



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 24-019: STOCKING TIGER TROUT INTO LEAD KING LAKES

Description of Proposal:

WDFW proposes to stock tiger trout in Upper Lead King Lake and Lower Lead King Lake beginning in 2024 to augment and enhance an established recreational fishery. The Lead King lakes have been stocked with fish since 1913, and are currently stocked annually by WDFW with Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss* and Westslope Cutthroat Trout *O. Clarkii lewisi*. Illegally-introduced Pumpkinseed Sunfish *Lepomis gibbosus* are also present, and rapidly increasing in number. The Lead King lakes were treated with rotenone in 2015 to remove illegally-introduced Northern Pike *Esox lucius*.

Tiger trout are a sterile hybrid between Brown Trout and Brook Trout, and are often piscivorous. As an example, Miller (2010) reported regular consumption of Pumpkinseed Sunfish by tiger trout in Fish Lake (Spokane County). WDFW proposes to stock tiger trout into the Lead King lakes on an annual basis to augment the current recreational fishery, but also to introduce a predator that will prey on Pumpkinseed Sunfish. Reduction in the overall number of Sunfish should reduce inter-specific competition, resulting in better survival and growth for salmonids.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Upper Lead King Lake and Lower Lead King Lake, approximately 6.5 miles north of Metaline, Pend Oreille County, Washington: Township 40N, Range 43E, Sections 22 and 27.

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 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 May 9, 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/LeadKingLakesTigerTrout>
- Email to: LeadKingLakesTigerTrout@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.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: April 25, 2024

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 24-019.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).