Addendum F

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.
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TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation Improvement District #18 Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Maintenance Plan.

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and

Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation Improvement District #18

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

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Attention: Brian Williams

P.O. Box 1100

La Conner, Washington 98257

Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation Improvement District #18
Attention: Lyle Wesen

7280 Worline Road

Bow, Washington 98232

4. Date checklist prepared

October 28, 2005

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Drainage maintenance activities will begin immediately and will occur as needed for a period of 5 years. In any given year, drainage maintenance activities will comply with the timing restrictions specified by the BMPs included in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan. Drainage maintenance activities at any given location along the watercourse will typically occur within a short period of time (days). Some maintenance activities, such as dredging or mowing, may occur over a longer period of time (weeks), however the work also occurs over a longer reach of the watercourse.

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

No. Conduct routine maintenance of drainage infrastructure within the

jurisdictional boundary of the Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation Improvement

District #18 (DID#18) consistent with the provisions and elements of the attached Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Maintenance Plan which were developed collaboratively and cooperatively between the duly elected Commissioners of the District and WDFW, and in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative.

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

    1. *House Bill 1418 Report: Tidegates and Intertidal Salmon Habitat in the Skagit Basin, Carol Smith and Ed Manary, 2004.*
    2. *Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan, Skagit River System Cooperative and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2005.*
    3. *Preliminary Assessment Of Historic Conditions Of The Skagit River In The Fir Island Area: Implications For Salmonid Habitat Restoration, Brian Collins, 1998.*
    4. *Priority Fish and Wildlife Projects Identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife within the Greater Skagit River Ecosystem Planning Area, WDFW, 2002.*

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.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Hydraulic Project Approval – WDFW

Section 10 and Section 404 Permits – Army Corps of Engineers

Shoreline Exemption – Skagit County

State Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Certification

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.)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Conduct routine maintenance of drainage infrastructure within the jurisdictional boundary of Skagit County Drainage And Irrigation Improvement District #18 consistent with the provisions and elements of the attached Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Maintenance Plan which were developed collaboratively and cooperatively between the duly elected Commissioners of the District and WDFW, and in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative.

The following types of drainage maintenance activities are considered typical of work necessary to routinely maintain the watercourses that comprise the district's drainage infrastructure.

- *Trash Racks - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Pump Facilities - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Culverts - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Flood Gates - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Tide Gates - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Channel In-water Bucket Mowing - Channel maintenance*
- *Channel Out-of-Water Mowing - Channel Maintenance*
- *Dredging - Channel maintenance and Debris removal*
- *Bridges – Installation, Replacement, Maintenance/repair and Debris removal*

Drainage Maintenance Activities – General Descriptions

Trash Racks

Trash racks are systems designed to prevent foreign material from getting into a pump facility or tide gate. Foreign material is any man made or natural material that could be carried by the water and get lodged in the system or accumulate and cause flow disruption or prevent a pump or tide gate from functioning properly. Normal maintenance of trash racks includes removal of accumulated debris as necessary, replacement of worn or damaged trash rack components or replacement of structure. Typical design of trash racks include a constructed lumber unit with vertical spaced 2 inch dimensional boards that at approximately 3-5 inches apart. The unit is set down in the water usually set in the water at an incline down to or near the bottom of the drainage ditch. The incline allows for cleaning debris by raking it to the top and removing from the ditch.

Pump Facilities

Pump facilities are typically electric pump installations. Pumps are mounted on permanent structures with suction pipe into the drainage ditch. Pump typically are set up to work on a remote basis with running dependant on water level in the ditch. Maintenance includes routine mechanical servicing of the pump and electrical connections and removal of any accumulated debris that may prevent normal operation.

Culverts

Culvert must be maintained to ensure normal flow through the culvert. This includes dredging of ditch around culvert openings and occasional cleaning of the culvert. Cleaning is usually completed with high-pressure water, mechanical dredging or by hand. Repair or replacement is necessary when incidental damage occurs to the culvert that would prevent optimum water flow or an unsafe crossing situation.

