



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 16-042: TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST AQUATIC RESTORATION

#### Description of Proposal:

**Overview:** The proposed Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) aquatic restoration project is a collaborative effort by the Yakama Nation, WDFW, and DNR to protect and enhance water supply and protect the watershed, while restoring fish habitat in eight headwater streams of the Teanaway River and Swauk Creek from 2016-2018. Approximately half the work will occur the first year, depending on permitting and logistics, and the other half in future years, depending upon permitting and logistics. The proposed work will directly implement the water and fish habitat goals identified in the TCF Management Plan (April, 2015), utilizing the appropriate strategies and tools identified in the plan.

The work being proposed will treat approximately 8-10 miles of stream and ~150 acres of floodplain in eight sub-watersheds of the TCF (See Figure 1 Map). The cumulative effects of this work, in addition to future projects in the Swauk and Teanaway Watersheds, directly address the limiting factors faced by cold water fish species such as high water temperatures, minimum in-stream flows, channel diversity, and habitat complexity.

**Background:** The headwater tributary watersheds of the Teanaway have been degraded from past land use including, splash-dam logging, steam yarding, construction and management of a logging railroad in the 1920's, livestock grazing, farming, and tractor logging. The streams, floodplains, and associated meadows have lost the large trees and riparian shrubs that would provide roughness features during high flows. As a result, the stream channels have cut deeper into the valley alluvium and high flows are now trapped in the incised, flume-like channels, with the result of simplifying habitat and decreasing surface and groundwater water storage, and impairing water quality.

**Approach:** The water and habitat restoration goals will be achieved by placing woody material in the eight tributaries of the Teanaway River and Swauk Creek and on the adjacent floodplain surfaces to provide roughness and more natural fluvial processes (see Figure 2 Conceptual Design, in the attached PDF). A Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) will be applied for to ensure protection of fish life. Installation of wood will follow Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines (2012) for LWM. Recommendations for log size and loading densities (relative to stream size and project lengths) and placement, anchoring (or not), and other measures to mitigate risks. The installed wood material will help capture mobile sediment and promote stream aggradation, create channel complexity, restore floodplain connectivity, recharge shallow groundwater (improve stream base flows), reduce peak flows, improve stream temperatures, attract beavers, and establish and maintain a robust and species rich riparian corridor (see Figure 2 Conceptual Design, in the attached PDF).

**Proponent/Applicant:**

**Primary:**

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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Seven tributaries to the North Fork Teanaway River and one tributary to Swauk Creek on the Teanaway Community Forest, north of Cle Elum, Kittitas County, Washington: multiple sections of Townships 20N and 21N, Ranges 15E, 16E, and 17E.

**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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on July 29, 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](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:** 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.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** July 15, 2016

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)

2. WAC 197-11-340(2).  
SEPA Log Number: 16-042.dns