

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:

Naches Hatchery Rearing Pond

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA, 98501; Brian Blossom, WDFW Environmental Planner III
(360) 819-0041
4. Date checklist prepared:
3/18/2022
5. Agency requesting checklist:
WDFW
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Construction is anticipated to begin in July 2022 and is anticipated to end in September 2022.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
This proposal is being designed as a one-time activity. There are no plans for any future additions, expansions, or further activity related to this proposal.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
Critical Areas review and site visit
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.
We are not aware of any other applications pending for government approvals.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
- **Washington SEPA Review and Determination**
 - **Yakima County Land Use Review**
 - **Yakima County Grading & Fill**
 - **Internal Cultural Resource Review by WDFW**
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.)
WDFW proposes a project to construct a new rearing pond at the Naches fish hatchery. The primary purpose of this project is to provide additional rearing capacity for fish at the hatchery:
- **Mark the excavation and clearing limits**
 - **Excavate to depth and dimensions for the new rearing pond**
 - **Excavate and install the pipelines needed for the new rearing pond**
 - **Pour concrete for the new rearing pond**
 - **Install hand rails and bird netting around the perimeter of the rearing pond**

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.

**3410 S Naches Rd
Naches, WA 98937
Yakima County
Section 36, Township 14N, Range 17E, W.M.
Lat 46.6609° N, Long 120.6382° W
Parcel Number: 17143614001**

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

a. General description of the site:

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

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The slopes in the vicinity of the new rearing pond are around 3 percent.

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.

Soils are floodplain and overflow streamflow deposits consisting mostly of silt, sand, and clay material. The National Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey characterizes the soil types in the vicinity of the Project as Weirman sandy loam soils. No soils of commercial significance will be disturbed by the Project.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There are no indications or history of unstable soils within the project area.

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.

The bottom of the rearing pond dimensions are approximately 160 feet by 34 feet. Total footprint dimensions are 238 feet by 102 feet and the total area is 25,344 square feet.

Approximately 935 cubic yards of material will be excavated for the rearing pond. Total fill for the new rearing pond and surrounding berm are 1,104 cubic yards of material. Net cut and fill for the rearing pond is 169 cubic yards.

2-inch minus gravel will form the majority of the berm. The top of the berm will be compressed 5/8-inch minus gravel. On the water side of the berm, the proposed liner is 30 MIL fish grade pvc on top of geotextile fabric.

A fish transfer structure is proposed adjacent to the rearing pond. The area cut for the fish transfer structure is 30 feet by 11.5 feet and result in a net cut of 89 cubic yards. The fish transfer structure will vary from 6.5 to 7 feet deep with 8-inch thick concrete walls and 12-inch thick concrete bottom.

Source of fill will likely be a nearby gravel pit quarry. Excess unsuitable material will be hauled to an offsite location.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Excavation and grading of the rearing pond will occur on a generally flat area, so erosion potential will be limited. Best Management Practices (BMPs), including a temporary silt fence and/or straw wattles, will be installed to limit the extent of runoff from construction. Construction will also occur during the summer dry season to minimize the potential for runoff.**
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **The rearing pond and fish transfer structure will result in 4.63 percent impervious surface coverage on the lot.**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **Construction activities will occur during the summer dry season and will be conducted in accordance with a temporary erosion and sediment control plan.**

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. **No emissions to the air would result from the operation and maintenance of the rearing pond. Emissions would occur from construction equipment and support vehicles during construction.**
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **We are not aware of any off-site sources of emissions or odors that would affect the site.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **BMPs would be used to control temporary air pollutant emissions in the construction area. Those will consist of requiring proper maintenance of construction equipment, avoiding prolonged idling of vehicles, and spraying water to minimize dust. Standard emission control converters and mufflers will be used by construction 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.
An irrigation canal is located along the west side of the hatchery approximately 460 feet away from the rearing pond. The Naches River is located approximately 800 feet east of the hatchery.
- 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.
No work will occur within 200 feet of surface waters.
- 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.
No material removed from surface water or wetlands
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
This Project will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.
Yes, the rearing pond is within a mapped 100-year floodplain (FEMA) and classified as Zone AE.
- 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.
The proposed Project will not involve any discharges of waste 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.
The water source for the new rearing pond will come from the existing rearing pond or raceways. The project will not require a new well or additional quantities of withdrawn water.
- 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.
There will be no waste material discharged from septic tanks as part of the proposed Project.

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.

Storm water infiltrates through the permeable gravel surface covering the majority of the site.

Storm water collected in the rearing pond will drain via a 24-inch pipeline to the existing discharge at the SE corner of the site.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No, the project is located 460 feet away from the nearest surface waters. During construction, temporary BMPs will be implemented to reduce erosion and runoff.

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The project will include minimal grading and will not alter drainage patterns. The rearing pond will collect rain and route to the existing discharge at the SE corner of the site.

