



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: SPEARS UNIT BERM BREACH AND DITCH CLEANOUT

Description of Proposal: The southern berm of “Channel A”, created from historic management activities, is creating a *de facto* dike that is acting to disrupt natural hydrology by impounding and maintaining artificially high water over most of the central portion of the area. Surveys of “Channel A” show a gradient drop of six inches over 1800 feet of channel and a bottom composition of fine sands and silt. 200’ downstream of the unit where hydraulic function is more natural there is gravels visible and riffle-pool sequences. It is necessary to partially dewater the area lying east and south of “Channel A” to restore the natural hydrology and a more diverse vegetation community. Portions of the berm that are left in place would provide opportunities to establish a broader range of vegetation community types in the riparian corridor. This project is part of a larger restoration plan to restore the site to more natural historic conditions and provide a hydrologic regime that would protect water quality and provide optimal habitat for fish and wildlife resources. Flooding to neighboring properties most likely will be lessened.

Cleaning the agricultural ditch that drains to Siler Creek will facilitate managing the fields as wildlife forage fields through standard agricultural and wet soil management practices. The sediment from the ditch will be reincorporated into the adjacent agricultural field.

Proponent/Applicant:

Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife
Cowlitz Wildlife Area
PO Box 758
Morton, WA 98356
Mark Grabski – 360.496.6223

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: South of Randle Washington Bordered by State Route 131, Cispus Road and Spears Road, Washington, Lewis County; Section 21, Township 12 North, Range 07 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 **October 21, 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: October 7, 2008

SIGNATURE: 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 08 -074dns

Distribution of Environmental Document:

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia
Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Office, Lacey
NOAA - Fisheries, Seattle
Lewis County Planning Department, Chehalis
State Parks and Recreation Commission, Olympia
Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Chehalis Tribe, Oakville
Nisqually Tribe, Olympia
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