



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) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION)

Name of Proposal: DNS/Adoption 23-029: OLYMPIC-WILLAPA HILLS WILDLIFE AREA OREGON SILVERSPOT BUTTERFLY HABITAT RESTORATION

Description of Proposal:

WDFW will restore a 7-acre coastal meadow established on stabilized dunes in anticipation of Oregon silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene Hippolyta*; hereafter OSB) reintroduction. The target area is located on the Long Beach peninsula ("Milepost 6"), managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), as part of the Olympic-Willapa Wildlife Area. The 20-acre parcel was purchased in 1991 specifically as habitat for OSB, its larval host plant, early blue violet (*Viola adunca*), and a variety of butterfly nectar plants. The site is currently not occupied by OSB and the Long Beach population is considered extirpated. Since the acquisition of the property, WDFW has conducted limited periodic restoration activities, including weed and woody species control, mowing, seed collection, seeding, and planting. Some of these efforts were coordinated with the USFWS, in conjunction with management of nearby NWR sites for OSB. WDFW will use funding from the Coastal Program to intensify restoration efforts, to meet the minimum current definition of suitable habitat, build capacity, and work with partners towards a long-term management plan and monitoring strategy. Protection and maintenance of OSB habitat on Long Beach supports Action 1 of the Revised Recovery Plan for the Oregon Silverspot Butterfly (USFWS 2001).

The goal of this Coastal meadow restoration project for Oregon Silverspot Butterfly (*Speyeria zerene Hippolyta*) at the Olympic Willapa State Wildlife Area is to improve and expand habitat conditions for Oregon Silverspot butterfly by removing non-desirable vegetation through mowing, pulling, chemical treatment, or cutting (for woody vegetation). There is also the potential for shallow discing/tilling of limited areas (<7 acres). We propose to plant native plant plugs and seeds, and monitor vegetation that support all lifestages of the Oregon Silverspot butterfly. We anticipate conducting at least one likely multiple small, prescribed burns.

WDFW has made a Determination of Non-Significance and is adopting a NEPA Categorical Exclusion under SEPA rules.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Nick Bechtold
4686 Wishkah Road
Aberdeen, WA 98520
(509) 403-0546
Nicholas.Bechtold@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal: Milepost 6, between 158th Pl and 152nd Ln, Lewis and Clark Trail Highway (Pacific Way), Oceanside, Pacific County, Washington: Township 11N, Range 11W, Section 28.

Title and Date of Document being Adopted: NEPA Compliance Checklist dated July 24, 2023, and cover memorandum digitally signed July 24, 2023, which together make up the Categorical Exclusion.

Agency that Prepared Document Being Adopted: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Description of Document (or Portion) Being Adopted: The entire Categorical Exclusion for this project.

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)

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>

We issued this Determination of Nonsignificance/Adoption Notice under WAC 197-11-340(2), WAC 197-11-610, and WAC 197-11-630. Agencies, 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 determination. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on August 14, 2023**.

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/OSBHabitat>
- Email to: OSBHabitat@PublicInput.com

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

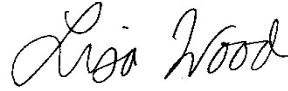
Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

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: July 31, 2023 **SIGNATURE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 23-029 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).