Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
(WAC 197-11-960)

A. BACKGROUND

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:** Skagit River Boat Ramp Repairs Birdsview Access Site

2. **Name of Applicant:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Capitol Programs & Engineering Division
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Contact Person: Cindy Knudsen
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Telephone Number: (360) 902-8422
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4. **Date checklist prepared:** October 26, 2010

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

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

   Summer, 2011.

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

   No.

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

   An EZ-BE for the USACE permit will be prepared.

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.**

   None are pending.

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

    A Skagit County Shoreline Development or Shoreline Exemption Permit, a WDFW HPA, and an Army

CORP permit will be needed.

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.

This project will improve and restore The Birdsview Fishing Access site on the Skagit River that requires maintenance to serve the public in this area. Repairs to these areas are described below:

Birdsview
This project will restore the damaged WDFW boat launch access at the Birdsview Site. The present boat ramp consists of a gravel portion and a 42 feet long concrete overlay portion, for an approximate length of 50 feet. The old boat ramp materials will be removed and taken to an approved disposal site out of the flood zone. The area will be regraded, and a pervious ground covering material will be installed. Clean washed gravel will then be distributed. A new sectioned precast concrete ramp with Armor-Flex matting on each side will be installed and anchored in place with steel cable and duckbill anchors. The sections below OHW will be pushed into place from an excavator staged above OHW. To match existing conditions at the site, the ramp will be placed at the same orientation as the old ramp.

Birdsview Ramp: For the new ramp, there are a total of 15 concrete ramp planks (4 foot x 12 foot x 6 inches) positioned between Armor-flex matting. Six of these are below OHW (approximately 22.0 feet): and nine are positioned above OHW (approximately 28.0 feet), with a section of Armor-Flex mat (12 x 20 x 9 foot) positioned at the end of the precast concrete sections below OHW. Total cut above OHW required to install the boat ramp is estimated at 11.3 cubic yards and the total fill above OHW is estimated at 10.9 cubic yards.

Below OHW, the cut required to install the boat ramp is estimated at 8.5 cubic yards, and the total fill below OHW is estimated at 13.0 cubic yards. The total fill below OHW (13.0 cubic yards) includes the 1 ½ inch minus washed gravel, the pre-cast concrete boat launch planks, and the Armor-flex matting. See site drawings.

Any machines entering the water will be limited to track height. Staging and refueling of machines will be conducted out of the project area. Non-toxic lubricants will be used. Other best management practices used will be: turbidity curtain, hay bales, and siltation curtains.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including 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.

These proposed project sites are is within the Skagit River corridor (United States Scenic River Corridor) along Highway 20.

Birdview: From Interstate 5, take exit 230 onto Highway 20, towards Burlington/Anacortes (0.4 miles). Turn right onto SR 20/W. Rio Vista Avenue (0.7 miles). Stay right to stay on SR-20/Avon Ave. (Pass Shell in 2.8 miles) Continue for 4.5 miles. Keep straight onto SR-9/SR 20/ North Cascades Highway for 1.3 miles. Keep straight onto SR-20/Moore Street for 17.3 miles. The Birdview site is reached from continuing along highway 20, until you reach Wilde Road. Turn Right onto Wilde Road. Road name changes to Pressentin Road (0.8) miles. The last intersection is Cape Horn Road. Continue to the end of the road to the Pressentin Road boat launch. Township 35 North, Section 13, Range 7

East (48.51987,-121.85095).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (underline one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, <u>mountainous</u>, other_____.

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

Birdview: 3%

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of the agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Soils in the vicinity are:
Birdsview: Larush Silt Loam and similar soils 100%

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.

Birdsview:
Grading for boat launch repairs is approximately 8.5 cubic yards below OHW. Fill will be approximately 13.0 yards below OHW. The fill total below OHW (13 cubic feet) includes: 1½ inch clean washed gravel, the precast boat launch planks, and the Armor-flex matting. The fill materials will be obtained from a local quarry. See site drawings.

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

Yes, construction activities will temporarily disturb river bank surfaces at the Birdsview project site.

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

There will be no increase in impervious surfaces at the Birdsview Fishing Access site.

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

Erosion impacts will be reduced by placing a sediment barrier around the construction site to isolate the disturbed area from surface waters. The work will be performed during low flow conditions during approved work windows. The new boat launch planks will be slid into place with an excavator staged from above ordinary high water. Best management practices will be used including hay bales and sediment curtains.

2. Air

a. What type 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.

