



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 23-004: SHILLAPOO WILDLIFE AREA MAINTENANCE

**Description of Proposal:**

The 2,341-acre Shillapoo Wildlife Area Maintenance Project (project) is a maintenance project proposed to provide the landowner, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), with the ability to manage water levels more effectively within a seasonal wetland for the purposes of optimizing wildlife habitat and wildlife-dependent recreational uses. WDFW proposes to replace, install, and remove multiple water control structures (WCS) located within the project area to remedy damaged and poorly functioning structures. In addition to WCS work, project activities propose to install a low-berm spillway, fill a drainage ditch, and raise an existing farm road. Construction would take place within three work areas (Figure 1) within the Wildlife Area, including:

1. Shillapoo Lakebed
2. South Shillapoo
3. Vancouver Lake

These areas largely contain open space and agricultural land uses; WCSs support actively managed wetlands, agricultural activities, and recreational opportunities.

At Shillapoo Lakebed, four WCSs (WCS 2-WCS 5) would be replaced with new in-line WCSs with flash board risers (e.g., Agri-Drains) and inlet/outlet pipes. The replaced structures would be installed within drainage ditches at the same location as the existing structures and within reconfigured berms. In addition, one new WCS (WCS 1) would be installed in a location where the previous structure was destroyed / is no longer present. A spillway composed of soil and geojute would be installed adjacent to WCS 2 to help control water levels and protect the WCS. Approximately 1,800 linear feet (LF) of gravel farm road would be raised 6 inches and would be composed of the same material. Road work would occur within the existing road footprint and would not modify side slopes. This low section of road frequently floods during the wet season. Lastly, about 700 LF of the most southern drainage ditch (its entire length) would be filled for safety and management purposes.

WCS 6 would be removed at South Shillapoo and two structures (WCS 7 and WCS 8) would be replaced. The structure scheduled for removal is currently plugged and does not convey water; rather, water sheet flows across a farm road to a down-gradient channel.

Three WCSs (WCS 9, WCS 10, WCS 13) would be replaced at the Vancouver Lake work area. In addition, two structures (WCS 11 and WCS 12) would be removed as they are no longer needed to manage wetland areas.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Three work areas within the WDFW Shillapoo Wildlife Area, approximately 5 miles northwest of Vancouver, Clark County, Washington: Township 3N, Range 1E, Section 30; Township 3N, Range 1W, Section 36; and Township 2N, Range 1E, Section 17.

**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 law<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> **We will not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, 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 3, 2023**.

**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/ShillapooMaintenance>
- Email to: [ShillapooMaintenance@PublicInput.com](mailto:ShillapooMaintenance@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.<sup>1</sup>

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](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov).

**DATE OF ISSUE:** January 20, 2023

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 23-004.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](mailto:Title6@dfw.wa.gov)).*