

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:

Red Salmon Slough Restoration Phase 3

2. Name of applicant:

Nisqually Indian Tribe – Natural Resources Department

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

Florian Leischner, Restoration Biologist

12501 Yelm Hwy SE

Olympia, WA 98513

(360) 438-8687 x 2145

4. Date checklist prepared:

Jan. 4th, 2011

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

A total of 6 weeks during this work window: July 15th – October 31st, 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.

Joint Aquatic Resource Project Application (JARPA) (10/2010)

Nisqually/Red Salmon Slough Inventory and preliminary restoration plan (7/2000)

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.

WA State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife – HPA permit –*pending*

US EPA – 401 Water Quality certification – *pending*

US COE Nationwide permit 27 –*pending*

ESA Section 7 consultation - *pending*

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

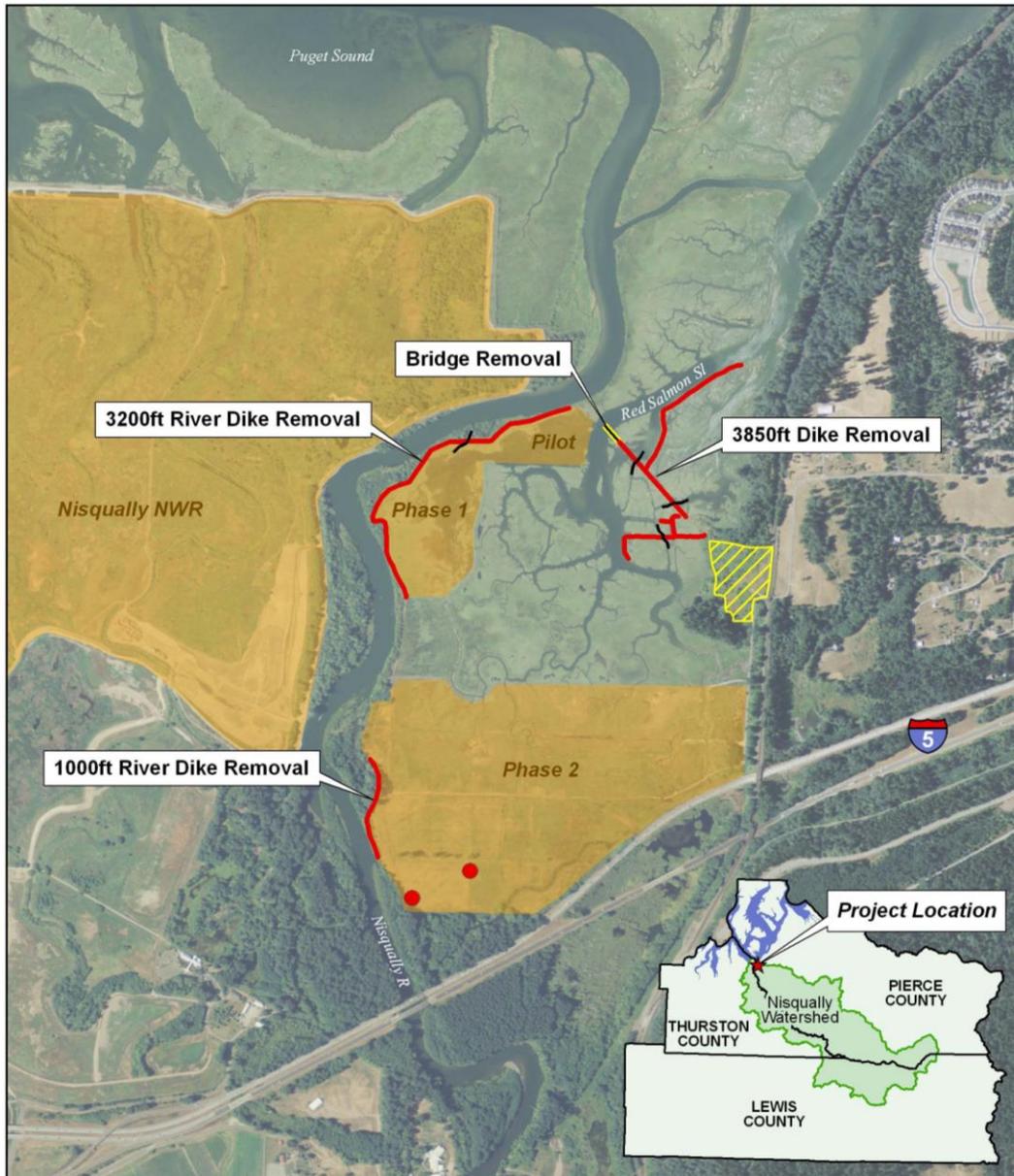
Se No. 9.

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.)

The Nisqually Indian Tribe, Natural Resources Department is proposing to restore the ecological functions of the Nisqually River Estuary in the Red Salmon slough areas by removing approximately 6000 feet of man-made dikes in 2011. The removal of these dikes will fully reconnect the slough with its outside areas and therefore restore and/or improve fish access, tidal exchange, freshwater mixing, salt marsh erosion and sedimentation. This is the 3rd phase of a very successful effort to restore fish and wildlife habitat in the Red Salmon Slough area and the 4th project in the Nisqually Estuary overall to restore fish and wildlife habitat in over 900 acres of the delta.

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.

