



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: DNS 14-065: SAMISH WILDLIFE UNIT ENHANCEMENT

Description of Proposal:

The Samish Unit Enhancement project will improve the drainage system at the Samish Unit, allowing WDFW to effectively manage water on the 409 acre site for wildlife and agricultural purposes.

Ducks Unlimited and WDFW will install 10 flow control structures in existing ditches, build ditch plugs, maintain existing ditches, and will add/ improve pipes, swales, and ditches between the duck ponds which will allow water to be impounded in a portion of the property while better draining other portions. This will allow a field rotation between flooded conditions and agriculture which should improve soil health, provide more bird habitat, and facilitate more sustainable agriculture. The project will also give managers the ability to mimic seasonal wetland patterns and wetland plant communities in diked, ditched, and farmed fields. The project will benefit many species of plants and wildlife, but is specifically targeted to benefit waterfowl.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Loren Brokaw
16018 Mill Creek Blvd
Mill Creek, WA 98012
(425) 775-1311
Loren.Brokaw@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Samish Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area, along Samish Island Road, near Bow, Skagit County, Washington: Township 35N, Ranges 2 and 3 E, Sections 1, 6, 7, and 12.

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 September 26, 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: September 11, 2014

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 14-065.dns