



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: SKAGIT COUNTY DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT #19
MAINTENANCE DREDGING

Description of Proposal: Drainage and Irrigation District #19 (DID#19) proposes to conduct maintenance dredging in approximately 2.45 miles of channel in the Upper Higgins Slough watershed. Maintenance dredging will occur from culvert 662 in Reach 5 to culvert 650 in Reach 6 (see Figure 6). The channel from culvert 622 and culvert 650 has been identified as a Watercourse With Headwaters. A Managed Watercourses with Headwaters (Color Code: Green) is defined by the Drainage And Fish Initiative MOU as “ Watercourses with headwaters that follow and/or replace a historic natural watercourse that has been significantly channelized, relocated, and/or constrained by dikes and that have flow control structures (tide gates, pump stations) at their confluence with marine waters.” The headwater areas of this watercourse type typically supports a reproducing population of salmonids.

Dredging will be completed utilizing a hydraulically operated boom-type excavator. The excavator has a wide, flat-bottomed bucket that will scrape down one side of a watercourse, round out the bottom and come up the opposite side in one continuous motion. The result leaves the ditch with inclined sides and a round bottom feature that minimizes side sloughing and erosion into the bottom of a ditch. All dredged material will be deposited landward of the ditch so that it will not re-enter the channel and will later be moved back into the adjoining field or be hauled away when and where necessary.

The channel to be dredged will be sampled for salmonids prior to dredging. Where salmonids are present, a more intensive effort will be implemented to remove salmonids from the channel prior to dredging.

Proponent/Applicant:

Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation District #19

Attention: Henry VanderVeen

15673 State Route 536

Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Agent: Kim Nelson

11274 Bayview Edison Raod

Mount Vernon, WA. 98273

(360) 661-2110

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: DID #19, is located within the Skagit River Delta of Skagit County west of the City of Mount Vernon, east of the City of Anacortes and north of the Town of LaConner, Washington, Skagit County. The jurisdictional boundaries of DID #19 are illustrated in Figure 2. DID #19 is approximately bordered by Padilla Bay and the Swinomish Channel to the west, WDOT Highway 20, Ovenell Road and Peterson Road to the north, Downey Road, Mclean Road and Donnelly Road to the south, and Avon Allen Road, Pulver Road to the east.

Dredging will occur between culvert 662 and 650 (Figure 6).

Section 2,10,11, Township 34 North, Range 03 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 **September 21, 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 this action, please contact:

Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or

email: SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov

DATE OF ISSUE: September 7, 2007

SIGNATURE: 