



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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (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 21-004: GOLDEN DOE LARGE WOOD 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 mainstem rearing and spawning habitats used by endangered fish stocks in the Methow River system and to 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. Within the Twisp to Carlton Reach Assessment, this reach presented one of the greatest opportunities to recover interactions between the channel, side channels and riparian vegetation creating increased habitat complexity and restoring natural processes that sustain salmon habitat over time.

This project is located along the mainstem Methow River in the Middle Methow Assessment Unit (Methow River- Alder Creek) between river miles 34.5 and 35. This reach of the river is unconfined and depositional, with broad valley bottom floodplains, in contrast to the naturally confined bedrock valley that occurs just downstream, to the mouth of the Methow River. Within this lower section of the Middle Methow Assessment Unit substantial groundwater upwelling is present on the floodplain as observed in the spring channels present in the adjacent Silver Side Channel floodplains.

In the project reach, the extensive perennial side channels, wood structure induced pools, and peripheral wetlands that once provided excellent cover, thermal refuge, and nutrient production have been dramatically reduced. Similarly, adult holding habitat and steelhead spawning habitat has been lost in the project area due to the loss of wood structure induced pools and the loss of sediment sorting and gravel retention dynamics.

The primary goals of this project include recreating these large bar apex wood structures in a wide anabranching channel segment of Methow River to facilitate the development of mature floodway islands which will provide better riparian cover over the channel; encourage the splitting of the channel into multiple threads and; increase hydraulic complexity at a range of flows. In addition, these large bar apex wood structures will help create and maintain pool habitats with excellent groundwater connectivity providing thermal refuge for rearing juvenile salmonids. Imported Douglas-fir logs placed in the mainstem will emulate natural wood accumulation processes restoring and sustaining habitat conditions for steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout.

Approximately 241 logs will be placed and approximately 2,070 cubic yards of cobble will be temporarily excavated to install the large wood structures. However, this material will be replaced back on top of the tail ends of the rootwads to help ballast the structures in place. No fill will be imported. Supporting documents can be found here: [Golden Doe Large Wood](#).

**Proponent/Applicant:** Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation  
Contact: Madeleine Eckmann  
PO Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948  
(509) 865-5121

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** within the WDFW Methow Wildlife Area, along the Twisp-Carlton Road and River Mile 34.5-35 of the Methow River approximately 4 miles southeast of Twisp, Okanogan County, Washington: Township 33N, Range 22E, Section 34.

**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: 21-004.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).*