



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: RIPARIAN AND WETLAND HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-
WAPATO DAM ACCESS SITE

Description of Proposal: This project will result in enhanced wetland and riparian function, as well as providing off channel rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids from the mainstem Yakima River. The proposed project consists of punching through the existing levee at the upstream and downstream ends of the project area. The upstream end will have a 42" culvert and the roadway on the levee will be restored over the culvert to maintain vehicular access. The downstream end of this inlet channel will have a grade control structure at the downstream end to backwater the culvert and reduce scour. There will be no excavation through the wetland/pond area. The outlet at the downstream end will have three grade control structures and the levee will be breached with a hardened ford constructed for vehicular access.

Prior to the construction of Interstate 82, this project site was an orchard. During construction of the freeway, this area was mined for gravel. The project location still has the depression from the gravel pit, but has naturally vegetated and retains groundwater; serving as a low quality wetland. The proposed project will enable perennial flow through the pond and over land. Additionally, the proposed project will result in two "open" locations within the existing levee, allowing the Yakima River more access to its floodplain.

Proponent/Applicant:

Eric Bartrand
1701 South 24th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902
(509) 457-9310

alternate contact: Jennifer Scott
(509) 457-9307

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Yakima River, downstream East Side of Wapato Dam, River Mile 106.6, City of Union Gap, Washington, Yakima County; SW 1/4 of Section 17, Township 12 North, Range 19 EastWM

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal likely will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us. If you want to review this information, please contact WDFW at the address below.

Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. If you have comments about this DNS or the proposal, you must send your comments to us so that we receive them within 14 days. This means we must

receive your comments by **July 3, 2008**.

When you send us your comments, please provide the name of proposal in your comment letter, and mail the letter to:

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

You can also send your comments via email to SEPAdesk@dfw.wa.gov, or via fax to (360) 902-2946.

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Teresa Eturaspe at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2575.

DATE OF ISSUE: June 19, 2008 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 08 -042. 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, Upper Columbia River Basin Field Office, Spokane
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle
NOAA - Fisheries, Seattle
Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Yakima County Planning Department, Yakima
Yakama Nation, Toppenish
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, Portland, OR
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