



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 15-021: NF LEWIS RIVER CHUM SPAWNING CHANNEL

Description of Proposal:

This project will create a spawning channel for chum salmon in the Lewis River. The channel will be 1,400 feet long, fifteen feet at the deepest end and vary in width from 10 feet to 14 feet. Gravel specifically designed for spawning chum will be installed in the channel. Instream flow from upwelling ground water in the new channel is expected to provide preferred habitat for chum spawning and rearing habitat.

To supplement upwelling groundwater a gravity fed infiltration gallery will be installed at the north end of the constructed channel. Surface water will be introduced from the Lewis River through underground pipes into the infiltration gallery. The underground pipe design includes 160 linear feet of buried 16 inch well screen intake pipe adjacent to the river leading into an underground 24 inch conveyance pipe, terminating into the chum channel. Other project elements include a cleanout riser, trash rack, reinforcing riprap, and three control weirs.

Large wood material will be installed across the north end of the channel to protect the intake structure and additional wood will be placed in the floodplain. Overstory and instream habitat at the project site will have a minimum of disruption or alteration beyond the extent required to undertake the proposed project. Restorative plantings will be done in any disturbed upland areas.

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

- Construction work will be entirely isolated from the NF Lewis River. All work, including earthwork will be completed as quickly as possible and operate to minimize disturbance. All excavation will be performed in isolation from live water using cofferdams. The majority of the channel will be excavated before the ends are excavated and the channel is connected to the river.
- Excavated materials will be placed in an upland location completely isolated from the river. Disturbed soils will be stabilized and protected from erosion by mulching, plastic sheeting, sodding, hydro-seeding, erosion control fabrics according to the stormwater plan or other approved measures. Soil compaction will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- Temporary material stockpiling will be located on site more than 150 feet away from the river or adjacent wetland. Stockpiled materials will also be covered with plastic to prevent erosion. Any toxicants (creosote, oil, cement, concrete, and equipment wash water) construction debris, overburden, and other waste materials will be disposed of at an approved facility. Temporary fill materials will not be stockpiled in areas where it could affect sensitive areas or change drainage patterns.
- Only materials meeting project specifications will be placed in the spawning channel. The completed project will not introduce any chemical or material pollution to any water source or wetland. No foreign materials will enter any waterway or wetland. Spill kits will be on site should an accidental spill occur. Water quality will be monitored as approved by permitting

agencies. After construction activities are completed water will be reintroduced slowly to the new channel.

- After construction water quality in the NF Lewis River could be temporarily affected after the coffer dams have been removed. Turbidity could temporarily increase when water from the spawning channel enters the river for the first time. To avoid the introduction of sediment to the NF Lewis River, rewatering the coffered area will be done in a slow measured manner to prevent a sudden downstream release of sediment laden water. The downstream end of the coffer dam will be removed first followed by partial removal of the upstream end. One quarter to one third of the flow will be introduced into the dewatered area and allowed to settle. Once flows are no longer subsurface, partial removal of the coffer dam will continue in stages that release an additional one quarter of one third of the flow until the barrier is completely removed. The complete rewatering process will occur in one day between sunrise and sunset to ensure adequate light for the safe and efficient inspection of the block nets around the coffer dam, and removal of any entrained fish.
- Best Management Practices (BMP) will be implemented to minimize foreign material or erosion introduced from storm water or construction waste materials from entering any aquatic area, water source, or wetland. Water quality testing will be performed according to permit regulations. Water quality standards will be met before water reaches the NF Lewis River as required by regulatory agencies. If high flow conditions inundate the project area or construction activities increase turbidity affecting water quality, construction operations will cease and the cause of exceedance will be recorded. Construction will not continue until corrective actions have been implemented or flood flow conditions cease. Water quality will be monitored as required by permit regulations.
- When vegetation is removed it will be cut off at ground level, not grubbed. Clearing limits will be clearly marked and soil disturbance, tree removal, and trimming and removal will be kept to a minimum. Dust abatement measures may be used as approved by permitting agencies if necessary considering the soil type, equipment usage, prevailing wind direction, and the effects caused by other erosion or sediment control measures. Petroleum based products will not be used for dust abatement.
- Buffers will be placed around wetlands and sensitive riparian habitats. Excavated materials will be staged uplands in a fill area as designated in the permit drawings and conducted as specified in the storm water pollution prevention plan to prevent erosion.
- Any groundwater seepage into the construction area will be pumped to an upland location, filtered, and then treated by allowing the water to infiltrate over undisturbed ground. Water quality will be monitored according to permit requirements.
- Approximately 2,000 lf of existing unpaved access roads and paths will be used for construction with approximately 1,700 lf decommissioned at project completion. The remaining 300 lf will remain for future monitoring and management activities. There will be no paved surfaces created as a result of this project. At project completion restoration plantings will be done to minimize erosion, stabilize banks, access roadways and to prevent effects from erosion from impacting the spawning channel or the NF Lewis River.

2. Air

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Cindy Knudsen
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 902-8422
Cindy.Knudsen@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal: North Fork Lewis River, northeast of Woodland, Clark County, Washington: Township 5N, Range 1E, Section 9.

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 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.² 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 April 23, 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
- 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 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: April 9, 2015

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 15-021.mdns