



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 22-004: WEST FOSTER CREEK BEAVER DAM ANALOGS

Description of Proposal:

Using beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post assisted log structures (PALS), this project will restore 0.5 miles of West Foster Creek located on the Wells Wildlife Area in Douglas County. This reach, as is most of the creek, is in a degraded condition due to an incised stream channel and headcuts. The goal is to stop the incision process, improve water quality, stream habitat, and the surrounding riparian vegetation community. BDAs and PALS are low-tech restoration methods that mimic dams built by beavers. Each consist of wood posts, 6 to 7 feet tall and approximately 6 inches in diameter, that are driven into the streambed and placed approximately 12 to 30 inches apart. Cuttings of native vegetation are then woven through the posts from the base of the streambed to a predetermined point above the existing flow of water. The two structures serve different purposes but work together to restore the natural processes of the stream. BDAs span the entire stream. This slows the water velocity which then pools behind the structure. Sediment drops out of the water column, is deposited on the streambed and aggrades the streambed. In contrast, PALS extend part way across the stream. This creates a backwater eddy upstream of the structure where deposition will occur. Then, as the water flows around the end of structure, it will scour the opposite bank. That in turn 'harvests' sediment that will in then be deposited behind a downstream BDA. Given sufficient time, the stream develops more complexity, the streambed rises, and the stream is reconnected to the historic flood plain and water table. Any disturbed soil at the project site will be planted with native grasses and shrubs by June 30, 2023. We anticipate that after June 30, 2023, adaptive management will be needed to maintain, modify, or add to BDA structures.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Dan Peterson
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Brewster, WA 98812
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: West Foster Creek, located on the West Foster Creek Unit of the WDFW Wells Wildlife Area, approximately 7 miles north of Twisp, Douglas County, Washington: Township 28N, Range 25E, Section 21.

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 February 2, 2022**.

Method of Comment:

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>.

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 through one of the following ways:

- Online at the Public Input comment portal for this proposal: <https://publicinput.com/WFosterCkBDAs>
- Email to: WFosterCkBDAs@PublicInput.com

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: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>. 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, or have difficulty with the Public Input comment portal, contact Lisa Wood at: SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov.

DATE OF ISSUE: January 19, 2022

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 22-004.dns

Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).