

**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:

**West Valley Elk Fence Construction**

2. Name of applicant:

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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

**Ross Huffman-Oak Creek Wildlife Area Manager**

**16601 US Hwy 12**

**Naches, WA 98937**

**(509) 653-2390**

[ross.huffman@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:ross.huffman@dfw.wa.gov)

4. Date checklist prepared:

**September 10, 2010**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**WDFW**

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

**Phase 1-October-November, 2010**

**Phase 2- 2011 or later pending funding.**

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

**No, routine maintenance using hand tools will occur annually, or as needed.**

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

**NHPA Section 106 consultations with the Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), for the portion of the fence in figure 1 (below). WDFW is working with DAHP for the remaining fencing and will complete any cultural review requirements required by DAHP and/or Yakima Nation.**

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.

**There are none.**

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

**There are none.**

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.)

**In Phase 1, WDFW proposes to install new elk fence along the southern boundary of the Cowiche Unit of the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. Nearby existing fence was damaged during the Cowiche Mill Fire on July 18, 2010 and is no longer functional. Elk fence is 8 feet tall and the approximately ¼ mile of new fence will connect two sections of existing fence. Changes in landownership necessitate moving the fence to the WDFW property line versus rebuilding in the existing location. The fence will be used to protect agricultural fields (orchards) from damage by wintering elk, pending available funding a portion of Phase 2 fencing will be constructed. Phase 2 of the West Valley elk fence includes plans for WDFW to expand the elk fence east to include an additional 1,200 acres of public and private land. Phase 2 of the project will extend the fence east along the southern boundaries of Township 13, Range 17, Sections 17, 16 and following property lines of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in section 15. The fence will then continue back west along property lines near the ridgetop of Cowiche Mountain connecting back into existing fence in section 17. Phase 2 will provide an additional 1,200 acres of winter and spring range for elk and mule deer.**

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.

