



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE
May 16, 2007

State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: SCHNEIDER HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT ON COWICHE CREEK

Description of Proposal: The North Yakima Conservation District, through the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP), proposes to enhance fish habitat through the installation of rootwads and log vanes to stabilize vertical and eroding banks as well as provide instream complexity, install livestock exclusionary fencing around Cowiche Creek to limit the negative impact free ranging livestock have on the stream banks and water quality, and enhance the riparian buffer through the planting and maintenance of native woody vegetation. This project is a component of the larger, watershed based restoration strategy for the Cowiche Basin. Efforts are currently underway to conserve over 7 cfs in trust water through a water wheeling agreement between a group of irrigators and the Yakima Tieton Irrigation District. The additional instream water, in association with the proposed physical habitat improvements will greatly benefit fish resources in the Cowiche Watershed. Additionally, the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy owns land surrounding roughly 1.5 miles of Cowiche Creek about 1 mile downstream from the project site. This enhancement project will compliment the other restoration efforts in the basin designed to benefit fish and wildlife resources.

Proponent/Applicant:

Mike Tobin-NYCD
1606 Perry Street
Yakima, WA 98902
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mike-tobin@wa.nacdnet.org

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: 910 Weikel Road , Washington, Yakima County; 1/4 of Section 02, Township 13 North, Range 17 EastWM

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will have no probable significant adverse impacts on the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). We made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after review of the environmental checklist and other information on file with us. This information is available to the public on request.

Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal.

We issued this DNS under WAC 197-11-340(2). We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date of issuance of this DNS. If you have comments about this DNS or this proposal, we must receive your comments by **May 15, 2007**.

When you send us your comments, please provide the name of proposal in your comment letter and mail it to:

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

You can also send your comments via email to: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov

You can also send you comments via fax to: (360) 902-2946.

If you have questions about details of the proposal, contact:

Jennifer Scott-WDFW, 1701 S. 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902- **Phone:** (509) 457-9307 **email:** scottjls@dfw.wa.gov

If you have questions about this action, please contact:

Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or
email: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov

DATE OF ISSUE: May 1, 2007

SIGNATURE:



SEPA Log Number: 07 -036. dns

Distribution of Environmental Document:

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia

Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Columbia River Basin Field Office, Spokane

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Yakima County Planning Department, Yakima

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Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, Portland, OR

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State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia

WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 3, Yakima

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