



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: DNS 16-019: NORTH FORK NEWAUKUM RIVER FISH LADDER MAINTENANCE

Description of Proposal:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for operation and maintenance of the fish ladder structure that was installed in 1970. Over the years the concrete and adjoining bedrock has eroded. Resulting gaps allow water to flow around the edges of the fish ladder, causing fish passage problems. Migrating juvenile fish can be trapped in the ladder during summer low flow conditions. At higher flows, a considerable amount of water pours over the bedrock ledge, causing a false attraction problem for returning adult fish. They can be injured or trapped instead of being directed into and through water in the fish ladder. Debris becomes wedged in the intake channel causing additional maintenance problems.

This project will repair the fish ladder by extending concrete weirs, joining them to bedrock. A new wall will be poured along the west side of the fish ladder to minimize false attraction flows. Two portions of the upper existing fish ladder weirs will be extended to this new wall. This project also installs a deflector log upstream of the fish ladder to deflect flow toward the fish ladder and two shear logs to further protect the bank and prevent debris from entering the intake structure. These repairs will minimize sediment and debris deposition around the ladder, increase the amount of water available during seasonal low flows, and diminish species entrapment in the fish ladder. Construction will be done in low flow and in dry conditions. Please refer to project drawings for additional details.

Currently this project is under review by WDFW archaeologist to determine if there are any cultural resources or buildings at the project site that are on or eligible for listing on national, state, or local preservation registers.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
Contact: Cindy Knudsen
(360) 902-8422
Cindy.knudsen@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any:

Take Exit 79 from I5 South. to NW Chamber of Commerce Way in Chehalis. Follow Coal Creek Road and Centralia Alpha Road to N. Fork Road. The City of Chehalis water intake where the fish ladder is located is about half a mile down at a fork in N. Fork Road behind a locked gate, that prevents public access. The Fish ladder is located at T14 N, R1E, S20 in Lewis County (46.68523,-122.74610).

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 determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules². 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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm April 26, 2016**.

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/sepa_comment_docs.html
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Steve Bell on behalf of Lisa Wood

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

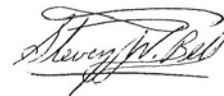
Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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 DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Steve Bell at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2598.

DATE OF ISSUE: April 11, 2016

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 16-019.dns