

**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:

**South Puget Sound Prairie Restoration, Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Area**

2. Name of applicant: **David Hays, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **1111 Washington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Natural Resource Building, Olympia, WA 98501-1091**

**360-902-2366**

4. Date checklist prepared: **February 2013**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Spring through Fall 2013**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **Yes, similar activities will occur in 2014 – 2016.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **NEPA decision letter, USFWS section 7 consultation, and Cultural Resources review are completed.**

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. **Burn permit from WA DNR**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **Burn permit from WA DNR.**

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

**This project is intended to restore native bunchgrass prairie on WDFW wildlife areas. South Puget Sound prairies have been largely lost through agricultural and residential conversion and through invasion of remnants by exotic plants such as Scotch broom and tall oatgrass. Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie Wildlife Areas are managed to protect and restore high-quality native grassland communities and wildlife populations. A major focus at both Wildlife Areas is recovery of two endangered butterflies, the Mardon Skipper and Taylor's checkerspot, and habitat restoration for the Mazama pocket gopher. The butterflies require low density of Scot's broom, short native vegetation, and specific foodplants throughout the year. Scot's broom and exotic grasses are considered to be significant threats to Mazama pocket gopher. The prescribed burns are delineated to begin to enhance these habitat characteristics for all of these species, as well as other state Species of Greatest Conservation Need like vesper sparrow, Puget blue, and valley silverspot butterfly, and state and federal listed plants like golden paintbrush, rose checker-mallow, and Mule's ear.**

**Restoration of native Roemer's fescue dominated grassland necessitates control of non-native grasses such as tall oatgrass, sweet vernalgrass, velvetgrass, and bentgrass. Exotic herbaceous species including cat's ear, St. Johnswort, sorrel and oxeye daisy also occur extensively and require control. Fire is a pre-planting tool that kills Scot's broom effectively, reduces moss and increases bare ground. Burning will be used in conjunction with herbicide applications to help control the non-native species, especially exotic grasses like tall oatgrass. Restoration involves first burning off existing vegetation, then applying herbicides to resprouting invasive plants, then replanting with native species. The combination of first burning, then applying herbicides, provides the best control of dense populations of invasive plants such as Scotch broom and tall oatgrass.**

Restoration units, where prescribed fire, followed by herbicide application, seeding, and planting are outlined on maps at the end of this document. Restoration units total 41 acres at West Rocky Prairie and 61 acres at Scatter Creek. Professional fire crews will be used for all prescribed fire activities. In addition, spot spray to control noxious weeds and other exotics will occur over approximately 140 additional acres at both wildlife areas. Herbicides used include glyphosate, garlon, and fusillade. We also plan to cut Scot's broom over ½ of each Wildlife Area (Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie) in fall 2013. We use hand-held brushcutters and tractor mowers for Scot's broom control.

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.

**Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, Thurston County, is in T 16N R 02-03W. The North Unit is on the west side of Case Road, adjacent to I-5, between 180<sup>th</sup> and 165<sup>th</sup> Avenues SW. There are two parking areas along Case Rd. The South Unit runs between Scatter Creek and 183<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW, with a parking area at the intersection of Guava and 180<sup>th</sup>.**

**The parking area for West Rocky Prairie is on 143<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE, between Knowles Rd and the main BNSF rail line; and just west of #1940 – 143<sup>rd</sup> Ave. T 16N R 02W sections 1 and 12.**

#### 1. Earth

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

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

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. . **Spanaway-Nisqually complex with some Nisqually, Norma and Alderwood.**

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. **None**

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: **None necessary.**

#### a. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **Smoke from grass fires during burning phase. Burns are managed to minimize smoke production and to utilize wind direction to disperse smoke away from residences and roads. Smoke production rarely exceeds an hour at a time. Some exhaust emissions from tractors.**

- 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: **Burns are managed to minimize smoke production and to utilize wind direction to disperse smoke away from residences and roads as much as possible. Smoke production rarely exceeds an hour at a time.**

### 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. **Scatter Creek runs between the North and South units of Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, but is typically dry for much of the year along the North Unit. Scatter Creek flows into the Chehalis in Rochester.**

**At West Rocky Prairie, Beaver Creek runs through the southern end of the wildlife area. It is typically dry from April through December in this reach, and during the dry season, the creek bed is a dry swale of solid reed canary grass and yellow flag iris. Beaver Creek flows into the Black River in Littlerock. There is also a wetland associated with Beaver Creek.**

- 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.

