



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT)

Name of Proposal: DNS/Adoption 24-032: INTERAGENCY ZEBRA AND QUAGGA MUSSEL RAPID RESPONSE PLAN

Description of Proposal:

WDFW proposes to provide a coordination document and technical resource to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ZQM prevention efforts, detection, early response, and extended response activities. Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and quagga mussels (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) are freshwater mollusks native to Ukraine and Russia that have a long history of invasion and successful establishment outside their native habitat. Once they are established, they can cause catastrophic ecosystem impacts, outcompeting native mussels and other filter feeding invertebrates, removing habitat for invertebrates, and reducing water quality. They can also have direct economic and safety impacts, clogging water intake structures, fish screens, and boat engines; overtaking docks, buoys, boat hulls, anchors, and beaches; and contributing to disease outbreaks in species that consume them.

ZQM were first discovered in the United States in the Great Lakes region in the 1980s, thought to have been transported in ballast waters of trans-oceanic ships. Since the late 2000s, they have been spreading throughout the western United States (Nevada, California, and Montana), with the most recent detection in the Snake River in Idaho. While a comprehensive eradication effort is underway in the Snake River, the presence of dreissenid mussels in the Columbia River Basin (CRB) has alarmed the region and led to the requirement to revise the Plan.

The purpose of this Plan is to provide a coordination document and technical resource to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ZQM prevention efforts, detection, early response, and extended response activities. These efforts are necessary to protect environmental, economic, recreational, and cultural resources from the deleterious effects of ZQM establishment.

1. Minimize the probability of ZQM introduction and establishment.
2. Minimize the impact of ZQM on Washington's waters, outdoor recreational resources, aquatic resources, and facilities.

WDFW has made a Determination of Non-Significance and is adopting a SEPA Final Environmental Impact Statement under SEPA rules.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal: WDFW proposes to implement the Plan in all freshwaters of the state. The location of specific activities is unknown and depends on the detection of ZQM warranting implementation of the Plan.

Title and Date of Document being Adopted: Aquatic Invasive Species Control Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), dated April 2011.

Agency that Prepared Document Being Adopted: Washington Department of Ecology.

Description of Document (or Portion) Being Adopted: The parts of the FEIS that apply to removal and control of non-native, invasive mussels.

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.

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: [SEPA documents available for public comment | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).

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 determination. 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 30, 2024**.

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: [Zebra Quagga Mussel Plan](#)
- Email to: ZebraQuaggaMusselPlan@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: [Final SEPA documents | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#). After 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: August 16, 2024 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 24-032 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).