

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:

Kalama Falls Hatchery Renovation

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Fish and Wildlife

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

Washington State Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA. 98501
Contact person: Cindy Knudsen
360 902 8422

4. Date checklist prepared:

3 29 2013

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Fish and Wildlife

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

This project is proposed for construction in 2013 and 2014.

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 Geologic Hazard Assessment Report, a Hydrogeological Assessment Report, and a Habitat Assessment Report (including Wetlands and Stream/Riparian Habitat assessment) has been prepared as required by Cowlitz County.

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.

Cowlitz County will require a Substantial Development Permit, a Floodplain Permit, and a Critical Areas Permit. An HPA permit and A Southwest Clean Air permit will also be required.

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

This project will install:

- A new concrete fish ladder in the west portion of the site.
- A series of 12 rectangular concrete rearing ponds on the south portion of the site
- A new fish sorting facility
- Four circular fish holding ponds
- A concrete retaining wall generally west of the holding tanks.

Fish Ladder:

Previous Kalama Falls hatchery operations loaded fish from the fish ladder into a fish truck and then delivered the fish to the Kalama Falls Hatchery holding ponds. This operation was inefficient. The ageing fish ladder structure needs maintenance to continue current operations.

The new fish ladder will be constructed entirely inside the footprint of the current fish ladder structure. The old fish ladder will remain in place. Most of the water supplied to the Kalama Falls Hatchery fish ladder originates from the Kalama River Intake, located on the south end of the hatchery complex. During construction this water supply will be turned off and the fish ladder will be drained. In addition, stop logs will be slid into place in the current fish ladder to stop water originating from the Kalama River from entering the structure during construction. Seepage, if any into the fish ladder structure during construction will be pumped upland where it cannot re-enter the fish ladder or the Kalama River. During construction, supersacks will be installed and the fish ladder during construction will be essentially dry. The new fish ladder will also have an aboveground piping extension (approximately 240 feet long) that will be installed to direct water and fish to the new concrete rearing/holding ponds. Supersacks will be removed after construction.

Concrete Rearing/Holding Ponds:

Six rearing ponds will be replaced with 12 dual use rearing/holding ponds (16.5 feet wide x 8 feet tall wall x 69 feet long) in the same footprint as the old fish rearing ponds. Average water depth of the new ponds will be 4.82 feet. An average of 5,500 cubic feet water will be contained in each pond. These ponds will be supplied with 4 inch supply line.

An attached fish migration channel (originating from the new fish ladder) will be installed along the west end of the new rearing/holding ponds. A vertical fish crowder will be installed inside the fish migration channel to facilitate fish movement to the fish sorting area. Sprinklers will be attached along the sides of the pond walls.

Fish Sorting Facility:

The fish sorting facility (30 feet wide x 29 feet high) will be located at the southern end of the new rearing ponds. A feature of the fish sorting facility is an attached mechanized fish lift to ease fish hatchery operations. This sorting facility structure will also have an attached fish flume to return fish to the Kalama River, and an area for forklift operations under the fish sorting facility.

Four Circular Fish Holding Ponds:

These four ponds are along the southern end of the project area. Pond "A" will be 16 feet in diameter and ponds "B – D" will each be 30 feet in diameter.

Concrete Retaining Wall:

Along one side of the new circular fish holding ponds is a concrete block retaining wall, with attached 18 inch HDPE pipe that supplies the new circular ponds with re-use water from the new dual use ponds

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 Kalama Falls Hatchery is located on a floodplain terrace associated with the Kalama River approximately 18.5 miles east of Interstate 5 along Kalama River Road, Kalama Washington in Cowlitz County. The site is bounded to the south west and north by the Kalama River and to the east by Kalama River road. From Interstate 5, take exit 32 for Kalama River Road. Turn Left onto Kalama River Road. Proceed 8.6 miles to 3900 Kalama River Road. The Kalama Falls Hatchery is on your left. T06N,R01E, S7, (46.01603,-122.73363).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

The project is located on a bend in the Kalama River. There are forested areas surrounding the hatchery with mountainous areas nearby. The Kalama Falls Hatchery site is on a small peninsula bounded by the Kalama River, which flows around three sides of the site in a single meander. There is a degraded slope wetland on the site perched above the bank of the river between the river and the hatchery facility.

Generally, the Kalama River basin is a 531 km² (205 mi²) watershed extending from the southwest slopes of Mount St. Helens to the Columbia River. The headwaters of the Kalama River begin in Skamania County, WA but the majority of the 72 km (45 mi) river flows within Cowlitz County. Approximately 96 percent of the Kalama River Watershed is forested and nearly the entire basin is owned and managed by private companies for commercial timber production. An extensive road network covers the forest lands within the watershed. No macroalgae or eelgrass is known to be present at the proposed project location on the riverbank of the Kalama River. There is varying cobble instream in varying sizes suitable to support fish habitat.

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

8% slope.

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.

Pilchuck fine loamy sand is at the project area. No farm land exists anywhere near the project location.

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

Pilchuck soil found at the Kalama Hatchery has a slight erosion hazard, but does not meet criteria for an erosion hazard area. Across from the hatchery on the opposite bank of the Kalama River where no construction activities will occur, there are some unstable slope areas identified.

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

Concrete will be used as fill material for construction activities involving:

Rearing Ponds: Fill 2,757.69 cubic yards

Fish Ladder: Fill 1,572.15 cubic yards

Sorting Facility Fill: including loading channel 235.74 cubic yards

Circular Ponds Fill: 235.74

The concrete will come from a local quarry.

