From: Tom Kearns
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW)
Subject: Comment on SEPA No. 14072
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2014 6:53:37 AM

Dredging of the boat ramp at Skagit Wildlife Area Headquarters is a recurring maintenance project needing to be done every year or so. The ramp is difficult to access the water at all tide levels, the concrete rebar is exposed causing tire damage and when silted in, the angle of the ramp does not allow the boat to float off the trailer without excessive human work and exposure to unsafe conditions.

The root problem is the placement and angle of the boat ramp. The present ramp is too far up the channel from Freshwater Slough, and the angle of the ramp is not steep enough. Both conditions, especially with silt build-up, render the ramp unusable at lower tide levels. If the ramp were rebuilt with a steeper angle and placed closer to the Slough, the need for periodic dredging would be largely eliminated. The ramp has reached its useful life.

The Department is spending maintenance funds every few years to continue a bad and unpopular situation rather than solving the problem. In addition to conducting the dredging proposed here, WDFW should construct a replacement boat ramp that would be more useful to the public and less expensive to maintain. The life cycle cost would be less as well.

Thank you.

Tom Kearns

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