



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) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT)

Name of Proposal: DNS/Adoption 22-028: TWISP RIVER AND LITTLE BRIDGE CREEK AQUATIC RESTORATION

Description of Proposal:

The Yakama Nation proposes to conduct restoration activities to enhance adult spawning and juvenile rearing habitat for ESA-listed endangered Upper Columbia spring Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and threatened Columbia River summer steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

This proposal applies to three distinct project areas: Mystery Reach, War Creek Reach and Lower Little Bridge Creek. All three project areas are in close proximity to each other – within the Twisp River watershed and solely located on Wenatchee National Forest property. The objective of this large scale restoration effort is to restore natural riverine processes which create and maintain high quality fish habitat, through large wood supplementation.

Throughout the three project areas; 1,080 logs with rootwads attached will be installed and 32 native spruce trees will be felled in approximately 3.5 miles of stream channel. Accumulations of large wood will be sized to mimic natural accumulations that are appropriate for the size of the stream. The Mystery Reach Project Area is on the mainstem Twisp River (rivermile 21-23), so large wood accumulations will consist of 10 – 60 individual pieces of large wood. One structure, near the staging area, will be constructed with pilings and bank burial using an excavator. Twenty-seven additional structures will be constructed by a heavy-lift helicopter. A construction oversight engineer will be present to direct large wood placement throughout construction of all three project areas.

The War Creek Reach Project Area is also located on the mainstem Twisp River between rivermile 17 and 18. A helicopter will be used to construct approximately 16 large wood structures. However, we will access eight of those with an excavator to drive vertical wooden pilings to increase stability. These ballasted structures are situated to retain alluvial wood and bedload within the project area and on National Forest property, in an effort to avoid impacts to private lands downstream. Each structures will consist of 9-18 pieces of large wood and a total of 60 pilings will be installed.

The Lower Little Bridge Creek Project Area is located on a significant tributary (average wetted width 20') to the Twisp River. Naturally recruited whole trees tend to have a long residence time due to the lack of sufficient hydraulic power to transport them downstream. Therefor large wood accumulations are smaller generally consisting of less than 5 trees each. The large wood for this project will be solely placed via the helicopter.

WDFW has made a determination of Non-Significance, and is adopting a NEPA Environmental Assessment and incorporating another document by reference under SEPA rules.

Proponent/Applicant: Yakama Nation
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Location of Proposal: Three US Forest Service-owned sites in the Twisp River, northwest of Twisp in Okanogan County:

Mystery Reach: Township 33N, Range 19E, Section 2.

War Creek Reach: Township 33N, Range 20E, Section 18.

Lower Little Bridge Creek Reach: Township 33N, Range 20E, Section 2.

Title of Document being Adopted: Final Environmental Assessment titled, “Pacific Northwest Region Aquatic Restoration Project” with Final Decision Notice for that Environmental Assessment, which together make up the Environmental Assessment.

Agency that Prepared Document Being Adopted: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Date Adopted Document was Prepared: Environmental Assessment dated November 2019 and Decision Notice dated December 18, 2019.

Description of Document (or Portion) Being Adopted: The Environmental Assessment describes 1,800 proposed aquatic restoration activities across 17 National Forest Service units in Oregon and Washington. WDFW is adopting the portions of the Environmental Assessment that apply to the currently-proposed three reaches.

If the Document Being Adopted has been Challenged, Please Describe: N/A

Name of Agency Adopting the Document: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Adoption of Existing Environmental Document: After independent review, we have identified and adopted the referenced document as being appropriate for this proposal. The document meets our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

The following document is incorporated by reference: This document provides site-specific information on the proposal.

“Mystery Reach, War Creek Reach and Little Bridge Creek Habitat Restoration Project Basis of Design Report” dated December 2021.

The Documents are Available to be Read at:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Natural Resources Building,
1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

These documents are also available for review online at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments> and

[Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest - Projects \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/land-management/land-use/okanogan-wenatchee-national-forest-projects)

We issued this Determination of Nonsignificance/Adoption Notice under WAC 197-11-340(2), WAC 197-11-610, and WAC 197-11-630. 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 May 26, 2022**.

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 through one of the following ways:

- Online at the Public Input comment portal for this proposal:
<https://publicinput.com/TwispRiverRestoration>
- Email to: TwispRiverRestoration@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/Adoption 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: May 12, 2022 **SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)

SEPA Log Number: 22-028.dns/adpt

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).