



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: MDNS 24-049: TANEUM CREEK RIVER MILE 5 RESTORATION

Description of Proposal:

The Yakama Nation - Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) proposes to restore 0.4 miles of Taneum Creek and contracted Natural Systems Design (NSD) to develop design documents for aquatic/floodplain restoration actions proposed within Taneum Creek, a tributary to the Yakima River, between river mile (RM) 4.6 and 5.0. This project is part of a longer-term strategy developed by YKFP to improve habitat conditions across the Yakima River basin for salmonids, including spring Chinook (*Onchorhynchus tshawytscha*) and ESA-listed steelhead (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*). YKFP's overarching goal of the project is to address impacts of historic channel incision and to produce functioning floodplain habitat.

The restoration actions to be taken include installation of habitat forming structures, channel and floodplain earthwork for secondary channel and floodplain connectivity, setback of existing flood berm to limit flooding to downstream property, large wood and gravel placement in the incised channel for habitat formation, and 8.2 acres of riparian restoration.

The project evaluated by this SEPA checklist is Phase I of the two-phase Taneum Creek RM 5 Restoration Project. Phase I spans from river mile (RM) 4.6 – 5.0, and Phase II will span from RM 5.0 – 5.4. Both phases will involve instream and floodplain restoration, and Phase II includes the installation of a new bridge in the reach immediately upstream of Phase I. Phase II will be designed and permitted separately.

The proponent shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:

- Floodplain material forming berms will be excavated and utilized for filling the channel. Boulder, cobble, and gravel from berms will be placed in incised channel for habitat formation. No outside fill will be brought in.
- One existing flood berm will be set back to limit flooding to downstream properties.
- Excavation and placement of fill will only occur in dewatered channels to avoid excess sedimentation of water.
- During construction, turbidity will be closely monitored to remain within permit parameters.
- Riparian restoration will cover 8.2 acres, consisting of planting native plants and protecting existing riparian trees and shrubs.
- The proposed project is anticipated to result in a net increase of 4.1 acres (178, 600 square feet) in the wetlands and waters within the project area, over time. Disturbance will be

confined to the period of construction and the Taneum Creek floodplain wetlands will develop naturally after construction.

- Low flow channel length will be dramatically increased, from 2200 feet under existing conditions to 2700 feet under proposed conditions, and an additional 1900 feet of secondary channel. The number of pools with complex cover available during low flow conditions has also increased by 16 pools.
- Creation of the secondary channel and improvement of the primary channel with wood structures will increase hyporheic flow to support riparian vegetation and reduce water temperature, providing improved habitat for salmonids.
- Hydraulic models show that this project would produce a significant increase in floodplain connection (more than three-fold increase during median spring runoff and nearly a three-fold increase for 2-year events).
- Conservation measures and best management practices as stated in HIP IV will be implemented, including abiding by appropriate State guidelines for in-water work to protect salmonids; using existing access roads and paths whenever reasonable and minimizing the number and length of temporary access roads; and seeding and mulching access routes following construction to prevent erosion and stabilize disturbed areas.

Proponent/Applicant: Yakama Nation - Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project
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Location of Proposal: River Mile 4.6 to 5.0 on Taneum Creek on the WDFW LT Murray Wildlife Area, approximately 5.5 miles WNW of Thorp, Kittitas County, Washington: Township 18N, Range 16E, Section 1.

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 mitigated determination of nonsignificance (MDNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this determination according to state rules.² Agencies, tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this determination. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this document. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on November 7, 2024**.

Method of Comment:

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: [SEPA documents available for public comment | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

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: [Taneum RM5 Restoration](#)
- Email to: TaneumRM5Restoration@PublicInput.com

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA Responsible Official and SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Director's Office

Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this determination on the WDFW SEPA website: [Final SEPA documents | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#). After 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 determination 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: October 24, 2024

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-350.

SEPA Log Number: 24-049 mdns

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).