



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)

Name of Proposal: DNS 24-001: WEST FOSTER CREEK AND SMITH DRAW CREEK
RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Description of Proposal:

By installing beaver dam analogs (BDAs), post assisted log structure (PALS), and Zeedyk rock structures, WDFW will restore individual reaches of West Foster Creek and Smith Draw Creek. These creeks are in Douglas County in the Wells Wildlife Area and Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area respectively. These creeks have incised channels and headcuts due to numerous flood events that occurred in the 20th Century. The project goal is to stop the incision process, improve water quality, water retention, and stream habitat, plus reconnect the creeks to their floodplain and improve the health and diversity of the surrounding riparian vegetation community.

While low-tech processes/techniques will be used there will be minor differences in the implementation used at West Foster Creek vs Smith Draw Creek. At West Foster Creek, up to 15 CY of off-site rock may be used for instream rock structures. The Smith Draw Creek site will use up to 20 CY of on-site rock will be used for instream rock structures. The difference is because West Foster Creek has no exposed native rock/cobble, while Smith Draw Creek has an abundance.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Dan Peterson or Nikki Haupt
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Daniel.Peterson@dfw.wa.gov or Nikki.Haupt@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Two locations in Douglas County, Washington:

- West Foster Creek, West Foster Creek Unit of the WDFW Wells Wildlife Area, approximately 7 miles south of Bridgeport: Township 28N, Range 25E, Section 21.
- Smith Draw Creek, Bridgeport Unit of the WDFW Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area, approximately 5 miles south of Bridgeport: Township 28N, Range 25E, Section 10.

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 24, 2024**.

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/WestFosterSmithDraw>
- Email to: WestFosterSmithDraw@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 10, 2024

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 24-001.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).