

Don Hoch
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Nonsignificance

Date of Issuance: March 24, 2020

Project Name: Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail Beverly Bridge Rehabilitation

Proponent: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Lead Agency: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Description of Proposal: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) proposes a project to rehabilitate the 3,000 foot long Beverly Bridge, a currently unused and dilapidated railroad bridge which crosses the Columbia River and providing a non-motorized crossing suitable for hikers, bikers, and equestrian travelers. The project will maintain the historic character of the bridge while providing the final connection to complete the 212 mile Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail.

Anticipated work associated with this project includes replacing the existing railroad ties with a platform constructed of pre-cast concrete slabs and the installation of new handrails on both sides to the new trail. The project will also allow access for repair and restoration of existing but decommissioned electrical powerlines that cross the bridge. This restoration will return electric power redundancy to rural areas along the west bank of the Columbia River within the jurisdiction of the Kittitas County Public Utilities District (PUD) that are not easily served by other means. Conversion of the Beverly Bridge for recreational use would enable future utility maintenance operations.

Any subsequent phases, or future stand-alone projects, associated with this proposal will include additional environmental review at such time developments or other actions are proposed. Depending upon the nature of the proposal, some future projects may be considered categorically exempt from additional review under SEPA (WAC 197-11-305). Categorically exempt projects do not require preparation of an environmental checklist or threshold determination. Future phases may include either project or non-project actions such as potential interpretive programming, capital projects, land use or acquisition agreements, implementation of management plan objectives, or other facility improvements. All future projects will be in compliance with State Parks policy as well as local, state, and federal environmental regulation.

Location of Proposal: The proposal spans the Columbia River on the former Milwaukee Road Railroad bridge at the town of Beverly, WA 99321. The Beverly Bridge crosses the river approximately three miles downstream of the Wanapum Dam, spanning between the Grant County side on the left bank and the Kittitas County side on the right bank. The bridge is approximately 7.9 miles south of the I-90 crossing of

the Columbia River at Vantage via State Route 243 on the Grant County side. The bridge is at latitude 46° 50' 1.83''N and longitude 119° 56' 31.16''W. The bridge lies in Township 16N, Range 23E spanning between Sections 33 and 34.

Threshold Determination: The proposed work will be contained within the footprint of the existing structure/grade. There will be no discharge to water or emissions to the air. No work will be occurring on lands covered by water. All work to the historic bridge will be done consistently with the Secretary of Interior's Standards.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact to the environment, nor does it need mitigation to avoid significant adverse environmental impacts. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public upon request.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal until the comment period has closed. Comments must be submitted by April 7, 2020 or they may not be considered.

Responsible Official: Jessica Logan
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Date: 3/24/2020

Signature:  _____

"All Washington State Parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all persons regardless of age, sex, creed, ethnic origin, or physical limitations."

There is no agency SEPA appeal; however, all comments are welcome and will be thoroughly considered.