

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

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.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Please complete all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). For nonproject actions.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Kress Lake Access Improvement Project

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501: Chris Gourley (360) 902-8392

4. Date checklist prepared:

10/16/12

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Construction scheduled to begin around April 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.

A geotechnical report was prepared. No other environmental documents are expected to be prepared.

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

None are known at this time.

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

A Cowlitz County Shoreline Exemption Permit, Cowlitz County Building Permit, Cowlitz County Grading Permit, Cowlitz County Road Approach Permit, WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval, and an Army Corps of Engineers Permit will be needed.

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 includes the repair of an existing boat launch on Kress Lake to a WDFW standard ramp. The parking area will be regraded and an ADA accessible parking area added. A 558 foot long asphalt path will be replaced along the west side of the lake to connect the ADA fishing pads. The existing gravel lot will be paved and the south entrance will be widened for safety with a new culvert beneath the entrance. In addition, a 4,206 foot long trail around the lake will be graded to ADA standards, with a 7 foot graveled path. Root barriers will be installed for longevity of the path. Existing vegetation will be retained and replaced as necessary. Trash and debris in overlook areas, including in the lake itself, will be added in the notes for the contractors to remove. An old vault for the aerator will also be removed that is no longer working.

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, "and county" 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 Kress Lake Public Access Site is located in Cowlitz County on Old Highway 99. From I-5, take exit 32 and turn east on Kalama River Road. Turn left on Old Highway 99 and the access is on the right side after 0.3 miles. The property is located within Section 31, Township 7 N, Range 1 W and the parcel numbers are 6080002 and 6082602. The entire lake is owned by WDFW.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site
(circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, **steep slopes**, mountainous,
other _____

Where the work will be conducted is very flat. The outlying areas around the lake include some steep slopes, rock outcroppings, and flat areas in between.

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

Approximately 20% slope exists from the top of the bank along the lake to the bottom of the bank.

- 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 soils on the property are primarily classified as Pilchuck loamy fine sand, a soil that is found on 0-8% slopes and often found in floodplains, is somewhat excessively drained, and has a parent material of alluvium. Other soils in the area are other Pilchuck or similar soils, with Olympic silt loam, Newberg fine sandy loam, and pits composing the neighboring areas. There is also a Schneider-Rock outcrop complex which occurs northeast of the property boundary. A geotechnical evaluation will be conducted by the engineering group to evaluate up to 6 soils classifications based on hand-augured holes in various locations. Minimal ground disturbance is expected, but they will limit disturbance as much as possible.

- 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.

The purpose of the project is to improve public access of Kress Lake by making parking and driveway improvements, including the addition of an asphalt accessible parking pad, gravel parking lot resurfacing, and general site grading and paving. In addition, the boat ramp will be replaced with a ramp of standard details and specifications and the existing perimeter trail will be standards 7 feet wide and regraded with gravel for ADA accessibility. All gravel will come from a state certified quarry.

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

Not likely. There will be a minimum of new disturbed areas with all construction occurring within previously disturbed and utilized areas.

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

The site is 34.2 acres. Of that, 0.237 acres is impervious or 0.82%. After construction there will be 0.715 acres of impervious or 2.47%. Currently a portion of the site is wooded and

will remain untouched. The previously impacted access area consists of gravel and grass surfaces. There will be an increase of 20,822 square feet of impervious surface added to the site due primarily to widening and graveling of the trail. The existing gravel parking area will be paved to improve accessibility.

- 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 BMP's. A staging area will be assigned to the contractor to reduce erosion on site. A sediment barrier will be placed around the staging area and within any area that construction takes place to reduce erosion. BMPs may include, but will not be limited to silt fencing and weed-free straw bales.

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:
Standard emission control converters and mufflers would be in use by construction vehicles.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

- 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.

Kress Lake is located on the site and is the water body that will be accessed with site improvements. Motor boats are allowed on the lake, though only electric motors. The site was searched for an outlet, but none was found. There is an inlet stream, but it appears to be a flashy stream that only runs during storm events. The outfall of the culvert has a large scour pool beneath it and would be a fish barrier if the stream supported any fish. The lake is considered isolated and man-made.

- 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.

The work will be conducted within and adjacent to the lake. In-water work will be done when the ramp is rebuilt. The ramp will be set in place with an excavator, after regrading washed crushed rock that serves as a base. A rail system will be employed to slide the ramp to the proper location. The trail circumnavigates the lake, and grading will be monitored to ensure no lake impact. Grading of the current parking area will be

monitored to ensure that the lake is not adversely affected. The inlet waters will not be impacted.

- 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.

Estimated removal of debris is 20 cubic yards. The precast concrete planks for the new ramp that will be placed in the water as fill will be approximately 106 cubic yards, which includes shoulder armoring with spalls.

- 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. The entire 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.

b. Ground Water:

- 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.

Not Applicable.

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.

Storm water runoff will be collected in ditches and swales to the west of the parking areas.

Because there are no culverts discharging to any waterways, runoff will disperse and infiltrate through the grass.

