



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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ADDENDUM 16-043 TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE 13-017 DATED: FEBRUARY 27, 2013

Name of DNS: 13-017 WDFW WOOTEN WILDLIFE AREA TUCANNON RIVER AND
FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECTS

Description of Original Proposal:

This proposal is for river and floodplain restoration projects done from 2013-2018 on the W.T. Wooten W.A., using funding from the BPA contract (2010-077) Tucannon Habitat Programmatic administered through the Snake Region Salmon Recovery Board. The Wooten Wildlife Area encompasses 17 miles of Tucannon River headwaters that are considered critical spawning and rearing habitat for Lower Snake River Spring Chinook. The projects have been developed using a 2011 geomorphic assessment done by Anchor, QEA. The restoration actions in the Tucannon Basin are based on a framework proposed by Roni, et al (2002). 1. Protect and maintain natural processes – Promote natural hydrologic and sediment routing throughout the system, allow natural channel migration and wood recruitment, 2. Connect disconnected habitats- Reconnect oxbows, wetlands, and former main stem and side channels (floodplain), 3. Address roads, levees, and other human infrastructure impairing processes – Remove or modify culverts, levees, dredge spoils, diversion dams, and grade control structures, 4. Restore riparian processes – Isolate and protect healthy riparian areas, eradicate invasive species, and plant native communities, 5. Improve instream habitat conditions – Install large individual trees and Large Woody Debris structures in the main channel. This proposal is intended to cover Large Wood and Floodplain restoration projects identified using this framework. Anchor developed a set of conceptual (10%) designs for the Tucannon River, Reaches 8-10 and Project Areas 1-15 and 18 are located on the Wooten W.A. These conceptual designs were prioritized by Anchor and approved by the Tucannon Conservation Committee and SRSRB Regional Technical Team, into (3) tiered levels. The geomorphic assessment results identified Large Wood (LW) replenishment and restoring floodplain connection as two of the main objectives for Spring Chinook Habitat restoration. Restoring floodplain includes restoring large wood to the stream channel, to aggrade the channel and reconnects the river and its floodplain, removing dredge spoils and dikes to increase the floodplain area available to the river, and in some cases moving dikes back that provide protection for existing infrastructure. Large Wood (LW) replenishment/restoration includes using helicopters to place trees into the river, building constructed log jams, dropping dead trees into the river when opportunity presents itself, and using chainsaw winches or other devices to pull LW from the floodplain into the channel. The Tucannon River is disconnected from the floodplain and has very little habitat complexity. The short term goals for LW restoration is to restore habitat complexity in the form of more frequent pools, reconnect secondary channels, and provide more cover for salmonids and other native fish. The general project objectives are to increase in-stream habitat complexity, maximize linkages between the river and the floodplain, increase the number and length of ephemeral and perennial channels, and improve riparian health and function.

Description of Addendum 16-043:

In 2013, two projects were scheduled for implementation, in Project Areas (PAs) 3 and 14. In 2015, one project was scheduled for implementation, in PA 11. In 2017, two projects are scheduled for implementation, in PAs 18 and 6-9.

PA-18 is sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Biologist Kris Fischer. It is a Large Wood (LW) replenishment and floodplain reconnection project from river mile (RM) 33.1 to RM 34.4. The project is designed by Paul Devries, P.E. R2 Resource Consultants and involves construction of 50 engineered log jams (ELJ's) and large wood structures and removal of approximately 150 feet of gravel dike along the river. Project construction involves the use of both helicopter wood placement and conventional construction equipment (i.e. excavator, front loader).

PA-6-9 is sponsored by WDFW Habitat Biologist Dave Karl. It is a LW replenishment and floodplain reconnection project from RM 43.7 to RM 45.7. The project is designed by WDFW Engineer Bruce Heiner, P.E. and involves construction of 78 ELJ's and large wood complex structures and removal of approximately 200 feet of gravel dike along the river. Project construction involves the use of both helicopter wood placement and conventional construction equipment (i.e. excavator, front loader).

Both projects are intended to increase stream habitat complexity by providing better cover, more pools, and improve off channel rearing habitat. Additionally, the projects are designed to improve connection to the surrounding floodplain to increase marsh and wetland habitats along the river corridor and promote health riparian conditions. These efforts are funded by Bonneville Power Administration and the Washington State Salmon Recovery Board.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Contact: Dave Karl
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Location of Project or Action: WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area, Tucannon River from RM 33.1 to RM 34.4 and RM 43.7 to RM 45.7, Columbia County, Washington; PA-18 is Township 10 North, Range 41 East WM, Sections 4 and 5 and Township 11 North, Range 41 East WM, Section 32. PA-6-9 is Township 9 North, Range 41 East WM, Sections 10, 15, 16, and 21.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

This addendum is being distributed pursuant to WACs 197-11-600 and 197-11-625. The updated information provided above does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist. Based on the original DNS and the updated information provided in this addendum, we have determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA addendum.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

If you have questions about this action, contact Lisa Wood at the address above,
SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov, phone (360) 902-2260, or fax (360) 902-2946.

DATE OF ISSUE: July 18, 2016

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SEPA Log Number: 16-043 add to DNS 13-017)