

**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:

Round ponds for South Fork Nooksack Spring Chinook Recovery Program

2. Name of applicant: WDFW Hatcheries Division

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

Kevin Clark  
1700 Silver Beach Road  
Bellingham, WA 98229

4. Date checklist prepared: June 15, 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

3 ponds installed December 2009, 7 additional ponds to be installed as soon as permit process is done.

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

No, the 10 total ponds referenced above will be sufficient to support the project.

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

None.

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.

Whatcom County Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, WDFW HPA.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This proposal consists of the installation of 10 round ponds that will be used to rear ESA listed South Fork Nooksack Spring Chinook. The fish are collected from the wild as juveniles and will be used as broodstock in an effort to restore the run. There will be two 16-foot diameter and eight 20-foot diameter ponds installed in an area measuring approximately 100 feet by 52 feet. This project requires a new 15-inch discharge line to be run from the round ponds to Kendall Creek.

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.

6263 Mount Baker Highway, Deming WA 98244. Section 3, Township 39 North, Range 5 East.

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)?

5%

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.

Pilchuck loamy fine sand.

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.

Approximately 10 cubic yards of bedding sand, native natural material, and 5/8 inch crushed gravel will be used as fill to provide a base for the circular tanks. The source of fill will be a local gravel pit. No fill will be used at the outlet location into Kendall Creek.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Installation of the discharge line could potentially cause erosion, but best management practices will be used to avoid erosion during construction.

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

There will be a 5% increase in impervious surface.

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

A silt fence will be installed around the work site to prevent sediment delivery to the stream. Disturbed soils will be covered with geotech fabric "felt" right to edge.

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.

Some automobile exhaust will be generated by the vehicles used during construction of the project and dust may be stirred up during construction as well. No permanent increase in emissions will result from the completed project.

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:

If dust becomes a problem we will take measures to reduce the dust generated during construction.

**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.

The north fork of the Nooksack River and Kendall Creek, which flows into the Nooksack 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.

The ponds will be installed within 200 feet of both the north fork of the Nooksack and Kendall Creek. The proposed discharge line will flow into Kendall Creek.

- 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? 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.

- 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.

Yes, discharge from these tanks will flow into Kendall Creek and will be addressed in the NPDES permit for this site.

## 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.

A maximum of 1,000 gpm of well water will be used to raise fish in the proposed ponds. This withdrawal is within the approved water rights for this site.

- 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.

Does not apply.

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.

Any water that falls on the ponds will be collected and discharged out into Kendall Creek.

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

Only the fish waste which is regulated under the NPDES permit.

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?

The grass will be removed from the area surrounding the ponds and along the discharge line.

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

None known.

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

A planting of approximately 50 native shrubs will be done to enhance the riparian habitat near the outfall location at Kendall Creek.

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: crows, kingfishers, swallows.
- mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: otters, minx
- fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

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

Puget Sound Chinook, Puget Sound Steelhead, Bull Trout.

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

Salmon and steelhead juveniles and adults migrate through this area to reach spawning and rearing grounds. Fish released from the hatchery return to the adult pond at Kendall Creek.

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

The proposed project is specifically designed to restore an ESA listed stocks of fish. Plantings will also be done to improve riparian 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.

Electric power will be used to pump water to the ponds, generator power (diesel) will be used in the event of a power outage.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

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, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

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

None.

## 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.

Some noise will be generated during construction, such as truck and power tool noise. Noise will only occur from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be no noise created by the project on a long-term basis.

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?

Current use of this site is a State salmon and trout hatchery. Adjacent properties are used as residences.

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There is the main hatchery building, the feed storage building, the shop, old hatchery building, 4 residences, and 6 structures that house pumps and generators. The site has 3 different sets of raceways currently in use, an adult pond, and four large asphalt ponds not currently used to raise fish.

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

No.

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

R5

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

Rural Forestry

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

Conservency

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

Not to my knowledge.

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

3

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

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

Since the proposal will provide additional space to rear fish, it is compatible with the existing land use.

**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:

Does not apply.

**10. Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

8 feet, fiberglass.

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

None.

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

Does not apply.

**11. Light and glare**

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

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

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

Does not apply.

**12. Recreation**

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

Wildlife 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:

Does not apply.

**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:

Does not apply.

**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 accessible by Mount Baker Highway, via Hatchery Road. Access is existing and will remain unchanged.

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

No, 2 miles away.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

No parking spaces will be created or eliminated.

- 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.

None.

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

Does not apply.

**15. Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

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

Does not apply.

**16. Utilities**

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

Cable.

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.

Existing electric power is provided by Puget Sound Energy and water is provided by on-site wells.

**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- R. Bell.....

Date Submitted: June 15, 2010 .....

