



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

**MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (MDNS) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT)**

**Name of Proposal:** MDNS/Adoption 24-057: GOLD CREEK VALLEY RESTORATION

**Description of Proposal:**

The USDA Forest Service (USFS), in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Yakama Nation, proposes to implement bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) population recovery actions identified in the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan (Reiss et al. 2012, 2017) for Gold Creek and the Gold Creek Valley. Although the Environmental Assessment for the proposal identifies five proposed activities within the Gold Creek Valley, the Decision Notice modifies the proposed action to omit one of the activities. The remaining four activities are: (1) Gold Creek Instream Channel Restoration, (2) Gold Creek Pond Restoration, (3) Heli's Pond Restoration, and (4) Keechelus Lake Access Modifications. These activities are described in detail in the Environmental Assessment.

WDFW has made a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance and is adopting USFS's Environmental Assessment, including the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Notice.

**The proponent shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:**

The design elements, best management practices, and conservation measures described in Appendix B of the Environmental Assessment.

**Proponent/Applicant:** USDA Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  
Contact: Patty Garvey-Darda  
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Cle Elum, WA 98922  
509-852-1029  
[Patricia.GarveyDarda@usda.gov](mailto:Patricia.GarveyDarda@usda.gov)

**Location of Proposal:** Approximately 2 miles southeast of Snoqualmie Pass in Kittitas County, Washington (Sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 15, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, 35 of Township 22 North, Range 11 East; Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13 of Township 21 North, Range 11 East; and Section 10 of Township 21 North, Range 12 East, Willamette Meridian); Latitude 47.411808, Longitude - 121.367970. It would occur within the Gold Creek Valley, encompassing Keechelus Lake, USFS Road 9070-219 which accesses the Keechelus Boat Launch, portions of Gold Creek, Gold Creek Pond, and Heli's Pond.

**Title and Date of Documents being Adopted:** Revised Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact dated December 2024, and the Decision Notice dated December 9, 2024, which together make up the Environmental Assessment for the “Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project”.

**Agency that Prepared Document Being Adopted:** USDA Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

**Description of Document (or Portion) Being Adopted:** Revised Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact and the Decision Notice for the “Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project,” except for the portions regarding Cross-Country Travel Closure.

**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: [Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest - Home](#). From this webpage, the Revised Final Environmental Assessment can be viewed by opening the “Analysis” folder, then the “Final EA Docs” folder. Supporting documents, including the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan, are in the “Supporting” folder. The Decision Notice is in the “Decision” folder.

As SEPA lead agency for this proposal, WDFW has identified and adopted this document as being appropriate for this proposal. We have determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. We issued this Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance/Adoption Notice under WAC 197-11-350, 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 15 days of the date of this determination. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on December 26, 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: [Gold Creek Restoration](#)
- Email to: [GoldCreekRestoration@PublicInput.com](mailto:GoldCreekRestoration@PublicInput.com)

After the comment period closes, applicants and reviewers may view the updated status of this proposal 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.

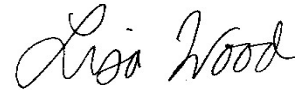
**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

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

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

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](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov).

**DATE OF ISSUE:** December 11, 2024 **SIGNATURE:**



SEPA Log Number: 24-057 mdns/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](mailto:Title6@dfw.wa.gov)).*