

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

## ***Instructions for applicants:***

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

## ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

## ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:***

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

## ***A. Background*** [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Cowlitz WLA, Spears Unit, Pond Water Management**

2. Name of applicant:

**Kaitlyn Kiehart, WDFW**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98503, 360-789-2756, Kaitlyn.kiehart@dfw.wa.gov**

4. Date checklist prepared:

**August 2021**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**WDFW**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

**Summer of 2022**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

**There are no plans for additional activities associated with this project.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

**Wetland Delineation and Ecology Rating Forms**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

**None are known.**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**Hydraulic project approval, U.S. Army Corps 404 CWA permit**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

**Work will occur at two locations as shown on the attached plans. Site 1 involves the installation of a new inlet structure into the Spears Unit Mill Pond site. The permanent electrical connection will come off the pole on Highway 131 where it will be brought to a new power pole with secure service provided in a steel enclosure. The new service line will be dropped and run underground through the old overgrown grade, under new articulated concrete mat (ACM) until reaching the new secure pump area. The ACM will be placed from the overgrown glade to the shoreline's edge, and will be approximately 1200 sf with 6 inch concrete mat blocks. The ACM will allow for secure and stable placement of the new submersible pump, which will be set on a trailer and wheeled into position by work vehicles. The portable submersible pump which will connect to a new 8" HDPE pipe that will be placed on top of the ground and duckbill earth anchored in place. The pump will be placed in March or April and will be used until it is removed in October. Work includes the removal of a portion of the existing 12 inch metal pipe through the pond embankment. A 3x3 riprap pad will be installed on the embankment when the new 8" pipe is placed. Site 2 involves the repair and**



Quantities Tables are shown on pages 7 and 8 of the drawing set. Site 1 will have 104.5 CY of cut above the OHWM, 5 CY of cut below the OHWM, 105.5 CY of fill above the OHWM, and 9 CY of fill below OHWM. This will include excavating existing pipes, installing a new 8" pipeline, installing articulated concrete mats (ACM) and a temporary submersible pump.

Site 2 will have 2 CY of cut outside of wetland, 0 CY of cut inside wetland, 0.5 CY of fill outside of wetland, and 1.5 CY of fill inside wetland. This will be to retrofit an old standpipe with a new riser. Additionally a beaver deceiver will be installed with 3 inch diameter posts and mesh panels.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Yes, erosion could occur from disturbed surfaces; however, erosion control devices will be utilized to limit this.**

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

**New ACM and other associated gravel, precast concrete slabs, and riprap (56.5 CY total) at Site 1 and a new pre-cast concrete slab (1 CY) at Site 2 will be the only increase in impervious surface.**

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

**Best management practices including the use of straw wattles and a turbidity curtain will be utilized to ensure sediment doesn't enter adjacent roadways.**

## 2. Air [\[help\]](#)

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

**Air emissions from heavy equipment will increase during construction of the project.**

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

**No.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

**Standard emission control converters and mufflers will be used by construction equipment and vehicles.**

## 3. Water [\[help\]](#)

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

**The Spears Unit Pond is a year round surface water body that this project aims to fix the intake to. The intake is within Siler Creek. Siler Creek is a tributary to the Cowlitz River.**

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.  
**Yes, this project will require work within Siler Creek and the wetland that consists of the managed pond area.**

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

**Quantities Tables are shown on pages 7 and 8 of the drawing set. Site 1 will have 5 CY of cut below the OHWM of Siler Creek and 9 CY of fill below OHWM of Siler Creek. The source of fill consists of articulated concrete mats (ACM) and a temporary submersible pump.**

**Site 2 will have 0 CY of cut inside wetland and 1.5 CY of fill inside wetland. This will be to install a pre-cast concrete slab. Additionally a beaver deceiver will be installed with 3 inch diameter posts and mesh panels.**

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.  
**Yes, this proposal does require surface water withdrawals from Siler Creek to fill the Spears Unit Pond. We have a water right for 4 CFS.**

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.  
**Yes, the proposal does lie within the 100 year floodplain.**

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.  
**No, the proposal does not involve any discharges of water materials to surface waters.**

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.  
**No groundwater will be withdrawn as part of this project.**

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.  
**None.**

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

**Stormwater runoff will be managed through the use of BMPs such as straw wattles and a turbidity curtain. No stormwater collection will occur. Stormwater will flow through erosion control BMPs and into Siler Creek.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.  
**Waste materials could enter ground or surface waters from construction equipment. Typical waste materials include fuel, oil and other fluids found in vehicles and machinery.**

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.  
**No, the proposal is a maintenance project to replace currently existing infrastructure. The replacement intake and pipeline will be similar in size and kind to the existing varieties.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

**No impacts are anticipated and no measures are proposed.**

#### 4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

**Vegetation removal will be minimal. Some will need to occur for the pipeline to be duckbilled to the ground and the new power pipeline to be installed.**

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**None are known.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

**None.**

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

**Reed Canary Grass.**

#### 5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds**, other:  
mammals: **deer, bear, elk, beaver**, other:  
fish: bass, **salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.  
**According to the IPaC, the gray wolf (proposed endangered), the marbled murrelet (threatened), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (threatened), and the bull trout (threatened) have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project area. IPaC was accessed on 4 March 2021.**
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.  
**Yes, this is a migratory area for waterfowl, eagles and songbirds. Siler Creek is a migratory route for salmonids.**
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:  
**Work will be accomplished during the proposed work windows that are less likely to impact fish species. Additionally, fish will be excluded from the work area with seines and turbidity curtains prior to construction.**
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.  
**None are known.**

