

SEPA Rules - WAC 197-11-970
Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS)
Programmatic Drainage Ditch Maintenance
Within the City of Forks, Washington

Project

Proponent: Paul Hampton
City of Forks, Public Works Director
500 East Division Street
Forks, WA 98331

Description

of proposal: Over the course of the summers of 2022, 2023, and 2024, the City intends to undertake routine, programmatic maintenance of drainage ditches within the City of Forks. The ditches are associated with conveying waters identified as Peterson Creek and Warner Creek through the City of Forks. City would utilize, during a period of time as permitted by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), a backhoe with a 30" muck bucket to remove grass and sod accumulations from the bottom of the existing U-shaped drainage ditches. These ditches are previously disturbed ground where cleaning has been done by the City over numerous decades. In any given year, the City will need to obtain the necessary hydraulic permit from WDFW. The City will utilize best management practices to reduce and/or mitigate any potential impacts associated with this maintenance work.

[NOTE: This proposed project does not include work on the historic Ford Creek Diversion into Elk Creek, nor the portions of Ford Creek east of the East Division Street and Minnie Peterson Road. The City is working with FEMA to pursue potential FEMA funding to undertake future work associated with that drainage. Such future work would be subject to its own federal and/or state permitting.]

LOCATION:

Work on the Warner Creek drainage ditch would begin alongside Rankin Road heading west to the intersection of Rankin Road and SR 101. Work would continue in this drainage ditch starting at the intersection of G Street and SR 101 then heading west until G Street intersects with Bogachiel Way. Work would continue in the drainage ditch adjacent to Bogachiel Way to the intersection of Bogachiel Way and Russell Road. Work would then continue in the drainage ditch adjacent to Russell Road to that point where the outfall of this drainage turns east towards Mill Creek.

Work on the Peterson Creek drainage ditch would begin where the drainage ditch is located adjacent to and north of the Good Road on the property owned by Wilma Peterson and continue to where the drainage ditch intersects with Minnie Peterson Road. In addition, work would resume west of the end of West Division Street for a length of approximately one hundred feet (100').

**GENERAL
LEGAL**

DESCRIPTION: The project maps are attached to this SEPA MDNS that is being mailed to recipients. The drainage ditches are located in the following areas:

- NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 9; NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 9; NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 9; NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 8; Western boundary associated with Russell Road along the SE ¼ of Section 8; Western boundary associated with Russell Road along the NE ¼ of NE ¼.
- SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 10; Eastern ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 9; NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 9.

All within T 28 N, R 13 W, W.M., Clallam County, Washington

Lead Agency Rod Fleck, City Attorney/Planner
City Planning Department,
City of Forks
500 East Division
Forks, Washington 98331

Proposed

Project: City intends to undertake routine, programmatic maintenance of drainage ditches within the City of Forks. The ditches are associated with conveying waters identified as Peterson Creek and Warner Creek through the City of Forks. Utilizing a backhoe with a 30" muck bucket, City crews will remove grass, sod and silt accumulations from bottom of drainage ditches described above. Removed material will be disposed of on City property and later composted for future use. Ditches are U-shaped and the bottoms of the ditches consist of previously disturbed ground where ditch cleaning has occurred for decades by the City. Ditch cleaning procedures would utilize best management practices to reduce sediment and/or siltation from entering Mill Creek. Practices envisioned, and which are expected to be modified and refined through the review of the applicable permits by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, include:

1. Undertaking work in the historically driest season of the year (August and September);
2. Skip ditching/skip cleaning - in any given year, areas will not be cleaned in the manner described above. This will allow existing grasses to also trap any sediment/siltation that may arise from the maintenance undertaken by the City;
3. Utilization of silt fence devices during the period of ditch cleaning, and possibly longer, prior to the Warner Creek ditch's juncture with Mill Creek;
4. Approximately 25-30% of any total ditch conveyance would be cleaned in any given year, resulting in the total ditch bottom being cleaned over a three to four year period; and,
5. Cleaning is only of the ditch bottom, not intended to clean the existing sides of the ditch channel.

For further information on best management practices associated with drainage ditch maintenance, individuals are encouraged to read through the best management practices for maintenance of roadside ditches found at Volume IV, Chapter 3, page 515 of the Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington 2019 edition.

Prior to any work being conducted in any given year, the City will obtain all necessary permits from WDFW. As part of any permit application process, the City will also consult with the Quileute's Natural Resources Department prior to conducting the work described above in any given year.

Prior SEPA

Documents: None associated with this proposal.

Mitigation required:

1. Obtain from WDFW a hydraulics permit and comply with the terms of said permit during any given year of activity
2. Utilize the skip ditching/skip cleaning to allow those areas not cleaned to aid in the reseeded of the cleaned ditchbed. As part of this effort, work may include the digging of small silt traps within the cleaned areas to address potential siltation/sedimentation issues. Appropriate best management practices to reduce sedimentation will be incorporated into field work and documented by work crews. These include the five specific items noted in the project description above, or similar such practices as are appropriate.
3. During cleaning operations, if any historical and/or cultural object or remains are unearthed, work will immediately stop and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will be contacted to determine how to proceed with the discovery/find.

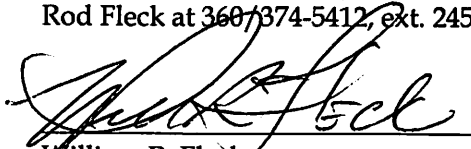
The Lead Agency has determined that the above items do not have a probable significant adverse impact based upon the proposed mitigation required above. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2). This decision was made after review of a complete environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340 (2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for a period of 14 days from the date of issuance to allow for agency review and comment, as well as comments from the general public. Comments must be submitted to the City Planner at:

Rod Fleck, City Attorney/Planner
Forks City Hall
500 East Division
Forks, Washington 98331

Comments will be accepted up to Noon on 7 June 2022. The City will review said comments together to determine the impact upon the stated MDNS. Submittal of comments is not the same as a written appeal of this determination, or asserting lead agency status.

You may appeal this determination no later than Noon, 7 June 2022, by filing a written appeal with the City Clerk of Forks at 500 East Division, Forks, Washington 98331. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. The appeal must be received prior to Noon, 7 June 2022. Contact Rod Fleck at 360/374-5412, ext. 245 to read or ask about the procedures for appeals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William R. Fleck', written over a horizontal line.

William R. Fleck
Attorney/Planner

Date: 20 May 2022