

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Touchet River Screen Consolidation and Fishway project**
2. Name of applicant: **WDFW**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **David Karl PO Box 456 Walla Walla, WA 99362 (509)527-4138**
4. Date checklist prepared: **December 7, 2005**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **WDFW, The project location is owned by USFWS Lower Snake River Compensation and the facility is run by WDFW staff from the Snake River Lab in Dayton, WA.**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Project construction would start July 15, 2006 during the established instream work window. All instream construction would be completed by September 30, 2006.**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **Not directly. Irrigators involved with this project are implementing a plan to pipe their irrigation ditches. This project will construct a pipeline to the irrigators' current point of diversion and when the irrigators finish piping their ditches the entire irrigation system will be a "closed system". A closed system will be much more efficient than open ditches and once the system is filled, when irrigators are not irrigating, the water stays in the stream.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **A draft Biological Assessment (BA) is completed for consultation with NMFS and USFWS and a Categorical Exclusion is being sought for NEPA based on the projects benefits to ESA listed native fish and their habitat. We have acquired a Nationwide 27 (404) permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and a letter of concurrence from WDOE for water quality certification for the project.**

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. **NEPA, Shorelines Permit, 401 Water Quality Certification, Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit (Nationwide 27), WDFW HPA.**

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.) **Attached.**

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. **Township 10N Range 39E Sections 29&30. Lat 46 31 14 (e.g. 45 36 43) Long. – 117 97 26 (e.g. –121 44 04) Datum : NAD 27 NAD 83 WGS84. Dayton, WA. In Columbia County.**

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **3 to 1**
- 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 prime farmland. **Sand and cobble**
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **No.**
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **None.**
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Yes, isolated areas of erosion could occur as a result of construction if uncharacteristic precipitation occurs during construction. This would be due to soils exposed during construction.**
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **20% the area will be covered with approximately 20% additional impervious surface.**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: Earth erosion is not anticipated for the project, but will be controlled using best management practices if encountered. **Project site will be replanted and erosion control measures will be monitored before, during, and after project is completed. The project site is a WDFW run facility.**

2. **Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **Emissions would be limited to that produced by heavy equipment during construction.**

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

a. Surface:

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. **Yes, the project is located on the Touchet River a tributary of the Walla Walla 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, a project description is attached.**

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. **None. No fill, however a concrete pool and chute fishway will be constructed parallel to the stream bank to provide fish passage for ESA listed Steelhead and Bull trout and other native species.**

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **Yes, the project will consolidate three existing surface water diversions into one diversion ultimately resulting in more efficient irrigation.**

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **Yes. The project is on the streambank and therefore well within the 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.**

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? 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. **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. **No.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **No.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: **None**

4. Plants

a. Check or circle 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

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? **Some small willow trees and shrub trees will be removed from the streambank that is a rip rap levee for flood control. The riprap has very little vegetation in it. We will replant native trees and vegetation; there will be more vegetation after we finish the project than there is now.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **Mid-Columbia Basin Steelhead and Bull Trout are listed as Threatened under ESA.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **As part of reclamation after the project we will plant native trees and shrubs in areas that are disturbed during construction.**

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:



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

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **Mid-Columbia Basin Steelhead, Bull Trout, Ute Ladies'- tresses**
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **Yes, the site is located within a migration corridor for both anadromous Steelhead, Bull Trout, and other native species that migrate in the Touchet River.**
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **The project will reduce impacts to the stream habitat and ESA listed fish. The fishway is to provide fish passage to over 75 miles of prime habitat above the existing intake dam.**

6. Energy and natural resources

- 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. **Electric will be used to run the fish screens**
- 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 screens use an efficient motor and require very little electricity to operate. There will be a net electric savings by consolidating three existing screens and using the more efficient screen motor.**

7. Environmental health

- 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.

Heavy Machinery will be fueled up at a designated area away from the stream

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **None**

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

A designated fueling area and a spill response plan.

