



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 21-003: ALDER CREEK FLOODPLAIN ENHANCEMENT

**Description of Proposal:**

This is a salmon habitat restoration project consistent with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan (UCSRB, 2007) to assist in recovery of native run ESA listed spring Chinook and steelhead stocks. The project seeks to restore and enhance side channel habitats used by endangered fish stocks in the Methow River system and restore floodplain connectivity and natural processes that create and sustain quality fish habitat. This project was developed under the guidance of priority restoration actions recommended by the Updated Salmon Recovery Plan Biological Strategy (RTT, 2017) and the 2017 Twisp to Carlton Reach Assessment.

The primary goals of this project include: 1) Restoring winter and summer low flow connectivity to available peripheral and transitional habitats necessary for rearing juvenile spring Chinook and steelhead in the Methow River and, 2) increasing mainstem habitat complexity and channel roughness to increase and naturally sustain surface water connectivity with adjacent floodplain rearing habitats at all times of the year. The side channel will be created by select excavation through a 1,200 foot relic side channel scar. The restored side-channel will create over 2,400 linear of perennial side channel well connected to natural groundwater upwelling areas, providing excellent summer and winter thermal refugia for juvenile Spring Chinook and steelhead. The restored habitat will also provide improved foraging, cover opportunities, flood refuge and thermal refuge for rearing salmonids.

Log structures will be placed in the mainstem Methow River within the newly created side channel and the Alder Creek outlet to emulate natural wood accumulation processes, by creating cover and promoting pool formation. These structures are intended to provide direct habitat replacement for salmonid rearing and adult holding conditions that have been degraded by anthropogenic activities within the river and on the floodplain. Douglas-fir logs will be imported to the project site and used to create diverse aquatic habitats in the side channel and the mainstem.

Finally, a planting plan will be implemented after construction which will result in improved riparian habitat and will promote wetland development in the floodplain with improved inundation at all flows.

Approximately 109 logs will be placed and approximately 15,000 cubic yards of excavated material will be removed from approximately 30 acres of floodplain. The project area will encompass roughly 30 acres of Methow River floodplain. Please refer to the project plans for more details about the project size. Supporting documents can be found here: [Alder Creek Floodplain](#).

**Proponent/Applicant:** Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
Contact: Madeleine Eckmann  
PO Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** within the WDFW Methow Wildlife Area, along the Twisp-Carlton Road and River Mile 34-34.5 of the Methow River, approximately 5 miles southeast of Twisp, Okanogan County, Washington: Township 32N, Range 22E, Section 3.

**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 February 19, 2021.**

**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:** February 5, 2021

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 21-003.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).*