

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: *Elochoman Intake Maintenance*
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: Marty Peoples
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Telephone Number: (360) 902-8426
Fax Number: (360) 902-8367
E-Mail: Marty.Peoples@dfw.wa.gov*

4. Date checklist prepared: *February 21, 2012*
5. Agency requesting checklist: *WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE*
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

WDFW proposes to do this project in summer of 2012.

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

No additional activity is planned for this project.

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

A biological evaluation will be prepared for this project.

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

There are no known pending applications associated with or affecting this project.

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

A Wahkiakum County Shoreline Permit, WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval, Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, and Ecology 401 Water Quality Certification are anticipated to be required.

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 consists of restoring water flow to an existing water intake and fish ladder structure located on the Elochoman River that serves the Beaver Creek Hatchery. Over time the river has migrated away from this structure, most likely the result of flood deposited trees becoming grounded in this immediate vicinity. Sediment has also accumulated around this large woody debris resulting in a greatly constricted channel above the intake.

In 2011 a small amount of sediment was removed directly in front of the intake to restore partial function to the fish ladder, but did not address the bigger problem of channel migration. To correct this problem,

WDFW proposes to reposition 7 trees lodged in the stream channel to an in-stream location on the far side of the river. WDFW also proposes to restore the function of this intake and fish ladder by removing accumulated sediment in front and upstream of the intake to restore the channel that once existed there. This action will not only encourage water flow to the intake and fish ladder, but will also reduce sediment deposition over time and reduce need for intake maintenance.

The specific components of this project are:

1. Re-position 7 flood deposited trees (Large Woody Debris) located next to the intake. These trees are now directing water flows away from the intake entrance and encouraging sediment deposition in front of the intake. One tree is currently lodged against the existing weir placing additional weight and resulting in damage to the sheet pile weir. This tree will be repositioned into the stream channel below the weir. The remaining trees will be relocated within the stream channel to a position next to the far bank. This will encourage stream flows to be returned to the intake side of the river and reduce sediment deposition in front of the intake. The trees will be moved with an excavator that will be operated within the stream when necessary but also from the bank when possible. This work will occur during low summer flows and be conducted in a manner that reduces the amount of time spent within the stream and also reduces disturbance by limiting trips across the stream.
2. Relocated trees will be anchored in place using 1/2 inch chain and #4 duckbill anchors. Two anchors will be used for each tree. A total of 14 duckbill anchors will be installed below OHW to anchor the trees. The duckbill anchor works very much like a toggle bolt. The anchor body is driven into the soil with a re-useable drive steel rod. Once the anchor body is placed to the proper depth the drive steel is removed. A backward pull on the cable then rotates the anchor body in the ground until it is perpendicular to the cable. The total installation time for duckbills would be approximately 1 hour.
3. Remove 200 cubic yards of silt and gravel from the Elochoman River channel in the vicinity of the Elochoman River Intake. The sediment removal will occur in front of the intake screen and upstream where a channel directing water to the intake has gradually filled with gravel and sediment. This sediment removal will be accomplished with an excavator that will be operated from dry portions of the stream channel and the bank above ordinary high water. Sediment that is removed will be placed directly into a dump truck and hauled offsite to local rock quarry. Sediment will be removed using a clean removal method by only taking half full buckets to minimize fallback. The area of sediment removal will be isolated from Elochoman River waters with a fish exclusion and sediment barrier consisting of super sacks. This method has been used successfully at other locations and will prevent sediment laden water from escaping the work area and also prevent fish from entering the work area. The super sack barrier will be installed before any excavation occurs. WDFW fish biologists will inspect the isolated area for juvenile fish and use a seine net to remove any juvenile fish found. The shear log in front of the intake will be removed prior to excavation and be returned after excavation is complete.
4. BMP's that were installed prior to work will be removed. The super sack barrier will be removed. Disturbed soil will be reseeded with native grass mix.
5. Mitigation measures will be performed beginning with Japanese knotweed and Himalayan blackberry control in a 1 acre area next to the river and intake. After successful weed control is performed, this area will be replanted in November and December with native shrubs and trees to augment existing vegetation, improve wildlife habitat and discourage re-colonization of invasive weeds. Plantings will consist of Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and Western red cedar on 6 foot centers, Pacific ninebark and Red osier dogwood on 4 foot centers and willow stakes.

