



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

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (MDNS)

Name of Proposal: MDNS 19-013: LOWER SATSOP FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

Description of Proposal:

The project sponsor has two objectives in completing this project: Restore degraded habitat on WDFW ownership in the Chehalis Wildlife Area; and conduct research on amphibian response to habitat changes. Prior to WDFW ownership, the site was a privately operated gravel quarry, leaving three deep ponds and gravel and earthen dikes. Two of the quarry ponds are in excess of 40' deep. The banks are nearly vertical, resulting in a narrow fringe of wetland that transitions almost immediately to deepwater habitat, limiting the habitat value for native fauna including amphibians. The dikes consist predominantly of native alluvium per soil analyses completed by WDFW (2016). These are “push-up” dikes constructed of native materials to keep the river out of quarry operations. Large spoil piles are located between the ponds that contain soil materials generated by construction of the Satsop Development Park. Both the dikes and the spoil piles have disrupted the connection between the river and the floodplain and wetlands on site. The dikes and spoils piles are overgrown at this time.

Habitat restoration will include wetland creation, wetland enhancement, and improved floodplain connectivity. Nearly five acres of emergent wetland will be created. More than one acre of forested, emergent, and scrub-shrub wetlands will be enhanced. Approximately 125,000 cubic yards of dike and spoils materials will be removed to re-connect wetlands and aquatic habitat and promote floodplain connection and flood storage. Invasive species will be treated before the spoil piles are removed. Dike and spoil materials will be used to create wetlands by shallowing the deepwater aquatic habitat in the relic quarry ponds. After the work is completed, the site will continue to be managed for invasive species, following the Chehalis Wildlife Area Management Plan.

The project will be conducted in two phases to facilitate the amphibian research (Hayes, 2017). In the first phase, Quarry Pond B will remain unrestored in order to serve as a control for the restoration work. In Phase 2, Quarry Pond B will be restored following up to two years of habitat monitoring of the control environment. This checklist addresses both phases of the project.

The proponent shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:

Though beneficial for natural resources in the longterm, some unavoidable shortterm impacts will occur during construction. Mitigation measures include:

- Construction timing will be limited to drier months of the year (August, September)
- Turbidity will be minimized through construction timing and use of a water quality treatment channel at the outlet of Pond C.
- Large trees at the site will be flagged and avoided to the greatest extent possible during construction. If trees and snags must be removed for spoils removal, this material will be

used for habitat features within the ponds.

- Spread of invasive plants (knotweed, scots broom, reed canarygrass) will be avoided by treatment of spoils in advance of placement in ponds. Treatment of invasive plants will be provided following the project, although upstream sources may make this difficult to fully achieve.
- Disturbed areas will be planted with native plants following construction activities.
- Following construction, construction access roads will be removed and vehicular access blocked using a gate. The existing road to Pond B may remain for wildlife area management activities, but erosion control will be used to avoid sedimentation impacts.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Doris Small
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 902-2258
Doris.Small@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal: Approximately one mile south of Highway 12 and Satsop on Keys Road, along the Satsop River, Grays Harbor County, Washington: Township 17N, Range 6W, Section 7.

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 mitigated determination of nonsignificance (MDNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this MDNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the MDNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or MDNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on February 28, 2019.**

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 MDNS 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: February 14, 2019

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Wood".

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 19-013.mdns