



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 24-053: JOHNS RIVER WILDLIFE AREA WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

Description of Proposal:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife proposes to replace a leaking water control structure (i.e., tide gate) within a levee at the Johns River Wildlife Area Unit, located within Grays Harbor County. The degraded tide gate currently results in salt watering intrusion and limits management of freshwater wetlands at the Wildlife Area. Ducks Unlimited is providing design and permit assistance for the project and will work with partners to replace the tidegate and implement the habitat enhancement activities. North American Wetland Conservation Act funds would be used in conjunction with WDFW Duck Stamp funds to design and implement the project.

The tide gate was recently repaired (i.e., within the past 10 years) to stop uncontrol saltwater intrusion behind the levee and into the WDFW managed Wildlife Area. The project proposes to replace the structure with one of the similar size and function, with minor variations in design to facilitate safe operation and maintenance.

The existing 36-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe with half round riser would be removed along with the associated wood-framed platform and supporting materials. A new 48-inch diameter HDPE pipe would convey flows through the levee with each end of the pipe flanked by pre-cast concrete inlet and outlet structures. Approximately 25 feet downstream from the pipe inlet, a pre-cast concrete in-line water control structure would allow for management of flows out of the Wildlife Area. Concrete structures would rest atop base and leveling rock and 1-foot-thick base rock and 2-foot-thick light loose riprap would be placed on both side slopes of the levee, in proximity to the structure. Both sides of the existing levee prism are eroded, and rock has sloughed off of the Johns River side into a scour pool near the existing pipe outlet. Existing riprap would be repurposed as levee protection where feasible.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WDFW Johns River Wildlife Area, approximately 5 miles east of Westport, Grays Harbor County, Washington: Township 16N, Range 11W, 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 determination of nonsignificance (DNS) 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 27, 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 determinations. 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: [Johns River Water Control](#)
- Email to: JohnsRiverWaterControl@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: November 13, 2024

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

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

SEPA Log Number: 24-053.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).