



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

206-296-6519 Fax 206-296-0192

TTY Relay: 711

Determination of Non-Significance

Name of Proposal: McElhoe Pearson Restoration Project

Description of Proposal:

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks proposes to improve floodplain habitat by breaching a section of an existing levee within a King County-owned parcel. This project will restore a surface water connection between the Snoqualmie River and a portion of its historic floodplain that has been isolated for over 50 years by a large flood protection levee. The isolated floodplain area currently contains a high quality wetland that is inaccessible to juvenile salmonids except during very large flood events (>60,000 CFS at Carnation). The proposed modifications will restore 500 feet of channel that will connect the Snoqualmie River to this existing feature. Upon reconnection, this area will provide approximately two acres of enhanced off-channel rearing and flood refuge habitat for juvenile salmon within the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of the Snoqualmie River. Removing this portion of the McElhoe Pearson Levee addresses one of the primary limiting habitat conditions (off-channel rearing and refuge habitat) in the highest priority reach along the Snoqualmie River as identified in the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan.

Location of Proposal:

The project is located on the right (east) bank of the Snoqualmie River near River Mile 23. It is north of the City of Carnation in unincorporated King County in Sections 9 and 16 of Township 25 North, Range 7 East; Thomas Brothers' Map page 539, C6. It is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Snoqualmie River and within the Snoqualmie Basin (WRIA 7).

Responsible Official:

Mark Isaacson

Position/Title:

Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division

Address:

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

DATE: 5.4.12

SIGNATURE: 

Proponent and Lead Agency: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

Contact Person(s): Dan Eastman, Project Ecologist, 206-263-6319

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under Revised Code of Washington (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 ON REQUEST (for a nominal photocopying fee) or by visiting:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wlr/sections-programs/river-floodplain-section/capital-projects/mcelhoe-pearson.aspx>.

THIS DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) is issued under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal until after **May 31, 2012**. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by that date.

For additional information, please contact:

Dan Eastman, Project Ecologist
King County Water and Land Resources Division
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855
dan.eastman@kingcounty.gov