

## 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:  
**Point Whitney Tide Gate Culvert Replacement**
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:  
**05/17/13**
5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

**Construction scheduled to begin June 2013, or when permits allow.**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

**No additional anticipated work is planned at this site.**

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

**None.**

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.

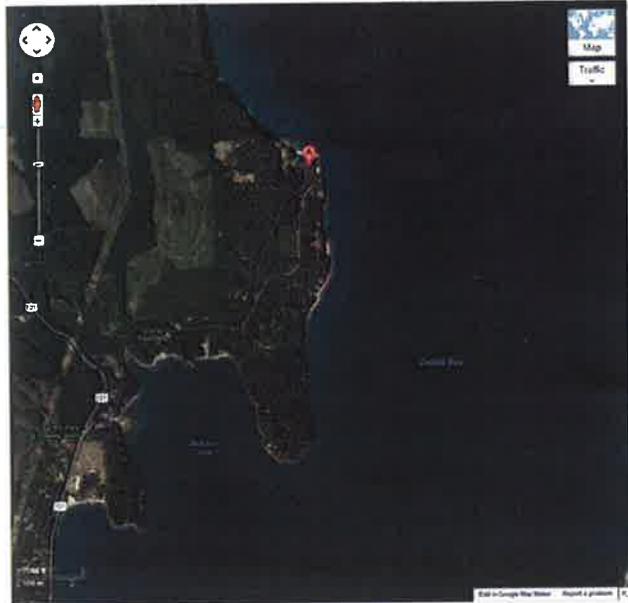
**A Jefferson County Shoreline Exemption Permit and Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide #3 Permit.**

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

**The proposed project consists of replacing the existing tide gate culvert structure at WDFW's Point Whitney Facility to control water levels and exchange rates in the existing lagoon ponds. The lagoons were originally constructed to propagate and enhance oysters for seeding public tidelands. The existing lagoons and tidal gate control structures were originally constructed 60 years ago and are long past routine maintenance requirements making it necessary to replace the existing 30 inch steel culvert and slide/tide gate. The proposed project is to excavate the current pipe from the dike, place a 32 inch diameter HDPE pipe that is 40 feet long where the current culvert pipe is, and add a closing mechanism that will allow for the lagoon to be isolated.**

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.

**Directions to Point Whitney Facility are follow US Highway 101 through the town of Brinnon and proceed north for approximately three miles. Turn right at the Cove RV Park and Grocery onto Bee Mill Road. Continue for two miles and stay to the right onto Point Whitney Road; at the end of the road is Point Whitney Shellfish Lab and the proposed project site. There is ample parking at the end of the road west of the Lab Building. Address is 960-1098 Point Whitney Road, Brinnon, WA. 98320; LAT. 47.76115 W, LONG. 122.85113 N. Section 7, Township 26.0 N, Range 2 W, NE ¼.**



General location

Visible lagoons and research buildings

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

a. General description of the site

(circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed work area is flat with adjacent grounds being sloped.**

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

**Approximately 45%; this slope is along the dikes.**

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.

**Proposed project work area is on an existing 60 year old dike. Dike materials consist of imported and local construction fill soils and rock. The nearby soils are primarily Hoodsport gravelly loam and similar soils with a parent material of basal till along terraces of 0-15% slope. There are also Olete-Hoodsport complexes nearby.**

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

**No. The dike is eroding due to lack of maintenance and tidal influence.**

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

**Proposed project includes the replacement of the existing tide gate structure which includes replacement of an existing 30 inch steel culvert and steel designed vertical gate; additional fill will consist of fill material and up to 40 CY of new rock and fill material from a local site; 5 CY will be spalls as pipe bedding, and approximately 35 CY to match existing grade of the rest of the dike. Proposed project will result in no net gain or loss of the original dike footprint.**

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

**Minor erosion may occur with the removal of the existing tide gate culvert structure removal, to ensure potential sediment containment is achieved WDFW will utilize approved Best Management Practices.**

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

**There will be no change in the amount of impervious surface on the site.**

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 BMPs. No equipment will enter the water to complete this proposed project. The dike will be removed as the tide is going out and the culvert will be placed at a minus tide, if possible. The fill will then be compacted to rebuild the dike to the same footprint as the tide is coming up, reducing scour. Impacts are expected to be minimal. Tide gate replacement will be timed to coincide with low tide events to ensure all work will be completed out of water.**

## **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 will 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.

**Yes; Point Whitney Lagoon is adjacent to Quilcene Bay within Hood Canal.**

- 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. The project will require work within 200 feet of Hood Canal, Marine Area 12. The culvert to be replaced connects the bay to lagoons. The dike will be removed as the tide is going out and the culvert will be placed at a minus tide, if possible. The fill will then be compacted to rebuild the dike to the same footprint as the tide is coming up, reducing scour.**

- 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.

**Replacement fill material will be limited to that placed within the dike structure footprint. There will be approximately 5 CY of quarry spalls for pipe bedding and 35 CY of material to match existing grade.**

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

**Water will not be withdrawn for use.**

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

**Yes. According to FEMA FIRM map 530069 0865 B, the lagoons where the culvert will be replaced are within Zone A. Work will be conducted within this area.**

- 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. It is possible that sediment will be in the water, but the work will be staged to reduce that impact on waters.**

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.

