



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 23-044: RULE MAKING TO TRANSITION THE BEAVER RELOCATION PERMIT PROGRAM FROM A PILOT TO A RULE-BASED PROGRAM

Description of Proposal:

Rulemaking to establish a permanent permitting program for permitted members of the public to relocate wild American beavers (*Castor canadensis*). Program goals are to offer alternatives to lethal removal in cases where all coexistence and mitigation options have been exhausted. Permits authorize relocation for a single year.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Contact: Stephanie Landry
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Olympia, WA 98501
564-669-9553
Stephanie.Landry@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Statewide. Release sites will be within the same watershed from where the beaver was trapped, the watershed must not show any evidence of current beaver occupancy, it must not show any potential infrastructure conflict opportunities, and it must pass a site evaluation focused on beaver idealized habitat requirements.

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 47 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 47 days of the date of this document. The comment period will end at **11:59 pm on December 18, 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/beaver_SEPA
- Email to: beaver_SEPA@PublicInput.com

*Note that there is an underscore between “beaver” and “SEPA”

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: November 1, 2023

SIGNATURE: 

Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 23-044.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).