



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

July 11, 2025

Department of the Navy
Naval Base Kitsap
ATTN: Nicholas Weatherly
120 South Dewey Street
Bremerton, WA 98314-5020

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for the Culvert Replacement
Along Navy Railroad (MP 36.09) - Dickerson Creek, Dickerson Creek, Kitsap County,
Washington

Dear Nicholas Weatherly:

On May 14, 2025, the Department of the Navy (Navy) submitted a Consistency Determination with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). Ecology issued a 21-day public notice on June 13, 2025, and received no comments.

The Navy is proposing to replace two undersized, aging culverts on the Navy-owned Shelton-Bangor-Bremerton Railroad at Milepost 36.09 in Kitsap County, Washington within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 15 (Kitsap).

The two culverts currently convey waters of Dickerson Creek, within the Chico Creek watershed. The crossing consists of one 60-inch culvert with a downstream fish ladder that conveys the main channel under normal conditions and one 48-inch culvert that acts as an overflow during higher flows. The primary culvert has been assessed as a partial barrier to fish passage (67% passable). In addition, the culvert is old and notably undersized for Dickerson Creek restricting sediment, large woody material (LWM) transport and other natural processes. The crossing requires annual maintenance to remove accumulated LWM racked on the inlet of the culvert.

The project area includes the immediate area around the Navy railroad prism at Milepost 36.09, two small wetlands on the inlet side of the project site Dickerson Creek and adjacent riparian and upland areas to be cleared and graded for temporary access, areas to be planted and restored (post-construction), ingress/egress routes and temporary stockpile/laydown areas.

The proposed replacement structure as designed would be a 26-foot wide by 11-foot tall, bottomless arched tunnel/culvert on concrete footings located approximately in-line with the existing 48-inch overflow culvert. This project would include cutting access routes (clearing and grading), establishing temporary work pads, temporary stream bypass, tunneling, grading a new stream channel and floodplain terrace, placement of habitat structure/elements (LWM, streambed material, type 1/2 boulders), site restoration and planting.

The replacement culvert adheres to the *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Water Crossing Design Guidelines* and the *Washington Department of Transportation Hydraulics Manual*. The new culvert would be installed via tunneling and would be located approximately in-line with the 48-inch overflow culvert. Existing trees and vegetation would be removed, and grading would occur to facilitate construction of the tunnel and stream channel.

A coffer dam would be installed upstream of the culvert and railroad bed and the site would be dewatered via screened pumps and/or gravity bypassed through the existing culvert during construction. Pump screens would be designed to meet the criteria outlined in the *Anadromous Salmonid Passage Design Manual* (NMFS 2023). A Directing Fish Biologist would be on-site during construction dewatering and throughout the project. During site dewatering fish removal and exclusion measures would be implemented. Fish would be relocated to a suitable location downstream, as determined by the Directing Fish Biologist. Fish removal and exclusion would follow the 2023 *Washington State Department of Transportation, Fish Exclusion - Protocol and Standards*.

A tunnel would be constructed, and the existing 48-inch bypass culvert would be removed. The main 60-inch culvert would be partially removed at the inlet/outlet and filled with controlled density fill and abandoned within the railroad grade. Within the new tunnel a single thread channel would be constructed with meander bars placed alternately to maintain channel hydrology and provide resting places for migrating and rearing salmonids. The Dickerson Creek channel would be slightly shifted to the east to align with the new tunnel, both upstream and downstream with low elevation floodplain terraces to support and enhance hydraulic connectivity with riparian wetlands. LWM (30 key pieces with root wads, 40 additional pieces) would be placed upstream and downstream of the new tunnel to enhance in-stream habitat and provide bank stabilization. Riparian and wetland areas would be restored and planted per the *Impacts and Mitigation Plan* (GeoEngineers 2024) with native species per the restoration plan. Temporary access roads would be restored to pre-construction conditions and planted per the restoration plan.

The proposed project is scheduled to begin in late winter/early spring of 2026, continue through the in-water work window for Kitsap County (July 15 – October 31) and end at the completion of all restoration and warranty tasks. This is anticipated to conclude sometime in the spring of 2027. Monitoring and maintenance of the site would continue for a period of 5-years post construction completion.

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with the Navy's determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington's CZMP.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology's decision, please contact Teresa Pucylowski at teressa.pucylowski@ecy.wa.gov.

Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this decision with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this decision on the Department of Ecology by mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

Address and Location Information

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://elaho.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Mailing Addresses:

Department of Ecology

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Attn: Appeals Processing Desk

PO Box 47608

Olympia, WA 98504-7608

E-Mail Address:

ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Brenden McFarland on behalf of
Loree' Randall, Section Manager
Aquatic Permitting & Protection Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: nicholas.s.weatherly.civ@us.navy.mil

E-cc: Teresa Pucylowski, Ecology
Erin Everton, Ecology
Brody Garner, Army Corps of Engineers
fedconsistency@ecy.wa.gov