

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: [Sheep Canyon Road Access Changes](#)
2. Name of applicant: [WDFW Klickitat Wildlife Area](#)
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [Susan Van Leuven, Wildlife Area Manager](#)
[Klickitat Wildlife Area](#)
[1886 Glenwood Highway](#)
[Goldendale, WA 98620](#)
[Phone: 509-773-4459](#)
4. Date checklist prepared: [February 7, 2011](#)
5. Agency requesting checklist: [Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [May 1 to June 30, 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. **No information specific to this proposal has been 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. **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.)

The purpose of the proposed project is to stop degradation of habitat quality by controlling motorized access in two areas where resulting damage has occurred. A gate is proposed for implementation of a seasonal or year-round closure of the upper segment of the Sheep Canyon Road. A permanent closure is proposed for a short, unnamed spur road that adjoins the Sheep Canyon Road. Both segments of road affected by the proposal are in rough condition and no maintenance or improvement is planned. Two small parking areas adjacent to each point of closure are to be improved by adding rock to the driving surface. Parking areas are to accommodate up to eight vehicles.

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.

Both closures would be in T5N R14E S5, north half. The gate is to be placed at the upper end of the maintained portion of the Sheep Canyon Road, which is approximately 2.8 miles up from the intersection of the Grayback Road and the Glenwood Highway. The permanent closure is to be at the edge of the Sheep Canyon Road, 0.1 mile below the gate location.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

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)? **16%**

- 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.

Rocky clay

- 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 is proposed.

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

No

- 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:

The specific purpose of the project is to reduce erosion and other impacts to the earth by reducing vehicle usage where resources have been negatively affected by such activity.

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.

Emissions are unlikely. Dust from vehicle use of dirt road would probably remain at current levels.

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

Sheep Creek, which is a seasonal stream, is near the proposed gate location. This stream flows into the Klickitat 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.

None of the work will occur within 200 ft. of Sheep 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.

There will be no alteration of surface flow.

- 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 ground water is to be used.

- 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.

None

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.
No runoff is expected.

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 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: Native forbs

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
Approximately 32 square feet of grass and forbs would be disturbed during gate installation.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
Lomatium suksdorfii is in the vicinity, although not on the actual project site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
None

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: deer
- fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
Western gray squirrels are present in the forested areas nearby. The proposed work is not within suitable habitat for this species.

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

No

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

The proposed project is expected to preserve and enhance wildlife and 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.

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? If so, describe.

None

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. Equipment noise would be generated during placement of the gate, boulders, and road rock. This would be a short-term impact, during daylight hours. The duration would be less than 8 hours total.

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?
Wildlife habitat

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

- c. Describe any structures on the site.
None

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
No

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Open space

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

- 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

- j. 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:
No special measures

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?
Six feet
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
None when gate is open. View of road would be obstructed when gate is shut.
- 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?
No light or glare will be produced, except from reflective safety tape applied to gate.
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
No. The reflective tape on the gate should improve safety.
- 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?

Hunting and camping

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

Yes. Approximately 0.25 mile of rutted, unmaintained road would be permanently closed to motor vehicle travel. During the time the gate is closed, an additional 1 mile of unmaintained road would be closed to motor vehicle access.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Improvements for parking are planned at both road closure locations, so visitors have good places to leave vehicles when traveling beyond the gate or rock barrier. Some hunters will consider the access limitations to be an improvement over the current situation.

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

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

No evidence has been documented for this site. There are no distinctive landmarks. The area is open with gentle to moderate slopes, uphill and away from water.

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

The work is to occur on or next to existing primitive roads. Only areas that have already been disturbed would be impacted.

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 only road serving the site is the Sheep Canyon Road.

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

No. The distance to the nearest public transit stop is estimated to be at least 20 miles.

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

The completed project would include 8 parking places. This would replace the current dispersed pattern of parking and camping. Some of the parking presently available would remain so when the gate is open.

- 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.
No increase in vehicular traffic is expected.

- 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.
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.
None

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: **Susan Van Leuven**.....

Date Submitted: **11 March 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?

No increases are expected.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

None

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

The proposal is expected to reduce soil compaction and erosion, and direct injury to plants. A healthier and more extensive plant community will be less subject to invasion by weeds and better able to support wildlife populations.

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

The proposal is intended to protect and conserve plants, which also benefits animals.

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

This proposal is unlikely to deplete energy or natural resources.

