



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 16-005: SKAMOKOWA GROUNDWATER CHUM SPAWNING CHANNELS

Description of Proposal:

This project is designed to increase the availability of high quality spawning conditions specifically for environmentally Threatened chum salmon in the lower Columbia River region. Completion of the channels will result in a no net loss of habitat functions.

Two sites will have channels constructed on them. The downstream channel will be located on the McNally property and will be 725 feet long and 10 feet wide. The upstream channel on Emlen/DNR property will be 500 feet long and the width will vary between 4 and 6 feet in the lower 200 feet of the channel and 8 feet for the upper 300 feet of channel. Gravel specifically designed for spawning chum will be installed in both channels. Instream flow from upwelling groundwater in the new channel is expected to provide preferred habitat for chum spawning and rearing habitat.

Overstory and instream habitat at the project sites will have a minimum of disruption or alteration beyond the extent required to undertake the proposed project. Coordination has been taken with DNR to ensure that all large coniferous trees that could potentially be used for marbled murrelet habitat remain with little to no root damage. On the upstream site large wood will be placed on the upper bank in the floodplain at the head of the channel to help protect from high flood flows. Large woody debris will also be installed at the mouth of the channel.

All best management practices, low impact development techniques, and integrated management practices will be implemented. No mitigation other than native plantings is proposed for this project.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501
Contact: Melissa Erkel
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(360) 902-2212

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Skamokawa, Wakiakum County, WA: T10N R06W S29 (Coordinates: 46.3175517 N lat. / -123.4534760 W long).

For the downstream (McNally) site location: From SR 4 heading west turn right onto E Skamokawa Valley Rd. Turn left on Middle Valley Rd, then turn right on Peterson Rd. At the end of Peterson road turn left; follow the driveway to the last house of the left. The site is located on this property and the adjacent parcel.

For the upstream (Emlen/DNR) site location: From SR 4 heading west turn right onto E Skamokawa Valley Rd. Turn left on Middle Valley Rd, in 2.6 miles turn right on Oatfield road. The project is located on this parcel on the left bank side of Skamokawa Creek.

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 rules². 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 February 23, 2016**.

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/sepa_comment_docs.html
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Dan Doty on behalf of 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 Dan Doty at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-8120.

DATE OF ISSUE: February 9, 2016

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 16-005.dns