



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 19-041: BEAVER CREEK REACH 5 FISH HABITAT RESTORATION

**Description of Proposal:**

The project is designed to restore natural alluvial and floodplain habitat forming processes throughout approximately two miles of upper Beaver Creek, a tributary to the Methow River. Imported and locally salvaged large wood will be installed within the mainstem of Beaver Creek and seasonally inundated side channels to increase floodplain inundation, retention of wood, sediment and water. This will increase the overall habitat diversity, quantity and quality for ESA-listed Columbia River Steelhead. This large scale process restoration project will also increase water quality downstream and improve sediment retention where infrastructure will not be affected.

Four large wood revetments will be installed along the Okanogan County roadway to improve long-term road stability. Four hundred and fifty boulders will be collected onsite for ballast and grade stabilization. Two hundred of these boulders will be used to create step pools and stabilize the grade in the Piper Creek realignment. All fill generated by the project will be placed in a permanent repository located along Lester Road in accordance Okanogan County and WDFW requirements.

Several undeveloped camping locations will be removed from the riparian area where vegetation and bank stability is affected by users. This work will be directed by WDFW Wildlife Area Management.

At RM 8.9, a levee will be removed to reactivate a large side channel to increase stream channel length, create high flow refuge and improve habitat diversity. The outlet of Piper Creek will be realigned to RM 7.85 to increase floodplain water storage, improve wetland condition and create peripheral and transitional habitat.

A total of 414 pieces of large wood, measuring 18"-24" DBH and 40' long, will be installed. Additionally 93 logs without roots will be used in construction of the revetment structures.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
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**Location of Proposal:** Between river mile 7.0 and 8.9 on Beaver Creek; approximately 5 miles northeast of Twisp, Okanogan County, Washington: Township 34N, Range 22E, Section 26.

**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 law<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> **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 and comments must be received by **5:00 pm on July 17, 2019.**

**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](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

**Address:** P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/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.<sup>1</sup>

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:** July 3, 2019

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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