

Revision Tuesday, July 02, 2013

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**Island Unit – Deepwater Slough**  
**Ditch Cleaning Maintenance Plan**  
July 2013

This is a request to determine the permitting necessary to perform agricultural ditch maintenance work on the Island Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area. The Island Unit is a farmed island in the delta of the South Fork of the Skagit River. The Island has two lobes connected by a bridge over Deepwater Slough. It is bounded by Freshwater Slough on the west, Steamboat Slough on the east and dissected by Deepwater Slough. The Island Unit is managed by the Wildlife – Lands Program of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide agricultural and fresh water wetland enhancements for over wintering waterfowl habitat and hunter recreational access.

The Island Unit is under an 1135 Maintenance Agreement with the Corp of Engineers as a result of the implementation of the Deepwater Slough Restoration project. Under this 1135 agreement, after taking ownership of the project, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife agreed to maintain the dike and drainage infrastructure to a standard described in the document. It is also agreed that for any in water work WDFW would consult with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Washington State Department of Ecology, and Skagit County as well as WDFW habitat program.

**Maintenance activities:** This proposal is perform ditch maintenance cleaning on approximately 30,350 linear feet of drainage ditches and to clean and replace 8 interior field culverts. This ditch maintenance work is being done to improve the drainage system function. Ditch maintenance includes the removal of sediment, plant material and woody debris that impede the movement of water in the ditch network to the tidegate system. The maps attached ditches and culverts to be cleaned during this maintenance project.

**Equipment to be used:**

Two long reach track excavators for removal of debris and materials. An excavator or bulldozer would be used to spread dredge spoils at the field edges once dried and consolidated.

**Location:**

The Island Unit-Deepwater Slough is located south by south west of the community of Conway in the delta of the South fork of the Skagit River. It is in the very southern portion of the Lower Skagit Watershed.

**Timing of activity:**

Work to be completed July 2013 to September 2013. The work is estimated to take 2-3 weeks once equipment is mobilized. No work will be done within 300 feet of tidegate.

**Dredge spoil disposal:**

Rough estimate the amount of materials that will be dredged is 3,000 cubic yards of material over 30,350 linear feet of ditch.

Materials removed from drainage ditches will be deposited at field edges and incorporated into the fields once the materials dry. Areas designate on the maps in white.













