



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 24-002: CHINA CREEK AND SCHOOL CREEK RIPARIAN RESTORATION

**Description of Proposal:**

WDFW proposes to construct up to approximately 60 simple, hand-built structures made of native materials (rock, vegetation, wood cuttings) known as Zeedyk rock structures and beaver dam analogues (BDAs). Up to 30 structures will be placed at China Creek and 30 at School Creek.

At China Creek, along a 1.65-mile reach, up to 30 BDAs will be strategically placed to slow water capture sediment, create pool habitat, and induce flooding of low side channels and terraces at base flow. Structures will be low (<2'high), hand-crafted with native materials, and semi-porous (leaky). Posts, if used for additional reinforcement, would be untreated wooden posts. The expected outcome would be an expansion of the riparian zone as it reconnects with inset floodplain/terraces. We will plant native shrub and trees and may install fencing/cages to protect new plants from herbivory.

At the School Creek wet meadow (~20 acres) site along a 1.1-mile reach, Zeedyk structures will be strategically placed along up to 30 sites to stop or slow headcut development, spread surface runoff, and promote aggradation of incised channels. Multiple structures and types of structures (i.e. Zuni bowl, One Rock Dam, Media Luna) are needed to act in concert to achieve the desired effect within the reach. To repair areas where soil disturbance has occurred (i.e. during rock transport) we will seed with native plants. If existing trailing by cattle continues to create water channelization and water loss, hindering restoration, we will modify the grazing rotation, grazing pressure, or install a temporary drift fence intended to alter cattle behavior.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:** Two locations in Douglas County, Washington:

- China Creek, WDFW Big Bend Wildlife Area, approximately 13 miles north of Grand Coulee: Township 30N, Range 29E, Section 10, 11, and 14.
- School Creek, WDFW Big Bend Wildlife Area, approximately 13 miles north of Grand Coulee: Township 30N, Range 30E, Sections 16, 21, and 22.

**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, 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 January 31, 2024**.

**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/ChinaSchoolCreeks>
- Email to: [ChinaSchoolCreeks@PublicInput.com](mailto:ChinaSchoolCreeks@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 17, 2024

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 24-002.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)).*