



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Habitat Program: 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2534

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 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.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife/Washington Department of Natural Resources Land Exchange Project Phase 2. (This is a joint SEPA/NEPA proposal see project description #11.)**
2. Name of applicant:
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR or WDNR)
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Jennifer Quan: Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capital Way North; Olympia, WA 98501-1091, (360) 902-2515

Stephen Saunders: Department of Natural Resource, P.O. Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7014, (360) 902-1600
4. Date checklist prepared:
7-31-2009
5. Agencies requesting checklist:
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife –Lead Agency
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
For Phase 2, WDFW and WDNR are proposing to exchange up to 38,274 acres with each other to block up and consolidate their respective ownerships. This is expected to be a balanced exchange with each agency receiving the same value as they contribute. This Phase 2 exchange may conclude on or before December 31, 2010.

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

Yes. Since 2005, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), has been working with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to consolidate land ownership across the state, particularly on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains. Consolidating ownership in these checkerboard ownership areas will provide a continuous corridor of suitable habitat important for big game and a number of shrub-steppe and forest dependent species and protect, enhance, and support recreational opportunities in Washington. Additional benefits include improved land management efficiency and minimized management conflicts for both WDFW and WDNR.

Ownership consolidation efforts could potentially lead to the trade of approximately 121,500 total acres between WDFW and WDNR. If completely implemented, the exchange could result in the acquisition of approximately 83,658 acres of shrub-steppe and lower elevation forest habitats for WDFW and approximately 37,842 acres of higher elevation forest habitat for WDNR. Due to the complexity and varying degrees of difficulty associated with exchanging lands, the exchange effort has been broken into phases. In August of 2009, SEPA was completed for the Phase 1 of the exchange in which WDFW proposes exchanging 5,416 acres of state-purchased WDFW land for 9,019 acres of WDNR land. This checklist is for the Phase 2 of the exchange and involves some of the lands acquired with federal funds. A Phase 3 is anticipated. The timing and scale of the third, or possibly more exchanges, has yet to be determined and could fall well short of the potentially exchanged land totals. An additional SEPA review would be conducted if/when future land exchange proposals occur. It is likely that a joint NEPA/SEPA process would occur for the future phase.

WDFW has recently finished updating individual management plans for each of its 27 Wildlife Areas and is currently involved in developing a Habitat Conservation Plan for all of its lands including the lands involved in this exchange that would be exchanged to DNR. Most of these lands have been under lease to WDFW for the last 40 years and are contiguous to or interspersed within existing WDFW ownerships. DNR would pursue the inclusion of acquired WDFW properties that lie within DNR HCP Planning Areas to manage for habitat and timber for the northern spotted owl and other species.

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

WDFW

- a) Draft Environmental Assessment for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Land Exchange Project - Phase 2. To be posted at (<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>).
- b) Wildlife Area Plans (http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/intro.html).
- c) Other documents include a) WDFW Land Ownership Review, September 1, 2002, available for review at the Natural Resource Building in Olympia, and b) Priority Habitats and Species Inventory at: (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phspage.htm>).

DNR

- a) Policy for Sustainable Forests Final EIS, 2006, (http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/StateTrustLandsForestManagement/Pages/policy_for_sustainable_forests.aspx)
- b) D.N.R. Habitat Conservation Plan adopted January 30, 1997 (http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/TrustLandsHCP/Pages/trust_lands_hcp_report.aspx)
- c) Final EIS for the Habitat Conservation Plan, adopted October 25, 1996, (<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/TrustLandsHCP/Pages/feis.aspx>)
- d) Oil and Gas Leasing Supplemental EIS (http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/psl_og_fnl_seis_oil_gas.pdf)
- e) Road Management and Abandonment Plan information for various tracts of DNR forested lands proposed for this exchange: contact Robert Winslow at robert.winslow@dnr.wa.gov or 360-902-1622.

