

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:
West Foster Creek BDA Project
2. Name of applicant:
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Applicant: Dan Peterson, Wildlife Area Manager
Contact Person: Sidra Blake, Wildlife Area Assistant Manager
54 Moe Road
Brewster, WA 98812
(509) 686- 4305
4. Date checklist prepared: **12/21/2021**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **WDFW**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Project permitting is to be completed by April 2022. We plan to begin shortly thereafter. Funding for the project ends June 30, 2023.**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **Yes. Any disturbed soil at the project site will be planted with native grasses and shrubs by June 30, 2023. We anticipate that after June 30, 2023, adaptive management will be needed to maintain, modify, or add to BDA structures.**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
Columbia Sharp-tailed grouse Recovery Plan
Greater Sage-Grouse Recovery Plan
Wells Wildlife Area Management Plan
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. **No.**
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
Cultural Resource consultation will be required.
WDFW HPA
Work within critical areas may require Douglas County permits.
A permit or exemption will be required from US Army Corp of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404.
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.)
Using beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post assisted log structures (PALS), this project will restore 0.5 miles of West Foster Creek located on the Wells Wildlife Area in Douglas County. This reach, as is most of the creek, is in a degraded condition due to an incised stream channel and headcuts. The goal is to stop the incision process, improve water quality, stream habitat, and the surrounding riparian vegetation community. BDAs and PALS are low-tech restoration methods that mimic dams built by beavers. Each consist of wood posts, 6 to 7 feet tall and approximately 6 inches in diameter, that are driven into

the streambed and placed approximately 12 to 30 inches apart. Cuttings of native vegetation are then woven through the posts from the base of the streambed to a predetermined point above the existing flow of water. The two structures serve different purposes but work together to restore the natural processes of the stream. BDAs span the entire stream. This slows the water velocity which then pools behind the structure. Sediment drops out of the water column, is deposited on the streambed and aggrades the streambed. In contrast, PALS extend part way across the stream. This creates a backwater eddy upstream of the structure where deposition will occur. Then, as the water flows around the end of structure, it will scour the opposite bank. That in turn 'harvests' sediment that will in then be deposited behind a downstream BDA. Given sufficient time, the stream develops more complexity, the streambed rises, and the stream is reconnected to the historic flood plain and water table. Any disturbed soil at the project site will be planted with native grasses and shrubs by June 30, 2023. We anticipate that after June 30, 2023, adaptive management will be needed to maintain, modify, or add to BDA structures.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The project site is in Douglas County. The project will occur on the West Foster Creek unit of the Wells Wildlife Area.

Township 28N, Range 25 E, Section 21.

Approximately 7 miles south of Bridgeport and 0.30 miles west of Bridgeport Hill Road.

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the sites:

(circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **N/A, it's flat.**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Soil type: Aquolls-Halquepts complex, nearly level

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **No.**

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

There'll be no filling, excavation, or grading.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
No.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **0%**

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

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. **Emissions include those from assorted vehicles used to transport materials and people to site, the internal combustion engine of the hydraulic or pneumatic post pounder, and CO2 from the respiration of people engaged in the installation.**

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: **None**

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. **West Foster Creek flows into Foster Creek which flows into the Columbia 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. **The project will occur in the streambed of West Foster Creek.**

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.

N/A.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No.**

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.
No.

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.**

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.**

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. **No.**

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. **N/A.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **N/A.**

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? **No**

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

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?

None.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **Any disturbed areas will be planted with a native grass/forb mix.**

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. **Canada thistle, reed canary grass, Russian olive.**

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: **hawks, California quail, ring-necked pheasant, eagle, great-horned owl, short-eared owl, Wilson's snipe, songbirds**, other:

mammals: deer, bear, beaver, coyote, various small mammals other:

fish: None

The area has Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and a host of shrub-steppe obligates and dependent wildlife species.

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

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes, this area is within the Pacific Flyway for lesser sandhill cranes which have been seen flying overhead.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The projects will be beneficial to wildlife. Riparian and mesic habitat is used by most animal species at one time or another.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. **Eurasian collared doves have been observed from time to time in the vicinity.**

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. **N/A.**

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. **N/A**

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: **N/A**

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. **No.**

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
None.

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. **None.**

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. **Fueling areas are off-site.**

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **N/A**

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **BMP will be applied to vehicles and any powered equipment used for the project.**

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **N/A**
- 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. **The noise created by the post pounder is akin to that of a jack-hammer. It will occur sporadically and only during daylight hours.**
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None. Staff will use appropriate PPE.**

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.
Current land use is a state wildlife area that provides recreational opportunities such as hunting, wildlife watching, hiking, and horseback riding. The proposed project will improve riparian habitat and stop channel degradation. These results are advantageous to all above parties mentioned above.
- 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?
No
- 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: **No**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **None.**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **N/A**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **RR-20 Rural Resource District and Recreational**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **RR-20 Rural Resource District and Recreational**

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **N/A**
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. **Yes, the creek and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas are classified as critical areas.**
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **0**
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **0**
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **N/A**
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **None**
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: **N/A**

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

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **N/A**
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **N/A**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **N/A**

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? **N/A**

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **N/A**

e. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **N/A**

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? **N/A.**

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **None.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **None.**

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

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The project is located on a state wildlife area where hunting, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and hiking can occur.

c. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No. The projects will enhance 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: **None.**

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.

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.

In 2012 a cultural resource survey took place 70-feet from the site.

- 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 will be completed prior to start of project.

- 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.

After coordination and consultation, all efforts will be made to maintain cultural resources and avoid disturbances.

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.

Bridgeport Hill/Mansfield Road is 800 feet east of the site.

- 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? **No.**
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? **Not applicable.**
- 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). **No.**
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **No.**
- 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? **The project will not increase vehicular trips.**
- 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. **No.**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **None.**

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. **No.**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **None.**

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

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: **None**
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____
- f. 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. **None**

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: _____

Name of signee: Dan Peterson

Position and Agency/Organization: Manager, Douglas County Wildlife Area Complex, WDFW

Date Submitted: 5 January 2022

Attachment: Vicinity and site maps