



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT)

Name of Proposal: DNS/Adoption 17-017: CHEWUCH RIVER RESTORATION RM 15.5-20

Description of Proposal:

The Methow Valley Ranger District (Forest Service [FS]), in partnership with The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), propose to re-establish, enhance and improve the diversity of aquatic habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish in the River Mile (R.M.) 15.5 - 20 reach of the Chewuch River. The purpose of the project is to re-establish, enhance, and improve the diversity of fish habitat for threatened and endangered anadromous fish species including Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout in the R.M. 15.5 - 20 reach of the Chewuch River. Lack of habitat diversity in the Chewuch River is limiting fish productivity for anadromous fish listed under the Endangered Species Act. There is a need to restore habitat diversity by increasing large wood quantities, pool frequency and quality, and re-establishing side- and off-channel habitat to improve fish habitat for ESA-listed species.

The Forest Service and the Yakama Nation, funded by BPA, are currently proposing restoration actions on the Chewuch River from R.M. 15.5 to 20.0. This is the fourth in a series of Chewuch River restoration projects. Additional project proposals may occur in future years, but information about site locations or designs is not available. The proposed project has been designed to enhance fish habitat and to improve fish habitat diversity by:

- Increasing habitat complexity by the introduction of large wood,
- Increasing pool habitat, and
- Restoring historical off-channel habitat.

More information is available in the attached Environmental Assessment.

Proponent/Applicant: Yakama Nation
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Chewuch River between river miles 15.5 and 20 between Camp 4 Campground and Falls Creek Campground, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, north of Winthrop, Okanogan County, Washington: Township 36N, Range 21E, Section 13.

Title of document being adopted: Chewuch River Restoration River Miles 15.5-20 Environmental Assessment

Agency that prepared document being adopted: U.S. Forest Service

Date adopted document was prepared: April 2017

Description of document (or portion) being adopted: The entire contents of the Environmental Assessment.

If the document being adopted has been challenged, please describe: N/A

Name of agency adopting the document: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

The document is available to be read at:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Natural Resources Building,
1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA, Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

This document is also available for review online at:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_final_docs_2017.html

Adoption of Existing Environmental Document: After independent review, we have identified and adopted the referenced document as being appropriate for this proposal. The document meets our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

We issued this Determination of Nonsignificance/Adoption Notice under WAC 197-11-360. We will **not act on this proposal for 7 days** from the date of issue below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

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

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DATE OF ISSUE: April 17, 2017 **SIGNATURE:**