Flood Gates

Floodgates are one-way check valves that allow accumulated water to move from a field into a drainage system during and after a high water event. The maintenance of such structures is same as tide gates and must have debris removed in order to function properly. Necessary repair and replacement must be done as needed.

Tide Gates

Tide gates are the one-way check valves at the end of the drainage system that allows drainage water to flow from the system to salt water during a low tide cycle and then close to prevent saltwater from entering the drainage system when tide rises. Work on the tide gates usually includes removal of any lodged debris that may prevent the gate from closing properly. Other normal maintenance would be completed to insure the gate operates normally. Replacement of tide gates is not covered by this agreement and would be addressed by a separate HPA.

Channel In-Water Bucket Mowing

Channel in-water bucket mowing is a technique using a hydraulically operated sickle bar mower that is mounted on the front edge of a dredging bucket. The machine mows vegetative material below the water line and accumulates the material in the bucket. The material is then deposited on the ground away from the ditch. This type of mowing provides removal of vegetative material but does not remove root system or remove soil.

Channel Out of Water Mowing

Channel out of water mowing is routine removal of vegetative material above the water line to the bank top. It is completed using various types of mechanical mowers (rotary or flail designs) and reduces the vegetative material during the growing cycle.

Dredging

Dredging is completed, as needed utilizing a hydraulically operated boom type excavator. The excavator has a wide flat bottomed bucket that scraped down one side, rounds the bottom and come up opposite side in one continuous motion. Thus the result leaves the ditch with inclined side and a round bottom feature that minimizes side sloughing and erosion in bottom of ditch. All material removed is deposited landward of the ditch so that it will not return to the ditch and will later

be moved back into the adjoining field or hauled away as necessary. When work is completed in ditches too large for the boom type excavator, a drag-line type excavator is utilized. The process is the same except that the drag line will work form the middle of the ditch to one side and then work the opposite side.

Bridges

Bridges must be maintained to ensure normal flow under the bridge while continuing to provide equipment or foot access across the watercourse. Repair or replacement is necessary when incidental damage occurs to the bridge that would prevent optimum water flow or an unsafe crossing situation. Repair or replacement activities typically occur above the high water line.

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.

Skagit County Drainage and Irrigation Improvement District #18, hereafter referred to as DID #18, is located within the Samish River Delta of Skagit County, north of the Town of Edison. See Figure 1 in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan.

Sections: 21, 27, 28, 33, 34

Township: 35N

Range: 03E

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

Flat

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

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.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Aside from residential and transportation infrastructure, the area within the jurisdictional boundary of DID#18 is prime agriculture farmland. See the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan for a map of DID#18.

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.

Some erosion could occur as a result of maintenance dredging activities. Erosion of dredged materials will be avoided and minimized through implementation of the Best Management Practices included in the attached Drainage Maintenance Agreement.

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

No new impervious surfaces will result from maintenance activities.

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

Erosion and impact to the earth will be avoided and minimized through implementation of the Best Management Practices included in the attached Drainage Maintenance Agreement.

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.

Normal emissions associated with operation of gas or diesel powered equipment.

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:

N/A

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.

Within the jurisdictional boundary of DID#18 there are a two historical watercourses without headwaters and numerous manmade ditches that are used by the district for drainage and which are isolated from Edison Slough, McElroy Slough and Samish Bay by flood dikes, flood gates and tidegates. See figure 2 in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan for specific watercourse names and locations.

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. The District will conduct routine maintenance of drainage infrastructure in the historic and manmade watercourse within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district and within 200 feet of Edison Slough, McElroy Slough and Samish Bay consistent with the provisions and elements of the attached Drainage Maintenance Agreement and Drainage Management Plan which were developed collaboratively and cooperatively between the duly elected Commissioners of the District and WDFW, and in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative.

The following types of drainage maintenance activities, which are considered typical of work necessary to maintain watercourses within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district:

- *Trash Racks - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Pump Facilities - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Culverts - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*

- *Flood Gates - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Tide Gates - Maintenance/repair, Debris removal and Replacement*
- *Channel In-water Bucket Mowing - Channel maintenance*
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2) 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.

