



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: MDNS 17-011: LEQUE ISLAND ESTUARY RESTORATION PREPARATION

Description of Proposal:

The Preparation Project would include construction of intertidal habitat features landward of the perimeter dikes around Leque Island, including excavation of a new tidal channel network; fill of the existing drainage network; removal of existing infrastructure (footbridges, ditch culverts, berms); and construction of habitat / wave attenuation hummocks. All work would occur within the 250-acre Leque Island; no work is proposed on the perimeter dikes, waterward of the dikes, or at the tide gates under the Preparation Project.

The scope of the Preparation Project includes:

- Excavate up to 18,260 linear feet of new tidal channels within the project area. Excavation would impact up to 10.8 acres and remove up to 40,000 cubic yards (CY) of material.
- Fill up to 8.4 acres of existing artificial drainage features interior of the perimeter dike, including drainage ditches, relic tidal channels, and borrow areas. Up to 39,200 CY of material excavated from the new tidal channels would be used as compacted fill in these areas.
- Create low-elevation habitat / wave attenuation hummocks. Hummocks would encompass up to 0.50 acre and would require placement of up to 800 CY of material.
- Remove 1,900 linear feet of existing berms. Material associated with these berms (up to 700 CY) would be spread in 4-inch lifts across about 1.5 acres of the project area.
- Remove wooden footbridges and culverts in the existing drainage ditches on the project site.

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

Water Quality and Fisheries

- All work will be completed landward of the perimeter levee around Leque Island. The two tide gates within the perimeter levee will be isolated to prevent inadvertent delivery of sediment or hazardous materials to adjacent surface waters.
- Special care in heavy equipment routes will be taken to minimize compaction and rutting.
- Filter bags, sediment fences, sediment traps or catch basins, leave strips or berms, or other measures would be used to prevent movement of soil into waterways and wetlands.
- All construction materials that may leak petroleum products, fuel, lubricants, or other hazardous materials would be staged in designated upland areas, away from water or other sensitive natural communities.
- Vehicles and equipment would not be washed onsite.
- If high flow or rain conditions that may cause siltation, erosion, or a dangerous work environment are encountered during construction, work would stop until conditions improve. Upon completion of construction, vegetation stripped from work areas would be replaced and erosion control measures would be installed until the site is stabilized.

Biological Resources

- To the extent possible, limit construction staging and access areas to existing paved areas and roads to minimize the potential for injury to less mobile terrestrial wildlife species. Construction access across and within Leque Island will be limited to as few routes as possible.
- To extent possible, implement construction activities, including vegetation removal, to the period outside the typical breeding season for most bird species (i.e., April to July).

Cultural Resources

The following measures will be implemented in accordance with the USACE-approved Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan (MIDP) for the Leque Island Estuary Restoration Project (Cardno 2017):

- All construction personnel will participate in MIDP training and orientation prior to the start of any ground-disturbing construction activities. New construction personnel added after construction begins will be trained before working on the site. The training will inform construction personnel what constitutes cultural resources and inadvertent finds, and what steps to take in the event of an inadvertent discovery. MIDP training and orientation will be developed and provided by a qualified archaeologist.
- A qualified archaeologist will monitor select ground-disturbing activities during construction, as identified in the MIDP for the project. The monitor will have the authority to stop work in the event cultural materials are discovered during construction.
- Regulatory agencies and potentially affected tribes will be notified of the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources by the archaeological monitor in accordance with the MIDP. Protective buffers will be established to protect the resource, as needed.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Loren Brokaw
16018 Mill Creek Boulevard
Mill Creek, WA 98012
(425) 775-1311 ext. 105
Loren.Brokaw@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal: Leque Island, immediately west of Stanwood and south of State Route 532, Snohomish County, Washington: Township 32N, Range 5E, Section 26.

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. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on March 28, 2017**.

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: 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 MDNS 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: March 14, 2017

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 17-011.mdns