



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION)

Name of Proposal: DNS/Adoption 20-009: FISHWAY SEDIMENT REMOVAL

Description of Proposal:

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation proposes to dredge varying amounts of sediment from four locations. Channel aggradation often occurs upstream of diversion dams as bedload and fine sediments encounter slackwater conditions and fluvial transport diminishes or ceases. Periodic removal of deposited material is required in order to keep fish screen bypass outfalls and ladders clear and properly functioning. Reclamation personnel and its contractors occasionally send compressed air through the bypass pipes, especially at the smaller facilities, during the irrigation season to clear bypasses that become plugged with debris. Occasionally, in-water dredging is required to keep the outfall bypass and ladder entrances clear.

Roza Diversion Dam Fishway

Reclamation is proposing to dredge up to 1,500 cubic yards of sediment from the Roza Pool, during a January 1 - 31 work window in order to provide better migration conditions for adult salmonids. This project will occur while Roza Pool is at its lowest elevation of the year (1207 feet). An excavator or backhoe will walk on the accumulated sediment and remove most of the material in the dry. All dredged/excavated materials that are removed from the Roza Pool will be loaded into dump trucks using the existing access road and disposed of in an existing spoil disposal site that is located on Reclamation property approximately ¼ mile upslope from the Roza Pool).

Naches-Cowiche Fishway (Nelson Diversion Dam)

To keep the fish passage facilities operational and within established flow criteria, Reclamation maintenance crews need to move or remove about 100 cy³ of gravel deposits that have accumulated near these structures after depositional flow events occur. To perform this operation, heavy equipment needs to enter the Naches River through existing access routes both upstream and downstream of the nearby dam. These access points are established rock rip-rapped portions of streambank that Reclamation has used in the past to walk tracked excavators into the stream channel. Once in the Naches River, the excavator works from within the river channel or from a dry gravel bar to cut a channel through the accumulated depositional material that is deep and wide enough to provide sufficient water flow to successfully pass adult fish from the fish ladder exit to the main channel of the Naches River during the lowest expected streamflow levels in the river. The gravel will not be removed from the river channel but will be spread downstream of the fish ladder and bypass outfall pipe locations. This activity will be completed from July 15th to August 31 when streamflows are sufficiently low to allow machinery access into the river channel. Work is expected to take 2 days within this work window and will need to be completed every three years.

Town Diversion Dam Fishway

Reclamation will remove 150 cy³ of material in order to restore fish passage during a work window of September 1 – 30. This is expected to take 3 days to complete and will need to be

completed every 3 years. The work will be performed with an excavator and/or backhoe with most of the work being performed from the bank or on the gravel bar at the edge of the bank. The rock and cobble that is removed from upstream of the ladder will be dispersed in the river, downstream of the fish ladder.

Sunnyside Diversion Dam Fishway

Gravel and sediment frequently deposit on the downstream side of an existing island, causing this material to encroach on the left bank side of the river (Photo 4). This deposition has inhibited function of the fish ladder. To correct this problem, 250 cy³ of gravel and sediment must be removed from the left bank fish ladder to help ensure that flows are sufficient for maintaining flow and attraction water criteria (Figure 3). This operation occurs during a low-flow period in the summer (July 15 - August 31) when a flow restriction is apparent. The work is accomplished during a time when a backhoe or excavator can be walked to the island and can be operated safely in the river channel during low flow conditions. Any woody debris that must be removed will be placed in the river, downstream of the dam. Sediment removed will be placed downstream in an area of slack water to allow for any potential lamprey to survive. Work is expected to take no more than 3 days within this work window and will need to be completed every 3 years.

Proponent/Applicant: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
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Location of Proposal:

Roza Diversion Dam on the Yakima River, approximately 12 miles north of Yakima, Kittitas County, Washington: Township 15N, Range 19E, Section 32.

Naches-Cowiche Fishway (Nelson Diversion Dam) on the Naches River, approximately 2 miles northwest of Yakima, Yakima County, Washington: Township 13N, Range 18E, Section 9.

Town Diversion Dam on the Yakima River, approximately 7 miles northwest of Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Washington: Township 18N, Range 17E, Section 12.

Sunnyside Diversion Dam on the Yakima River, approximately 8 miles south of Yakima, Yakima County, Washington: Township 21N, Range 19E, Section 21.

Title of Document being Adopted: Cover letter signed January 17, 2020, and Categorical Exclusion Checklist PN-CCA-CE-2020-028 for “Roza, Naches-Cowiche, Town, and Sunnyside Fishway Sediment Removal” signed January 6, 2020, which together make up the Categorical Exclusion.

Agency that Prepared Document Being Adopted: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Date Adopted Document was Prepared: January 17, 2020 (cover letter) and December 30, 2019 (checklist).

Description of Document (or Portion) Being Adopted: The entire contents of the cover letter signed January 17, 2020, and Categorical Exclusion Checklist PN-CCA-CE-2020-028 for “Roza, Naches-Cowiche, Town, and Sunnyside Fishway Sediment Removal” signed January 6, 2020, which together make up the Categorical Exclusion.

Note that the Bureau of Reclamation has identified a typographical error in the “Nature of

Action” section of the Categorical Exclusion Checklist for the Town Diversion Dam Fishway. The amount of sediment to be removed is actually up to 150 cubic yards, not 100 cubic yards.

If the Document Being Adopted has been Challenged, Please Describe: N/A

Name of Agency Adopting the Document: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

The Document is Available to be Read at:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Natural Resources Building,
1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

This document is also available for review online at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>

Adoption of Existing Environmental Document: After independent review, we have identified and adopted the referenced document as being appropriate for this proposal. The document meets our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

We issued this Determination of Nonsignificance/Adoption Notice under WAC 197-11-340(2), WAC 197-11-610, and WAC 197-11-630. 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 on February 21, 2020.**

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:
<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.

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: February 7, 2020

SIGNATURE:

