

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: **Habitat enhancement for Oregon spotted frog at West Rocky Prairie**
2. Name of applicant: **David Hays, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091
360-902-2366**
4. Date checklist prepared: **1/09**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Summer 2009 – Fall 2010
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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 7 Consultation

Comprehensive Habitat Study - Pacific Powder, Shapiro and Associates 1995 (provides overview of area)

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? **NO** If yes, explain.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**Thurston County Critical Area Review
WDFW Hydrolics Project Approval**

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 focus of this project is to improve habitat for the populations of Oregon spotted frogs (*Rana pretiosa*) at West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area by first developing a model approach to restoration and maintenance that can be applied to these and other sites. The Oregon spotted frog is a focal species of interest by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at West Rocky Prairie. It is listed as a state endangered species in Washington by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. In western Washington, the healthiest Oregon spotted frog populations use sparsely vegetated, open, sun warmed, mineral soil locations that are shallowly and seasonally flooded to lay large number of egg masses and to rear up to adulthood. Oregon spotted frog habitat at West Rocky Prairie has degraded due to invasive species like reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*), and development of a closing canopy and understory due to conifer and shrub expansion in an oak woodland adjacent to a native grassland. Wetland areas are seasonally flooded, generally from December through May. Six treatment and six control units will be established, each approximately 15 meters wide and 30 meters long. These will be established lengthwise from upland to wetland, incorporating potential spotted frog egg-laying and larval development habitat.

Treatments will include conifer removal, shrub cutting or mowing, mowing reed canarygrass, and burning (2 units only) for 2 years, 2009 and 2010. In four of the treatment units, reed canarygrass is the dominant vegetation. Conifer removal will reduce both canopy and understory shading. Conifers are primarily douglas-fir 6 inches to 10 inches dbh. All treatments will occur during the dry period, when no water is present. Treatments will be conducted in areas where no Oregon spotted frog egg-laying has previously occurred. WDFW has conducted surveys for Oregon spotted frogs during the egg-laying period since 2000. No herbicides or pesticides will be used. No oaks will be removed. Hand tools will be used if possible to minimize ground disturbance. Any mowing will be with a small mower pulled behind an ATV. Shrubs, including native willow and non-native Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) will be removed in 2009 and 2010. Reed canarygrass will be mowed at least once during the dry season. Treatment areas will be burned during the fall (post mowing) to reduce thatch and promote native sedges. Monitoring of the treatments and subsequent habitat use by OSF will be conducted to determine success and adaptive management steps.

The federally threatened plant, water howellia (*Howellia aquaticus*) is found in these seasonally flooded wetlands. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Natural Heritage Program staff conducted surveys for water howellia in 2009, and located plants in the vicinity of the project. This was the subject of a consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service. All treatment plots will occur in areas without water howellia.

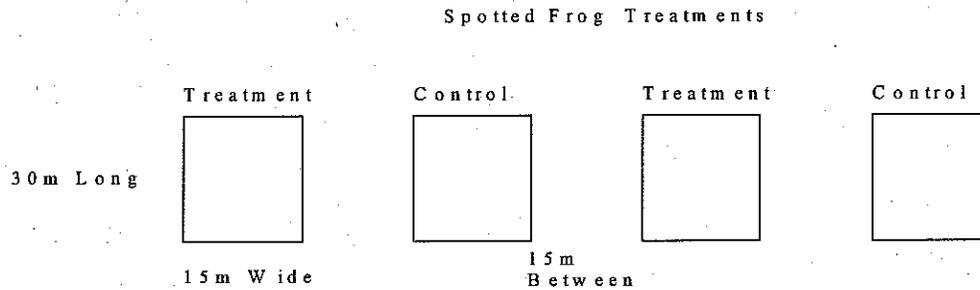


Figure 1. Diagram of spotted frog habitat manipulations – treatment and control units

11. 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.

From Olympia, travel south on Interstate 5 to the Maytown Exit. Circle around and under the freeway heading east on Maytown Road to Tilly Road. South on Tilly Road. See Map below:

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TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

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)? **10%**

- 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.

There are 2 types present, Muckliteo much and Tisch silt loam. Treatment plots will be located in both.

- 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. **NO filling, or grading. Care will be taken to prevent soil disturbance.**
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Its possible in 2 treatment plots. These will be burned. Slight erosion is possible, slopes are gentle.**
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **NONE**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **All work will be in the dry season when the ground is hard.**

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. **Wood smoke from two 9 meter by 21 meter plots. Dust from mowing dead vegetation.**
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **None**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **Burning during the dry season.**

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.

2 plots are in a seasonally flooded wetland that flows into the upper reaches of Beaver Creek, approximately 1/3 mile away. The wetland is dry and hard during summer and fall; wet from December – May. 4 plots are in a seasonally flooded wetland that flows via type 4 stream to Deep Lake.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? **Yes** If yes, please describe and attach available plans. See description above: plots will be partially or fully in wetland area

- 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**

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

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? **YES** If so, note location on the site plan. **The mapped area is currently within the annual floodplain.**

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? **NO** If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? **NO** Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

- 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. **none**

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

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? **Reed canarygrass will be mowed; Himalayan blackberry will be mowed some native willow will be cut back, some douglas-fir trees will be removed.**

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

Water howellia (federal threatened)

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **none**

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.

Oregon spotted frog (state endangered)

Potential for Olympia Mudminnow in Beaver Creek, 1/3 miles away

c. Is the site part of a migration route? **NO** If so, explain.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **The project goal is to enhance wildlife habitat**

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.

Gasoline

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? **NO** If so, generally describe.

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: **Much of the vegetation work will be with hand tools.**

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.

Burning will be conducted with an approved DNR fire plan. Prescribed fire requires training in safety in burn situations.

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

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **Trained and certified wildland fire fighters will be used.**

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
NONE

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.

Noise will come from chain saw use and mower.

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? **Wildlife Conservation**
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? **Yes, 4 treatment units are in an old field dominated by reed canarygrass. If so, describe.**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **NONE; within ¼ mile are 2 old wells and an old farm dump site.**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? **NO** If so, what?
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Residential resource 1 unit per 5 acres**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Residential resource**
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **Conservancy**
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. **Yes, Wetland, oaks, prairie, priority species, high ground water**
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **NONE**
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **none**
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **n/a**

1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Existing plan by WDFW is to manage the site for recovery of rare and endangered plants and animals.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? **NONE** Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? **NONE** Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
- 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?

NONE

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

NONE

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

11. Light and glare

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

The project will open up midstory vegetation to allow light to the ground level.

- 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:

12. Recreation

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

Hunting, wildlife and plant viewing

- 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:

We will attempt to burn outside of the deer hunting season

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:

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.

See above; sites are away from transportation system

- 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?

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).

