

SEPA¹ 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-

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

projects) questions in “Part B: Environmental Elements” that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions](#)²

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Potential change in classification of the gray wolf in conjunction with Periodic Status Review

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

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julia.smith@dfw.wa.gov
Cell: 360-790-1029

4. Date checklist prepared:

February 2, 2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

The Draft Periodic Status Review (PSR) was released on May 18, 2023 and was open for public comment for 90 days through August 16, 2023. The Final PSR was published on February 7, 2024.

A briefing and public hearing on the proposed WAC amendments to remove the gray wolf from the list in WAC 220-610-010 and add it as “sensitive” under WAC 220-200-100(2) is tentatively scheduled for the March 2024 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.

A decision on the proposed WAC amendments is tentatively scheduled for the April 2024 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.

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

No

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

The PSR for the Gray Wolf (available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02427>) provides the environmental information directly related to this proposal. This PSR summarizes the biology, population status, factors affecting continued existence, and recent management

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

actions for gray wolves in Washington. This review also assesses whether this species, as a matter of its biological status, should retain its current endangered status under state law or be reclassified.

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.

Fish and Wildlife Commission approval is required for this proposed rule amendment/listing change to WAC 220-200-100. The process for changes to state wildlife classifications is described in WAC 220-610-110.

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.)

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is proposing to reclassify the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Endangered status under WAC 220-610-010 to Sensitive status in the state of Washington under WAC 220-200-100. Based on 14 consecutive years of population growth, population modeling predictions that indicate Washington's wolf population is robust and will continue to grow and expand its range (including in the Southern Cascades and Northwest Coast recovery region), and ongoing state and federal protections, WDFW concludes that the wolf does not meet the definition of State Endangered, which requires that the species is "seriously threatened with extinction" (WAC 220-610-110).

Similarly, the wolf does not best fit the definition of State Threatened, which requires that a species is "...likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats" (WAC 220-610-110). Current information does not indicate that wolves are threatened with extinction or likely to be threatened with extinction in the foreseeable future in Washington state.

WDFW's recommendation is to reclassify the wolf to State Sensitive, "vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened in a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats" (WAC 220-610-110). This status reflects the significant progress toward recovery that Washington's wolf population has made since the original state listing in 1980 but recognizes that wolves remain vulnerable in western Washington and should continue to be managed for recovery within the state as a protected species.

Protective measures will remain in effect for wolves in Washington if the proposed rule amendments are approved. Changing the classification of wolves to state Sensitive status would continue to protect them under RCW 77.15.130. The species is protected from malicious and intentional harassment. RCW 77.15.130 outlines that Sensitive wildlife shall

not be hunted, taken, or harassed. In addition, the proposed Sensitive status is a sub-category of protected wildlife, which “shall not be hunted or fished.” RCW 77.08.010(52); 77.12.020(5). Wolves would also remain on the list of Priority Habitats and Species (PHS).

- 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.**

Statewide in Washington.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions](#)³

- a. General description of the site:**

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

This is a nonproject action involving a proposed statewide regulatory change to a wildlife species classification. The species at issue sometimes travels long distances through much of the state of Washington. WDFW would not undertake physical work at any specific sites under this proposal.

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

Varies statewide in Washington

- 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.**

Varies statewide in Washington

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

Varies statewide in Washington

- 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.**

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

Not applicable

- f. **Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

- 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.**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions](#)⁵

- a. **Surface:**

[Find help answering surface water questions](#)⁶

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**

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Varies statewide in Washington

- 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.**

Not applicable

- 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.**

Not applicable

- 4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

- 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.**

Not applicable

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions⁷](#)

- 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 a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable

- 2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (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.**

Not applicable

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

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.

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

- 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?

Not applicable

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

See response to Section B.1.a. This proposal does not directly affect any plants.

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

Not applicable

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

Varies statewide in Washington

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

- a. **List any birds and other animals that 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:

Varies statewide in Washington

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

See response to B.1.a. This proposal does not directly affect any animals, fish, or marine life other than gray wolves. There is no direct effect on the gray wolf population, as the proposed action is indicative of Washington State moving toward recovering the species. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife bases its proposal to reclassify the gray wolf as Sensitive on scientific information contained in the PSR for the Gray Wolf (available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02427>). This report summarizes evidence that the wolf population no longer meets the definition of Endangered in the state and should be reclassified as a Sensitive species. This status reflects the significant progress toward recovery that Washington's wolf population has made since the original state listing in 1980 but recognizes that wolves remain vulnerable in western Washington and should continue to be managed for recovery within the state as a protected species.

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

Varies statewide in Washington

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

Not applicable

- e. **List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.**

Not applicable

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)⁹

- 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.**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

- 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.**

Not applicable

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

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

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

Not applicable

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.**

Not applicable

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.**

Not applicable

4. **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

Not applicable

5. **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

Not applicable

b. Noise

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

Not applicable

- 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)?**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

- 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.**

Not applicable

- 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 because 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?**

Not applicable

- 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?**

Not applicable

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**
Not applicable
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**
Not applicable
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**
Varies statewide in Washington.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**
Not applicable
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**
Not applicable
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.**
Not applicable
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.**
Not applicable
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:**
Not applicable

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**
Not applicable
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**
Not applicable
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**
Not applicable

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

- a. **What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

Not applicable

- b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

Not applicable

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**

Not applicable

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

- a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

Not applicable

- b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

Not applicable

- c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

Not applicable

- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

Not applicable

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

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

Not applicable

13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

- 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.**

Not applicable

- 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.**

Not applicable

- 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.**

Not applicable

- 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.**

Not applicable

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- 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.**

Not applicable

- 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?**

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

Not applicable

- c. **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).**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

- e. **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?**

Not applicable

- f. **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.**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

- 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.**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

- a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:**

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

Not applicable

- 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.**

Not applicable

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign](#)¹⁹

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.

2/5/2024

X Julia B. Smith

Signed by: Smith, Julia B (DFW)

Type name of signee: Julia B. Smith

Position and agency/organization: Endangered Species Recovery Section Manager,
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date submitted: February 7, 2024

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)²⁰

Do not use this section for project actions.

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

- 1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

Not applicable

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions>

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Not applicable

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

This proposal does not directly affect any plants, animals, fish, or marine life other than gray wolves. There is no direct effect on the gray wolf population, as the proposed action is indicative of Washington State moving toward recovering the species. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife bases its proposal to reclassify the gray wolf as Sensitive on scientific information contained in the Final PSR for the Gray Wolf (available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02427>). This report summarizes evidence that the wolf population no longer meets the definition of Endangered in the state and should be reclassified as a Sensitive species. This status reflects the significant progress toward recovery that Washington's wolf population has made since the original state listing in 1980 but recognizes that wolves remain vulnerable in western Washington and should continue to be managed for recovery within the state as a protected species.

Protective measures will remain in effect for wolves in Washington if the proposed rule amendments are approved. Changing the classification of wolves to state Sensitive status would continue to protect them under RCW 77.15.130. The species is protected from malicious and intentional harassment. RCW 77.15.130 outlines that Sensitive wildlife shall not be hunted, taken, or harassed. In addition, the proposed Sensitive status is a sub-category of protected wildlife, which "shall not be hunted or fished." RCW 77.08.010(52); 77.12.020(5). Wolves would also remain on the list of Priority Habitats and Species (PHS).

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:**

Not applicable

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Not applicable

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:**

Not applicable

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Not applicable

- **Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

Not applicable

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Not applicable

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

Not applicable

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Not applicable

- **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

Not applicable

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Not applicable