



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 18-040: CONBOY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

**Description of Proposal:**

Ducks Unlimited is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to design and implement a wetland enhancement project at the Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Klickitat County, Washington. The project would improve water delivery within and between managed wetland units on the Refuge to benefit native habitats and species, including federally-endangered populations of Oregon spotted frog that breed in the area.

The project proposes to improve water delivery to and conveyance between four managed seasonal wetland units within the Refuge – Conboy Lake and the Swan, Arena, and Oxbow Units. These wetlands collectively encompass about 260 acres within the 7,000 acre Refuge. The improvements are proposed to maintain surface water longer and more reliably in targeted wetlands to benefit breeding populations of Oregon spotted frog and to improve nesting habitat for greater sandhill crane. Proposed enhancement activities under the project include installation of an inverted siphon under Outlet Creek to deliver water from Conboy Lake to the wetland unit to the east (Swan Unit); excavation of one new swale and removal of vegetation and sediment from two existing swales to improve conveyance between the Swan, Arena, and Oxbow Units; replacement of existing water control structures in the Arena and Oxbow Units, and removal of an existing water control structure in the Swan Unit; and fill of a small depression in the Swan Unit to prevent stranding of Oregon spotted frog tadpoles as water levels within the wetland recede.

**Proponent/Applicant:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Contact: Trevor Sheffels, Refuge Manager  
100 Wildlife Refuge Road  
Glenwood, WA 98619  
(509) 792-0058  
[Trevor\\_Sheffels@fws.gov](mailto:Trevor_Sheffels@fws.gov)

**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge, southeast of Glenwood, Klickitat County, Washington: Township 6N, Range 12E, Sections 24 and 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 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 June 22, 2018**.

**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 Habitat Program, Protection Division

**Address:** P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

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:** June 8, 2018

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 18-040.dns