



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (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 17-039: COLONIAL CREEK CAMPGROUND REPAIR

Description of Proposal:

During a major flood in 2003, Colonial Creek filled its channel with up to 12 feet of gravel and found a new course down an adjacent NPS campground road on the north side of Colonial Creek Campground on Diablo Lake in Ross Lake National Recreation Area (managed by North Cascades National Park Service Complex). This led the NPS to abandon the old camp road alignment and build a new camp road to the south in 2005. The next large flood in 2006 threatened campsite 25 on the north side of the new road, and although the camp site was lost, the NPS was able to stop the erosion by installing an engineered log structure along the bank at that time.

In November 2016, the NPS noted a new erosion problem downstream of site 25 at site 24, where there is now a six foot tall cut-bank, composed of sand and gravel. The cut-bank gets taller upstream and extends for about 60 feet laterally along the campsite. Already, the site 24 tent pad logs are dislodged, and one is hanging over the bank. See Figure 1 for a map of the campground and the changing conditions of Colonial Creek since 2003.

In response to this ongoing erosion and specifically to prevent the loss of campsite #24 and the road, the NPS is proposing to build an engineered logjam to protect 60 ft along the creek at site 24. This engineered log jam would be constructed with 6-10 large (2-3' diameter, 20-50 feet long) logs, with rootwads if possible, that are interwoven and pinned together with 1" diameter bolts and ¾" cable and secured onsite with 5-10 2-4' diameter angular rocks. The logs would extend to just above the ordinary high water level (OHWL). The upper log would extend into the stream at an angle of 65 degrees off of the bank and would be securely pinned on shore. The upper 3-4 ft of the bank above the log structure would then be revegetated with native shrubs and erosion control fabric using a willow-layering technique. See Figure 2 for a drawing of the proposed engineered log jam.

Design: This engineered logjam was designed to mimic natural conditions in a way that deflects erosion from the bank of concern. Fish habitat components such as logs, stumps, and/or large boulders were intentionally designed as part of the bank protection to mitigate project impacts, and both these fish components as well as the angular rock, would be installed to withstand 100-year peak flows. River gravels or other round cobbles would not be used as exterior armor, and the volume of rock used would not exceed 20 cubic yards.

Materials: Six to 10 large (2-3' diameter, 20-50 feet long) logs would be sourced directly from the channel – using machinery (only when able to access via arm from the shoreline) and winches. (There is notably an accumulation of woody debris in Colonial Creek just upstream of the project site.) The five to ten 2-4' angular rocks would be sourced from an NPS pit where material from Rhode Creek (neighboring creek) and Cascade Pass Road have been staged. All sourced rock would be cleaned prior to transport and use on site.

Methods and Equipment: NPS crews would construct the logjam and complete the revegetation.

Bank protection material would be placed in a manner to avoid damage to existing vegetation, and alteration or disturbance of the bank and bank vegetation would be limited to that necessary to construct the project.

While the revegetation work would be done by hand above OHWL, an excavator would be needed to retrieve the logs from onsite and construct the logjam, which would be operated entirely from the upper bank and outside of the stream channel. No drive mechanisms (wheels, tracks, tires, etc.) would be allowed to enter or operate below the ordinary high water line, and the machinery would not enter nor cross the creek channel. If the arm of the excavator cannot reach a log that is needed for the project, NPS crews would winch the log across the channel.

Equipment used for this project would be free of external petroleum-based products while working around the stream, and extreme care would be taken to ensure that no petroleum products, hydraulic fluid, fresh cement, sediments, sediment-laden water, chemicals, or any other toxic or deleterious materials are allowed to enter or leach into the stream. Equipment would be checked daily for leaks and any necessary repairs shall be completed prior to commencing work activities along the stream.

Erosion control methods would also be used to prevent silt-laden water from entering the stream. These may include, but are not limited to, straw bales, filter fabric, temporary sediment ponds, check dams of pea gravel-filled burlap bags or other material, and/or immediate mulching of exposed areas.

Timing: Installation would occur in low flow conditions between September 6-14, 2017, but should high flow conditions that may cause siltation be encountered during this project, work would stop until the flow subsides. Within seven calendar days of project completion, all disturbed areas would be protected from erosion using vegetation or other means.

Proponent/Applicant: National Park Service
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Contact: Elizabeth Boerke
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
(360) 854-7328
Elly_Boerke@nps.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Colonial Creek Campground on Diablo Lake within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area, Milepost 130 off State Route 20, 25 miles east of Marblemount, Whatcom County, Washington: Township 37N, Range 13E, Section 15.

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 rules.² 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 31, 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 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 17, 2017

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 17-039.dns