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

Majority of the site is permeable gravel surface that infiltrates. The rearing pond will connect to the existing facility discharge.

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?

No vegetation will be removed.

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:
The rearing pond will not impact native plants or vegetation. The rearing pond is located in a portion of the property that is already cleared and filled with gravel.
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.
Weeds and invasive plants are actively managed by hatchery staff.

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, eagle, songbirds**, other:
 mammals: **deer**, bear, **elk**, beaver, other:
 fish: bass, **salmon, trout**, other _____

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

Threatened: Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)

Candidate: Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
Yes, migratory birds utilize habitat along the Naches River during important times of their migrations.
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
No impacts to wildlife are anticipated from the project. Construction will occur in a portion of the lot already cleared, filled, and graded.
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
None

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.
Electricity will be used to run aerators for the rearing ponds.
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
The project will not affect any use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

- 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:

No energy conservation measures are proposed or necessary.

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 site is actively used as a fish hatchery and may have some incidental contamination from fuel and oil leaks from trucks actively using the site.
- 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.
We are not aware of any existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that would affect the project development.
- 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.
The only potential environmental hazard that could result from the project would come from accidental leaks of fuels and other fluids from construction equipment and vehicles using the construction area. Refueling will occur at least 100 feet from surface waters, construction BMPs, and construction equipment will be maintained to reduce the potential of contamination during construction activities.
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
The Project will not require any emergency services.
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
Fueling of vehicles and machinery will be completed on uplands 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)?
No noise will affect the 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.
The project will generate noise from equipment, machinery, and highway vehicles during construction. Equipment is anticipated to run during normal working hours of operation (7 am

to 5 pm, Monday through Friday) for the majority of the Project. No primary long term noise sources will result from the project.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
Short-term noise will be created from equipment used during construction, limited to typical working hours of 7 am to 5 pm.

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 currently used as a WDFW fish hatchery with public access. The adjacent properties to the north, west, and south of the parcel consist of agricultural land. The properties to the east along the Naches River consist of undeveloped lands. The site has been functioning as a hatchery and it is not expected the project will affect adjacent land uses.
- 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 hatchery has existed in some form since 1912 with a major modernizing of the rearing system occurring in 1991. No agricultural or forest lands of commercial significance will be converted to other uses.
- 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.
Rearing pond, raceways, sediment ponds, hatchery residences, fence along S Naches Road, and shop.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
No structures will be demolished for rearing pond construction.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Yakima County currently designates the site as remote, extremely limited.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Rural remote/agricultural
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Rural Development

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
No classified critical areas on site.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
No people would reside or work at the completed project.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
The completed project will not displace any people.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
None needed.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
The proposed project will not affect existing or projected land uses or plans.
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
No measures necessary; the Project is not occurring in agricultural or forest lands.

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:
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?
The outside berm of the rearing ponds will rise 3 feet above existing grade.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
No views will be altered or obstructed.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
No measures proposed or necessary.

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 glare will result from the Project

- 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?

Boating, rafting, and fishing on the nearby Naches River.

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

No

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

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.

There are not any buildings, structures, or sites over 45 years old located within the project area that are eligible for listing to the national, state, or local preservation register. There are four properties that have been recorded within a 1.0-mile radius of the project area, however three of these properties have been determined not eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers. The fourth property has not yet had a determination.

- 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.

There are not any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation located within the project area. There are three archaeological sites recorded within a 1.0-mile radius of the project area. All three of these sites are historic. No archeological studies have been completed at the project area.

- 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.

Methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources include completing a site files and records search. Databases and maps, including the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD), Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) Cadastral Survey maps, GLO Records, historic aerial maps, and soil maps were all examined for cultural resources within the project area. WDFW also consulted with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN) to ensure there were not any known cultural resources located within the project area. WDFW did not receive any responses from the YN regarding this 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. **DAHP concurred with WDFW's recommendation of having an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) in place before any ground disturbance activities take place. The IDP intended to provide clear guidance related to the management of an unexpected discovery or unearthing of cultural artifacts, archaeological features, or other evidence of cultural materials and/or of skeletal material of human or unknown origin during WDFW projects. The IDP will also be reviewed by all contractors working on the project.**

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.
Driveway access to the Naches Hatchery connects directly with South Naches Road.
- 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?
Existing parking spaces were dedicated for visitors to the hatchery. Hatchery parking did not serve as public access parking and the use will not change with 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).
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?

There is no anticipated increase in vehicular traffic at the site.

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 or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products.

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

No transportation impacts expected.

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 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.

The Project will not result in an increased need for 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.

Electricity provided by the local utility company. Electricity is already connected on site and no construction is expected to provide electricity to the project.

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: *Brian Blossom*

Name of signee Brian Blossom

Position and Agency/Organization WDFW Environmental Planner

Date Submitted: 3/18/2022