



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: Lower Bear Creek Natural Area Habitat Enhancement Project

Description of Proposal:

The King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) proposes to enhance in-stream habitat and habitat-forming processes by placing 12 trees into a reach of Bear Creek located within the Lower Bear Creek Natural Area. The trees will add instream structure notably absent in this reach, provide instream cover and promote pool formation and gravel substrate sorting. The trees will be cut on-site from a dense, 5.5-acre forest stand that contains several hundred trees. The trees selected are all Douglas firs less than 20" in diameter at breast height and all located in close proximity to other trees so that their removal will have minimal effect on canopy coverage or ecological functions. The specific trees to be cut were selected in consultation with a King County staff Forester.

Trees will be dragged to the stream channel over distances ranging from 150 to 400 feet. The trees will be dragged to the channel using winches and pulleys to avoid impacts from heavy equipment use in wetlands and riparian areas adjacent to the channel.

Location of Proposal:

The project is located within the Lower Bear Creek Natural Area (LBCNA), which is an 11.4 acre property owned and maintained by King County. The LBCNA is located immediately east of Avondale Road NE a short distance north of its intersection with NE Novelty Hill Road. The site can also be accessed from the east at the dead-end of NE 103rd Street. The site is within the SW ¼ of Section 31, Township 26N, Range 6E and is shown on Thomas Brothers Maps page 537, E-2.

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: _____

2/24/11

SIGNATURE: _____

John Ridenour

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

Contact Person(s): Laird O'Rollins, Project Manager, 206-296-8014,
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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/animalsAndPlants/restoration-projects/lower-bear-creek-habitat-enhancement.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 **March 14, 2011**. Comments must be submitted by that date.

For additional information, please contact:

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