



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

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**ADDENDUM 20-057 TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) 13-073  
DATED: OCTOBER 22, 2013**

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 13-073: WELTS PROPERTY SKAGIT WILDLIFE AREA  
WETLAND RESTORATION

**Description of Original Proposal:**

The primary goals of the project are to diversify wetland habitat and restore natural functions to benefit wildlife. The project involves creating depressions, swales, basins, and mounds in a 103.9 acre flat field, planting native plants, installing habitat log structures, removing drain tiles, creating a moist soil management area for wildlife, and using spoils to create a parking area and pad for a portable toilet. The project area is adjacent to the Samish River and is separated from the river by a dike, which is managed by the local diking district. The dike will not be altered as part of this project.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) owns an easement on 3 of the 4 subject properties that requires restoration work to be completed. A 0.7 acre parking area is proposed to be constructed on the property without the NRCS easement. The project area is currently not heavily used for recreation, as there are no formal trails or parking area. The project property is currently used by waterfowl hunters and wildlife viewers. The Samish River and dikes adjacent to the project area, which will not be altered by the project, are heavily used by anglers fishing for Chinook salmon in late summer and early fall.

De-leveling, drain tile removal, swale/basin excavation, habitat log installation, and parking area/toilet pad installation will occur as the first major project phase. These tasks will be completed with heavy earth-moving equipment, potentially including excavators, front end loaders, bulldozers, and dump trucks. All spoils will remain on site to create planting mounds (not to exceed 18" in height) and to provide the base for the parking area. The parking area will be connected to Bay View-Edison Road with a driveway and underlying culvert. Swales/basins will be excavated to a depth so that they contain semi-permanent water. Approximately ten habitat logs will be placed in the swales/basins. BMPs will be installed per the temporary erosion and sediment control plan in the design plans, including seeding exposed soils following construction and installation of silt fences at the interface of exposed soils and drainage ditches.

Planting areas will be prepared by removing invasive plant species (primarily blackberries) and possibly disking land for establishment of desirable herbaceous species. Initial planting will occur in the first planting season following earth moving activities in Phase 1. Plants will be protected from herbivory with plant protectors. Monitoring, maintenance, and re-establishment will be undertaken for 2 consecutive years following planting. After the project maintenance period, invasive vegetation will continue to be monitored and managed as part of the Skagit Wildlife Area.

Farm equipment will be used to create the 'Moist Soil Management Area' shown in the design plans. This area will be mowed and disked to create conditions favorable to desired crops. A water control structure may be installed to control the hydrology of this area. The area will be monitored after initial construction to determine whether or not the water control structure is necessary.

**Description of Addendum 20-057:**

Part of the proposed work described in DNS 13-073 was conducted in 2015. The remaining proposed work has been modified and is anticipated to be conducted in 2021 and 2022. The Environmental Checklist has been updated with the modified information and to answer the additional questions asked in the updated checklist template. The 2021/2022 proposal includes the work described below. Please see revised checklist for additional updated information.

This project will involve installing a new gravel parking lot, associated signage and an entrance ramp from Bayview Edison Road with a new culvert. The parking lot provides an access area to the wildlife area. A maximum of one foot of topsoil will be removed. Gravel fill will be brought in to bring the maximum elevation to approximately one foot above existing grade. A kiosk will be installed at the project site to provide information to the public using the wildlife area and fishing spot. Barrier rock will be installed around the parking lot to act as a barrier to vehicle travel outside of established gravel area. Four bollards with chains will be installed at two locations around the lot to control equipment/vehicle access to the wildlife area. The kiosk and bollards will require concrete footings installed to a 3 ft depth. A parking sign will also be installed and will require concrete footing installed to a 2 ft depth.

The mitigation site will involve the construction of a swale in an area recently (as of 2015) established as a wetland reserve with the NRCS. The area of mitigation was determined using a credit-debit worksheet obtained from the Department of Ecology. The swale will have a maximum depth of 3 ft with a culvert and associated gate allowing water level to be manipulated as needed. The top 6 inches of top soil will be stripped and placed on the finished side slopes such that there would be a one foot increase in elevation every 10 horizontal ft.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
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**Location of Current Proposal:** Samish River Unit (commonly referred to as the Welts Unit), which is part of WDFW's Skagit Wildlife Area. Immediately SE of the intersection of Bay View-Edison Road and Bent Needle Lane, approximately 1 mile SW of Edison, Skagit County, Washington: Township 35N, Range 3E, Section 5.

The mitigation site is located on an adjacent property within the Skagit Wildlife Area. This site is located approximately 1,000 ft west and 2,500 ft south of the intersection of Samish Island Road and Bayview Edison Road. Township 35N, Range 3E, Section 6.

**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. However, because new information about part of the proposal has been provided, WDFW is voluntarily holding a 14-day public comment period for this SEPA addendum.

**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 December 28, 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

Comments must be received by **5:00 pm on December 28, 2020.**

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.

If you have questions about this addendum or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at [SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov).

**DATE OF ISSUE:** December 14, 2020

**SIGNATURE:**



SEPA Log Number: 20-057 add to DNS 13-073

*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).*