

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 Foster Creek Headcut Stabilization Project

2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wells Wildlife Area

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

Dan Peterson

Wells Wildlife Area

54 Moe Road

Brewster, WA 98812

509-686-4305

4. Date checklist prepared: 9/01/2011

5. Agency requesting checklist: WDFW

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

Project will be completed in late fall of 2011 to correspond with low flows.

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.

East Foster Creek Watershed Hydrology and Sedimentology Study, 1989

Paul Blanton (2004); Detailed analysis of West Foster Creek arroyo incision

WRAI 44/50 Salmon & Steelhead Habitat Limiting Factors Analysis
March, 2001
By Kathleen (Bartu) Deason

WRIA 44/50 Final Phase 2 Basin Assessment
April, 2003
By Pacific Groundwater Group (PGG)
With
Montgomery Water Group, Inc. (MWG)
R2 Resource Consultants Inc. (R2)

WRIA 44/50 Foster Creek & Lower Moses Coulee
Level 2 Hydrogeologic Assessment
November 2003
Grant # G9900023
By PGG

WRIA 44/50 Watershed Management Plan
Moses Coulee and Foster Creek Watersheds
Final: September 23, 2004
Douglas County Watershed Planning Association
Basin Assessments conducted by PGG, R2 and MWG

Clean Water Act Section 219 Nonpoint Source Fund
Grant # G0200071
Final Report
June 30, 2005
By Tim Behne, Foster Creek Conservation District

WRIA's 44 & 50 Watershed Implementation Plan
Funded by Grant # G0500121
December 30, 2005
By the Foster Creek Conservation District

DOE stream, lake and well monitoring report 6/30/07 by Tim Behne

DOE stream, lake and well monitoring report 6/30/09 by Tim Behne

DOE stream, lake and well monitoring report 6/30/10 by Tim Behne

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

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

Douglas County Critical Areas Permit

WDFW HPA

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

This project is to temporarily stabilize a headcut in West Foster Creek on the Wells Wildlife Area. This headcut threatens to drain a 20- acre meadow as the incision moves upstream. In late 2009, woody debris was used in an attempt to stabilize the site. This was successful for approximately 18 months until high runoff in the spring of 2011 resulted in the headcut reforming, although not as severely.

We propose to use an excavator to place woody debris in the creek bottom below and against the headcut to slow its retreat upstream. We will use limbs and branches of Russian olive trees no greater than eight inches in diameter as well as "Christmas tree size" pine trees from a local timber thinning project. This material will slow the water flow thus increasing sediment deposition which will build up the streambed above and below the headcut. We will plant willow cuttings and grass seed in and around the woody debris. All areas disturbed as a result of construction will be revegetated with native species of shrubs, trees and grass.

While essentially a temporary measure, action needs to be taken to while funding for a permanent solution located. Although prior attempts to secure funding for a permanent solution have not been successful we continue to seek funding as opportunities arise.

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.

Driving Directions: From Highway 17 about 1 mile south of Bridgeport, proceed south on Bridgeport Hill Road about 4.4 miles. The project is in the Canyon bottom to the west.

Project site is located at West Foster Creek in northern Douglas County, Washington. The site is located seven road miles south of the Town of Bridgeport and is in the WDFW Wells Wildlife Area, N47.91325 X W119.69569.

Legal Description: NW1/4, NE1/4, Section 21, Township 28N, Range 25E

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.
Flat

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Does not apply

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

- 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.

Aquolls-Halaquepts complex, nearly level

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

The soils throughout the entire Foster Creek watershed are extremely fine grained. Surface soils are predominantly loam and cobbly loam with a large percentage of silt having a runoff potential ranging from low to high (East Foster Creek Watershed Hydrology and Sedimentology Study, 1989). The embeddedness of dominant substrate particles with fine sediments was rated at 50 percent or higher in some (approximately 20 percent) of the sampled habitat units. These levels of sedimentation have been associated with biologically meaningful reductions in survival to emergence of incubating salmonid embryos and alvins, the amount and diversity of invertebrate prey species for fry, over-wintering habitat, and refuge space from predators (Excerpted from WRIA 44&50 Phase 2 Technical Assessment, 2002; WRIA 44&50 Phase 2 Instream Flow Study, 2004 Chapman and McLead 1987).

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

All fill, woody debris, be from local Russian olive trees as well as small pine trees acquired from a local timber thinning project.