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

None

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?

No effect is expected. If there is an effect, it should be a benefit to sensitive resources.

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

No additional measures are planned.

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?
The proposal will have no effect on shoreline use and is very unlikely to affect land use.

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

None

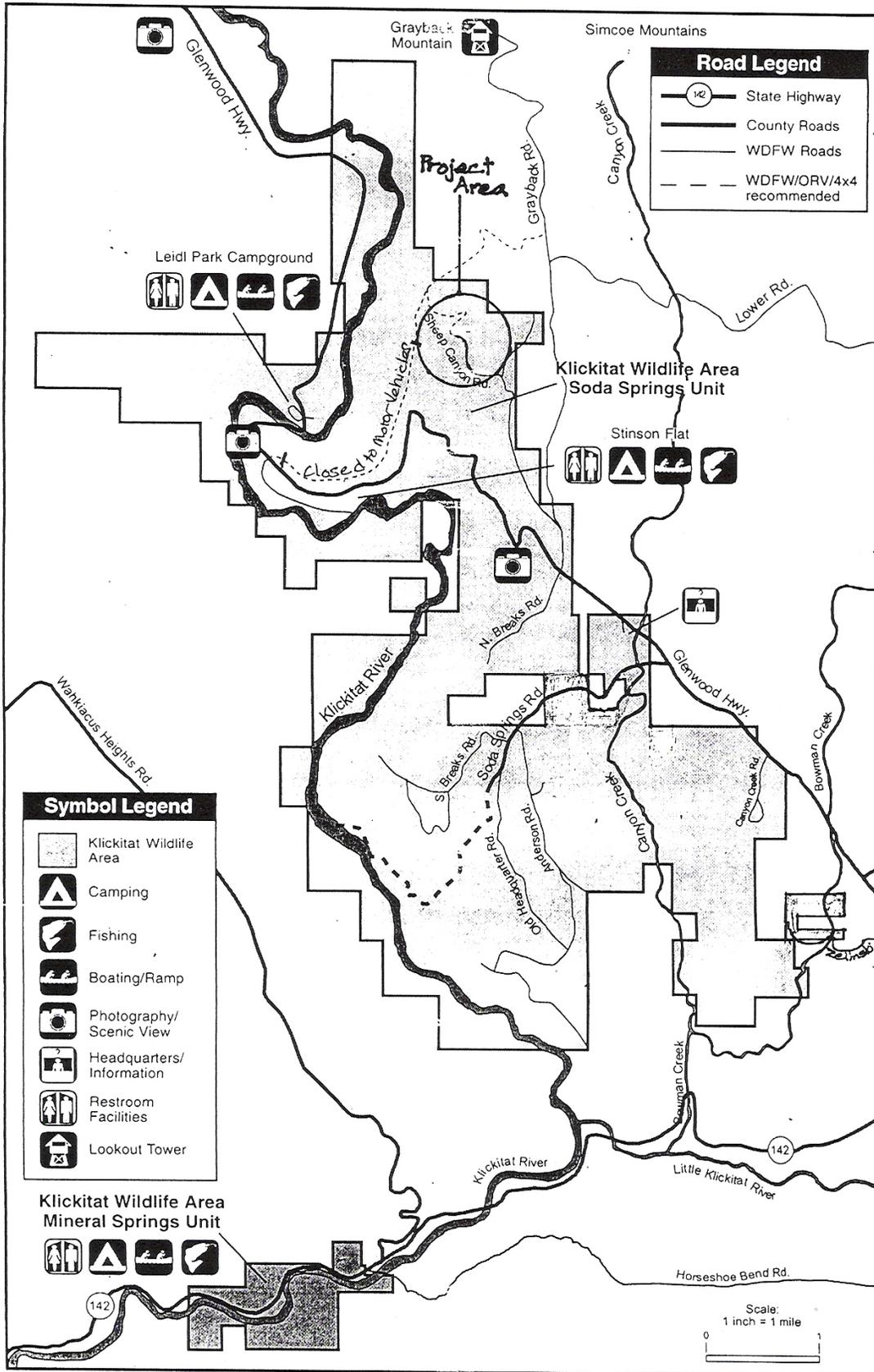
6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?
No effect is expected.

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

None

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.
The proposal will not conflict with laws or requirements for protection of the environment.

Vicinity Map: Sheep Canyon Road Access



Project Map: Sheep Canyon Road Access

