



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 15-023: SPEARS UNIT MILL SITE PROJECT

Description of Proposal:

The Spears Unit of the Cowlitz Wildlife Area was purchased by Tacoma Power and is managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide recreational opportunities and mitigation for the habitat losses due to the inundation caused by the hydroelectric project on the Cowlitz River. The project consists of allowing agencies such as DOT, City of Morton and Lewis County to dispose of fill from such activities as ditch cleaning and slide debris removal on a 7 acre upland portion of the wildlife area. The area where the disposal will occur consists of upland ground, on previously disturbed soils and the soils are heavily compacted from years of equipment use and mill operations. The upland nature of the site is likely anthropogenic as the surrounding lands are much lower in elevation suggesting the site consists of fill material from the excavation of the mill pond and possibly other offsite sources. The fill material will be used to fill the interior of the mill foundations removing the hazard of injury from an accidental fall.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) –
Cowlitz Wildlife Area
Contact: Mark Grabski or Richard Vanderlip
PO Box 758
Morton, WA 98356
(360) 496-6223 or (360) 496-6263

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The project is located on the Spears Unit of the Cowlitz Wildlife Area in East Lewis County about a mile south of the town of Randle on Highway 131, Lewis County, Washington: Township 20N, Range 12E, Section 20.

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 April 20, 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 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 6, 2015

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 15-023.dns