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

Yes erosion could occur as a result of construction activities.

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

The existing pavement area within the areas of construction includes 28,872 square feet. Total impervious area is equal to 29,614 square feet for a net change in impervious areas -742 square feet or -2.5% percent change over the existing footprint.

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

A Temporary Erosion and Sediment plan will be put in place before construction activities. Best Management Practices will ensure that excess sediments and other deleterious materials are not transported from the construction zone into habitat areas. Limits of construction will be identified on the site plans and on the ground using high visibility fencing. Spill containment countermeasures will be available on site during construction. Disturbance to vegetation within the riparian or wetland buffers will be restored following project completion.

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.

Typical emissions from trucks and other machines will occur during construction activities.

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:

None.

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, the Kalama River is next to the proposed project. The Kalama River flows into the Columbia River.

- 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 portions of or all project components are within 200 feet of the Kalama River.

- 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.

No fill or dredge materials will be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands.

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

Water used by the proposed project will be provided to the new structures by an existing intake on the Kalama River. No change in surface water withdrawals or diversions is proposed by the completion of project elements. Water diversion from the existing intake is conducted in accordance with WDFW Kalama Falls Hatchery water rights.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Yes, the hatchery site is located within a floodplain terrace associated with the Kalama River. All components are 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, the proposed project does not involve any discharge of waste material to surface water.

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 ground water is expected to be withdrawn by the project components. No water will be discharged to ground water from project components before or after construction.

- 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.

Water runoff from the project construction activities could occur. This water will be contained by BMPs and is not expected to enter the Kalama River.

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

Some of the proposed site improvements will occur in areas that are presently covered with existing hatchery infrastructure. Stormwater from new hardscaped areas at the site will likely sheetflow off these areas and could likely infiltrate into the sub grade soils or evaporate into the atmosphere. However, the construction areas are not within delineated Critical Area Recharge Areas (CARA) area as defined by Cowlitz County. No withdrawals of ground water within the interpreted CARA areas are planned. Best Management Practices will be installed to prevent any contaminants from leaving the construction area.

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

A Temporary Erosion and Sediment plan will be put in place before construction activities. Best Management Practices will ensure that excess sediments and other deleterious materials are not transported from the construction zone into habitat areas.

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?

Some landscaped areas will be displaced in an area including mowed grass lawn and small landscape trees. Two western red cedar trees (*Thuja plicata*) may be removed with estimated sizes of 22 to 24 inches diameter. A small cluster of young red alder trees (*Alnus rubra*) may be removed (6 – 8 inches in diameter). All trees impacted by the project are within the riparian and wetland buffers.

Other vegetation that could be affected is invasive (Himalayan blackberry, reed canary grass). The affected areas are small and should have little effect on stream and riparian habitat functions.

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

No endangered plants are known to be at the proposed project site.

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

Any disturbed areas will be restored with native species found on site.

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.

These species are in the Kalama River, adjacent to the project location:
Eulachon, Southern DPS (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) – Threatened
Chinook salmon, Lower Columbia River ESU (*Oncorhynchus (Salmo) tshawytscha*) – Threatened
Chum salmon, Columbia River ESU (*Oncorhynchus (Salmo) keta*) – Threatened
Coho salmon, Lower Columbia River ESU (*Oncorhynchus (Salmo) kisutch*) – Threatened
Steelhead, Lower Columbia River DPS (*Oncorhynchus (Salmo) mykiss*) – Threatened

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

The above species may migrate through the Kalama River near, but not at the project site.

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

Best Management Practices will be used to avoid introduction of erosion to the Kalama River.

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.

Electric power will be required by the completed project elements.

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.

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.

No.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

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

All Best Management Practices will be conducted including equipment refueling off site to avoid chemical or fuel spills.

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.

Noise generated from the proposed project will typically involve use of the fish lift during seasonal fish handling practices. Construction activities from the proposed project will be during typical working hours of 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

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 site has been a fish hatchery since 1958. Adjacent properties are rural forested areas primarily used for timber harvesting and some recreational properties.

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Adjacent properties include supporting structures including a main hatchery building residences, a large outbuilding, paved parking. There are also fish ponds, a fish ladder and collection structure, pollution abatement pond, mowed lawn and other associated features. There is a narrow strip of vegetation with shrub and herbaceous vegetation with a few trees along the riparian corridor between the facility and the adjacent Kalama River.

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

Excavation will occur for the adult rearing pond, the fish ladder, sorting facility and circular ponds.

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

Rural

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

Shoreline

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

Conservancy

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

This site is near erosion hazard areas and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARA).

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

Several staff members live in staff housing at the Kalama Falls Hatchery near but not at the project components.

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:

No change in facility use is proposed. This project maintains the site for continued safe operation.

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?

The tallest structure will be peak of the sorting facility, measuring 29 feet tall.

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

No views will be obstructed.

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?

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?

Wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing and recreational hiking is available in the general area.

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:

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.

None are known.

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

None are known.

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

If any archeological items of interest are discovered the area will be screened off, and construction activities will stop. The construction foreman will contact the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) at (360 586-3080).

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.

Interstate 5 and Kalama River Road serves this site. No changes to the existing street system are proposed.

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

The nearest public transportation stop is unknown.

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.

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 increased vehicle trips will occur as a result of this project.

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

None.

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None.

16. Utilities

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

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

The project will require electricity, and water. These services are available at the site. Contractors will connect to the site utilities according to construction plans.

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: Cynthia Knudsen

Date Submitted: 3/29/2013

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?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

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

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

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?

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?

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?

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.