



**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

**MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (MDNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** MDNS #13-074 SOOS CREEK FISH HATCHERY REDEVELOPMENT

**Description of Proposal:**

The first phase includes redevelopment of the critical functions of hatchery operation that are located in or immediately adjacent to Soos Creek. The second phase includes the remaining important elements of the hatchery operation. The third phase completes the redevelopment with support facilities such as staff housing and public amenities that serve visitor needs.

The project will first replace the in-water structures including construction of a new water intake, new adult pond, and creation of a fish ladder. The existing lumber shed will be demolished and removed. The northern bridge across Soos Creek will be widened and elevated and include improvements with timber curbs and hand railing.

Once the new fish ladder, adult ponds, and intake prove fully functional the existing adult pond, diversion dam, intake facility, and downstream weir of the adult pond will be removed. Soos Creek will be restored at the location of the existing adult pond to historic bankfull widths. The upstream weir will be reconstructed with new materials to retain the diversion dam function with a tainter-gate allowing for fish migration up- and down-stream approximately 6 weeks/year. Riparian restoration of the areas impacted by removal of the former in- and near-water structures will be conducted directly upon their removal to complete the first phase of redevelopment.

Redevelopment of the remainder of the fish rearing facilities will follow, in a second phase, including construction of a hatchery building (with incubation racks, rearing troughs, and offices), fish feed storage building, an abatement pond, two water-system settling ponds, and two sets of rearing ponds. Once the new ponds (abatement, settling, and rearing) prove fully functional the outdated southern rearing ponds shall be restored to wetland habitat suitable for the likely hydrology and soils regime that will be established in this location. Demolition of the hatchery buildings and other structures, with the exception of existing rearing ponds 1-8, the storage garage, and the maintenance building, are scheduled for removal during this phase. The remaining areas, mostly within the jurisdictional shoreline area, shall be enhanced with a native vegetative community commensurate with the natural area of this shoreline environment.

The final phase of construct consists of two staff residences and public amenities. Demolition of the old Auburn Maintenance Buildings including: main maintenance building, lumber shed, equipment storage building, and another storage building will occur followed by construct of two residences, parking areas, kiosks, restrooms, paved connections and enhancement and restoration to a substantial portion of former Soos Creek Fish Hatchery.

**The proponent shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:**

The three-part project has been planned methodically to avoid actions that cause adverse environmental effects. Even with efforts to minimize impacts, several components were down-sized, there remain unavoidable impacts that require mitigation. The redevelopment has been sequenced to assure that the development impacts occurring in each phase includes mitigation, listed below, that more than adequately addresses these impacts.

#### Phase I

- A. Removal of in-stream adult pond to an adjacent upland location,
- B. Installation of a fish ladder to allow up-stream migrating fish to access the hatchery adult pond and up-stream habitat when released to through return conduit,
- C. Enhancement and/or restoration of riparian zones associated with the former hatchery near-stream facilities, including these areas:
  - 1. existing adult pond, including all of the lower weir (footings, etc.), and
  - 2. existing intake facility, including removal of the diversion dam.
- D. Endangered species, cultural and historical resource considerations shall be fully addressed and mitigation specific to the in-water, and near-water, work proscribed in concert with US Army Corps of Engineers, the Muckleshoot Tribe, the Services (NMFS & USFWS), King County and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Two listed species are reared in this hatchery: Puget Sound Chinook and Puget Sound steelhead trout. The federal and state environmental review processes include cultural and historical resource considerations.

#### Phase II

- A. Remove southern rearing ponds and restored the whole area to wetland habitat suitable for this location. This restoration plan must be completed prior the construction of any new rearing pond; and shall be a required component of the permitting, notably under King County's SMP, prior to Phase II approval. A preliminary restoration plan for Phase II will be included in Phase I reviews.
- B. The hatchery buildings and other structures shall be properly evaluated and inventoried as with regard to their historical significance. A Historic Property Evaluation shall be conducted.
- C. Where structures have been removed, including paved areas, areas shall be enhanced with a native vegetative community commensurate with the natural area of this shoreline environment. As stated above, this enhancement plan must be finalized prior the construction or demolition of any structures; and will be a required component of the permitting with preliminary restoration plans included in Phase I reviews.

#### Phase III

- A. Where structures have been removed, including paved areas, areas shall be enhanced with a native vegetative community commensurate with the natural area of this shoreline environment.
- B. Preliminary restoration plans will be included in Phase I and Phase II reviews with an adequate level of detail to afford public and permit reviewers to determine that mitigation requirements are being met.

#### **Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Douglas Mackey

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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** WDFW Soos Creek Hatchery Washington State, King County; North East ¼ of Section 16, Township 21N, Range 05E; 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 law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS).

WDFW made this mitigated determination of nonsignificance (MDNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this MDNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the MDNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or MDNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **November 13, 2013**.

**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](mailto: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.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this MDNS 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: October 28, 2013**

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

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