**At West Rocky Prairie, one restoration area is alongside Beaver Creek, but the bed will be totally dry during the time of year we would be working. Another restoration area is in the upland next to a wetland. It is on top of a small bluff with a buffer of Garry oak, Oregon ash, Douglas-fir, and native shrubs typical of forested uplands.**

- 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. **Two of the restoration units at Scatter Creek Wildlife Area are partially within the new 100-year floodplain.**

**At West Rocky Prairie, 3 of the restoration areas are partially within the new 100-yr flood zone designation (See map at end of document).**

- 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.**

- 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: **None.**

4. Plants

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

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

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **Project is intended to remove and alter Scotch broom and tall oatgrass, and replace them with native bunchgrass and wildflowers.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **Golden Paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*) has been planted on site at both wildlife areas. Work is coordinated with USFWS to enhance habitat for golden paintbrush, including direct seeding of golden paintbrush after fire. Water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*) grows in a wetland at West Rocky Prairie but is not within the restoration area.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **Project is intended to restore native prairie vegetation. Rare plant species have been propagated and will be planted or seeded into restoration units.**

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: **Meadowlarks, savannah sparrows, sandhill cranes**

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. **A major focus of this project at Scatter Creek and West Rocky Prairie is recovery of two state endangered butterflies, the Mardon Skipper and Taylor's checkerspot, and habitat restoration for the state threatened Mazama pocket gopher. All three species occur at Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. At West Rocky Prairie, only the Mazama pocket gopher occurs. At West Rocky Prairie, the Oregon spotted Frog occurs in wetlands on the site, outside of the project area.**

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **Yes, several birds are known to migrate during spring and fall, including Sandhill cranes, western bluebirds, and band-tailed pigeons.**

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **All actions in the project are designed to preserve and enhance 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. **None**

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. **No.**

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: **None needed.**

## 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. **Herbicides to control exotic species are applied during spring and fall.**

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **None expected.**

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **Due to the public use of the sites, concerns over the protection of native habitats and presence of threatened and endangered species, herbicides are selected that minimize health risks to humans and wildlife. Spot spray application is used whenever practicable. Site preparation techniques are employed to minimize herbicide use. Concentrations are reduced whenever practicable. No herbicide applications occur within 125 feet of water.**

## 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)? Indi-

cate what hours noise would come from the site. **Engine noise from power tools and tractors during mid-day work hours.**

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None needed.**

#### 8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **Wildlife area, dog trials, walking and bird watching, hunting in season. Scatter Creek is a WDFW pheasant release site. Surrounding properties are rural residential and one commercial hatchery.**
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **Historically but not for about 50 years now.**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **One old barn on each unit of Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. Miller-Brewer historic house on the South Unit of Scatter Creek Wildlife Area.**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **None.**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Open space**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Open space**
- 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. **Garry oak – prairie CAO**
- 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 needed.**
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **Project is included as part of existing WDFW South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Plan.**

#### 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? **None.**
- 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? 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? **None.**

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? **Walking, hunting, fishing, dog training, 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: **We avoid working during dog trials and pheasant release days but otherwise no impacts.**

#### 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 historic Miller-Brewer House is on the South Unit of Scatter Creek Wildlife Area but is not near any of the work areas.**

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

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

#### 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. **Scatter Creek - Case Rd., 180<sup>th</sup> and 183<sup>rd</sup> Avenues, Guava St. SW. West Rocky Prairie - Parking area on 143<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE.**

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **None.**

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **No changes in parking areas.**

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). **None.**

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **None.**

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **No changes.**

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. **None.**

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.

