



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 14-027: TURNBULL NWR HORNER MEADOW WETLAND RESTORATION

Description of Proposal:

Restoration of the Horner Meadow by removing sediment, recontouring palustrine wetland areas, and restoring forested wetlands at the indicated locations (see attached map) will enhance and restore the wetland values of this drained wetland area. This project will benefit numerous species of native plants and wildlife. Recent work of this type in other refuge wetlands has been very successful.

This project will use North American Water Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds to restore and enhance approximately 14 acres of palustrine emergent wetland through 2.8 acres of excavations to increase water depth in a portion of the wetland basin and restoration of 2.1 acres of forested wetland. A total of 4 dugouts will be excavated to a depth of 3-4 feet within the wetland basin with a shoreline slope of 4:1. Spoil from excavations will be deposited on 2 adjacent upland areas and contoured to a depth of 1-2 feet for a total of 4.4 acres. These areas will be reseeded to native shrubs and grass. The 2.1 acres of forested wetlands will be restored through plantings of 800 container grown native tree stock and construction of 0.75 miles of fencing to protect plantings from browsing by deer, elk and moose.

The project area consists of a seasonal wetland basin that was drained approximately 90 years ago by construction of a central drainage ditch and excavation of an uncontrolled outlet at the southern end of the basin. Currently the basin consists of a mixture of native and non-native grasses and forbs with reed canarygrass being the dominant species. Prior to refuge acquisition in 2004, the basin was hayed annually and then grazed by livestock. Haying was the predominant use for approximately 50 years. Prior to this time period the entire wetland basin had been farmed post drainage. Farming of the drained wetlands of this portion of the Channeled Scablands typically involved disking to a depth of 18 inches and planting to cereal grains for several years before conversion to timothy grass pasture and hay meadows.

Proponent/Applicant: US Fish and Wildlife Service
Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
Contact: Dan Matiatos, Manager
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Cheney, WA 99004
(509) 235-4723
Dan_matiatos@fws.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, about 5 miles south of Cheney, Spokane County, Washington: Township 22N, Range 42E, Section 4.

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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on May 1, 2014**.

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: Lisa Wood

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 Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: April 16, 2014

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 14-027.dns