



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:** WILEY SLOUGH ESTUARINE RESTORATION

**Description of Proposal:** This project is an estuary restoration project designed to restore natural landscape processes to a large tract (~157-acres) of diked farmland that consists of the following actions:

- Construct 2800' of new bay front levee.
- Construct a new tidegate complex upstream of the existing tidegate location
- For constructing the new tidegate complex, temporary sheet piling will be installed to isolate and dewater the new tidegate site from Wiley Slough. Wiley Slough will be temporarily bypassed around the new tidegate site during construction.
- Deconstruction of approximately 6500' of existing bay front levee after new levee construction is complete.
- Augment approximately 3000' of the existing levee.
- Remove the existing Wiley Slough tidegate complex.
- Remove an existing culvert in Wiley Slough under the access road to the west parking lot.
- Construct a new access road to the west parking lot along the west side of Wiley Slough.
- Dredge selected areas in Wiley Slough between the existing tidegate complex and the new tide gate complex to facilitate tidal exchange and drainage.
- Dredge Wiley Slough between the new tidegate complex and the existing pump station to facilitate drainage storage and drainage.
- Construct a 2.5 acre detention-pond at an adjacent upland site for drainage storage. The detention pond will be constructed and connected to Wiley Slough upstream of the new tidegate complex.
- Backfill approximately 1.1-acres of existing burrow ditches with approximately 9,693-yd<sup>3</sup> of dike spoils-convert from open water wetland to estuary emergent marsh.
- Excavate fill from selected areas of the project site for reconnecting approximately 2,400' of historic estuary channels.
- Elevate the east and west parking lots and expand the footprint of the east parking lot with approximately 14,500-yd<sup>3</sup> of dike spoils.

The primary goals of this project are to; restore tidal and riverine flooding (natural processes) to approximately 157 acres; restore channel habitat inside and outside of the existing dikes; and restore native marsh habitats that support detrital food chains for juvenile salmonids and food plants for wintering waterfowl. Secondly the goals of the restoration project include; providing for agriculture drainage, flood and salt intrusion protection; provide waterfowl hunting opportunities; improve the existing boat ramp approach and parking lot; provide public access to the site for wildlife viewing opportunities; and retain the Skagit Wildlife Management Area headquarters in its current location.

It is anticipated that the restoration project will result in a self-sustaining estuarine habitat that will benefit the indigenous fish, wildlife, and vegetation communities common to the Puget Sound fjord ecosystem. The project design will rehabilitate natural processes within the confines of publicly owned land located at the historic Wiley Slough distributary channel of the South Fork of the Skagit River delta. The restoration project is designed to protect the current landuse and infrastructure of adjacent landowners, the drainage infrastructure of the local agricultural community, and WDFW's Skagit headquarter while promoting fish and wildlife oriented recreational activities consistent with the restoration objectives.

**Proponent/Applicant:**

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
c/o Bob Everitt  
16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek WA 98012  
(425) 776-1311

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** The project is located along Wiley Slough, just south of the southern terminus of Wylie Road on Fir Island, Skagit County, WA. The site is further described as a portion of **Section 26, Township 33N, Range 03E, W.M.** and is comprised of several properties with the following Parcel numbers: P16071, P16093, P16106, P16107, P16111, P16113, P16115, P16117, P16120, P16122, P16123, P16124. The approximate coordinates of the site are 48.3206°N, 122.3792°W

**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 **August 14, 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](mailto: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:

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

**DATE OF ISSUE:** July 30, 2007 **SIGNATURE:** 

SEPA Log Number: 07 -062. dns

**Distribution of Environmental Document:**

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WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 4, Mill Creek  
WDFW, Fish Program, Region 4, Mill Creek  
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 4, Mill Creek

Stakeholders List (70) (on file)