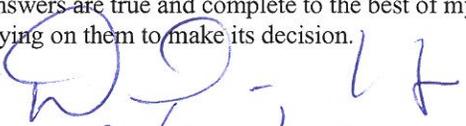
b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. **None.**

**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:

  
2/21/13

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? **No changes.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: **None.**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life? **Project is intended to remove invasive plants and replace with native vegetation, to improve habitat for native plants and wildlife.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are: **The project is intended to conserve and protect plants and animals.**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? **None.**

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

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands? **Project is intended to improve habitat for threatened and endangered species. No impacts on historic or cultural sites, farmland, etc.**

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

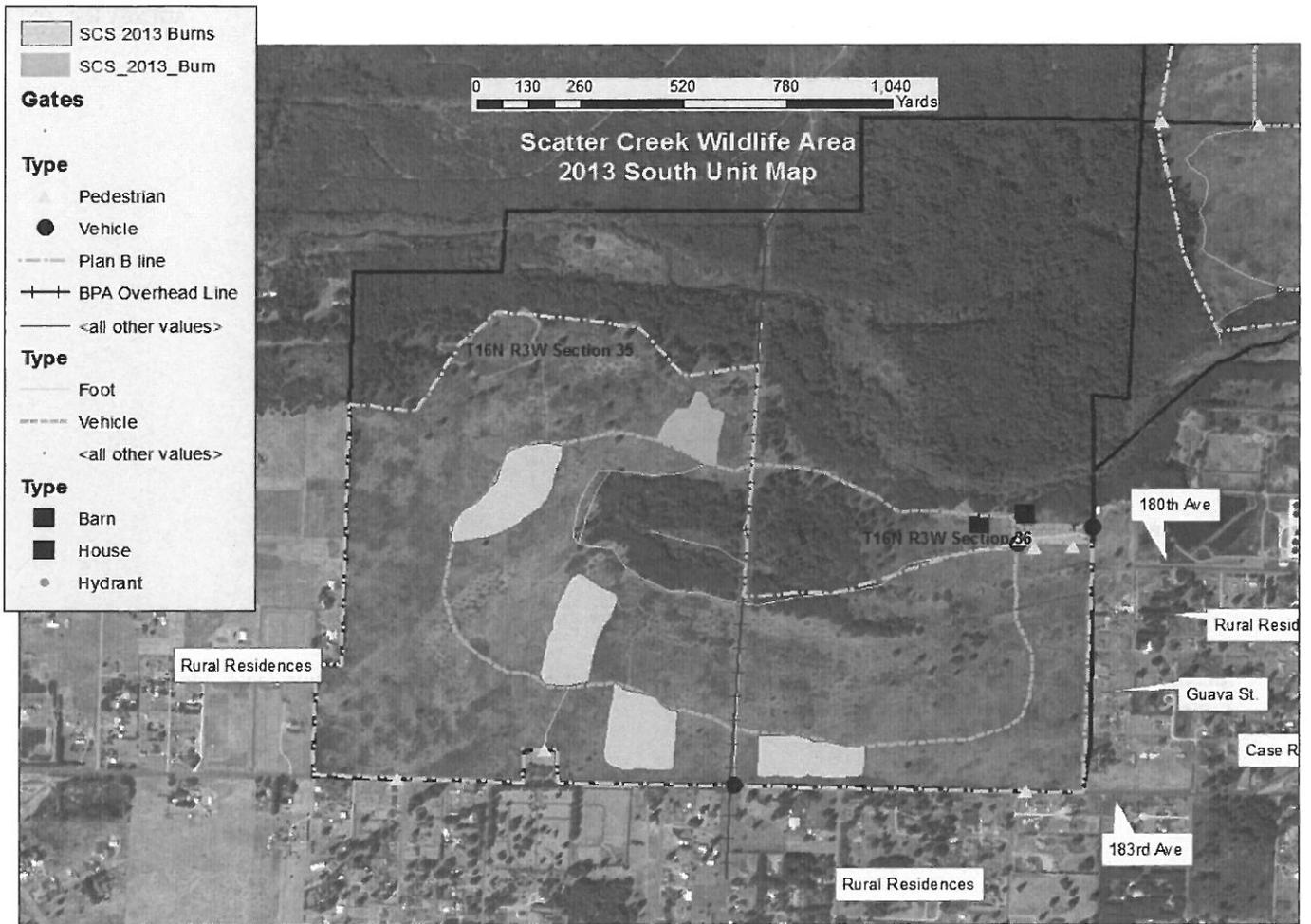
5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans? **No changes.**