## 6. **Energy and Natural Resources** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.  
**The completed project will require use of electricity to power the pump seasonally. The pump will be used in spring to maintain desired water levels in the Spears Unit Pond.**
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?  
If so, generally describe.  
**No.**
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?  
List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:  
**The pump will only be in place and running for a portion of the year.**

## 7. **Environmental Health** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal?  
If so, describe.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

**The prior use for the site was as Mt. Adams Veneer Mill Pond. There is possible historic contamination from that.**

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

**No existing hazardous conditions and chemicals are known to be on the site.**

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

**None are anticipated.**

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

**None are anticipated.**

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

**Fueling of vehicles and machinery is completed upland and away from the water body to prevent any source of fuel from entering surface waters. A spill kit will be available on site in the event of an accidental spill.**

**b. Noise**

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

**There are no noises generated in the surrounding area that would affect this project.**

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

**Construction noise would occur during the hours of 7am to 5pm. On a long-term basis, there will be noise generated seasonally while using the pump to bring in water.**

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

**No measures are proposed.**

**8. Land and Shoreline Use** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

**The site is managed as wildlife habitat within the Cowlitz Wildlife Area. The Cowlitz Wildlife Area is managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for the City of Tacoma (landowner) as mitigation for the dam on the Cowlitz River. Adjacent properties include single family residences and a dairy farm.**

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

**The project site has not been used as working farmlands or forestlands in the recent past.**



1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

**The proposal will have no effect on working farm or forest land operations.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**The current structures on the site include an inlet, pipe to transport water to pond, culvert, outlet. There is also an existing, delapidated bridge across Siler Creek.**

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

**The intake and a portion of the old pipeline entering the pond will be demolished and replaced. The supporting structures and aboveground portion of the existing pipeline will not be replaced or removed.**

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

**Rural Development District 20**

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

**Rural**

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

**Rural Conservancy**

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

**Wetlands and floodplain, however the County is not requiring any permits for this project, as it is related to the City of Tacoma's FERC license.**

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

**None**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

**None**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

**None**

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

**No impacts are anticipated and no measures are proposed.**

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

**None**

## 9. **Housing** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.  
**None.**
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.  
**None.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:  
**None.**

**10. Aesthetics** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?  
**The tallest structure will be a new utility pole which will be 30 feet tall.**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?  
**No views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed as a result of this project.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:  
**None are proposed. Pipe is tucked in the trees and will not likely be visible from the road.**

**11. Light and Glare** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?  
**None.**
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?  
**No.**
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?  
**No existing sources of light or glare will affect the proposal.**
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:  
**No measures are proposed.**

**12. Recreation** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?  
**Hunting, nature viewing, and bird watching.**
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.  
**The proposed project would allow continuation of the existing recreational uses.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:  
**No impacts are anticipated and therefore, no measures are proposed.**

### 13. *Historic and cultural preservation* [\[help\]](#)

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers ? If so, specifically describe.

**No previously recorded NRHP eligible buildings, structures, or sites within the project area. A cultural resource survey is being conducted to identify these resources.**

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

**No previously recorded pre contact or historic archaeological sites in the project area of potential impact. A cultural resource survey is being conducted to identify cultural resources.**

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

**Consultation with tribes and DAHP under Section 106 of the NHPA. Review of historic maps, records, and GIS data. Cultural resource survey is being conducted for project area.**

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

**No NRHP eligible resources have been identified, if eligible resources will be adversely impacted consultation with affected tribes and DAHP will determine measures.**

### 14. *Transportation* [\[help\]](#)

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

**The project site is served by highways 12 and 131.**

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

**There is no public transit in the nearby area. The nearest public transit is in Chehalis which is approximately 60 miles west of the project area.**

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

**There are no additional parking spaces being created as part of this project.**

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**The proposal will not require any new or improvements to existing roads ro facilities.**

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

**No the project will not require water, rail or air transportation.**

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

**Vehicular traffic which will be generated by the project during construction will include two pick-up trucks, a dump truck, and a trailer to transport additional materials and equipment.**

**This traffic will occur periodically as needed during the construction period, which is anticipated to be July 15 to August 30. After this time, a truck with a trailer will be on site twice a year to install and remove the submersible pump.**

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

**The proposal will not interfere with the movement of agriculture.**

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

**There are no proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts.**

#### **15. Public Services** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

**The proposed project will not result in an increased need for public services.**

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

**No measures are proposed to reduce or control direct impacts on public services.**

#### **16. Utilities** [\[help\]](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

**electricity**, natural gas, water, refuse service, **telephone**, sanitary sewer, septic system, other \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

**A new electric pole, service box, and line will be constructed at the site in order to power the new submersible pump.**

#### **C. Signature** [\[HELP\]](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Kaitlyn Kiehart

Name of signee Kaitlyn Kiehart

Position and Agency/Organization Environmental Planner 3, WDFW

Date Submitted: 8/9/2021