



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 15-019: CHEWUCH RIVER RIGHT HABITAT RESTORATION

#### **Description of Proposal:**

The Yakama Nation, in partnership with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), is proposing to improve riparian and instream habitat function along the Chewuch River from river mile 11.75 to 13. Specific activities associated with this proposal include the following:

- Installation of Engineered Log Structures (ELS's) in and adjacent to the Chewuch River
- Installation of Engineered Log Cover Habitat in and adjacent to the Chewuch River
- Side Channel excavation and pool habitat development
- Wetland development
- Replanting of native grasses, shrubs, and trees in disturbed areas with some expanded riparian buffer.

As a habitat restoration project, our design is meant to improve ecological conditions within the project area by creating additional wetland habitat, improving vegetation conditions within existing wetlands, and adding habitat complexity via large wood installations that benefit wildlife utilizing the wetland areas.

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

We will use a combination of best management practices to minimize the potential for sediment production and delivery to water channel:

- Timing construction activities to avoid earth disturbances during periods of high precipitation;
- Follow a dewatering plan: dewatering pumps, silt screens, check dams, and coffer dams (constructed of super-sac will be filled with WDFW spawning gravel mix);
- Use of straw bales, silt fencing, and berms where needed;
- Implement Revegetation Plan: Bare soils will be aggressively planted with native trees, and shrubs, and hydro-seeded with a straw mulch/native grass/herbaceous mix to prevent bare soil erosion post construction;
- Cover exposed soil stockpiles and slopes;
- Monitor downstream turbidity, during construction to document the effectiveness of implemented measures; and
- Construct temporary sedimentation ponds to detain run-off waters where appropriate.
- Confined work areas will allow access for any fish removal utilizing the "Fish Capture Protocol" identified in the Programmatic Biological Assessment Restoration Actions in Washington State;
- Known spawning Areas are being avoided
- Herptile salvage and removal for access routes and construction sites will remain an ongoing action during construction

#### Public Notification:

- A temporary sign has been placed on the property since July, 2014, explaining the campground will be closed during July, August, and September 2015. Additionally, the sign

- provides a web address to gather more information about the project;
- Yakama Nation Web site provides additional project information;
- An article in the Newspaper will notify the public of the timing and project;
- Temporary Constructions traffic signs will be erected;
- Construction fencing will be place were appropriate;
- Public safety checklist developed;
- Adaptive Management Plan developed

Equipment:

- Equipment will be cleaned prior to entering the Chewuch Basin;
- Equipment will be fueled more than 150 feet away from any body of water;
- An oil spill containment kit will be onsite;
- Equipment working in the water will have non-toxic hydraulic fluid.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Yakama Nation

Contact: JoDe L Goudy, Chairman  
PO Box 151 Fort Road  
Toppenish, WA 98948  
(509) 865-5121

Contact: Chris Butler, Habitat Fisheries Biologist  
14 Piney Woods Road  
Twisp, WA 98856  
(509) 996-5005  
[butlerc@yakamafish-nsn.gov](mailto:butlerc@yakamafish-nsn.gov)

**Location of Proposal:** Chewuch River between river miles 11.75 and 13 between East Chewuch Road and West Chewuch Road, north of Winthrop, Okanogan County, Washington: Township 36N, Range 21E, Sections 13 and 24.

**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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on March 31, 2015**.

**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:** 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.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this MDNS 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:** March 17, 2015

**SIGNATURE:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Wood".

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 15-019.mdns