**Phase 1: Figure 1**

**Yakima County**

**Section 18 Township 13 Range 17**

**Near 501 Carvo Road, Yakima, WA**

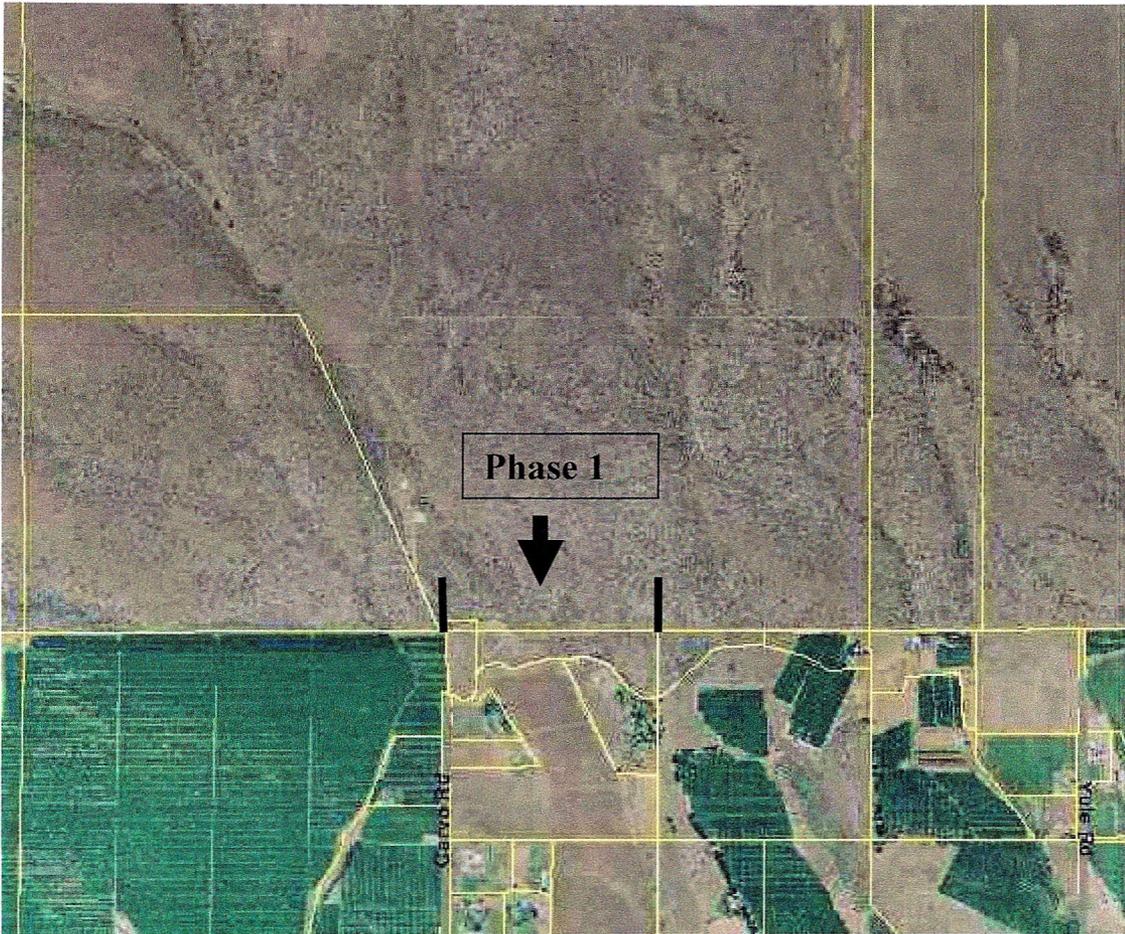
**Parcel # 17131811001**

**Phase 2: Figure 2**

**Yakima County**

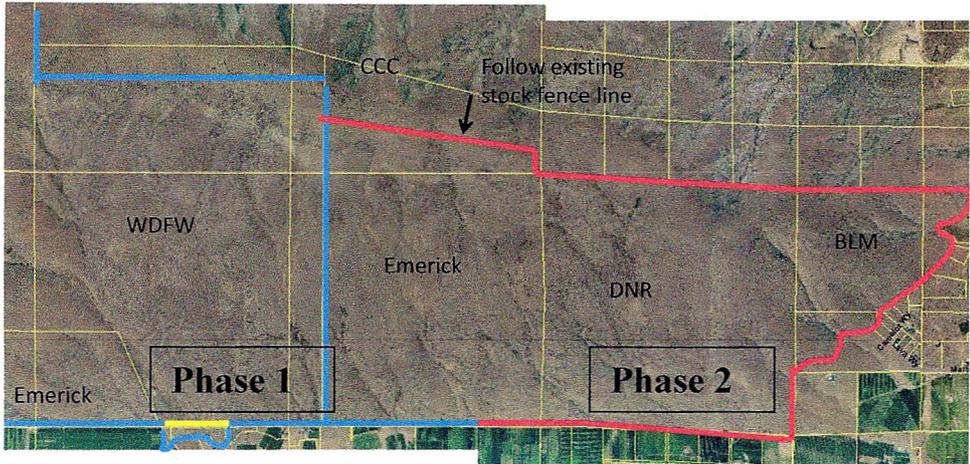
**Sections 17, 16, 15 Township 13 Range 17**

**East of phase 1**



**Figure1: Phase 1 of the project area is defined by the arrow on the map in between to the two black lines. The fence will follow the yellow parcel lines.**

- Existing Elk Fence
  - New Elk Fence on WDFW
  - Proposed new elk fence route
- WDFW West Valley Elk Fence Proposal**



**Figure 2: Phase two of the project area is defined by the red lines.**

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

**1. Earth**

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

**Site is flat at the base of the slope along southern section and is steep slopes, draw and ridgelines along northern section.**

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

**Steepest slope is approximately 30%**

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.

**Phase 1-Harwood loam. Phase 2-Primarily Rock Creek-Clint Simcoe complex-very stony silt loam, stony silt loam, and silt loam.**

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 proposed. Post holes will be filled with same material, excavated from the hole.**

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

**Limited erosion potential due to construction, area was burned and no vegetation currently exists. Natural re-growth expected in the spring. Work will occur during dry time of year minimizing chance of erosion due to construction.**

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:

**Work will occur during dry time of year to minimize erosion. Equipment use will be confined to an area adjacent to the fence line to minimize soil compaction.**

## **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.

**There will be emissions from equipment and vehicles accessing the project site during project implementation as well as dust associated with construction.**

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:

**Vehicles and equipment will be kept in good working order and turned off when not in use. Upon completion of this project, there will be no additional emissions to the air associated with this project.**

## **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.

**No**

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**

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.

No

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.

**Accidental spills of petroleum products during construction are the only potential discharges anticipated that would impact ground water. However, spill prevention techniques, containment of accidental spills, and other best management practices will reduce the risk of ground and surface water contamination.**

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.

**Precipitation during implementation would be the main source of stormwater runoff. Disturbance will be minimized and best management practices for stormwater will be implemented so most runoff will be able to dissipate over land.**

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

**During construction, accidental spills of materials and fuels are a possibility. However, spill prevention techniques, containment of accidental spills, and other best management practices will reduce the risk of ground and surface water contamination.**

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

**Work will occur during the normally dry fall months. This will reduce the chances that a storm event will increase stormwater that may ultimately flow into the surface waters. Best management practices will be applied throughout construction to minimize disturbance.**

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
- X**\_\_\_\_\_ shrubs
- X**\_\_\_\_\_ grass
- \_\_\_\_\_ pasture
- \_\_\_\_\_ crop or grain
- \_\_\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- \_\_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- X**\_\_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation: **currently limited vegetation due to wildfire.**

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.