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

It is possible that runoff may enter the lake. Grading has been designed to reduce this impact and drain all runoff into swales. It is highly unlikely that waste would enter surface waters.

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

Sediment control BMP's will be in place including use of straw mulch and silt fence. Any other necessary BMP's will be utilized as needed. Impacts are not expected.

4. Plants

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

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

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

One tree will be removed to expand the parking area slightly. Disturbed soils will be seeded with a native seed mix (Sheet 13, 14) and 2 garry oaks will be planted.

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

The Natural Heritage Program (NHP) databases as well as the federal agency listings (USFWS) were examined for threatened or endangered plants on August 2, 2012. While the *Sidalcea nelsoniana* (Nelson's checker-mallow) is noted as being distributed in Cowlitz County, it is primarily found in meadows and prairies, of which the site is neither. *Euonymus occidentalis* (burning bush) has historic and more recent sightings in the area, but is often found in remnant oak savannahs. Because it can be found in moist forest ravines, it is possible that this threatened plant will be encountered and if so, shall be salvaged. *Poa nervosa* (Wheeler's bluegrass) is a sensitive species that may also be found on the site. It occurs primarily on rock outcrops, which are present on the site. *Wolffia columbiana* (Columbia water-meal) has recently been added to the rare plants list and little is known about it. It occurs in wetlands, ponds, and lakes, but because of its minute size, it is often overlooked. This species may be encountered, but it is very unlikely since there are 5 known populations in Washington.

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

2 garry oaks will be planted, one to replace a removed tree and one as enhancement 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:
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.
Sandhill crane (endangered), northern spotted owl (endangered), and Columbian White-tailed deer (endangered) are all listed to have distribution within Cowlitz County. Their presence has not been documented within the project site.
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
Many migratory bird species use this area as part of a migration route along the Pacific Flyway.
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
To preserve fish and wildlife resources, WDFW will time this project to have minimal impact upon wildlife.

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 are needed.
- 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 are included.

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.
- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
None.
 - 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
Avoid use of toxic chemicals and materials.

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.
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:
No special noise reduction efforts are planned.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

The current use is a public boat launch with trailer and vehicle parking. There is currently a graveled and dirt trail around the perimeter of the lake. The site is utilized for fishing and general recreation. The adjacent properties include private home sites and agricultural fields. South of the site is the fairgrounds which are used for various events in Kalama. There is also a Bonneville Power Administration substation nearby.

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

No. The site may have been a gravel pit at one time.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

This site has a boat ramp, established gravel parking area, a kiosk, and a restroom. There is an old vault that used to run the lake aerator, but it no longer works. There is also a trail around the perimeter of the lake that is presently graveled or dirt in some areas.

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

The old aerator vault will be removed.

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

Unzoned

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

The western portion of the lake is R-2 (rural residential) and the eastern portions is Forestry Open Space.

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

Rural

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

The site is listed under Priority Habitat for cavity nesting duck breeding and northern spotted owl management buffer within the project site. The project perimeter has been listed as oak woodland habitat outside the project area and north of the lake is considered Palustrine aquatic habitat. There are also regular concentrations of wild turkey populations to the north and south of the project.

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

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None.

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

None.

9. Housing

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

10. Aesthetics

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

There will not be any new structures other than asphalt, gravel, and the concrete boat ramp.

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

None.

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

None.

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? **None.** What time of day would it mainly occur?

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?

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?

The area is used for fishing, swimming, walking, running, and boating.

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:

The perimeter lake trail will be graded and graveled to a 7 foot width, making ADA accessibility possible. The new concrete boat ramp will also increase access for recreation. An ADA access pad and parking will be improved near the bathroom. The asphalt trail will also be repaired, connecting the 4 ADA fishing pads.

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.

Not Applicable.

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

Keep project within the proposed footprint.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The site can be accessed by using Old Pacific Highway S, otherwise known as Old Highway 99 S. This is off of Kalama River Road, near exit 32 off I-5. No modifications will be made to the existing roads, but the entrance will be expanded for safety.

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 approximately 8 miles away in Kelso.

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

The completed project will add a dedicated ADA parking space and the rest of the parking area will be regraded for parking. Currently the site does not have parking spots delineated. A total of 42 parking spots are proposed, with 3 being ADA and 7 being ideal for trailer 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).

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.

While the project is expected to increase recreational access and opportunities, it is not anticipated that the project will draw additional traffic to the point of being a nuisance.

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: **No utilities exist at this site.**
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____

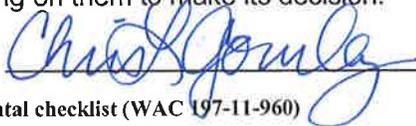
b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No utilities are planned this site.

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: _____



SEPA Environmental checklist (WAC 197-11-960)

guidance updated March 2012

Name of signee: **Chris Gourley**

Position and Agency/Organization: **Biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Date Submitted: **October 16, 2012**

Appendix A. Project Drawings

