



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 20-038: SWAKANE CANYON RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE

**Description of Proposal:**

The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to construct a shooting range in Swakane Canyon, part of the Swakane Unit of the Chelan Wildlife Area (WLA). The shooting range falls under the WLA management plan in Goal 9, Objective C. Goal 9 is to “support and maintain appropriate recreation opportunities,” while Objective C is to “develop options to lessen the conflicts among target shooters and other recreation user groups in the Swakane Canyon” (WDFW, 2018) Target shooting is already a popular activity at the Swakane Unit, “to such an extent that it is impacting wintering mule deer and precluding use of the canyon bottom for other recreation activities such as birding, hiking, and horseback riding” (WDFW, 2018).

The goal of the shooting range is to continue to provide recreation opportunities (target shooting) while reducing conflict between humans and wildlife (primarily mule deer using nearby overwintering habitat) and conflict between multiple user groups (target shooters and non-target shooters).

The shooting range will be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 will consist of creating a rifle range, and Phase 2 will consist of creating a pistol range. Phase 2 will be scheduled only after additional funding is secured.

**Phase 1 sequencing:**

1. Field stake project limits and grade stakes
2. Install erosion control elements
3. Clear and grub site area in phases as construction proceeds
4. Excavate site and use cut material as berm fill
5. Install subgrade and gravel surfacing parking area
6. Install concrete walkway and shooting pad
7. Install back berm material
8. Seed disturbed areas (excess material from phase 1 will be stockpiles and seeded)
9. Remove erosion control when site established

**Construction Methods and equipment:**

Construction equipment used will be tracked excavators and dozers for cut and fill grading.

Berm material will be placed in lifts and compacted.

Gravel will be placed by dozers and graders and compacted with rollers.

Material will be moved on site with dump trucks and loaders.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Swakane Unit of the WDFW Chelan Wildlife Area, Swakane Canyon Road, approximately 7 miles north of Wenatchee, Chelan County, Washington: Township 24N, Range 20E, Section 22.

**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 at **5:00 pm on September 3, 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](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at:  
<http://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

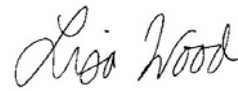
**Address:** P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

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/closed-final>. 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 above or email [SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov).

**DATE OF ISSUE:** August 20, 2020

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 20-038.dns

*Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Dolores Noyes at (360-902-2349), or TTY 771, or email ([dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov)). For more information [https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable\\_request.html](https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable_request.html).*