



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) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION)**

**Name of Proposal:** DNS/Adoption 18-062: ARTESIAN AND BLACK LAKES REHYDRATION PILOT

**Description of Proposal:**

Artesian and Black Lakes are two historically ephemeral wetlands residing within Black Rock Coulee that have been depleted following the abstraction of groundwater within the Odessa Subarea. Further, agricultural efficiency projects within the area have reduced the incidental input contributing to these water bodies. As these water bodies have dried, waterfowl, shorebird, and aquatic habitat has been lost. Rehydration of Artesian and Black Lakes was identified as a prospective habitat enhancement project to offset impacts of implementing the Odessa Subarea Special Project within the 2013 Final Odessa Subarea Environmental Impact Statement. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has developed a pilot project to inform the feasibility of rehydrating Artesian and Black Lakes on an annual basis. This project is made possible through an agreement with the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, The Office of Columbia River (Washington State Department of Ecology), and WDFW.

The goal of this pilot seeks to recharge the shallow aquifers of Artesian and Black Lakes to the point of ponding, thereby establishing seasonal wetland habitat within the confines of the Black Rock Coulee. Construction associated with this project consists of installing a siphon on the top-side of the East Low Canal (ELC), located at the north end of the Black Rock Siphon. From there, approximately 100-150' of buried HPDE pipe will convey water from the ELC to a naturally-occurring topographic low (swale), where water will flow via gravity-assist to the mouth of Artesian Lake and beyond to Black Lake. There will be a small amount of clearing and bolstering work at the Rd. 10 culvert to reduce ponding and add support (the Grant County Right of Way permit has been acquired). Water delivery is planned to commence April-May of 2019 at a rate between 10-15 cubic feet per second (CFS). This conveyance will continue until our 2,100 acre-foot allotment has been fulfilled.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
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**Location of Proposal:** Artesian and Black Lakes, approximately 9 miles northeast of Moses Lake, Grant County, Washington: Multiple sections within Township 20N, Range 29E and Township 21N, Range 29E.

**Title of Document being Adopted:** Cover letter dated October 25, 2018, and Categorical Exclusion Checklist for "Artesian and Black Lakes Rehydration Pilot Project", PN-EFO-CE-

2018-083, which together make up the Categorical Exclusion.

**Agency that Prepared Document Being Adopted:** U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

**Date Adopted Document was Prepared:** October 25, 2018

**Description of Document (or Portion) Being Adopted:** The entire contents of the October 25, 2018, cover letter and “Categorical Exclusion Checklist,” which together make up the Categorical Exclusion.

**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\\_comment\\_docs.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/sepa_comment_docs.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 197-11-340(2), WAC 197-11-610, and WAC 197-11-630. 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 November 15, 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:** November 1, 2018

**SIGNATURE:**

*Lisa Wood*

SEPA Log Number: 18-062.dns/adpt