



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Habitat Program: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2534

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS**

Working Title of Proposal: GRANDY CREEK STEELHEAD FISHING ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Description of Proposal: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fish Program is proposing to optimize harvestable, steelhead in Skagit County while protecting naturally spawning steelhead as much as possible.

Proponent: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Hatchery Division, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091. Contacts: Ray Berg, Engineering; Chuck Johnson, Hatchery Division

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Skagit County. A potential site for this project is at the mouth of Grandy Creek, tributary to Skagit River.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

EIS Required. The lead agency has determined that this proposal may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared. An environmental checklist or other materials indicating the likely environmental impacts can be reviewed at our offices.

The lead agency had identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

1. Constructing an acclimation pond at the confluence of Grandy Creek and the Skagit River. The acclimation pond would collect and provide rearing for juvenile steelhead until they can be released (approximately 5 to 6 weeks).
2. Constructing an acclimation pond at Baker River instead of the Grandy Creek site.
3. No action. Taking no action would keep the numbers of winter steelhead in the Grandy Creek/Skagit River area the same except for any natural increases in production.

Potential impacts identified at this time that will be discussed in the EIS include:

1. Groundwater and surface water, including water flow changes in Grandy and/or Skagit River.
2. Genetic interactions between wild steelhead and hatchery-raised steelhead.
3. Compromise to the floodplain; riparian buffers, natural stream sinuosity.

4. Water quality
5. Animals
6. Plants
7. Aesthetics, including noise, air quality, visual.
8. Transportation
9. Land Use
10. Recreational and Commercial Fisheries
11. Any existing fish enhancement projects in the vicinity affected by the project.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The method and deadline for giving us your comments is:

Written comments should be received at the address listed below no later than
July 15, 2002.

Please return your scoping comments, with this page, to the address shown below. If you have questions about the project, please contact Chuck Johnson, Hatchery Division, at 360-902-2653 or Ray Berg, Engineering Division, at 360-902-8395. If you have questions on the Scoping process please contact the SEPA Coordinator and Responsible Official, Cynthia Pratt, at 360-902-2575 or e-mail prattcrp@dfw.wa.gov.

Please see the following time and address for the public Scoping meeting:

Skagit County Administration Building
Hearing Room C
700 South 2nd Street
Mt. Vernon, Washington 98273

July 1, 2002
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Responsible Official: Cynthia R. Pratt

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Habitat Program

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

DATE OF ISSUE: June 17, 2002 **SIGNATURE:**  _____

To conserve resources indicate if you would like to receive 1) the full Draft EIS; 2) an Executive

Summary which will include the objectives, the major conclusions, significant areas of controversy or uncertainty, issues to be resolved, the alternatives and the mitigating measures; A CD of the full Draft EIS; or 3) would like to be dropped from the mailing list. Please note in making your choice that the Full Draft and Final EIS will be available in regional public libraries and WDFW regional offices throughout the state. You may choose any of the above options at any step of the EIS process.

Please complete the form below and enclose it with your comments or return it to the Department. If we don't hear from you we will keep you name on our mailing list and send you a final summary at the end of the process.

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Request for Environmental Documents for

Send to:

Cynthia Pratt, SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501
or e-mail to prattcrp@dfw.wa.gov.

Draft EIS (Please check one):

- Would like to receive the full Draft EIS or
- Would like to receive the Executive Summary of Draft EIS or
- Would like to receive a CD of the full Draft EIS
- Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Distribution of Environmental Document:

Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section, Olympia
Department of Natural Resources, SEPA Center, Olympia
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Washington Office, Lacey
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle
U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service, Lacey
Skagit County Planning Department, Mount Vernon
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia
Lummi Indian Natural Resources, Bellingham
Nooksack Tribe, Deming
Suquamish Tribe, Suquamish
Swinomish Tribe, La Conner
Skagit System Cooperative, La Conner
Upper Skagit Tribe, Sedro Wooley
Mount Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest, Sedro Wooley
Town of Concrete, Planner, Concrete
City of Mount Vernon, Planning Director, Mount Vernon
Town of Hamilton, Planner, Hamilton
City of Sedro Woolley, Planning Director, Sedro-Woolley
Patty Michak, FishPro, , Port Orchard
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Trout Unlimited, Stillaguamish Valley Chapter, Stanwood
NW Marine Trade Association, Seattle
Skagit Surveyors, Sedro Woolley
Clark Skamania Fly Fishers, Vancouver
Federation of Fly Fishers, Bozeman, MT
Friends of the Earth, Washington D.C.
Washington Trout, Duvall
Rick Smith, Smith and Lowney, Seattle
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Wildcat Steelhead Club, Sedro Woolley
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Joann Jarmin, Sedro Woolley
Lawrence Bates, Concrete
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WDFW, Fish Program, Region 4, Mill Creek
WDFW, Wildlife Program, Region 4, Mill Creek