



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

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

Description of 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.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: Loren Brokaw

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(425)775-1311 ext 105

Loren.Brokaw@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Welts Property, WDFW Skagit Wildlife Area, approximately 1 mile SW of Edison, Washington, Skagit County; Section 05, Township 35 North, Range 03 East WM.

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 law¹ 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.² 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. This means we must receive your comments by **November 6, 2013**.

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: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Bob Zeigler

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/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.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: October 22, 2013

SIGNATURE:

Bob Zeigler

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 13 -073. dns