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.
 - USFWS must agree to amend grants for 7,636 acres of land purchased with Wildlife Restoration Program (WR) grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that would be exchanged for 19,318 acres of WDNR lands.
 - The NPS must agree to WDFW's request to amend grants for 4,749 acres of land purchased with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants administered by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) in partnership with National Park Service (NPS) that would be exchanged for 6,531 acres of WDNR lands.

The final transactions would have to be approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Board of Natural Resources.

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 agency may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This project is a joint NEPA/SEPA because it involves action by both state and federal agencies. State actions include the exchange properties to consolidate ownership. Federal actions consisting of allowing federal protections related to wildlife habitat or recreation to be removed from lands transferred away from WDFW and to be placed on the replacement lands that would be transferred to WDFW.

Much of the state public land ownership pattern in eastern Washington today resembles a checkerboard. This is largely a result of how lands were distributed after Washington gained statehood in 1889. Some of the inadvertent effects of that checkerboard ownership pattern are the fragmentation of wildlife habitat, difficulty implementing long term management strategies and viable long term planning, and the higher management costs among different ownerships and management directives. In two large checkerboard landscapes, WDNR and WDFW own or manage every other square mile in a 170,000-acre landscape with different management goals and legal mandates. Exchanging lands would allow each agency to better address its specific management goals. The Phase 2 exchange should not reduce the total amount of public land available for wildlife or recreation.

WDFW's paramount responsibility is to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the fish and wildlife species of the state. WDFW also strives to maximize fishing, hunting, fish and wildlife appreciation, and other outdoor recreational opportunities compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations (RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020 and 77.04.055). A substantial component of this responsibility involves managing big game species (e.g. mule deer, elk, etc) which depend on the availability of particular habitat types during certain times of the year. To promote better management of mule deer, elk, and other wildlife species, WDFW has acquired land (over 900,000 acres) throughout Washington State. These holdings are parceled into distinct Wildlife Areas (WAs). Lands owned by other government agencies or by private parties regularly fall within the boundaries of many of these WAs and are commonly termed "inholdings" and tend to complicate management of WAs dedicated for wildlife purposes. This complexity sometimes requires WDFW to work more closely with adjacent owners in efforts to remedy land use differences, so that all landowners have their legitimate needs and interests in property ownership met, while still permitting WDFW to effectively address its own wildlife management objectives.

WDNR has been entrusted to care for state trust lands for current and future generations. The department also protects public resources and landscapes that maintain viable forestry, aquaculture, and other industries. Revenue produced from the 3.1 million acres of trust lands serves a wide range of beneficiaries and provides non-tax revenue to support about one-third of all school construction in Washington State. The lands WDNR manage also support universities, prisons, hospitals, and other public institutions, as well as services in 21 counties (WDNR 2008).

WDNR's long-term asset management strategy is to consolidate trust lands into larger, more contiguous

ownership blocks for long-term trust revenue, wildlife habitat management, and public access. The WDNR sells, exchanges or transfers trust lands that can no longer be managed effectively for revenue to trust beneficiaries. The strategy also seeks, when possible, more diversified sources of revenue to the trusts that help fund the construction of public schools, universities, and other public institutions in Washington. By managing state trust land, WDNR maintains more than the health and integrity of natural ecosystems; WDNR also maintains public resources, such as clean water and air (WDNR 2008).

If the Phase 2 exchange is implemented, approximately 38,274 total acres would be traded between WDFW and WDNR. The Proposed Action would result in the acquisition of approximately 25,849 acres of shrub-steppe and lower elevation forest habitats for WDFW and approximately 12,285 acres of higher elevation forest habitat for WDNR. An additional 840 acres of land acquired by WDFW in the Kittitas County will complete the LCWF grant requirements. The primary public benefits of the exchange would be 1) protection/enhancement of important big game (e.g. elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, etc) habitat, habitat for shrub-steppe obligate species (e.g. sage grouse, sage thrasher, sage sparrow and Brewer's sparrow, etc) and habitat for forest obligates (e.g. goshawk, pileated woodpecker, white headed woodpecker, forest grouse, etc), 2) maintenance of public access and potential for recreation opportunities and 3) generation of revenue for the trust beneficiaries.

