

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:
Whiskey Dick Road Improvement
2. Name of applicant:
Kristen Kuykendall for WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
600 Capitol Way N, Olympia WA 98501
4. Date checklist prepared:
7/5/2012
5. Agency requesting checklist:
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
August – October, 2012
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

This project is for road improvement only. Originally, the project also included a road closure portion. That has been removed from the project at this time, and will be permitted as a separate project at a later date. The attached drawings have been noted to not include any road closure or road abandonment activities as part of this project. 

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

A cultural resource survey was completed by Eastern WA. University in November, 2011. The site was reviewed through PHS.

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.

None known

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 Whiskey Dick Ridge Road is a primitive dirt and bedrock road within the WDFW's Whiskey Dick Unit of the LT Murray Wildlife Area. The road connects with Whiskey Dick Creek Road to form a large loop. This project addresses the improvement of the ridge road only, including reshaping the road, rocking, and providing drainage. Disturbed soil will be seeded and mulched during an appropriate weather window (Spring or Fall).

Road Maintenance includes improving the road surface to a 12-foot wide standard. Removing large rock outcrops within the road, and reshaping the road to eliminate steeply outsloped road surfaces.

The project also includes protection of a documented cultural site. The proposal is to cover the site with geotextile and rock over the fabric. This action is described in the archaeological report and was supported by an archaeologist from the Yakama tribe.

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 encompasses several miles of road. See attached map for specific site locations.

S 1, 11, 12 T 17 N R 21 E 
S 4, 5, 8, 9 T 17 N R 22 E

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 Surrounding landscape is steeply sloped, but work sites are located on existing roads on wide ridgetops.

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

Approximately 45%.

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.

Basalt rock and silty loams.

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

No – area is rocky and stable

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

Water bars will be excavated and the fill material placed in the roads. Rock points will be removed by excavator and broken rock scattered in the road. Road surface will be graded by dozer intermittently to reshape the road bed. Up to 100 CY of crushed rock may be hauled in to cover muddy/ dusty areas.

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

Yes, temporarily. This project is designed to reduce the erosion problem along the roads. Shaping roads for better drainage and reduced road surface erosion would reduce erosion over time.

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 project is meant to reduce sediment delivery and surface erosion due to traffic on unimproved roads, and to improve driving conditions on the ridge roads. Completing the project during the dry season will minimize construction impacts. Also, straw, silt fence, and onsite brush will be used as necessary to prevent construction runoff. Disturbed sites will also be seeded with native vegetation after ground work is completed.

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.

Some dust will be created during operation of excavation equipment. This is a remote area, with the nearest residence approximately 5 miles away.

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:

Water may be used for dust control as necessary.

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.

Whiskey Dick Creek is in the immediate vicinity of an adjacent road, but work will not take place outside of the road section. 

- 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. Some road maintenance work will take place within 200 feet of Whiskey Dick Creek. No work will take place over or in the creek. Road grading will occur approximately 100 feet away from the creek. The area between the road and the creek is flat and heavily vegetated. 

- 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.

No.

- 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

- 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 waste material will be involved in the 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. Any runoff would be generated by precipitation, the only surface waters are greater than 100 feet away from the road being maintained. No excavation or soil disturbance will take place near the creek. Any runoff leaving the road surface would filter through the rock or shrub-step vegetation. Improving road drainage and preventing sediment runoff is the purpose of this project.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. No waste material will be involved in the project implementation.

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

Conduct work during summer and fall when surface flows are at their lowest and rain is minimal. Straw, silt fence, onsite brush will be used as necessary to prevent construction runoff. In the long term, the project should result in reduced stream erosion and road sedimentation problems.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

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

Disturbed sites will be revegetated with native grasses and woody shrubs such as willows and wild rose. Very little, if any vegetation will be removed. 

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

None known

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

- Replant disturbed areas with native grass seed (bluebunch wheatgrass, sandberg bluegrass, giant wildrye),
- Replant disturbed sites with native shrubs and trees (willows, rose, hawthorne, serviceberry).

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: falcons, chukar, quail, ruffed grouse, wild turkey.
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Bighorn sheep, cougar, coyote, bobcat.

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

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
Upper Columbia Steelhead (in or near Whiskey Dick Creek),

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
Elk move through these drainages in spring and fall.

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

The intent of the project is to restore the roads and prevent surface erosion. We will conduct work in late summer/early fall when water flows are at their lowest. Restore disturbed sites with native grasses, shrubs and trees. Focus vehicle traffic to the ridges by improving the ridgetop road making it more desirable to drive. 

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.

Once completed, the project will not require any further energy source.

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:

N/A

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.

Equipment fluids could provide a potential source of environmental contamination.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None

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

Conduct work during late summer/early fall. Follow BMP's when refueling and maintain equipment including use of on-site spill kits, refueling in designated approved areas only, and keeping equipment in good working order and inspecting equipment regularly.

b. Noise

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

Equipment and staff will be the only noise sources. This is a very remote area with no adjacent buildings or residences.

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 operation noise during project implementation. Hours of operation usually 7 a.m. – 5p.m. Monday -Thursday

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?

This is a "Wildlife Area" managed by the WA. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. It is managed for fish and wildlife habitat and wildlife-oriented recreation.

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

The area was previously used for livestock grazing, which ended in the 1960's.

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 range

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

Unknown.

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

N/A

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

Riparian areas, cliffs and talus slopes are considered Priority Habitats by WDFW. The road to be improved does not directly cross through these areas.

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:

N/A

1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Proposal is consistent with the Wildlife Area management plan that is guided by WDFW mandates. 

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:
N/A

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?
No structures proposed
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
None
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
Re-seed with native vegetation to restore natural ground cover

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
None. Work will occur during regular business hours.
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
No glare will result from work.
- 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:
N/A

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Hunting, camping, wildlife viewing
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No, all modifications concern open roads, to remain open.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
Work will be completed prior to popular hunting season to minimize any disturbances to traffic or wildlife.

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.
This area is not listed on a preservation register. An archaeological survey completed in 2011 indicated the area has culturally important sites.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
The 2011 survey identified culturally important sites throughout the project area
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
Most work will take place in previously disturbed sites, such as roadbeds or directly adjacent to roads. Any site identified as part of the cultural survey will be avoided and protected. If any cultural resources or artifacts are found during project implementation, all work would cease and DAHP and the Yakama Nation would be notified.

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.
Site is access through a series of primitive dirt and unsurfaced roads.
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
No.
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
None
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
No new roads will be created. The existing roads are primitive dirt/rock based and open to the public.

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 new traffic is expected to occur after project completion.

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

N/A

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

16. Utilities

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

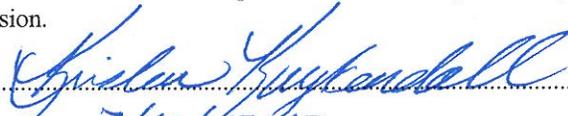
None of the above

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:  
Date Submitted: 7/5/2012

