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:
Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan for the Mt. St. Helens Wildlife Area.

2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Attn: Daren Hauswald

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:2108 Grand Blvd. Vancouver, WA 98661 , 360-906-6756

4. Date checklist prepared:
May 30, 2013

5. Agency requesting checklist:
WDFW

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Summer 2013 or 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 Forest Practices Application will 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.
No.

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

A Forest Practices Application.

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.)

Approximately 1 mile of old forest roads will be abandoned per Forest Practices of Road Maintenance and Abandonment Planning standards. The longest segment is about 1/3 mile long segment that is a safety hazard because it is being undercut by the Toutle River (See photograph). Aggrading sediment will likely bury the entire road in the near future if this not completely undercut first. The remaining segments are dead end roads that are less than 800 feet long.

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.
Road abandonment locations shown on attached map.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

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

Mountainous terrain surrounding relatively flat debris plain.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Approximately 45% for large slopes. Nearly vertical for small ledges.

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.
Sand, gravel and cobbled in the debris plain. Gravelly loam in forests.

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

There is a large, highly erodible debris plain caused by the 1980 eruption of St. Helens.

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

The purpose of this work is to eliminate environmental impacts of roads and address safety concerns (See attached photograph). Tank traps will be dug to block vehicle access, ditches may be filled and water bars will be cut across roads to restore natural drainage patterns. Perhaps 50 yards of on-site soils will be moved.

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

Yes. Ditch removal and water bar construction to restore natural drainage patterns will focus runoff on temporary erodible surfaces, but these areas will stabilize it a short amount of time after construction, and seeding or tree plantings could occur at these site to help stabilize any erosion problems.

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

None.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Work will be conducted during the dry season and erodible soils will be stabilized with mulch and seed.

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.
Equipment exhaust.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

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

Stage work to minimize travel.

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.

The North Fork Toutle River along with small streams and wetlands that drain to it.

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. Limited work may be adjacent to water. Design plans not applicable as work is intended to move the minimum soil necessary to prevent vehicle access and restore runoff crossing points and filth.

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.

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

One road is adjacent to the constantly aggrading Mt. St. Helens eruption debris plain. See attached map.

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.

Not applicable. Work will only involve moving of natural materials already on site.

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.

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.

Not applicable. No new water will be introduced. Water flow patterns will be allowed to gradually return to conditions that existed prior to damming of drainage structures.

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

Not applicable

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:
Work will be conducted during the dry season and erodible soils will be stabilized with mulch and seed.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:
X deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
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?

Minimal amounts of grass and forest understory plants on old roadways and ditches may be affected th the th.

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

None known

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
Erodible soils will be stabilized with mulch and an erosion control seed mix. Need in this occasion is expected to naturally colonize roads.

5. **Animals**

a. Circle (or **BOLD**) any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: [redacted], **other:**
mammals: [redacted], other: [redacted]
fish: bass, [redacted], herring, shellfish, other:

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

Possible Northern Spotted Owl, but no known observations on site

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

Yes. Limited numbers of salmonids are transported via truck around the sediment dam so they can migrate up the Toutle River.

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

Wildlife areas are managed to preserve and enhance wildlife. This project is intended to protect and preserve wildlife by reducing road impacts.

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.

Not applicable.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

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:

Work will be staged to minimize travel. The smallest, most efficient equipment possible will be used. Note: The project will eliminate the need for future energy intensive maintenance activities.

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.

Small equipment–related spills of fuel, lubricants or coolants is possible.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable.

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

Equipment will be properly maintained and spill kits will be available to address spill risks.

b. **Noise**

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

Not applicable. Activities generally occur in remote areas.

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.

Work could potentially entail brief noise associated with vehicles. Noise would most likely occur during normal 8-5 working hours. Activities generally occur in remote, unpopulated areas.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Work will be staged to minimize vehicle use.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

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

Wildlife conservation and wildlife-related recreation.

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

None.

d. Will any structures be demolished?

No.

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

Open space, conservation or forestry

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

Usually open space, conservation or forestry

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

Do not know

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

All wildlife areas should be considered environmentally sensitive.

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:

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

9. **Housing**

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable. Road removal could enhance aesthetics.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The wildlife areas is used for wildlife-related recreation including hunting.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No, but hunters may have to walk 400-1800 feet further due to road closures.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Open roads will be concurrently brought up to standards to improve recreational access throughout the wildlife area. Road abandonment activities will also make it more difficult for illicit off-road vehicle use which damages wildlife habitat and reduces wildlife-related recreational opportunities.

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.

Do not know.

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

Do not know.

Work will be conducted during the dry season and erodible soils will be stabilized with mulch and seed. The smallest, most efficient equipment possible will be used and the least soil disturbing approaches to meet abandonment standards will be used.

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.

Public access to the site is off of State Highway 504, and numerous Weyerhaeuser forest roads.

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

No.

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

Not applicable.

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. Work will usually involve culverts under remote, primitive, lightly used roads.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None. Roads are being abandoned and will no longer have vehicle access.

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

N/A

15. **Public services**

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

No.

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

Not applicable.

16. **Utilities**

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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: Dave Heuswold

Date Submitted: 7/10/13

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?

The proposal above would not cause increases to any of the above issues. It would, however, causing temporary alteration of flow as dammed water is allowed to gradually return to original conditions.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Not applicable.

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

Marine life would not be impacted because beavers utilize fresh waters. The proposal is intended to prevent impacts to plants, animals and fish by maintaining the status quo.

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

Work will often be conducted to prevent potentially large erosion events such as road and dam failures and that could occur when facilities are not properly maintained

Precautions will be taken to prevent erosion of stream bed materials.

- Work will be scheduled to minimize activity during high flows.
- Dammed water will be slowly released.
- Methods will be site-specific and based upon the safest and least impacting method to perform the work.
- Devices to prevent beavers from damming critical drainage structures like road culverts may be installed in conjunction with dam removal activities to reduce the need for future dam removal activities.
- Woody material deeply imbedded into the bed or banks of the waterbody will not be disturbed.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Not applicable. Fuels would be used by equipment when abandoning roads, but long term effect would be a net reduction in fuel use because future maintenance needs would be eliminated.

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?

The purpose of the proposal is to protect environmentally sensitive areas by eliminating the impacts of the subject roads.

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

Measures to protect historic or cultural sites will be established if research indicates their presence.

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?

The proposal would not affect land and shoreline use beyond eliminating use of an unsafe, unsustainable road (see attached photographs).

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

Not applicable. Road abandonment will reduce impacts.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Not applicable.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: Not applicable.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Work will be conducted in a manner to ensure compliance with local state and Federal laws for the protection of the environment.