



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: LEQUE ISLAND SETBACK LEVEE - ESTUARY RESTORATION

Description of Proposal: SR 532 divides the project into two portions, with 35 acres to the north (all slated for estuary restoration), and approximately 260 to the south.

On the north, work is limited to construction of 2050 feet of setback levee, which protects private utility easements, and 4200 feet of levee removal. The removed levee material will be used to construct the setback levee. This restores approximately 35 acres of former tidelands to full tidal connectivity to Skagit Bay.

Restoration on the South side has “primary” and “secondary” components.

Primary construction provides the 2600-foot South setback levee and the 2200-foot Davis Slough replacement levee, and removes 5500 feet of existing shoreline levee, restoring approximately 76 acres of estuary to full, natural tidal flushing necessary for channel development, sediment transport, native plant restoration, and juvenile fish access. 4300 feet of tidal channels will be either created or reconnected to Port Susan.

Secondary construction enhances borrow areas (from setback levee construction), creating 72 acres of managed freshwater wetlands. Necessary enhancements include re-placement of organic soils, shoreline grading, water-management structures, and revegetation. Site drainage will be reconfigured to route most runoff into the wetlands while ensuring proper drainage to Eide Road and adjoining private non-project lands. Ultimate discharges will be to Port Susan and Davis Slough via tide gates.

Performance of both the south- and north-side estuarine restorations will be measured by the degree to which self-sustaining native plant, fish, and wildlife communities are restored. Project elevations will prevent *Spartina* colonization; minimal management and intervention is anticipated. WDFW and other partners will closely monitor the site to ensure invasive plants are controlled.

Proponent/Applicant:

Landowner: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Lora Leschner, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd, Mill Creek, WA 98012 (425) 775-1311

Authorized Agent: Ducks Unlimited Inc. John D. Axford, PE 17800 SE Mill Plain Blvd, Suite 120, Vancouver, WA 98683

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: The project is located in Snohomish County, one mile west of Stanwood, Washington, between Davis Slough and the South and West Pass of

the Stillaguamish River; Section 23,25,26, Township 32 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 **February 14, 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 31, 2008

SIGNATURE:

