



**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

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (MDNS)

Name of Proposal: WATERWHEEL CREEK RESTORATION ON WDFW CHERRY VALLEY UNIT - SNOQUALMIE WILDLIFE AREA

Description of Proposal:

The project involves excavating a new 4,600-foot long naturalized stream channel for Waterwheel Creek and filling three existing agricultural drainage ditches (Laterals B, C, and D). Spoils from the excavated floodplain will be used to fill the existing drainage ditches, to fortify the landward side of the mainstem Cherry Creek levee, and to amend the road that currently exists along the mainstem levee improving access to an existing pump station. The new channel and associated revegetated riparian corridor covers an area of approximately 8.5-acres. The project also includes placing woody debris within the constructed stream channel to improve fish habitat. Abandoning the drainage ditches and creating one larger, naturalized stream channel will improve water quality and dramatically increase the amount of habitat available to fish. The new channel alignment will mimic the sinuosity and condition of the likely historical conditions.

The project is on WDFW's Cherry Valley Unit of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. The objective of this project is to improve fish and wildlife habitat within the Cherry Valley Wildlife Area while maintaining or improving drainage from adjacent farmland.

The proponent shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:

The primary purpose of this project is to, within the constraints of the site, restore natural processes that improve physical habitat and water quality for native fishes including ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout. In addition to increasing the quantity and quality of habitat available to native fishes, the project is designed to measurably improve the water quality within Cherry Valley – water quality that at present is so poor as to result in near-annual springtime fish kills. Commitments to this project were made during a NOAA Fisheries Cooperative Compliance process designed to mitigate the negative impacts of existing conditions on ESA-listed salmon and steelhead.

Construction will take place during the summer during mostly dry conditions. The site is surrounded and buffered by extensive fields of reed canary grass which would act as a filter in the unlikely event that sediment may be mobilized during construction. All disturbed areas will be seeded and covered with straw.

Channel excavation will be done in the dry, absent surface water. If groundwater is encountered during excavation, it will be pumped away until the water table allows the bottom of the new stream channel to be constructed. There may be a need to place some dewatering wells at the lowermost segment of the stream channel to lower the groundwater surface elevation to allow construction. In either case clean groundwater will be pumped back into the stream below the project site.

General Measures to Reduce Runoff Impacts

- 1 . BMPs will be used to control erosion from any construction related runoff impacts. Silt fences will be installed on the perimeter of the work footprint area as it progressively enlarges.
- 2 . Excavators will use vegetable oil in place of hydraulic fluid to minimize potential impacts to surface or ground waters in the case of an accidental spill. Spill prevention kits will be available on site for each machine in use.
- 3 . Heavy equipment will be cleaned and inspected daily for fuel or lubricant leaks prior to entering the job site.
- 4 . The entire work area can be temporarily isolated from the waters of Waterwheel and Cherry Creeks if needed. Any turbidity generated from construction or from a significant summer storm event can be retained on the project site and allowed to settle out any suspended sediments. Turbid water can also be filtered in the reed canary grass at pre-identified acceptable locations.
- 5 . Staging and refueling areas will be isolated and located completely away from surface waters to eliminate any potential impacts resulting from staging or fueling activities.
- 6 . A spill prevention and pollution control plan will be prepared by WFC project engineers to reduce the risk for spills and to outline necessary procedures to be taken in case of a spill.

Proponent/Applicant:

Wild Fish Conservancy Northwest
PO Box 402
15629 Main Street NE.
Duvall, WA 98019
Contact Person: Jamie Glasgow
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(360) 866-4669

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: 27715 N.E. Cherry Valley Road, Duvall, Washington, King County; Southwest 1/4 of Section 7, Township 26 North, Range 7 East WM
The parcel number is 0726079031.

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

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this mitigated determination of nonsignificance (MDNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this MDNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the MDNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or MDNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **March 2, 2012**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Bob Zeigler

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

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this MDNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: February 16, 2012

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

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