



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: TANEUM CREEK LARGE WOODY DEBRIS (LWD) RECRUITMENT PROJECT-PHASE ONE

Description of Proposal: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is a large landowner in the Taneum Watershed, including the property surrounding approximately seven creek miles. Habitat surveys in the lower three miles of WDFW ownership were conducted during the summer of 2007 and found that large woody debris (LWD), an important salmonid habitat component, is lacking in the project reach. Of the reaches surveyed, approximately 75% were either entirely or nearly devoid of in-channel woody debris and associated pools. Where LWD is present, smaller material has racked against it causing hydraulic changes that enhance salmonid habitat, including scour holes and upstream gravel aggradations. Because of a lack of woody debris, pool frequency is extremely low. Other habitat components including riparian buffers, instream flow, water quantity and quality, and floodplain connectivity appear adequate through the surveyed reach. The addition of LWD will also enhance riparian and floodplain functions.

Because of fire suppression and historic timber harvests, the adjacent upland coniferous forest has been transformed from a ponderosa pine forest to a ponderosa pine-true fir/douglas fir forest, with extremely high fuel loads. Where funding is available, forest managers are striving to shift the forest stand back to the historic pine stand by under story thinning and introduction of prescribed fire.

This project will selectively remove some of the fir tree component from approved areas, and relocate the trees into nearby stream reaches by manual "grip hoist", chainsaw and bumper winches. Trees will be recruited in full lengths, into areas with healthy riparian vegetation abutting the stream channel, which will provide maximum benefits to channel morphology and fish habitat while minimizing risks of movement of trees to downstream areas. Smaller, naturally-recruited woody material will rack against the larger, key pieces to expedite the natural process of log jam formation. The adjacent land is managed for fish and wildlife habitat.

Proponent/Applicant:

Scott Nicolai-YN YKFP Habitat Biologist
201 North Pearl Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Jennifer Scott- WDFW
1701 South 24th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Located within WDFW's L.T. Murray Wildlife Area on Taneum Creek, Just South of Taneum Road, near Thorp, Kittitas County 98946, Washington, Township 19 North, Range 16 East, Sections 28, 29, 30, 33, 34; and Township 18 N, Range 16 East WM, Section 2 within 300 feet of Taneum Creek along either bank

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 13, 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 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: January 30, 2008

SIGNATURE: 