Low levels of vehicle exhaust emissions and dust from construction activities are expected during project activities. No long-term effects in air quality are anticipated to 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:** None.

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 or wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

The Skagit River flows past this project sites. The Skagit River is connected to Skagit Bay and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

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, all components are directly adjacent to the Skagit River (see attached plans).

3) **Estimate the amount of <u>fill</u> and <u>dredge material</u> 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.**

Birdsview:

- Fill below Ordinary High Water: 13.0 cubic yards
- Cut below Ordinary High Water: 8.5 cubic yards

All fill material (clean washed 1¼ inch gravel) will be obtained at a local quarry. Any dredge materials removed from below ordinary high water will be taken to an approved landfill. In the unlikely event that historic artifacts are discovered, work will stop and the appropriate authorities will be contacted. The total fill materials (13.0 cubic yards) includes: clean washed gravel, precast concrete planks, and Armor Flex material.

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, this site is within the 100-year floodplain.

6) **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste material 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.**

No waste material will be discharged.

c. **Water Runoff (including storm water):**

1) **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (including quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Stormwater in the area sheet flows from graveled riverbank areas and is infiltrated before reaching Skagit River surface waters. This project will not change storm water runoff patterns.

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:** None.

4. **PLANTS**

a. **Check or underline types of vegetation found on the site:**

_x_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

_x_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other;

_x_ shrubs

_x_ grass

___ pasture

___ crop or grain

___ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

___ water plants: waterlily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

___ other types of vegetation

b. **What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

No vegetation will be removed.

c. **List threatened and endangered species [of plants] 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:

None. All work is to be performed in non-vegetated areas. If vegetation is damaged, it will be replanted with cuttings taken from on-site, including cottonwood, willow and red-osier dogwood.

5. ANIMALS

a. Underline any birds or 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: waterfowl.

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.

Endangered species are known to occur near this site in the Skagit River. These include Puget Sound Chinook, Puget Sound Steelhead and Bull Trout.

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

All salmon species, steelhead, and bull trout migrate through this site. Juvenile coho, steelhead, and Chinook salmon utilize the Skagit River as rearing habitat.

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

This project will restore the Birdview boat launch. The damaged boat ramp is causing erosion along the Skagit river bank that produces siltation during high water flows. Siltation accumulates over time and contributes to degraded habitat conditions for salmonid and bull trout species. Repairs will prevent excessive siltation from entering the Skagit River

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.

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. 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.

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

   Temporary increases in noise levels during construction activities are expected from this project. Hours of increased noise will be 8 am to 5 pm. No long term change in noise levels is expected from the completed project.

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?

This site is used as a fishing access area to provide public access.

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

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Structures on this site include a vault toilet and small parking area.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so what? The old boat launch ramp will be removed and taken to an approved disposal site out of the flood zone.

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

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

Rural.

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

Rural.

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

This site is part of Skagit River: National Wild and Scenic River designation.

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

No persons would reside here.

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

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: None.

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

Proposed boat ramp project will repair and enhance this area for fishing access which is its intended

purpose.

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?**

Proposed repairs would not extend above ground level. Precast cement boat launch slats, prewashed gravel and Armor-flex mat sections would be the principle building materials.

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?**

The repair may produce minimal glare.

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?**

There are fishing opportunities at this site. There are also waterfowl and other wildlife viewing opportunities available in this area.

b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

No recreational activities will be displaced. Access to the fishing access area will be preserved.

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational 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.**

None are known. The Pressentin historic ferry landing is under the Skagit River bed, somewhere near

the Birdsview access site. However, this project will not be dredging in the river bottom. If any artifacts are discovered during construction, work will stop and the appropriate authorities will be notified. Historical and Cultural Preservation documents will be submitted for verification

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There is no evidence or landmarks indicating the historic ferry landing at this site. However, the Pressentin ferry is under the Skagit River bed, somewhere in the vicinity of the Birdsview access site. If any artifacts are discovered during construction, work will stop and the appropriate authorities will be notified. Historical and Cultural Preservation documents will be submitted for verification.

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

Excavation will only occur in areas of previously placed fill.

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.

Highway 20 serves this site.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If no, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No. The nearest public transit stop is unknown.

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, repairs will be made only to the boat ramp.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

There is no established water, air or rail transportation nearby.

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

No change in WDFW staff vehicle trips will occur.

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. No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any: None.

16. UTILITIES

a. Underline 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.

No utilities will be added or changed from this project.

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: Cynthia Knudson **DATE SUBMITTED:** 10/26/2010