The indirect impact of the exchange is that the exchanged parcels would be managed to meet the missions of the new owners. Management of lands exchanged to WDFW would not change as most of those parcels were already leased to WDFW for decades and were already managed for wildlife. Forest management including forest health activities may increase on parcels transferred to WDNR. Future land use actions on exchanged parcels will undergo SEPA as necessary.

Lands acquired by WDFW from DNR would be managed to preserve, protect and perpetuate Washington's diverse fish and wildlife habitats and to maximize the recreational benefits of wildlife for all citizens. The lands acquired from DNR would also become part of the ongoing effort to implement recovery plans for sage grouse and pygmy rabbits as well as to implement management recommendations for priority habitat and species. Lands acquired from DNR would help guarantee the largest possible landscape for hunting and other wildlife related recreation on many of WDFW's Eastern Washington Wildlife Areas.

Lands acquired by DNR from WDFW would be managed to provide revenue via timber harvests and other land management activities for the trust beneficiaries, such as schools, and for their ecological values based upon the land's vegetation series. These lands would also be managed to continue to provide recreational access for dispersed recreation. Lands acquired by DNR from WDFW within the Habitat Conservation Planning units would be considered for incorporation into DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan within one year of acquisition to support DNR's conservation objectives for species covered under their HCP.

As lands that WDFW would contribute to the exchange involve federal grant funding, those lands come with deed restrictions for the protection of wildlife and recreation. The 12,285 acres of forest land that would be transferred to WDNR in Kittitas, Yakima, and Okanogan Counties would lose the federal deed restrictions associated with recreation. New deed restrictions would be placed on the 25,849 acres of shrub steppe habitat that are transferred from WDNR to WDFW. Maps indicating pre- and post-exchange lands are provided within the Environmental Assessment associated with this project.

12. Location of 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 topographical 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 applications related to this checklist.

Maps (including parcel lists) showing the parcels included in the Phase 2 exchange and potential future exchanges can be viewed in the Environmental Assessment at:
<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>

The bulk of the lands in this proposed Phase 2 exchange between WDFW and DNR are in Kittitas and Yakima Counties but also include state owned lands in Chelan, Okanogan, Klickitat and Asotin Counties. While each agency's acreage contribution would not be equal due to the different values of land being exchanged (forest land vs. shrub-steppe land), the exchange is expected to be balanced, with each agency receiving the same value as they contribute. Table 1 shows the approximate acreage of potential parcels by county that may be included in the exchange. Table 2 includes the locations of the parcels that are anticipated to be exchanged.

Table 1: Land Transferred by County

	WDFW to DNR	DNR to WDFW	Total State Ownership
Kittitas	4,748	18,677	Unchanged
Okanogan	680	1,364	Unchanged
Klickitat		90	Unchanged
Yakima	6,996	2,200	Unchanged
Asotin		2,878	Unchanged
Chelan		640	Unchanged
TOTAL	12,424	25,849	Unchanged

Table 2: Locations of Transfer Parcels

From WDFW to WDNR				From WDNR to WDFW			
Township	Range	Section	County	Township	Range	Section	County
19	16	14	Kittitas	7	45	36	Asotin
19	16	15	Kittitas	7	46	36	Asotin
19	16	18	Kittitas	9	44	8	Asotin
19	16	19	Kittitas	9	44	16	Asotin
19	16	20	Kittitas	9	45	16	Asotin
19	16	21	Kittitas	9	44	17	Asotin
19	16	22	Kittitas	21	21	36	Chelan
19	16	23	Kittitas	5	14	34	Klickitat
19	16	26	Kittitas	14	16	8	Yakima
19	16	28	Kittitas	15	15	2	Yakima
19	16	29	Kittitas	15	15	12	Yakima
19	16	35	Kittitas	16	17	10	Yakima
15	15	7	Yakima	14	16	36	Yakima
15	15	9	Yakima	14	16	36	Yakima
15	15	15	Yakima	16	17	32	Yakima
15	15	17	Yakima	33	21	3	Okanogan
15	15	19	Yakima	33	21	3	Okanogan
15	15	21	Yakima	33	22	1	Okanogan
15	15	23	Yakima	34	22	16	Okanogan
15	15	27	Yakima	35	25	2	Okanogan
15	15	29	Yakima	35	25	11	Okanogan
15	15	31	Yakima	36	25	35	Okanogan
15	15	33	Yakima	16	18	6	Kittitas
36	25	6	Okanogan	18	22	14	Kittitas
36	25	7	Okanogan	18	22	16	Kittitas
36	25	8	Okanogan	18	22	18	Kittitas
36	25	18	Okanogan	19	21	10	Kittitas
				19	21	28	Kittitas
				19	22	2	Kittitas
				19	22	6	Kittitas
				19	22	8	Kittitas

