

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:
Swanson Lakes Proposed Wetland Restoration

2. Name of applicant:
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Applicant contact person:
Juli Anderson: Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Manager, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
19602 Seven Springs Dairy Rd E, Creston, WA 99117
Phone: (509)636-2344
Email: juli.anderson@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared: Jan 25, 2012

5. Agency requesting checklist: State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): October 2012 through January 2013

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.

JARPA, restoration design plans, DOE Wetland Rating Form

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. JARPA & this SEPA

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

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (ACOE), Hydraulic Project Approval (WDFW), and Section 401 of CWA (DOE) approval through the JARPA

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 Proposed Action is designed to restore/enhance wetland habitat and facilitate successional processes appropriate to site potential and capability. This project would restore/enhance approximately 50 acres of wetlands and enhance 570 acres of non-forested riparian habitat and 40 acres of forested riparian habitat.

Restoration measures would be implemented at five sites (see Table 1 and attached maps). The target elevations were developed to inundate what is currently wet meadow/hydric soil vegetation, but not inundate shrub-steppe habitat. Man-made ditches will be plugged with earthen fill reestablishing five wetland cells. Seasonal water levels will be established to approximate the wetland hydrology which existed prior to ditching and dewatering. The ditch plugs may incorporate water control devices such as pipe, screw gates and stop logs to allow control of water levels for vegetation management. Concrete or bentonite may be used to improve the seal around control structures where native fill materials are inadequate. Small areas in each wetland cell may be excavated to create areas of deeper, more persistent water. Soils excavated from within the cells will be used as fill for ditch plugs. Excess fill will be deposited on the uplands at sites cleared for cultural and botanical resources.

Soil excavation and other wetland restoration work would be accomplished using heavy equipment such as a dump truck, concrete truck, excavators, and mid-size and small-size dozers. Existing roads and trails would be used for equipment access to all work areas. Disturbed areas would be smoothed and reseeded with a native mix of forbs and grasses where appropriate.

Construction would take approximately 6 weeks and be completed during base flow periods (September -December). The ditches connecting the wetland cells are completely dry during base flow periods. No water will be present during construction of the ditch plugs and no fish are known to occur within the wetland cells.

All construction details would be subject to State and Federal approval, per a Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA).

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 area is in Lincoln County, WA. It is within the Lake Creek drainage, about 6 miles south of Highway 2, 12 miles west of Davenport, and 45 miles west of Spokane.

T25N, R35E, Sec 32 SE ¼ 47 36' 56.78"N 118 25' 24.61" W

T 24N, R35E, Sec 4 SW ¼ 47 35' 58.54"N 118 25' 04.34" W

T24N, R35E, Sec 9 NW 1/4 47 35' 31.21"N 118 24' 42.43" W
 T25N, R35E, Sec 9 SE 1/4 47 35' 00.80"N 118'24' 36.95" W

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
 AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? 0 to 15 percent

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 primary soil within the proposed project area is Cocolalla silt loam. This soil was formed in a mixture of volcanic ash and loess. Cocolalla soils are primarily located on bottom lands in basins within the channeled scablands of Lincoln County, and are used mainly for rangeland. These soils are very deep and well drained. They have moderate to moderately slow permeability and high available water capacity. The surface runoff of these soils is very slow to ponded, and they have a slight erosion hazard.

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.

Table 1. Proposed Restoration Measures on the Swanson Lakes Parcel.				
Site	Action	Target Elevation (feet)	Location	Ownership
1	Plug ditch to create Wetland Area #5	2,169	T25N, R35E, Sec. 32, SE1/4	WDFW
2	Plug ditch to create Wetland Area #6	2,141	T25N, R35E, Sec. 4, SE1/4	WDFW
3	Plug ditch to create Wetland Area #7	2,139	T25N, R35E, Sec. 4, SW1/4	WDFW
4	Plug ditch to create Wetland Area #8	2,100	T24N, R35E, Sec. 9, NE1/4	WDFW
5	Plug ditch to create Wetland Area #9	2,106	T24N, R35E, Sec. 9, SE1/4	WDFW

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 main provision to minimize impacts is construction shall take place during the dry period (fall) when there is no water on the site. Other items that may be utilized to minimize impacts shall be including applicable erosion control bmp's (best management practices) in the contractor's specifications. These bmp's may include the use of silt fence, straw, bales, and seeding.

