



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 DELTA TIDEGATES AND FISH INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

Description of Proposal: The Agreement when implemented will provide a process for regulatory review and permitting of tidegate and floodgate maintenance on existing tide and floodgates owned or under the control of the diking/drainage/irrigation districts signatory to the Agreement. (See checklist for summary description of Agreement) Skagit Delta Tidegates and Fish Initiative Implementation Agreement working draft is 109 pages and is posted online at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Agricultural Association
Mr. Mike Rundlett
2017 Continental Place, Suite 6
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The coverage area for the tide gate and floodgate repair and maintenance actions as defined under the Agreement is composed of approximately 53,322 acres of farmland in the Skagit and Samish River deltas located in the western portion of Skagit County, Washington, and a limited area in northwest Snohomish county, Washington; including the tidal delta areas of Skagit Bay, Padilla Bay, Samish Bay and the Swinomish Channel. This area is inclusive of the jurisdictional boundaries and jurisdictional responsibilities of Drainage and Irrigation Districts 5,14,15,16,17,18,19,22,25; consolidated Diking District 22; and diking, Drainage and Irrigation District 12, all of which control lands historically subject to tidal influence within the Skagit and Samish River deltas, as well as Diking District 3, which has drainage interests within tidally influenced zones that lay within the same geographic area. The coverage area is bounded by the towns of Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, and Mount Vernon on the east and Samish and Padilla Bays and the Swinomish Channel on the west.

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 **February 12, 2008.**

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: January 29, 2008 **SIGNATURE:** 

SEPA Log Number: 08 -002. 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, Western Washington Office, Lacey
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle
NOAA-Fisheries, Seattle
State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia
Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Skagit County Planning Department, Mount Vernon
Skagit County Public Works, Mount Vernon
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia
Lummi Indian Natural Resources, Bellingham
Lummi Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Nooksack Tribe, Deming
Suquamish Tribe, Suquamish
Swinomish Tribe, La Conner
Skagit System Cooperative, La Conner
Upper Skagit Tribe, Sedro Wooley
Todd Rightmire, Whatcom Trout Unlimited, Deming
Snohomish County Department of Planning and Community Development, Everett
Stillaguamish Tribe, Arlington
Tulalip Tribes, Marysville
WDFW, Habitat Program, Region 4, Mill Creek
WDFW, Fish Program, Region 4, Mill Creek
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 4, Mill Creek