				19	22	12	Kittitas
				19	22	14	Kittitas
				19	22	16	Kittitas
				19	22	20	Kittitas
				19	22	30	Kittitas
				19	22	32	Kittitas
				20	21	14	Kittitas
				20	21	16	Kittitas
				20	21	22	Kittitas
				20	21	24	Kittitas
				20	21	26	Kittitas
				20	21	28	Kittitas
				20	21	34	Kittitas
				20	21	36	Kittitas
				20	22	16	Kittitas
				20	22	18	Kittitas
				20	22	20	Kittitas
				20	22	28	Kittitas
				20	22	30	Kittitas
				20	22	34	Kittitas
				20	22	36	Kittitas

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other _____.
The boundaries of the proposal area cover a large geographic region and encompass many varieties of terrain throughout Washington State. Elevations range from near sea level to a high of approximately 4,500 feet.
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
The proposal area contains a variety of slopes, ranging from flat to near vertical.
- c. What general types of soils (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.
Soils include clays, sands, gravels, peat, muck, etc. No prime farm lands would be included in the exchange.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
The boundaries of the exchange area cover a large geographic region that contains various histories of soil stability. This land exchange proposal does not involve any activities affecting soil stability.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
No filling or grading is directly associated with this proposal.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable. No clearing or construction is directly associated with this proposal.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
Not applicable. No construction is directly associated with this proposal.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Not applicable.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this 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.

No emissions would be directly produced from this proposal.

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

No odors would be associated with this proposal.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Parcels containing or abutting the following named streams would be transferred from WDFW to WDNR: Rattlesnake Creek, Little Rattlesnake Creek, Indian Creek, North Fork Oak Creek, Counterfeit Creek, Spikenan Creek, and Cedar Creek. Parcels containing or abutting the following named streams would be transferred from WDNR to WDFW: Columbia River, Cowiche Creek, Quilomene Creek, Brushy Creek, SF Brushy Creek, Little Brushy Creek, Coulee Creek, Canyon Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, NF Perkins Fork, Perkins Fork, Tekison Creek, Cedar Creek, Taneum Creek, Wenas Creek. George Creek, Jackknife Creek, Little Bohinckleman Creek, Skookumchuck Creek, NF Skookumchuck Creek, Tarpiscan Creek, SF Tarpiscan Creek, and Lick Creek. A good number of creeks are shown as perennial flows on the U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. In most years, however, portions of many headwater streams are intermittent.

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.

No work near water is associated with this proposal.

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 the fill material.

No dredging or filling is associated with this proposal.

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

No water diversions are associated with this proposal.

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

Some exchange land lies within the 100-year floodplains of South Fork Manashtash Creek and South Fort Cowiche Creek. No activities that would impact 100-year floodplains are associated with this exchange project.

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 discharges are associated with this proposal.

b. Ground:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

There would be no groundwater withdrawals associated with this proposal.

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 such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material is directly associated with this proposal.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

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.

There are no water runoff issues directly associated with this proposal.

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

No waste material is directly associated with this proposal.

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

Not applicable.

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, bulrush, 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?

This proposal does not directly involve the removal or alteration of vegetation. However, some additional timber harvest and forest health activities may eventually occur on forested parcels transferred to DNR than what was typical under WDFW management.