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. ?

Exhaust from construction equipment, in small quantities, only for brief periods of time (i.e. during the actual construction period.)

- 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: Not applicable.

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, Lake Creek Drainage, "Z-lake" (informal name; lake has no formal name) in middle of project area

- 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.

See JARPA Section 8. The ditch plugs in adjacent wetland to be constructed shall take place during the dry period (fall) when there is no water in the channel. The channel usually is dry by August of each year. The ditch plug areas designed to restore the elevations of the wetland outlets to mimic historic outflow levels. Other items utilized to minimize impacts shall be including applicable erosion control bmp's in the contractor's specifications. These bmp's may include the use of silt fence, straw, bales, and seeding.

- 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.

See JARPA sections 7 (Wetlands, impacts and mitigation) and 8 (Water bodies, impacts and mitigations). Fill material into wetlands and waterbodies are for ditch plugs only, to restore 50 acres of historic wetlands to prior conditions.

In the wetlands, ditch plugs #s 1, 4 and 5: Approximately 520 cubic yards of material shall be used to construct the ditch plugs/dike within the wetland zone. The source of the material will be inorganic soils excavated from the wetland bottoms and native rock that was originally excavated to create the drain ditches (rock may be imported if needed). The fill will be placed in the 3 (three) location sites (wetlands 1, 4 and 5) shown on the plans submitted with the JARPA. It will be placed mainly with hydraulic excavators and dozers. The Lake Creek channel and all wetlands will be completed dry during the construction window.

In the Lake Creek Channel, ditch plug #s 2, 3, and 6: Approximately 560 cubic yards of material shall be used to construct ditch plugs directly within the Lake Creek channel. The source of the material will be inorganic soils from excavations from the wetland bottoms (planned to deepen wetlands to historic levels), and native rock that was original excavated to create the drain ditches (rock may be imported if needed). The fill will be placed in the 3 location sites shown on the set of plans attached to the JARPA. It will be placed mainly with hydraulic excavators and dozers.

- 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. See JARPA and Letter from Lincoln County Planning Department. See attached map of FEMA floodplain polygons overlaid with project wetland polygons and USGS NAIP aerial photo.

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. 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.

None. As previously stated, the main provision to minimize impacts is construction shall take place during the dry period (fall) when there is no water on the site. Other items that may be utilized to minimize impacts will include applicable of erosion control bmps (best management practices) in the contractor's specifications. These bmps may include the use of silt fence, straw, bales, and seeding.

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: Water control structures installed by plan.

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
 X_____ shrubs (found only along the upper/outer edges of site)
 X_____ grass
 X_____ pasture
 _____ crop or grain
 X_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
 _____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 X_____ other types of vegetation (sedges)

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

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

Greater sage grouse - State of Washington Threatened Species. Not federally listed. Birds are not near this site but on the Wildlife Area in general. These sage grouse have been reintroduced to the Wildlife Area in the late 2000's, after having been extirpated from this county in the late 1980's. Many of these birds are wearing radio collars, and the closest birds that were found to this site was two to three miles away, but in upland habitat. There should be no issues concerning damage to the grouse or their habitat as a result of this proposed project.

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse - State of Washington Threatened Species. Not federally listed. Birds are not near this site but do have a mating ground, or lek, approximately one mile from the proposed project site. There should be no issues concerning damage to the grouse or their habitat, as a result of this proposed project. These birds spend much of the year on upland areas, and are normally only seen in wetland areas in winter, if there are groves of trees for the birds to roost in and catkins for forage. As the site does not encompass groves of trees, this is not an issue.

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

Plant riparian shrub species along restored wetlands, as appropriate, or otherwise allow riparian shrub species to colonize the edges of the new wetland areas. Some fencing may occur of riparian areas to exclude browsers from damaging regenerating shrubs and trees. Re-seeding areas affected by construction with native seed mixes (grasses, forbs, wetland plants).