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

Erosion concerns will exist during the project and until the vegetation is established

- 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:

After construction all disturbed areas will be re-vegetated with native and introduced site adapted soil stabilizing plant species.

The completed project is designed to halt the upstream movement of the headcut and stop the erosion in this area.

a. **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.

A small amount of dust could be generated during the construction if conditions are dry enough. Equipment exhaust will be emitted during 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:

None

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

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.

This project will take place on West Foster Creek which flows into the Columbia 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.

Yes, this project will take place in the West Foster Creek Channel

- 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.

We estimate that approximately 60 CY of woody debris will be placed below headcut. Total area impacted by project is approximately less than 1.5 acres

- 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 area is within the 100 yr floodplain

- 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

- 3) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply

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.

Runoff from spring thaw and storm flow from the West Foster Creek watershed will flow through this area and on to the Columbia River.

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

Waste materials could soak into the ground but very little if any waste will be generated by this project

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

The design of the project and the re-sloping and re-vegetation of the area will reduce or control runoff effects in the area.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle 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

X _____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

X _____ other types of vegetation

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

Grass (reed canary grass) on the edges of the stream will be disturbed during the placement of the debris.

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

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse

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

Disturbed areas will be re-planted with native and introduced site adapted soil stabilizing grasses and shrubs

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: Birds are primarily raptors and songbirds

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Animals include deer, beaver, raccoon and various small rodents

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: There are no known fish in the area. Numerous natural and man-made fish barriers exist downstream of the project including; a gabion project, beaver dams, headcuts, a defunct irrigation dam and a waterfall.

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

No endangered species. WA State threatened species; Sharp Tailed Grouse &

Sage Grouse use this area; this project could have indirect impacts on listed salmonids in the lower reaches of Foster Creek, i.e.: reduction of sediment load.

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

This canyon provides a migratory corridor for mule deer moving from the higher elevation Waterville Plateau to lower elevation wintering areas in the vicinity of Bridgeport, WA.

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

Preserving the wetland meadow will be a benefit to upland species and reducing sediment from erosion will benefit fish in Foster Creek.

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.

No

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

If someone is injured on the site during construction emergency services could be required.

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

Proper equipment operation and maintenance during construction should minimize environmental hazards.

Safe operating procedures will be followed when operation on or near equipment is required.

b. Noise

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

The only noise will be the construction equipment.

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 on site will make noise when running but because of the remote location it won't bother anyone and noise disturbances to the wildlife will only occur during construction which is necessary to save the wetland meadow. Hours of operation would be from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

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

NA

8. Land and shoreline use

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

Wildlife reserve and recreational

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

Yes, Grazing. WDFW removed grazing from the West Foster Creek Unit in 1975.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Does not apply

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

No

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

Rural Resource 20 (RR-20); some may be Recreation Overlay (R-O)

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

Rural Resource 20 for the project; there is also a Rural Recreation designation in the area to the south.

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

Does not apply

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

This area includes riparian habitat which is classified as a Washington State Priority Habitat (PHS). The area is occupied by sharp-tailed grouse a state "threatened species", a state "species of greatest conservation need" and a federal "species of concern"

The riparian habitat in this area provides important sharp-tailed grouse wintering habitat.

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:

Does not apply

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

WDFW manages the property for wildlife and recreation and this project will enhance and preserve those activities.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

10. Aesthetics

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

N/A

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

Does not apply

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

Area will be re-vegetated with native and introduced vegetation.

11. Light and glare

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

Does not apply

- 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?

Does not apply

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

Does not apply

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Hunting, hiking, bird watching, cross country skiing

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
Does not apply

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
No

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
None

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.

This project will have no effect on the access from the Bridgeport Hill Rd.

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

No. Bridgeport is about 5 to 6 miles to the North

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

Does not apply

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

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

No

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

None

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

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.

Possible cell phone service.

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:

Dan Peterson



Date Submitted:

1 Sept 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?

Does not apply

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

This project would preserve the wetland meadow, protecting and providing necessary habitat for all species in the area and improving sediment deposition in the lower reaches of Foster Creek.

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?

Does not apply

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?

This project would preserve the wetland meadow, protecting and providing necessary habitat for all species in the area and improving sediment deposition in the lower reaches of Foster Creek.

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

Do the work during the low water time of year.

Follow best management procedures with the equipment when on site.

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.