**No domestic or industrial sewage is onsite and no waste material will be discharged from this source. Agricultural chemicals will not be applied as part of this project or as a result of this 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.

**The proposed project will not change existing stormwater runoff patterns.**

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

**With the implementation of impact minimization measures, no waste materials are anticipated to enter ground or surface waters.**

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

**Staging and refueling of machines will be conducted out of the MHHW with non-toxic lubricants. BMPs will be utilized as necessary to reduce any water runoff impacts. It is not anticipated that there will be water runoff issues greater than the erosion that is currently taking place.**

**All exposed soils will be sloped to promote runoff and covered with grass seed. All work will be done in accordance with the terms and conditions of required permits.**

#### 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

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

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

**A small area approximately 30 feet by 20 feet on top of the existing dike will be disturbed by the proposed project; the dike is currently vegetated with native grasses, scotch broom and very sparse small fir trees. The proposed project will require the removal of grasses and two 4 inch diameter Doug fir trees in the immediate work area. All remaining scotch broom currently growing on the dike will also be removed.**

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 May 17, 2013. There are two threatened species in Jefferson County: Golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*) and Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulia*).**

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

**None.**

## **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: **waterfowl**

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.

**Northern Spotted Owl (threatened)**

**Marbled murrelet (threatened)**

**Short-tailed albatross (endangered)**

**Puget Sound Chinook (threatened)**

**Puget Sound Early Chum (threatened)**

**Puget Sound Steelhead (threatened)**

**Bull trout (threatened)**

**Leatherback sea turtle (endangered)**

**Green sea turtle (threatened)**

**These are all listed within the County. The site is within the management zone for spotted owls and is within close proximity to marbled murrelet management zone. The organisms themselves were observed over a mile from the site. All salmonids that utilize this area may be present at different life stages during different times of the year.**

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

**The proposed work site is an isolated lagoon but located adjacent Quilcene Bay and near Dabob Bay, within the Hood Canal and Puget Sound marine trough. A number of marine water dependent species including surf smelt, salmonids, and forage fin fish species all are present at different times and varying duration periods within the Puget Sound/Hood Canal ecosystem. The site is also within the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds.**

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

**To preserve fish resources, WDFW will conduct work as tides are receding in order to reduce impacts on fish. While work will be conducted below MHHW, it is the intent of WDFW to conduct work above water levels, following tide cycles as best as possible.**

## **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.

**Materials likely to be present include gasoline and diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid and lubricants. An accidental spill of one these products could occur during project operations.**

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

**None.**

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

**Spill contamination and cleanup kits will be maintained on-site.**

## 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.

**In the short term, increased levels of noise during construction activities are expected from this project. Hours of increased noise levels will be primarily during daylight hours, but may need to be outside of these times if favorable tide cycles are during dark hours. Impacts are expected to last no more than 5 working days. 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 of the site is a leased operated fin fish and shellfish hatchery; there is a public boat launch and public tidelands are adjacent to the proposed work site. Surrounding properties are rural residential and undeveloped lands.**

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

**The project site has not been used for land based agriculture activities, but has provided for hard shell clam propagation and most currently for marine species aquaculture activities.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**Current structures on the site include lab building, large natural fish rearing ponds, circular rearing tanks, small starter ponds, dike and tide gate, salt water pump intakes, extensive water supply and drain pipelines, hatchery building, boat launch, public restroom building, a bunk room building, multiple storage and office buildings.**

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

**The current culvert will be removed and hauled offsite to an approved disposal site.**

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

**Rural 1:5**

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

**MPR – Recreation**

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.

**Based on SalmonScape and WDFW PHS systems, the area is considered "Estuarine Intertidal" and is within the spotted owl management buffer. The lagoons are not mapped as being forage fish habitat or other sensitive areas.**

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

**Five full time staff and anticipated additional staff (4) are planned to be added with proposed increased oyster cultures scheduled to begin in 2014.**

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:

**This project is consistent with WDFW's current use of the site and is needed to protect ongoing activities. The proposed project is required maintenance activity to protect aquaculture activities and established infrastructure previously developed at this site.**

## **9. Housing**

**SEPA Environmental checklist (WAC 197-11-960)**

*guidance updated March 2012*

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

**Housing will not be affected.**

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

**No housing units will be eliminated.**

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

**None planned.**

## 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?

**Proposed tide gate will extend less than 4 feet above ground and the culvert replacement will occur below the top of the dike. The project will be in the same footprint as the original dike and culvert structure. The infrastructure for the tide valve will remain in place.**

- 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?

**There are fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities at this site as well as public clamming and a public boat launch for related activities. There is also a small display near the parking area that has information for recreational users.**

- 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:

**Recreation will not be impacted. The boat ramp will not be blocked. Access to parking may be limited, but it is expected that this impact will be short term.**

### 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 proposed project site is served by Hwy 101, Bee Mill Road, and Point Whitney Road. The proposed project will not result in any changes or alterations to the existing street system.**

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

**There is not an established transit stop at this project site. The nearest transit stop is approximately 2.5 miles away.**

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

**The proposed project will not alter or impact any 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.

**This project is not expected to increase recreational access or opportunities and it is not anticipated that additional vehicular trips will be generated by the 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.

**No additional 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signee: **Chris Gourley**

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

Date Submitted: **May 17, 2013**

**Appendix A Project Drawings**