



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N Monroe Street • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509)329-3400

May 1, 2015

Ms. Lisa Wood
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
WDFW Regulatory Services Section
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Re: Stolp Obstruction Removal Project, File # 15-024

Dear Ms. Wood:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Determination of Nonsignificance regarding the proposal to remove reed canary grass and sediment along 1,350 feet of Rock Creek (Proponent-Dean Stolp). The Department of Ecology has reviewed the documents and submits the following comments:

Air Quality Program

The applicant must evaluate alternatives to burning natural vegetation after it has been cleared from the land. If the applicant plans to burn any vegetation after it has been cleared, please call Kary Peterson at (509) 329-3523 prior to burning. If it is determined that burning is allowed, an Ecology burn permit is required. In Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), burning vegetation after it's been cleared is not allowed. Burning construction or demolition materials is not allowed. All non-vegetative debris must be disposed in a non-thermal, legal manner.

You can find more information about outdoor burning, UGAs, burn permit applications, and more by visiting Ecology's Outdoor Burning website at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/outdoor_woodsmoke/residentialburn.htm or by calling Kary Peterson at (509) 329-3523.

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program-Wetlands

While agricultural ditching does not usually require state and federal permitting, certain methods must be followed to avoid 1) draining or filling farmed wetlands (found adjacent to the creek), and 2) over-excavating the channel. Both can negatively impact downstream water quality. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) requires "clean excavation" methods to be followed using

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a bucket, thereby preventing sediment from falling back into the creek to the maximum extent possible.

To complete the project, you will need the following information, provided in a Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA):

- Exact cubic yards of material to be removed from creek
- Current and proposed stream elevations
- Extent of wetlands (both farmed and reverted) associated with the creek (wetland delineation)
- Description of the methods to move the sediments into uplands without impacting farmed or reverted wetlands (includes methods to prevent runoff from spoil pile back into creek or wetlands)
- Determination of loss of wetlands and amount of fill into wetlands (if avoidance is not possible)

Both a Corps and Ecology permit (which would require mitigation) is necessary for any fill placed into wetlands and for any proposal that would reduce the wetland area. Permitting is required for any work outside of the farmed wetland boundary (determined through the delineation). The applicant must follow the same methods (“clean excavation”, stabilization of spoils runoff) and adhere to the proposed excavated stream profiles agreed on by the agencies as if it was permitted.

Please contact David Moore at (509) 329-3474 or at david.moore@ecy.wa.gov for more information.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Ecology’s comments are based upon the information submitted for review. As such, they do not constitute an exhaustive list of the various authorizations that must be obtained or legal requirements that must be fulfilled in order to carry out the proposed action.

Sincerely,
Cindy Anderson for:



Terri Costello
SEPA Coordinator
Phone: (509)329-3550
Email: temi461@ecy.wa.gov

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cc: Dean Stolp