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 Beaver Creek Hatchery is reached by proceeding from Cathlamet west for ½ mile on Highway 4 and then turning right onto the Elochoman Valley Road. Proceed 3.6 miles then turn right on Beaver Creek Road. The hatchery is immediately on the right after crossing the Elochoman River Bridge. This site is located in Wahkiakum County, Section 32, Township 9 N, Range 5 W, NW 1/4.

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)?

15%.

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.

The soil is classified as Grehalem silt loam at this location.

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

There are no indications of unstable soils.

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

Gravel and debris has accumulated overtime in front of the diversion dam which has caused reduced flows to the water intake which is associated with the diversion dam. To correct this situation, 200 cubic yards of gravel and silt will be removed from the stream channel upstream of the water intake. This material will be hauled offsite to a local rock quarry. Six to eight alder trees now in the stream will be relocated to the north (opposite) side of the river to and be anchored in place below OHW. This action will encourage continued water flow to the hatchery side of the river and reduce future need for gravel removal.

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

Yes, minor erosion could occur but is not likely. Work will be done in the summer months when precipitation and river flow is minimal, thus reducing the opportunity for suspended sediments to be carried to downstream. Any disturbance to stream banks will be covered with mulch and revegetated with native grass mix.

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

Approximately 10% of this site is currently covered by impervious surfaces including the concrete intake structure and diversion dam. There will be no increase in impervious surfaces at this specific site as a result of this project.

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

Any potential erosion will be prevented using erosion control Best Management Practices. Specifically, a silt fence will be installed around upland and aquatic construction sites.

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.

Vehicle exhaust and dust from construction is expected. No long-term change in emissions is expected 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:

Equipment will be maintained and inspected to ensure proper function of all emissions control equipment.

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.

The Elochoman River is within the project site.

- 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 of this project are directly adjacent and within the Elochoman River. Gravel removal and log repositioning occur below OWH. These activities are described in the attached drawings.

- 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.

200 cubic yards of gravel and silt will be removed from the stream channel upstream of the water intake.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This project will not alter any existing surface water diversions. Gravel will be removed in the vicinity of the Elochoman River intake structure but the intake will not be altered.

- 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 materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No waste material will be discharged into surface waters. Work area will be contained and isolated from the main channel during sediment removal.

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 domestic or industrial sewage is onsite and no waste material will be discharged from this source. Agricultural chemicals will not be applied as part of this project or as a result of this project.

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.

The source of runoff at the construction site would be precipitation, which is expected to minimal during the summer construction period. Storm water treatment will not be not changed or affected in any way. Currently storm water flows from driving surfaces and is infiltrated within grass filter strips at the edge of roadways.

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

With the implementation of impact minimization measures, no waste materials are anticipated to enter ground or surface waters.

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

General Impact Reduction Measures

1. Any storm water runoff will be contained using erosion control Best Management Practices. Specifically, a silt fence will be installed around upland construction sites to filter sediment which may be suspended in runoff water.
2. A super sack barrier will be installed around the perimeter of gravel removal area to prevent sediment laden water from impacting surrounding surfaces waters.
3. Equipment will be washed before entering the job site to remove any excess petroleum products that could come into contact with surface waters.
4. All equipment will be inspected daily for fuel or lubricant leaks. Machinery food grade hydraulic fluid will be used in all equipment operating below OHW.
5. Equipment staging and fueling areas will be completely isolated from surfaces waters to avoid the possibility of impacts to surfaces waters resulting from fueling or staging activities.
6. Construction erosion control BMP's including mulching exposed soils and horizontal tracking of upland exposed bank will be implemented.

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
- _____ 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?