***Tauschia hooveri*, a plant listed as a Federal Species of Concern and Threatened by the State of Washington, is near the project site and is known to exist on BLM land.**

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

**Natural regeneration will be used to restore native plants, if needed due a lack of natural regeneration seeding of grasses with native seed mix may be used.**

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: quail
- 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.

**None**

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

**The surrounding area is part of winter range for the Yakima elk herd and supports several thousand wintering elk. Project is designed to provide a barrier to keep elk out of agricultural areas where they could cause significant damage, and to provide additional winter range.**

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

**Elk fence construction will occur prior to winter prevent wildlife damage to agricultural areas where they may be hazed or harvested. Project completion will allow for 1,200 acres of additional winter range for elk.**

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.

**Not applicable**

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

**No, 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.

**The use of petroleum based fuels and lubricants may be used for equipment operation during construction. Accidental spills and/or ignition of these materials are a possibility. Using best management practices will reduce risks associated with project implementation.**

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

**If there were a chemical spill, the Washington Department of Ecology might need to respond. The Yakima County Sheriff's Department and/or fire districts would need to respond to any emergencies that might occur on site during implementation.**

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

**Safety practices required by federal, state, and local regulations will apply to all construction activities.**

#### **b. Noise**

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

**There is minimal noise in the area, the project is at the end of a county road, and no existing noise will affect this project.**

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.

**During construction noise will be created by equipment, trucks, and hand tools. All work will occur during daylight hours and normal business days. There will be no long term changes in noise at this site upon installation.**

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

**All work for phase 1 will be completed within two months, during a time of year when most sensitive birds have left their nests and prior to the high stress time for elk who depend on these lowland areas for winter range. The project will be implemented as quickly as possible and will attempt to minimize impacts during hunting season. Phase 2 of the project will be completed as funding becomes available.**

#### **8. Land and shoreline use**

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

**Phase 1 of the land is part of the Cowiche Unit of the Oak Creek Wildlife Area and is currently managed for wildlife habitat, specifically elk winter range and currently has a spring grazing lease. Adjacent property is rangeland for livestock production and wildlife habitat and agricultural production (orchards). Phase 2 of the project includes private and public land managed for wildlife habitat and livestock production.**

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

**Livestock, no agricultural crops have been grown.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**The project site has no structures, and existing stock fence was burned during the fire.**

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

**Remaining fire damaged stock fence materials will be removed.**

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

**Remote/Extremely Limited Development Potential**

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

**Rural Remote/Limited Development**

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**

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

**None, maintenance will be performed by WDFW staff using hand tools.**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

**None**

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:

**The project is replacing existing elk fence designed to protect adjacent agricultural areas from damage due to wintering elk. The project is necessary to protect existing land use. WDFW property will be managed for wildlife habitat, specifically elk winter range.**

## **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?

**Fence will be established at 8' and will be built using 6" wood posts and woven wire.**

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

**No views, fencing existed in the area prior to the burn and the fencing will not block views.**

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

**The project footprint will be minimized to control impacts and fence will be constructed to standards to prolong life visual appearance.**

#### 11. Light and glare

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

**None, not applicable**

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:

**None**

#### 12. Recreation

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

**The area is public land used for multiple activities, primarily hiking and hunting.**

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:

**Work will occur during normal business days and during working hours such that weekend and evening recreational users are not impacted by construction.**

### 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.

**The phase 1 site contains no known historic significance, all existing structures (fencing) were lost during the wildfire. Phase 2 is currently being evaluated by DAHP and Yakima Nation.**

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

**WDFW has completed NHPA Section 106 consultation with the Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for Phase 1.**

### 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.

**Carvo Road is used to access the site.**

- 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, 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**

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

**Routine maintenance of the fence is not likely to change from existing use.**

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

**None, 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**

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

**None, not applicable**

**16. Utilities**

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

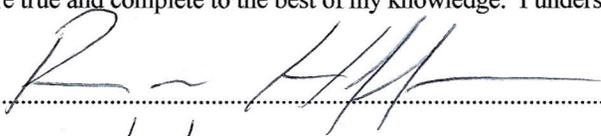
**None, not applicable**

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, 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.

Signature:  .....

Date Submitted: 9/8/10 .....