualmie Tribe. Although WDFW appreciates the suggestion, WDFW is not actively seeking such an action.

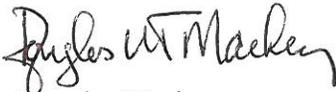
WDFW has gone through an exhaustive review process of our hatcheries with federal agencies and the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG). That review process has led to operational changes implemented at Tokul Creek Hatchery to reduce the impacts of steelhead programs on natural populations and to prioritization of capital improvement projects to provide unimpeded access to additional habitat for Chinook salmon. The operational changes include elimination of off-station planting of steelhead smolts and a reduction since 2008 in hatchery steelhead released into the Snoqualmie River from 250,000 to 150,000 smolts.

Since the submission of the HGMP for Tokul Creek Hatchery Steelhead in 2002, WDFW has been in consultation with NMFS regarding changes to programs or operations. These ongoing consultations informed the SEPA review and led to a determination of nonsignificance for this project. Currently, WDFW is in the process of submitting to NMFS updated HGMPs.

WDFW has considered your comments regarding the project's potential to have a significant adverse impact and believes the project will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that it has been properly evaluated under the State Environmental Policy Act.

Please write or call if you would like to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



Douglas Mackey
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
(360) 902-8380

Enclosures:

Hydraulic and Sediment Analysis of Sediment Transport of Dam Removal at Tokul Creek Fish Hatchery (2004)
Tokul Creek Dam Removal: Review of USACE Analysis/Impacts to the WSDOT Infrastructure and Available Countermeasures (2005)