Disturbance of vegetation will be avoided when possible. Some riparian areas will be disturbed while machinery accesses the work area. This vegetation currently consists mostly of Japanese knotweed and Himalayan blackberry which is scheduled to be controlled as part of the mitigation for this site. The disturbed bank area is anticipated to be 12 feet wide and 20 feet long. Noxious plant removal will also take place on approximately 1 acre upland of the river.

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

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur in this area.

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

Native shrubs will be planted on portions of this site as mitigation for project impacts. Noxious weed species will be treated prior to planting of native vegetation.

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: 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 listed as occurring in this area are Lower Columbia River Chinook, Lower Columbia River Coho, Columbia River Chum, and Eulachon.

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

Waterfowl species use this area as part of a migration route. Salmon species also migrate through this area.

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

To preserve fish and wildlife resources, WDFW will time this project to minimize work within water and minimize harmful impacts upon fish species. Riparian noxious weed control and native shrub species plantings will also be done to improve wildlife 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.

The completed project will not require energy consumption.

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

This project will not affect solar energy use.

- 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:

No energy conservation features are included and no impacts are anticipated.

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.

Materials likely to be present include gasoline and diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid and lubricants. An accidental spill of one these products could occur during project operations.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None anticipated.

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

A spill prevention and pollution control plan will be prepared by WDFW project engineers to reduce risk of spills and to provide guidance if a spill occurs.

b. Noise

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

No noise in this area will impact this project.

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

Increased levels of noise during construction activities are expected from this project. Hours of increased noise levels will be 7am to 6pm. No change in noise level is expected from the completed project.

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

None planned.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

The current use of this site is a state salmon hatchery which supplements fish resources in Washington State. The adjacent properties include several private home sites timber production land.

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

No agricultural practices occur here or have occurred at this site in recent history. This site is used for aquaculture practices.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Structures on this site include a diversion dam and concrete intake/fish passage structure. The nearby hatchery complex contains rearing ponds, office and rearing buildings, and three residences.

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

No structures will be demolished.

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

Not Zoned

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

Rural Residential

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

Rural Shoreline Conservancy Aquatic

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

This area is classified as Roosevelt Elk Winter Range, which is an environmentally sensitive area listed in WDFW Priority Habitats and Species Database.

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

No people reside or will reside on this specific work site. Approximately 6 people reside at the nearby hatchery grounds.

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:

This project will be evaluated by Wahkiakum County. Land use compatibility will be reviewed at this time.

9. Housing

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

Housing will not be affected.

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

No housing units will be eliminated.

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

None planned.

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?

The tallest structure is the intake which already exists. This 5 foot tall structure will not be modified.

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

No views will be affected.

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

None planned.

11. Light and glare

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

No change will result in glare.

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

No. This project is not expected to result in safety hazards or altered views.

- 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 and wildlife viewing opportunities near this site.

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

No recreational activities will be displaced.

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

WDFW will conduct repairs in a timely manner to reduce any disruption which may result.

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.

The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation records database was checked to ensure that no currently listed objects or places occur at this site.

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

None are known.

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

Work will avoid ground disturbance and removal of earth.

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.

Elochoman Valley Road and Beaver creek Road provide direct access to this site.

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

The site is not served by public transit. The nearest stop is 4 miles away at Cathlamet.

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

The completed project has no designated public parking and will not provide any parking.

- 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).

This project will not impact any roads.

- 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 additional vehicle trips are anticipated to result from this project.

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.

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 as a result of 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: *Martin Peoples*

Date Submitted: *2/24/12*

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?

This proposal would not increase any items listed above.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

None proposed.

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

This proposal would not likely result in any change to plant, animal, fish or marine life.

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

No measures proposed.

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

No effect on energy or natural resources.

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

No measures proposed.

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 proposal is not likely to affect areas listed above.

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

No measures proposed.

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?

This proposal will not alter shoreline or land use.

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

No measures proposed.

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

Not applicable.

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

No measures proposed.

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

This proposal does not conflict with environmental protection laws or requirements.