



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 19-008: BRISTOL FLATS FISH SCREEN AND PUMP DIVERSION

Description of Proposal:

The Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD), through the Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (YTAHP), propose to install a new, compliant irrigation pump diversion with a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) approved fish screen on the Yakima River near river mile 172 between Swauk Creek and the Teanaway River.

The existing diversion is problematic due to its location on the Yakima River and it does not have a compliant fish screen. The existing pump suction is a slotted metal pipe with a pump on top of it in an artificially dug inlet off of the river. The slotted pipe does not meet fish screening criteria. In addition, the inlet where the diversion is located receives silt deposits during high flow and when flows drop (usually after “flip-flop”) the irrigator must scoop out the silt and other material in order for the pump to have suction to divert water.

The proposed project involves decommissioning the existing pump intake and installing a new pump diversion with a fish screen that will be operated in accordance with NMFS and WDFW fish screening criteria. The fish screen proposed is manufactured by Riverscreen, Inc. and sits on pontoons on the surface of the water. A concrete pad will be poured upslope of the Ordinary High Water Mark and a pump and boom will sit on the concrete pad. The boom will allow the water user to remove the fish screen during the non-irrigation season. The screen will be in the Yakima River from approximately April – October annually.

The Yakima River is home to Chinook, coho and sockeye salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, bull trout and a suite of other native fishes. Steelhead and bull trout are both listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, elevating the priority for installing a compliant fish screen. This project will ensure fish are not entrained into the irrigation infrastructure.

Proponent/Applicant: Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: On the Yakima River at the town of Bristol, Kittitas County, Washington: Township 19N, Range 16E, Section 14.

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 30 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 19, 2019**.

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 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: <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: February 4, 2019

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 19-008.dns