

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:

Clallam County Habitat Improvement for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly

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

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091
360-902-2366**

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

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

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **September - December 2013; Jan - March 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. **NEPA, federal section 7 and Cultural Resources review are completed. The Forest Service may prepare an environmental assessment for federal lands involved in the project.**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? **NO** If yes, explain.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **Federal approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been received**

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 improve habitat for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, a state endangered and a species proposed for federal listing under the endangered species act. Habitat improvement will occur in small patches within or directly adjacent to areas occupied by the butterfly. The work will occur at 5 sites where the butterfly occurs. Three are on Olympic National Forest Lands and two are on Washington Department of Natural Resources and private land.**

One of the major limiting factors affecting the healthy functioning of Taylor's checkerspot habitat is encroachment of trees and shrubs. Historically, several of these grassland bald sites were maintained by frequent wildfire and/or slow natural regeneration. Most recently, these sites have been managed for timber production, with improved stocking and re-stocking after wildfire and/or harvest. Over time larval foodplants have become shaded and either die out or become inaccessible to the butterfly through development of trees and shrubs. Several small populations are threatened with extirpation due to the growth and development of trees and shrubs.

A pilot project in 2008 – 2010 was conducted to remove trees and shrubs, and monitor response of checkerspots to the release of larval and adult food resources. The project monitoring results indicated that checkerspots occupied and laid eggs in areas where trees and shrubs were removed in the spring following habitat enhancement. Our proposed project will closely follow the initial project methods and monitoring.

We will control trees and shrubs using cutting back and herbicide methods at 5 distinct sites. Work crew would vary, with biologist, crew supervisor, and one to five crew members (Fall 2013). Chainsaws would be used for cutting trees. Cut material will be either 1) removed from the unit by hand, or 2) piled in non-habitat, whichever provides the least potential impact to habitat. Material will be carried, and not dragged through occupied habitat. Shrubs with potential for re-sprouting will be cut-stump sprayed with herbicide. Scot's broom may be treated with herbicide, either foliar application (small plants) or cut stump treatments (large plants). Tree and shrub removal will occur over approximately 1-3 acres at each of 5 sites. Piles will be approximately 6 feet by 6 feet in size.

Trees cut will generally be less than 8 inches dbh, but up to 10 trees (primarily douglas-fir or maple) between 8 and 12 inches dbh may be removed at each of the 5 sites. Not all trees and shrubs will be removed in selected areas; tree and shrub cover will be reduced to less than 10 percent.

We will determine whether checkerspot use or continue to use areas after tree and shrub removal occurs. Prior to habitat management actions, areas selected will be searched for egg laying locations. A year later, after habitat management actions occur, areas will be re-searched for egg-laying locations. Modifications to treatment units may be made if initial searches indication management actions may adversely affect Taylor's checkerspot.

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.



Legal Descriptions

T30N, R7W, portions of sec 7,8; T30N, R8W portions of sec 12

T30 N, R7W portions of sections 17, 18, 19, 20.

T29N, R 3 W, portions of section 29,32

T28N, R 3 W portions of sections 18, 19

T 30 N R 3 W portions of sections 4,5.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, **steep slopes**, mountainous, other . . .
 - b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
70 percent 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.
 - d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **The sites do have some small slides in the vicinity; no work will be conducted in areas with slides.**
 - 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 discernable erosion has occurred in previous work. It is possible that erosion could occur; tree and shrub removal on slopes can cause some erosion. However, as not all trees and shrubs will be removed, cut stumps will remain in place (and in many instances re-sprout and grow) past work at these sites has indicated that very little erosion is likely. Disturbance from workers boots is likely to have the most significant erosion impact.**
 - 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: **1) material will be lifted and carried out of treatment areas, 2) not all trees and shrubs will be cut, 3) cut stumps will be left, 4) only a small portion of cut stumps will likely be treated with herbicide, 5) shrubs such as snowberry will be cut and allowed to re-sprout.**
- 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. **Fumes from chain saws.**
 - 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: Synthetic oil is used to reduced chainsaw smoke.

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. **NO**

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. **No.**

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. **NO**

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:

_____ deciduous tree: **alder, maple, cherry** 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? **Project is intended to reduce cover of small trees and shrubs in patches totally 1-3 acres at each of 5 sites, including Scot's broom.**
- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **Taylor's checkerspot, a state endangered and proposed species for listing under the Endangered Species Act.**
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **Project is intended to enhance the native grass and forb community on the sites.**

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, including peregrine falcons and bald eagles**

other:

mammals: **deer, bear, elk, other:**

fish: **bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:**

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **Taylor's checkerspot.**
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **None known**
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **Project is intended to restore native habitat for Taylor's checkerspot.**

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. **Brief periods of herbicide applications.**

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

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

The project minimizes use of herbicides to reduce potential impacts to the native habitat that the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly depends upon. Cut-stump herbicides will only be used where significant benefits to the butterfly are likely.

- 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. **Engine noise from power tools 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 Conservation, Timber Management. Forest Service lands are multiple use lands, including recreation.**
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **Timber management; some areas have been logged.**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **None known**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **None.**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Open space/forest management**
- 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. **None known**
- 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.**

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **The U.S. Forest Service and Washington Department of Natural Resources have reviewed the project to determine if it is compatible with existing and projected land uses. They have determined that it is compatible.**

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; views would be enhanced.**
- 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, hiking, 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: **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. **No**
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. **None known.**
- 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. **Access is primarily via logging and recreational gravel roads.**

- 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**

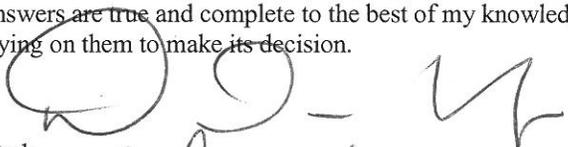
- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. **None.**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **None.**

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: 