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

The USFWS County Specific Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate (TEC) species list for Asotin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima counties indicates that the following species may be present on or near the exchange lands and therefore may be affected by the proposed land exchange: *Silene spaldingii* (Spalding's silene), threatened; *Spiranthes diluvialis* (Ute ladies'-tresses), and candidate, *Artemisia campestris ssp. borealis var. wormskioldii* (Northern wormwood). Priority Habitat Species data, however, did not indicate any records of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species on the exchange lands.

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

The proposal does not directly include any construction activities or other planned disturbance. DNR forest management activities would be directed by Forest Practices Rules, DNR's Uplands Habitat Conservation Plan, and DNR's Policy for Sustainable Forests.

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:

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

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

- Spotted Owl
- Gray Wolf
- Lynx
- Grizzly Bear
- Steelhead
- Chinook salmon
- Bull Trout

Deed restrictions to protect wildlife would be lost on higher elevation forest lands transferred to WDNR that may be preferentially used by spotted owl, lynx and bull trout. Such lands, however, may gain wildlife protections associated with DNR's HCP. Wildlife related deed restrictions will be gained on lower elevation shrub steppe land that may benefit species that use or migrate through shrub steppe.

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

Yes, the exchange area covers a large geographic region that contains migration routes for many species including fish, deer and elk.

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

The project would not directly improve habitat but it would indirectly preserve wildlife by helping ensure that large blocks of high quality wildlife habitat are kept in state ownership. The project would also enable more efficient and effective use of resources to protect wildlife and their habitat like weed control.

DNR's Uplands HCP provides protection, above and beyond forest practice rules, for threatened and endangered species including unlisted species.

DNR's Policy for Sustainable Forests commits DNR's conservation efforts to focus on biodiversity as the guiding principle for sustainable forest management.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electrical, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.
Not applicable.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:
Not applicable.

7. Environmental Health

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 any emergency services that might be required.
Not applicable.

2) Propose measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
Not applicable.

b. Noise

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

No noises are associated with this proposal.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

No noises are associated with this proposal.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
Not applicable.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

The exchange area covers a large geographic region comprised of natural resource lands and is used for many different purposes, including, but not limited to: forestry, recreation, grazing, and wildlife conservation and research.

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

The exchange lands consist of forest and shrub steppe. Limited agricultural activity may have occurred in the past but there is currently no active commercial agriculture on the exchange parcels. Grazing occurred on some of the parcels in the past and there are grazing leases on approximately 5,424 acres of land that will be transferred from WDNR to WDFW. For more details see Chapter three of the Environmental Assessment.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The exchange parcels consists of undeveloped land with primitive roads and no known buildings other than the presence of two small sheds on one WDNR parcel that were formerly used to support a communication site. These sheds are anticipated to be removed within the next 12 months. There are approximately 50 miles of WDFW roads and 110 miles of WDNR roads on the lands to be exchanged.

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

See response to "c" above.

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

The exchange area encompasses many different zoning classifications, including, but not limited to: commercial forestry, rangeland, wildlife areas, and low-density housing

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

The majority of the land covered by this proposal is open space, recreation, range and commercial forest land.

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

Not applicable.

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

No specific areas are known. However, exchange areas are likely to include wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife conservation areas, frequently flooded areas or geologically hazardous areas.

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

Not applicable.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
Not applicable.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
Not applicable.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Exchanged parcels would be managed to meet the mission of the receiving public agency.
- **Use and management of lands exchanged to WDFW would not change as almost all of those parcels were already leased to WDFW for decades, were already managed for wildlife, and were managed to meet the same habitat objectives that would continue under WDFW ownership.**
 - **Forest management activities, including forest health, could increase on lands transferred to WDNR.**

The exchange between two state agencies would facilitate each agency's ability to achieve its management goals, including existing and projected land uses, as envisioned in the respective policies and goals.

