



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Jonathan Stumpf
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Trout Unlimited
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Gary Marston
Science Advisor – Wild Steelhead Initiative
Trout Unlimited

RE: SEPA 24-030 DNS, Sol Duc Hatchery Weir Replacement

Mr. Stumpf and Mr. Marston,

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) thanks you for taking the time to review and comment on this proposed project. WDFW would like to emphasize that the project involves the replacement of an existing weir to maintain a consistent source of water for the hatchery, and there will be no proposed changes to the operations or production at the hatchery associated with this initiative. Although other projects may be proposed at the hatchery in the future, they are independent and not an extension of this project. Any future project would be permitted separately.

The primary purpose of the replacement of the Sol Duc weir is to regulate surface water elevation. To ensure optimal performance of the intake system, it is essential to maintain a minimum water level. Salmonids typically return to the hatchery approximately 0.5 miles downstream of the weir, either in Hatchery Creek or Pavel Creek, although the specific local name may vary. It is important to emphasize that neither the current nor the proposed weir is intended to serve as a fish exclusion mechanism. Adult salmonids are passing upstream, both currently and prior to weir failure. This conclusion is supported by years of data collected on both redd and fish surveys upstream.

The weir being proposed is designed to function similarly to the previous one in that fish are allowed to pass over the weir or through the intake structure itself. The proposed new weir will have the same overall height (water surface elevation) as the failed weir.

Your comments have been received, reviewed, and are under consideration for this and any future projects, should they arise.

Sincerely,

Doug Wiedemeier
WDFW
Capital and Asset Management Program (CAMP)
Project Permitter
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Cc: Don Ponder, WDFW, CAMP, Chief Engineer (emailed)
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