



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:** KALAMA FALLS HATCHERY RENOVATION

**Description of Proposal:**

This project will install:

- A new concrete fish ladder in the west portion of the site.
- A series of 12 rectangular concrete rearing ponds on the south portion of the site
- A new fish sorting facility
- Four circular fish holding ponds
- A concrete retaining wall generally west of the holding tanks.

**Fish Ladder:**

Previous Kalama Falls hatchery operations loaded fish from the fish ladder into a fish truck and then delivered the fish to the Kalama Falls Hatchery holding ponds. This operation was inefficient. The ageing fish ladder structure needs maintenance to continue current operations.

The new fish ladder will be constructed entirely inside the footprint of the current fish ladder structure. The old fish ladder will remain in place. Most of the water supplied to the Kalama Falls Hatchery fish ladder originates from the Kalama River Intake, located on the south end of the hatchery complex. During construction this water supply will be turned off and the fish ladder will be drained. In addition, stop logs will be slid into place in the current fish ladder to stop water originating from the Kalama River from entering the structure during construction. Seepage, if any into the fish ladder structure during construction will be pumped upland where it cannot re-enter the fish ladder or the Kalama River. During construction, supersacks will be installed and the fish ladder during construction will be essentially dry. The new fish ladder will also have an aboveground piping extension (approximately 240 feet long) that will be installed to direct water and fish to the new concrete rearing/holding ponds. Supersacks will be removed after construction.

**Concrete Rearing/Holding Ponds:**

Six rearing ponds will be replaced with 12 dual use rearing/holding ponds (16.5 feet wide x 8 feet tall wall x 69 feet long) in the same footprint as the old fish rearing ponds. Average water depth of the new ponds will be 4.82 feet. An average of 5,500 cubic feet water will be contained in each pond. These ponds will be supplied with 4 inch supply line.

An attached fish migration channel (originating from the new fish ladder) will be installed along the west end of the new rearing/holding ponds. A vertical fish crowder will be installed inside the fish migration channel to facilitate fish movement to the fish sorting area. Sprinklers will be attached along the sides of the pond walls.

**Fish Sorting Facility:**

The fish sorting facility (30 feet wide x 29 feet high) will be located at the southern end of the new rearing ponds. A feature of the fish sorting facility is an attached mechanized fish lift to ease fish

hatchery operations. This sorting facility structure will also have an attached fish flume to return fish to the Kalama River, and an area for forklift operations under the fish sorting facility.

**Four Circular Fish Holding Ponds:**

These four ponds are along the southern end of the project area. Pond “A” will be 16 feet in diameter and ponds “B – D” will each be 30 feet in diameter.

**Concrete Retaining Wall:**

Along one side of the new circular fish holding ponds is a concrete block retaining wall, with attached 18 inch HDPE pipe that supplies the new circular ponds with re-use water from the new dual use ponds.

**Proponent/Applicant:**

Washington State Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA. 98501  
Contact person: Cindy Knudsen  
360 902 8422

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** WDFW Kalama Falls Hatchery, Washington, Cowlitz County; Southeast 1/4 of Section 07, Township 06 North, Range 01 East WM

**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 law<sup>1</sup> 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.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **April 17, 2013**.

**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](mailto: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.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS 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:** April 2, 2013



**SIGNATURE:**

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 13 -003. dns