9. Housing

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

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?
Not applicable.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
No views would be directly affected or obstructed with this proposal. It is possible that DNR timber management and forest health activities would somewhat modify the look of some forested landscapes from what was typical under WDFW management.
- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**
DNR riparian and wildlife habitat leave trees, legacy trees, and partial harvest techniques typical to east side timber management, would minimize visual changes to the landscape. In addition, views of any low elevation forests would be less impacted by changes to forest management because trees are naturally more dispersed in these drier eastside vegetation zones,

11. Light and Glare

- a. What kind of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
Not applicable.
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
Not applicable.
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
Not applicable.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Lands within the exchange area are used for many forms of informal recreation including, but not limited to: hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, wildlife viewing, bicycling, horseback riding, and camping.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No, but there may be a slight increase in infrequent, temporary access closures on lands exchanged to WDNR in association with timber management activities.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
Not applicable.

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.
There are no known places or objects listed on or proposed for any preservation registers on or next to any of the properties proposed for inclusion in this land exchange.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
Fourteen of the properties being considered for this exchange have sites on them or nearby that have been recorded with Department of Archaeology and Historic Protection; eleven for archaeological or cultural attributes, five for historic attributes, and one for which no data is available. Eight of the parcels are currently managed by WDNR and seven are currently managed by WDFW.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
The Proposed Action Alternative, the exchange itself, will not directly affect cultural resources. However, the Proposed Action Alternative would remove federal protection from the 12,424 acres transferred from WDFW to WDNR. This loss of protection would be considered a significant adverse affect if not mitigated. Potential impacts will be mitigated to below the level of significance by developing and signing a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with WDNR. Therefore, as part of the land exchange process the NPS, USFWS, WDNR, DAHP, WDFW, RCO, respective tribes and the ACHP will undergo cultural resources consultation and as a provision of the Proposed Action, would execute a PA. In light of the PA, a potentially significant impact would be avoided and cultural resources would be safeguarded through the additional protections included in this Alternative. The PA would recognize that the WDNR Cultural Resources Program will meet or exceed federal regulatory standards regarding lands acquired through exchange.

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 exchange will not affect access to public streets and highways.
- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
Not applicable. This land exchange would not affect public transit.
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
Not applicable.

- 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 transportation infrastructure use is associated with this proposal.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
Not applicable. This project is an exchange of ownership that does not involve transportation.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
Not applicable.

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. The land exchange would not affect the need for public services.

The proposal is anticipated to have the following public service benefits. By reducing checkerboard ownership for lands in the exchange area, WDFW would be able to more efficiently preserve wildlife and wildlife habitats to the benefit of all citizens. Also, DNR would have increased capacity to manage forest trust lands to provide revenue for essential public services, including, but not limited to: schools, universities, hospitals and fire and police districts. Consolidation would provide clarity regarding which landowner to contact for emergencies and with any questions concerning land management.

The proposed exchange would result in the discontinuation of WDFW payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) to counties for 12,285 acres of land. The exchange would result in a total annual reduction in PILT contributions of approximately \$13,000 with 58% and 38% of the reduction in Kittitas and Yakima counties respectively.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
None as this project is merely an exchange of rural, undeveloped lands that is not likely to cause negative impacts to public services.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
The proposal area contains many types of utilities. The proposal does not directly impact any utilities.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity, which might be needed.
Not applicable.

C. SIGNATURE

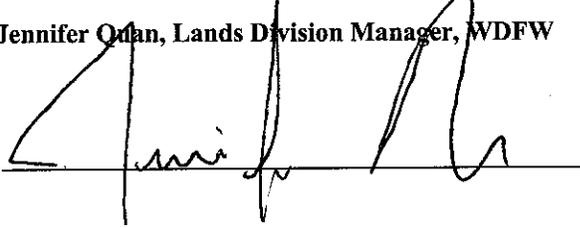
The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Proposed by:

Signature:

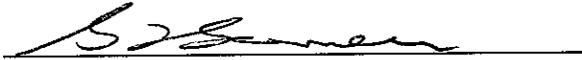
Date:

Jennifer Qian, Lands Division Manager, WDFW

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Qian', written over a horizontal line.

November 17, 2009

Stephen Saunders, Asset and Property Management Division, Manager, DNR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Saunders', written over a horizontal line.

November 17, 2009