



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (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 14-044: STEMILT CREEK CATTLE GUARDS

Description of Proposal:

The proposed project will install three cattle guards, all located within the Wenatchee Heights area of Chelan County. The cattle guards are being installed to deter wildlife from trespassing into agricultural ground north of the project locations.

Each cattle guard requires excavation of 24 feet wide by 20 feet long by 2 ½ feet deep within the surfaced portion of the county road. All cattle guards when finished will each measure 24 feet wide by 16 feet long in the existing roadway prism. The cattle guards all will be constructed of four (4) precast concrete footing sections with a steel grid anchored on top of the footings, to create the wildlife guard/barrier. Twenty yards of gravel material for each cattle guard will be split between both ends of the cattle guard and spread out to match the existing road grade.

Two hundred feet of fencing will be installed at site three. The new woven wire fencing will be installed approximately 20 feet on center with hand tools, only on the western side of site three, attached to wooden posts and anchored in with duckbill anchors. Post holes will be dug with an auger 12 inches in diameter by 36-39 inches deep then the fencing will be tipped up and fastened to posts. A section of woven horizontal wire fencing will be installed under the fence where it crosses over Stemilt Creek and trimmed to fit the creek banks (approximately 4 feet high by 16 feet wide). The fence panel will be fastened to a T post located immediately upstream of the swinging gate, that will breakaway and allow the gate to swing freely during high flows. Monitoring for high water events during the summer convective storm season will be done to prevent the possibility of in-water work being done during those times. Project materials will be staged away from the creek until the project is fully completed.

The fence over Stemilt Creek will be installed at a low flow stage when the fence is installed, during the proposed work window July 1 – September 30. The swinging panel installed over water has a breakaway fence design that will allow for high flows and fish passage. Installation of the fence includes brush trimming for 5 feet on either side of the fence with a rotary mower or cutter head will be used to trim or snip brush. Brush trimmings will be cast to the side and left on site. If stumps are created during brush trimming, they will also stay on site. No clearing or grubbing will be done. All brush trimmings will be placed on cleared areas.

An eight foot high, five foot wide wire filled gate will be installed, two feet from one side of the base of all of the cattle guards. All of the cattle guards will be connected to existing fencing constructed by others, except for one side of the fencing at site three proposed as a component of this project. At that site, the fencing will attached to one side of the cattle guard, and continue for 200 feet and the other side will attach to existing fencing.

At site two, a 40 foot long CMP drainage culvert with beveled ends will be installed at a 4:1 slope. The ditch in this location will be filled with three inches of (CTSC) gravel over the

culvert.

A cultural resources survey has been requested by Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). An archeological survey will be conducted in summer 2014.

This project will take all reasonable action to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to archeological or cultural resources that could be present at the project. Monitoring will be performed during project activities. Should any artifacts be found, the project will stop to avoid adverse impact to the project area, and DAHP will immediately be notified.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Cindy Knudsen
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 902-8422
Cindy.Knudsen@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Stemilt Loop Road and Stemilt Creek Road near Wenatchee, Chelan County, Washington: Township 21N, Range 20E, Sections 3, 12, and 13.

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 July 5, 2014**.

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 Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

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: June 19, 2014

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "W".

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 14-044.dns