The amount of material that will be removed from the watercourses in the district through maintenance dredging activities will vary from site to site but in most instances will exceed 50 cubic yards. Dredge spoils will be wasted landward from the top of the channel banks. Dredge spoils will not be placed in wetlands as a result of drainage maintenance activities. Temporary fill associated with the sediment control BMPs in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan may be placed below the ordinary high water line of the above reference creeks. The temporary fill would be associated with a temporary cofferdam constructed to bypass creek flows around the maintenance dredging site.

3) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

4) Does the proposal lie within a 100–year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Yes, see location maps in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan.

5) 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.

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.

Drainage within the district will be maintained through the routine drainage infrastructure maintenance activities identified and addressed in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan.

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:

Surface, ground and runoff water impacts will be reduced and minimized through implementation of the BMPs included in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan and which were developed collaboratively and cooperatively between the duly elected Commissioners of the District and WDFW, and in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative.

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?

Vegetation growing in the watercourse channels, predominantly reid cannery grass, will be periodically removed through maintenance dredging activities. Grasses and vegetation from the waterline to the top of bank is annually mowed. Vegetation along the majority of the channel length is generally mowed or farmed landward from the top of bank.

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

unknown

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

Restoration and enhancement of the riparian vegetation along the watercourses within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district will be implemented as specified in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan.

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.

Chinook salmon have not been observed within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district.

Bull Trout have not been observed within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district.

Bald eagles are common in the Samish River Delta and would be expected to be present within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district.

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

No. The watercourses within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district are isolated from the Edison Slough, McElroy Slough and Samish Baby flood dikes, floodgates and tidegates. Fish migration into the district's watercourses is limited by the districts dikes, flood gates and tidegates.. Though fish survey data has not been collected for the watercourses within the jurisdictional boundaries of DID#18, it is generally assumed that between January and July, fish from other watercourses may immigrate from the estuary into the lower reaches of the districts watercourses via the culvert/tide gates to forage on available prey. It is also generally assumed that the upstream distribution and duration of residence for these immigrating fish is limited by water quality, prey availability and their physiological affinity for salt water.

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

Fish and wildlife will be protected through implementation of the BMPs included in the attached Drainage Maintenance Agreement and which were developed collaboratively and cooperatively between the duly elected Commissioners of the District and WDFW, and in consultation with the Skagit River System Cooperative. In addition, fish habitats will be restored and enhanced within the district as specified in section B in the attached Drainage Maintenance Plan.

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.

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

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 special emergency services that might be required.

Assistance from Skagit County Emergency Services may be required during flood events.

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

N/A

b. Noise

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

Routine operation of motorized equipment used to conduct maintenance activities.

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.

Daytime noise associated with operation of motorized equipment used to conduct maintenance activities.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: None

8. Land and Shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

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EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Commercial agriculture and dairy farming are the predominant land use in DID #18. Hobby farms and residential housing are scattered within the districts boundaries.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Yes. With the exception of the residential housing and transportation infrastructure in the district, the remainder of the district is dedicated to agriculture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Drainage infrastructure includes artificial ditches, tidegates, flood gates, pump facilities, culverts, bridges, and trash racks.

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

Yes. In some limited circumstances, a drainage infrastructure element may need to be demolished in order to be replaced.

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

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

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

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. unknown

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

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project? N/A

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: N/A

9. Housing

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

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

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

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? N/A

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? N/A

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: N/A

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching.

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: N/A

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. Unknown

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. Unknown

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: Historic, archaeological, scientific, or culturally important sites should not be effected by the proposed drainage maintenance activities.

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. N/A

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? N/A

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? N/A

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). N/A

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

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. N/A

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: N/A

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EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

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. N/A

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

18. Utilities

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

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. N/A

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.

Signature:__ Original signed by: Lyle Wesen

Date Submitted:___02/24/06