

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: *The seasonal placement of a release chute (22"-24" pipe) for adult fish trapped at Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Sunset Falls fishway.*
2. Name of applicant: *WDF&W TAPPS Division/Habitat Program*
 2. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: *Tom Burns; 360-902-2558, WDF&W, Habitat Program, 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501-1091.*
4. Date checklist prepared: *March 31, 2009.*
5. Agency requesting checklist: *State of Washington, Department of Fish & Wildlife*
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): *A temporary release chute for adult fish will be put in place on June 1st, with sections of the chute removed as the SF Skykomish River stages through December 15th. The release chute will be out by December 15th of each year.*
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. *Yes. The release chute is a 22"-24" irrigation pipe that will be adjusted in length throughout the season (June through December) of each year.*

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. *The release site, including a former permanent release chute, has been in use since 1958. An electronic copy of fish released at this site since 1958 has been attached.*

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. *Hydraulic Project Approval (WDF&W), possible Shoreline Concurrence (Snohomish County).*

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.) *This SEPA is for the placement of a temporary 22"-24" release chute at WDFW's Sunset Falls fishway release site. Currently, WDF&W; TAPPS Division/Habitat Program is responsible for the oversight and operation of the Sunset Falls trap & haul fishway. Fish are trapped at Sunset Falls and hauled several miles upstream of Sunset, Canyon and Eagle Falls. Chinook (ESA Listed), coho, pink salmon including Steelhead (ESA listed) and native char (ESA Listed) are released back into the SF Skykomish where they have access to over 100 miles of habitat. In recent years, high flows have eroded 350' of the release site road. Last year, during high winter flows, the site became unusable without installing sections of 22"-24" diameter pipe over the bank line to safely release the fish. As the level of the river stages (lowers & rises), sections of the pipe will be added or removed by hand.*

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. **SEE ATTACHED MAP FOR LEGAL LOCATION.**

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other *Steep slope.*
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? *45%*
- 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/clay.*
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. *Yes, the bankline has been in a state of accelerated erosion with over 350' of bankline lost in the last three years.*
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. *No filling or grading will occur.*
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. *Yes, a small amount of erosion could take place due to construction staging, however, all bmp's will be in place to safeguard the possibility of erosion*
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? *0%.*
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: *None planned.*

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. *Temporary emissions from construction 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: *Equipment use will be kept to a minimum.*

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. *Site is on the banks of the South Fork Skykomish 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 temporary release chute (pipe will be placed over the bankline and anchored in place by a one ton enviro-block placed 12' back from the bankline.*
- 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. *Four to 10 two-man boulders will be moved by hand to place the end of the pipe.*
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. *No.*
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. *Yes, the end of the pipe will be placed within the 100-year flood plain.*
- 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. *There will be no discharge of waste material into the groundwater.*

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. *Existing run-off patterns will not be changed.*
- 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: *No impacts expected.*

4. **Plants**

a. List of vegetation types found on the site:

deciduous tree: *Alder, maple, cottonwood, vine maple.*

evergreen tree: *Fir, cedar, pine, hemlock.*

shrubs: *Salmonberry, snowberry, and others*

grass: *Fiscues.*

pasture: *No.*

crop or grain: *No.*

wet soil plants: *No.*

water plants: other types of vegetation: *No.*

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? *None*

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. *None.*

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: *No landscaping is planned. The project will not impact native vegetation.*

5. **Animals**

a. List of birds and animals observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: *Red-tail hawk, blue heron, bald eagle, songbirds, and waterfowl.*

mammals: *Deer, bear, elk, beaver, and otter.*

fish: *Salmon, native char, trout, mountain whitefish.*

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. *The site is used as a release location of the following ESA listed species: Puget Sound Chinook, Puget Sound Steelhead and Bull Trout. The proposed release chute is critical for the recovery of these species. Bald eagles have been observed feeding on the carcasses of spawned out fish released at the site.*

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. *Yes, salmon, steelhead, native char, mountain whitefish and lamprey.*

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: *The proposal is designed to insure safe and free passage of fish including ESA listed species.*

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. *None.*

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

d. 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: *None.*

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, which could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. *No.*

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. *Medical evacuation of injured personnel.*

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: *Develop and implement WDF&W Emergency Communication Plan prior to activities. Abide by State and Federal health and safety rules and regulations.*

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. *None.*

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: *Keep equipment use to a minimum.*

8. Land and shoreline use

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

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

c. Describe any structures on the site. *No structures currently exist on site.*

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? *No.*

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

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

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

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

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: *No displacement will occur.*

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

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? *The chute (pipe) will be anchored atop of a 2.5' high enviro-block.*
- 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.*
 - e. 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, kayaking, nature 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: *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: *None.*

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. *The site is accessed directly off of US-2.*
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? *No.*
- 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). *No.*
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. *No.*
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. *Up to 30 trips per day to release fish.*

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: *None*.

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. *None*.
- 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. *None*.
- 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. *None*.

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: ON FILE

Date Submitted: 3/31/2009.....