



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 22-002: MILLES LAKE DAM SAFETY REPAIRS

Description of Proposal:

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to upgrade the Milles Lake dam spillway to meet the Inflow Design Flood (IDF) with adequate freeboard as required by the Washington State Department of Ecology Dam Safety Program. This lake is located in Okanogan County. The existing spillway does not pass a 500-year flood event, and therefore is not suitable for extreme events. Currently, high water events impact the adjacent county road which has become the auxiliary spillway, which is not acceptable. This is part of the Big Buck Unit of the Methow Wildlife Area. WDFW owns the south half of the lake, with a private landowner to the north. WDFW is coordinating with the adjacent landowner.

WDFW proposes the following scope of work:

1. Construct after fire season has concluded (likely September through November).
2. Excavate 191 Cubic Yards (CY) of material in the existing dam.
3. Expand the spillway from the current 8.3 feet at base and 18.9 at top to 84 feet at the base and 96 feet at the top.
4. Fill with 191 CY of riprap, quarry spalls, gabion cages filled with rock, and pre-cast ecology blocks. The entire spillway will be underlaid with a geotextile membrane.
5. Mitigate for the 833 Sq. Ft. of wetland impacts in Wetland B by planting willow and red osier dogwood in Wetland A away from the face of the dam.
6. Upon project completion, any bare ground will be grass seeded at an appropriate time.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Doug Wiedemeier
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 789-2464
Douglas.Wiedemeier@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Milles Lake Dam located on the Big Buck Unit of the WDFW Methow Wildlife Area, west of Twisp, Okanogan County, Washington: Township 33N, Range 21E, Section 2.

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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on January 19, 2022**.

Method of Comment:

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>.

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 through one of the following ways:

- Online at the Public Input comment portal for this proposal: <https://publicinput.com/MillesLakeDam>
- Email to: MillesLakeDam@PublicInput.com

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.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, or have difficulty with the Public Input comment portal, contact Lisa Wood at: SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: January 5, 2022

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 22-002.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 the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).