



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex
7112 67th Place
Long Beach, Washington 98631
Phone: 360-642-3860
www.fws.gov/refuge/willapa

June 8, 2022

Dear Department of Ecology Personnel:

We have received and appreciate your comments submitted to Lisa Wood, SEPA Responsible Official, regarding DNS/Adoption 22-032: WILLAPA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DEBRIS REMOVAL.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

All materials, including creosote and treated wood will be properly disposed of at an approved site; no material will be dredged. We have a contract to properly haul and dispose of the solid waste generated by removing the remaining Mill Creek Bridge infrastructure and debris, and additional work occurring on the uplands of the Wheaton Unit of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge).

TOXICS CLEANUP

We acknowledge that there are no cleanup sites within 1 mile of the proposed project. If any contaminants are found on the Refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Environmental Contaminants Program will be contacted.

WATER QUALITY/WATERSHED RESOURCES UNIT

The Refuge understands the requirements for construction stormwater general permits and will not be discharging pollutants to waters of the State of Washington. This project is anticipated to begin after July 1 when stream water flows are low and overall site conditions are drier. Erosion control measures are specified in our application with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) for a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit. Silt fencing and a temporary cofferdam may be used if stream dewatering is deemed to be necessary. If a discharge pipeline is used the pipeline shall be placed downstream on the bank vegetation (or run through straw bales) to reduce sediment discharge and prevent erosion. There will not be a discharge of sediment-laden water to waters of the State.

The Refuge plans to revegetate the area with native plants, including willows and conifers (Project Phase 2 information contained in the HPA permit application with WDFW). Eventually, these plantings should provide shade to Mill Creek helping to reduce water temperatures.

We appreciate your time in review of this project. If you have any further comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kirsten Brennan, Partners for Fish & Wildlife Biologist at 360-642-3860.

Thank you,

Jackie Ferrier
Project Leader