



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 18-057: AHTANUM CREEK HERKE FISH SCREENING

Description of Proposal:

The Ahtanum Creek Herke Fish Screening Project will screen one of the last remaining unscreened and uncontrolled irrigation diversions in the Ahtanum Watershed. A fish screen compliant with WDFW and NMFS criteria will be installed, eliminating fish entrainment into the existing gravity diversion. The screen is a paddlewheel driven rotary drum fish screen with 3/32" mesh. This is a standard rotary drum screen design that meets state and federal fish screening criteria. Components of the fish screen include the headwall and pipe to the fish screen, fish bypass pipe and a water measuring device.

In addition to the fish screen, two rock weirs will be installed in the irrigation delivery channel to account for future headcutting up the channel and to provide grade control to operate the fish screen compliantly, two small berms will be installed around the fish screen to prevent flood flows from entraining fish behind the fish screen, and an existing ford will be improved to provide access to the fish screen for operations and maintenance needs.

ESA-listed Middle Columbia Steelhead and Columbia River bull trout are present in Ahtanum Creek, as well as culturally important Chinook and coho salmon, Pacific lamprey, and numerous other native fishes. Completion of this project is a high priority for WDFW and the Yakama Nation as well as NOAA Fisheries and USFWS. Upon completion, fish will no longer be entrained into the ditch and the water diverted from Ahtanum Creek will be controlled and measured.

Proponent/Applicant: North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD)
Contact: Justin Bader, Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program
(YTAHP Coordinator, NYCD)
1606 Perry Street, Suite C
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Approximately River Mile 25 on the south side of Ahtanum Creek on Yakama Nation Reservation land owned by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. 19320 Ahtanum Road, Yakima, Yakima County, Washington: Township 12N, Range 16E, Section 16.

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 October 2, 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
- 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.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: September 18, 2018

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 18-057.dns