The project is located in the entire Section 33, Township 19 N, R 1 East of the Willamette Meridian at the end of Mounds Road near the town of DuPont in Pierce County, Washington. Coordinates: 122*41'48.59"W 47*5'14.65"N



Red Salmon Slough Restoration - Phase 3

- Debris & Derelict Building Removal
- Bridge Removal
- Dike Removal
- Channel Reconnections
- ▨ Upland Disposal & Restoration Site
- Completed Phases

Feet
1,000 500 0 1,000

Image Source: NAIP, 2009

Nisqually Indian Tribe

Cartography by: J.Cutler, Dec. 2009

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

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

Most work will occur on flat converted pasture land surrounded by dikes which never exceed 10m in width at the base and 2m in height. The access and staging will occur on the upland with some slopes.

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

Some of the access will occur from the east side of the site with slope less than 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.

Sandy loam typical for estuaries in Puget Sound.

- 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.

To facilitate natural tidal hydrology through Red Salmon Slough and to prevent fish stranding within the area, this restoration project will include major filling and grading of material. The project will remove approximately 8000 feet of dike surrounding the area restored in 2002 and 2006 (Phase 1 and Phase restoration project) and natural saltmarshes. The dike material (approx.16,200 cubic yards) will be used to fill former agricultural ditches and to create microtopography within a 5 acre site on the inside of the dike and consists of native sandy soils. In addition, several channels will be reconnected that were obviously disconnected during dike building.

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

Yes. Erosion will occur and is a welcome occurrence. This erosion will be slow and gradual and mostly limited to the creation of channels and network by tidal action. It will help the natural progression of the restoration, which will slowly convert to a natural mosaic of salt marsh and mudflat surface areas. No large erosion events will occur due to the flat nature of the construction area.

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

0%

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

No erosion control will be employed in the flat areas where dike removal will occur. Work below the high tide line will occur during low tide cycles. The access roads will include silt fencing on the down slope sides.

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.

Slight increases in dust might occur due to frequent travels of and earth-moving by construction machinery on sandy/silty soils.

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

None.

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

A water tanker truck will be available to spray dusty roads or construction areas to lower dust levels in case of medium or severe dust issues.

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.

Yes.

Nisqually River.

Red Salmon Creek (year-round, intertidal)

Unnamed seasonal spring and creek

Nisqually estuary/delta

Red Salmon Slough

Braget Marsh

- 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 work will occur within 200 feet of the above mentioned water due to the nature of the project. Project overview are attached.

- 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.

Removed fill material: 16,200 cy. of native soils.

Placed fill for ditch filling, re-contouring, and wetland enhancement: up to 12,000 cy of native soil.

- 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.

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.

NA

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT
EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

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.

Rainwater could run off over the eastside access road over slopes into the vegetation downhill. This will be very minute,

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

NA

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

The access road on the slope will be lined along the downhill side with erosion control fence and mulched and revegetation with native trees and shrubs after project completion.

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 access road from the east side will be constructed by clearing mostly invasive blackberry shrubs, but less than 10 small deciduous trees/shrubs might need to be removed as well. Most of the dikes themselves are vegetated with pasture grasses left behind from the decades of agricultural use. The project itself will have a lasting positive effect on the native flora of Red Salmon Slough by inviting more tidal connections to the Puget Sound and Nisqually River.

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

None.

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

Natural recolonization will revegetated any barren areas below the high tide line. Any barren areas created by the construction above the high tide line will be revegetated with appropriate native shrubs and trees.

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:
- 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.

- Bull Trout (very rare)
- Puget Sound Chinook Salmon (frequent)
- Puget Sound Steelhead Trout (infrequent in Red Salmon Slough) (frequent in Nisqually River)
- Marbled Murrelet (infrequent in Nisqually Estuary)
- Stellar Sea Lion (very rare in Nisqually Estuary)

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT EVALUATION FOR

AGENCY USE ONLY

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

Yes, the Estuary and Nisqually River are part of the migration route for anadromous salmon and trout between the ocean feeding grounds and spawning grounds.

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

This project is a fish and wildlife habitat project.

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.

NA

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)?

Very busy interstate 5 in to the south, and the busy Burlington Northern railroad line is within the project area. Boating traffic is frequent on the salmon fishing river.

- 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.

Construction noise during day time will come from the site and will be very short-term.

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?

The Tribally owned land and it's adjacent land make up the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife conservation.

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

It was used for agriculture until the Tribe converted it back to estuary in 2002 and 2006.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

A barn, a hay storage lien-two and a bridge are on site.

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

The lien two and the collapsed bridge will be removed as part of the project.

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

Rural 10 and ARL (agricultural resource land).

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

NA

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

NA

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

Yes. The saltwater wetlands are classified environmentally sensitive.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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?

NA

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

None.

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

None.

11. Light and glare

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

None.

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

No.

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

None.

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?
Fishing, Kayaking, boating, Crabbing, hunting, birdwatching, and 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:
None.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No.

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

The upper Nisqually Estuary was an area of early European settlement and many evidences within the greater valley indicate those settlements. The dikes themselves are between 70 and 100 years old.

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

A cultural and historic survey will be conducted prior to construction to document all dikes and potentially cultural significant elements before construction commences.

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.

All access occurs from the end of Mounts Road in western Pierce County. Two gates will serve as the access point to the eastern site and the western project 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.

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.

The project is immediately adjacent to the Burlington Northern RR and Interstate 5, see map above.

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:

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

No utilities exist at the site.

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 proposed.

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: 01/05/2011

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Attached Restoration Plan. (Engineering plan upon request).