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

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities? **No changes.**

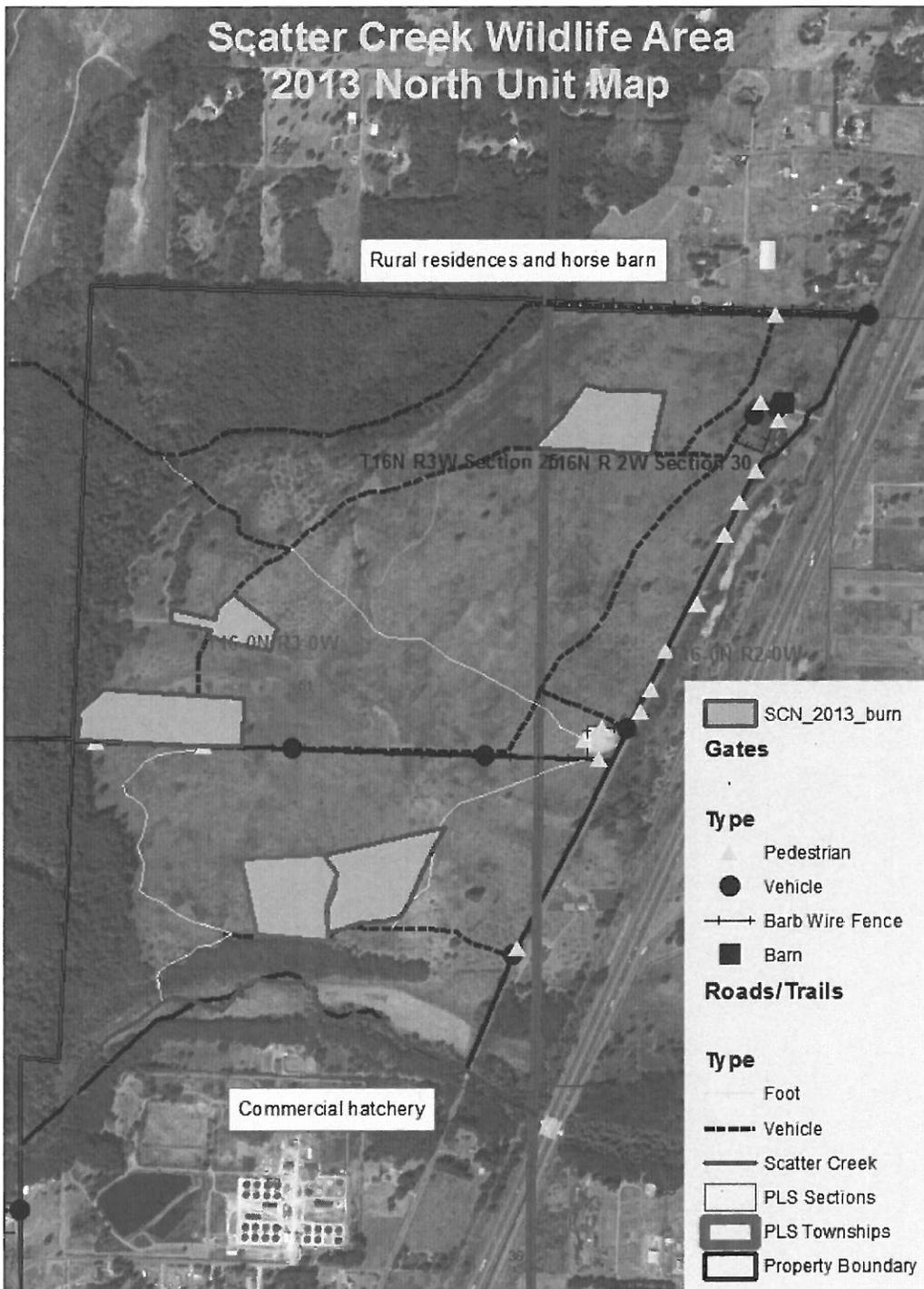
Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. **No conflicts.**





# Scatter Creek Wildlife Area 2013 North Unit Map



Rural residences and horse barn

T16N R3W Section 20 T16N R 2W Section 30

Commercial hatchery

- SCN\_2013\_burn
- Gates**
- Type**
- Pedestrian
- Vehicle
- Barb Wire Fence
- Barn
- Roads/Trails**
- Type**
- Foot
- Vehicle
- Scatter Creek
- PLS Sections
- PLS Townships
- Property Boundary

0 87.5 175 350 525 700  
Yards