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: several species of hawk, great blue heron, American bald eagle, variety of songbirds, yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds, great-horned and short-eared owls, variety of waterfowl (in nearby lakes, not on the site itself).
 mammals: mule deer, river otter, beaver (otters and beavers in nearby lakes, not on the site itself).
 fish: catfish, introduced rainbow trout (both in the nearby lake, not in the site itself).

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

No federally listed species. Two State of Washington threatened species, the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and the Greater sage grouse, both exist within the boundaries of the Wildlife Area but are not known to frequent this particular site.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. No

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: Wetland Restoration; riparian planting if appropriate

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.

After construction the project has no energy needs. Only diesel fuel will be used for construction equipment during construction.

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: Not applicable. After construction the project has no energy needs.

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: No hazards/no measures required

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.

Short-term only: noise from construction equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, etc. This noise would only occur during the proposed construction between October 2012 and January 2013. The daytime hours that noise could occur are from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

None: noise will be temporary and limited to that caused by construction equipment.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

On nearby private property, use is primarily as pasture for cattle and horses, and as habitat for wildlife including mule deer. On the site itself, current use is as wildlife habitat.

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

During the mid 20th century, the site's wetlands were drained, and up until approximately 1997 the site was used to produce hay for livestock. After 1997, the property became publicly owned and hay production ceased. The property's current owners, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, believe the best use for the site is wildlife habitat. As such, restoring wetlands is an important component of returning this site to its highest functionality for wildlife.

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? Unknown. We received a letter of exemption for this project from Lincoln County Planning. They have no concerns over the project.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? Unknown. We received a letter of exemption for this project from Lincoln County Planning. They have no concerns over the project.

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: Not applicable.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: Existing and projected land use for this property is as wildlife habitat. This proposed project is consistent with existing and projected land use as it will increase the habitat value for wildlife at the site. Regarding county regulations, we received a letter of exemption for this project from Lincoln County Planning. They have no concerns over the project.

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: Not applicable.

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?

Ditch plugs and dikes will be no more than 4 feet high, constructed of native soil and rock, or concrete and bentonite. Nothing will be visually obvious from a distance at the site or interfere with site aesthetics.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? None
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: N/A - 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? N/A - none
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: N/A - none

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Hunting, fishing, hiking, bird-watching
- 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: N/A - 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.

No known sites of such importance are within the areas impacted by this proposed project.

The field notes and cadastral plats of General Land Office surveys of the project area and the downstream portion of the APE contain little information on cultural activity in this area. The only cultural feature noted is a trail running NE- SW that intersects the east boundary of Section 32 twice and parallels the east bank of a dry lake bed running south into T 24 N. The field notes give only its bearings and make no mention of its destination, origin or users. The same is true for the GLO plat and notes for Township 34 N, which states "Trail bears NE" on the east boundary of Section 4 but includes no additional information. It is reasonable to assume that trails appearing this early in the record were established and used by members of local Indian groups, whoever their later users may have been.

A cultural resource survey of the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area which included a literature search, field inventory, and interviews with members of the Spokane and Colville Confederated tribes and other long time local residents, was conducted from

1998 through 2000. A copy is included with the JARPA application. The most numerous class of cultural sites recorded in this survey were rock features including talus pits, cairns, and alignments. The report also included several homesteads and farmsteads. The preponderance of rock features is also reflected in BLM records and the DAHP site database. The nearest archaeological site recorded in the database is a large talus feature complex located north of but not within the project site. This site is located in a part of the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area. The only additional sites within one mile of the project area are also extensive complexes of talus features.

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

N/A - none. Archaeological sites, trails, etc., are in locations that would not be affected by restoring historic wetlands at this site.

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.

Telford Road North is a county gravel road that is the closest roadway. It parallels the project, 3/4 to 1 1/2 miles to the east.

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?

N/A - no parking spaces involved.

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. N/A - none

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: N/A - 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. N/A - 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. N/A - 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:  (for JULI ANDERSON)

Date Submitted: 20 APR 2012

