



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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**ADDENDUM 19-035 TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) 18-041
DATED: JUNE 18, 2018**

Name of Proposal: DNS 18-041: NORTH FORK MANASTASH CREEK AND LOWER
UMTANUM CREEK WOOD REPLENISHMENT

Description of Original Proposal:

The North Fork Manastash Creek & Lower Umtanum Creek Wood Replenishment Project proposal is for wood enhancement in a ~10 mile reach of North Fork Manastash Creek, including the 100-year floodplain, and wood enhancement in a ~6 mile reach of Lower Umtanum Creek.

This project will entail using locally sourced wood from the Robinson Canyon Forest Restoration Project* on the LT Murray Wildlife Area as part of a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funded 830-acre thinning project aimed at improving ecological integrity ratings, habitat for multiple wildlife species and forest health. In addition, the project will improve the functional integrity of North Fork Manastash Creek and Umtanum Creek and associated riparian and upland habitat.

North Fork Manastash Creek is an important Yakima River tributary, which drains a 100-square mile watershed west of Ellensburg in Kittitas County, Washington. The project area lies within Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Washington Department of Natural Resources ownership. A large wood survey was conducted July 2015 to document baseline habitat conditions for effectiveness monitoring. The survey documented a deficiency of large wood: approximately 100 pieces counted in a 4 mile reach. The proposed large wood restoration work is expected to improve habitat for returning steelhead, and for resident Rainbow and Cutthroat trout. Large wood from the Robinson Canyon Forest Restoration Project will be transported and placed via helicopter due to limited access as a result of road decommissioning activities (unrelated to this project). The project will place up to 2,000 pieces of woody material with and without rootwads attached, including small diameter trees and slash, instream and along adjacent floodplains to restore in-channel complexity, reverse channel incision and re-engage the creek with its floodplain. Additionally, ground-based equipment and hand crews will access the North Fork Manastash in 2019 to place up to another 1,000 pieces of woody material in the stream channel and adjacent floodplain.

Umtanum Creek is a Yakima River tributary that flows for ten miles through the Wenas Wildlife Area, south-west of Ellensburg in Kittitas County, Washington. The project area lies within land owned and managed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Instream wood is limited within the stream reach with no access. Large wood from the Robinson Canyon Forest Restoration Project will be hauled via log truck to nearby staging areas and placed in Umtanum Creek via helicopter. This project will improve habitat complexity in 6 miles of stream for Middle Columbia River Steelhead, spring Chinook and coho salmon by adding up to 1,000 pieces of woody material with and without rootwads attached, including small diameter trees and slash, instream and along adjacent floodplains to restore in-channel complexity, reverse channel incision and re-engage the creek with its floodplain.

*The Robinson Canyon Forest Restoration Project has its own WDFW SEPA determination, 18-035.

Description of Addendum 19-035:

The number of woody pieces placed for the North Fork Manastash Creek & Lower Umtanum Creek Wood Replenishment Project is being revised. The original SEPA Environmental Checklist (DNS 18-041) stated that 2,000 logs will be placed by a helicopter. The placement of 2,000 logs was successfully implemented in October 2018. However, the amount of wood needed for the helicopter reach was underestimated in North Fork Manastash Creek and 2 miles between RM 5 and RM 7 within T18N, R16E, S26, S35 and T17N, R16E, S2 were not treated. This section of stream contains high priority broad disconnected floodplains with dry meadow vegetation. To complete restoration in the helicopter reach, an additional 800 logs will be placed for a total of 2,800. Logs are planned to be placed between August and November 2019. Placement of wood will aggrade the channel, reconnect it to its floodplain and return it to historic condition.

Proponent/Applicant:

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Location of Proposal: North Fork Manastash Creek and Lower Umtanum Creek, tributaries to the Yakima River in Kittitas County, Washington: Multiple sections within Townships 16N, 17N, and 18N; and Ranges 15E, 16E, 17E, 18E, and 19E.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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 Habitat Program, Protection Division

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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: May 21, 2019

SIGNATURE:

