



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: SALMON CREEK ESTUARY RESTORATION PROJECT

Description of Proposal: The Hood Canal Coordinating Council's "Salmon Habitat Recovery Strategy for the Hood Canal & Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Version 09-2005" identifies the Salmon Creek Estuary as the highest priority habitat type in WRIA 17, critical to the recovery of Hood Canal/Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon. The estuary is also inhabited by coho and sea run cutthroat trout and most likely provides estuarine rearing habitat for non-natal Puget Sound Chinook salmon.

Human impacts to the estuary include bisection by an abandoned railway grade, presence of US Highway 101, which borders the salt marsh to the west and south, and construction of a mill operation in the 1950's which included the subsequent filling of mud flat and salt marsh areas in the 1950's and/or early 1960's. Through this project we will 1) restore parts of the estuary impacted by the mill construction, 2) remove a portion of railroad grade to reconnect an area of partially isolated salt marsh, and 3) create an additional 5 acres of salt marsh adjacent to the current lower Salmon Creek estuary. In addition to excavating to marsh elevation, some tidal channels will be constructed. Re-vegetation will be allowed to occur naturally in the newly created marsh, and some re-vegetation will be done along the tidal channels.

The project scope includes:

- Removal of five derelict lumber mill buildings
- Removal of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of wood waste
- Removal of approximately 29,000 cubic yards of fill and associated berms
- Creation of approximately 11 Acres of salt marsh through removal of material to upland or off site disposal areas
- Creation of 5200 meters of new tidal channels (1,100 to be excavated and 4,100 to form naturally over time)

The primary intent of the project is to restore estuarine habitat for salmonids, especially out-migrating summer chum. Numerous wildlife species are expected to benefit from this project, especially waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attn: Doris Small
502 High Street Suite #112
Port Orchard, WA 98366
(360) 895-4756

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The project is located at the south end of Discovery Bay in Jefferson County, WA.

Jefferson County Parcel Numbers include #902233013 #902234001 #902231004 #902231010 and #902231018

State Highway 101 swings around the South end of Discovery Bay and heads north along the west side of the bay. The Highway borders the project sites. Site 1 is located south of Highway 101 and sits behind an antique shop and large domed metal garage. Site 3 is east of Highway 101 just behind the Trading Post. Sites 4-6 lie to the north of site 3 and are adjacent to the old railroad grade, which follows Highway 101 in this location. See attached vicinity and project location maps.

Washington, Jefferson County; Section 23, Township 29 North, Range 02 West WM

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 **December 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 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

DATE OF ISSUE: December 7, 2007 **SIGNATURE:** 