



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 24-024: LAKE WHATCOM HATCHERY LAKE PUMP INTAKE

Description of Proposal:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Lake Whatcom Hatchery is an essential facility for the state's kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) fisheries. Two-thirds of Washington State kokanee fisheries are supplied by the hatchery, which operates 24/7, 365 days a year. The hatchery has two surface water intakes; one is in Lake Whatcom, while the other is in Brannian Creek. The lake intake is used from October to May each year and also when the water in Brannian Creek is too low or turbid. The current location of the lake intake is close to the mouth of Brannian Creek, leading to sediment deposition and clogging of the intake. To address this issue, WDFW proposes relocating the pipeline approximately 25 ft farther into the lake, beyond the sediment deposition influence near the creek's mouth.

The intake pipeline is an 8-in-diameter hose, approximately 40 ft below the lake surface, and is mounted on risers that extend up through the lakebed. The fish screen attached to the end of the pipeline is rated for up to 400 gpm. WDFW proposes extending the pipe further into the lake and the location of the end of the pipe will be refined during installation based on lakebed conditions. The extension will be above the lakebed on risers. No dredging is required for this work; it will be completed by divers using hand tools only. A dive team will install a mudmat or sawhorse foundation that will rest on the lakebed about 25' from the riser. The foundation will be secured to the lakebed by self-weight, by steel posts, or with deadman anchors (duckbill or manta ray-type). The intake pipe fish screen will be connected to a pipe riser mounted above the foundation. The riser will be connected to the screen with a flexible 8" pipe or hose.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Katrina.Simmons@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WDFW Lake Whatcom Hatchery, 3918 S Bay Drive, Sedro Woolley, Whatcom County, Washington: Township 37N, Range 4E, Section 27.

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 determination according to state rules.² Agencies, tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this determination. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this document. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on July 12, 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 determinations. 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/LakeWhatcomHatcheryIntake>
- Email to: LakeWhatcomHatcheryIntake@PublicInput.com

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA Responsible Official and SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Director's Office

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this determination 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 determination 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: June 28, 2024

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 24-024.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).