- b. **Noise**

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

Heavy Equipment

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. **Normal levels of construction noise on a short-term basis.**

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **Work will occur during daylight business hours.**

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **The property is owned by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Lower Snake River Compensation Program and run by WDFW staff at the Snake River Lab in Dayton, WA. The site has an existing dam and surface water intake that provides water for a Steelhead acclimation pond from February through April. The acclimation pond acclimates steelhead raised by WDFW at the Lyons Ferry Hatchery, which provide fishing opportunity as mitigation for the four Lower Snake River Hydroelectric Dams.**

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **No.**

c. Describe any structures on the site. **Concrete dam that does not meet current fish passage criteria, the proposed project will provide critical fish passage for ESA listed Steelhead and Bull Trout. There is a concrete surface water intake structure with fish screens that don't meet current State and Federal Juvenile Fish Screen Criteria; the proposed project will also provide updated fish screens and a new intake.**

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **The current intake structure will be demolished and the dam will be reconditioned.**

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

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

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

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. **The Touchet River in the reach where the project will take place is a priority salmon recovery area.**
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **NA**
- 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: **None**

9. **Housing**

- 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**

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **8 feet, concrete. The new structure will be built to the same elevations as the existing structure.**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **None.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **None.**

11. **Light and glare**

- 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? **None**

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

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Fishing in the Touchet River.**

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **No. Fishing is prohibited below man-made dams where the project site is. The project will not impact fishing.**

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

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. **No.**

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. **None**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **The project will occur within the footprint of the existing intake structure.**

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. **Hwy 12 and Cottonwood Road in Dayton would be the main access roads to the project. There is a gravel access road used by WDFW to service the existing intake facility.**

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **No. There isn't any public transit nearby.**

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **None, None**
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **No.**
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **The pipeline for the project will run under Highway 12 and an existing railroad bridge.**
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
Approximately 10-15 trips per day would occur on peak traffic days. Peak volumes would occur between Monday and Friday from 6:30AM to 6:30 PM.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
None. Dayton is a small town with no traffic problems and the project will not generate transportation problems.

15. **Public services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, 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**

- 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 will be improved at the project site. Upgraded electric conduit will be installed to supply the facility with power for the screens. Additional outlets will be installed to use for fish monitoring equipment.

C. SIGNATURE

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.

David Faul

Signature:

Date Submitted: **February 6, 2006**

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet 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?

The proposal will create small quantities of sediment for a short period of time during the construction. Additionally, there will be general production of noise associated with large machinery during construction.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Build a cofferdam around the construction area to minimize sediment and pump turbid water into a settling basin to remove sediments disturbed during construction. Construction work will be done during average business hours, not at night.

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

The project will create some sedimentation not likely to adversely affect fish or animal life. The project area does not have a natural riparian currently and will benefit from native plantings that will occur after the instream construction (planting will occur at a time when optimal survival is possible i.e. spring or fall).

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

Use best management practices for sediment control and increase native vegetation within the riparian area.

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

The project will use less energy than currently being used by all three diversions.

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

The proposed project will incorporate a traveling belt screen that requires less electric energy than the 3 screens operating currently.

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?

The project will improve habitat and natural processes within ESA threatened species habitat and will improve fish passage to 75 miles of critical habitat for listed salmonids. The area of the project and above the project is designated priority habitat for salmonids in the Walla Walla Sub Basin and Snake River Salmon Recovery Plans.

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

Construction will occur during the established work window for instream projects to minimize impacts to the stream habitat and fish. Fish will be removed from the work area using NMFS guidelines for electrofishing and handling fish.

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?

The proposed project will eliminate shoreline and instream activities associated with the existing irrigation diversions. Each year the irrigators build push up berms, accessing the stream from the shoreline and eliminating the opportunity for riparian growth in those areas. The push up berms are constructed during peak steelhead spawning and cause large quantities of sediment in the river for a short period of time. The berms wash down stream during high flows in the fall/winter/spring and the loosened cobbles build up up-stream of the Highway 12 Bridge. The cobble build-up around the bridge creates flood capacity problems and the city of Dayton is obligated to remove the cobbles causing additional impacts to the stream habitat and fish. The project will eliminate those activities making natural processes possible again. The project will have short-term impacts to the shoreline during construction, after which the area will be restored and native vegetation will be planted.

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

The proposed project will limit stream and shoreline access for construction to no more than three access points – most probably two, one upstream from the dam and one downstream – for obvious reasons.

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

The proposal will not result in increased demands on transportation or utilities.

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

None

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

The proposed project will not conflict with any laws or requirements for environmental protection. Actually, the contrary, the project will bring existing activities more into compliance with local, state and federal laws.