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HABITAT PROGRAM

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: Chesaw Aspen Burn (Aspen Draw Unit 12 ac, Aspen Bowl Unit 7 ac)

2. Name of applicant: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: Bryan Dupont, Scotch Creek Wildlife Area, 1514 Conconully Hwy Okanogan WA, 98840

4. Date checklist prepared: 7/30/2013

5. Agency requesting checklist:
-WDFW

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
-Fall 2013 or Spring 2014

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. ---
-None at this time

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

1. EZ 1 cultural resource form.
2. WDFW burn plan
3. Archaeological protection plan.

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 known

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

- Cultural Resources EZ 1 form
- WDFW Burn plan
- WDNR approval for smoke
- Archaeological protection plan

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 Wasington State Department of Fish and Wildlife proposes to use prescribed fire as a tool to improve aspen clones within the boundaries of the Chesaw Wildlife Area located in North Central Washington. Two decatant stands have been selected for treatment both approximatly 7 and 21 acres in size. The work will be preformed by the WDFW prescribed fire team located in North Cental Washington.

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.

-T 40N, R 30 E Sec 8, 17, 19, 20

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

Aspen Draw Unit: steep slopes, rolling

Aspen Bowl Unit: flat, rolling

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

Aspen Draw Unit: 40%

Aspen Bowl Unit: 10%

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.

-Aspen draw Unit, Chesaw extremely stony sandy loam

- Aspen Bowl Unit, Molson extremely stony silt loam

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

-None known

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.

-Root mass associated with existing vegetation should be minimally affected by prescribed burns. As such, burned areas will have little or no erosion potential beyond what would naturally occur in precipitation events. Most control lines used to contain the prescribed fires will be mowed leaving root masses intact. If fire breaks are constructed with hand tools to bare mineral soil, water bars will be installed to reduce erosion potential as is the standard practice.

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

-None

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

-None

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.

-There should be no significant impact to air quality. The prescribed burning will adhere to the State of Washington's Smoke Management Program and Department of Natural Resources Burn Permit.

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

-None are known

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

-The prescribed burning will be implemented as per federal, state and local laws and regulations

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.

Aspen draw unit, Seasonal stream, unknown name, Mary Ann Creek

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

-Yes, building fire line for the aspen draw unit. Fire line construction will consist of vegetation removal using, hand rakes, weed eaters and mechanical mowers. Soil disturbance will be limited to scratching the surface with rakes or other tool to clean line of vegetation.

- 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.

-None

- 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.

-None

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.

-Non potable water, will be applied to soil surface for the control of fire and construction of fire lines. Quantities unknown.

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 known

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.

-None

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

-In the event of fire escapement and new containment line needs to be constructed, involving total removal of vegetation, water bars will be installed to divert and slow runoff.

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?

- Grass and downed wood through burning

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

-None

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

-The primary objective of the project is to improve Aspen, a priority habitat. Burning may also stimulate fire dependent vegetation, not currently observed within the units.

5. Animals

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

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

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.
-Sharptail grouse

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- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
-No

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
-None

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.
-N/A

- 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.
-There is a risk that when using portable water pumps during implementation of prescribed fires fuel could be spilled, or leak.
-There is a mitigated risk of an escaped prescribed fire.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

-If a prescribed fire were to breach defined unit boundaries, WDFW may request fire suppression services from WA DNR as well as Okanogan Fire District 11.

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

-To prevent spills from pumps, will be kept within containment dams appropriate for their physical size and absorbent pads will be available.

-WA DNR and USFS may be asked to assist implementation of prescribed fires. Fire equipment available on-site during implementation of prescribed fires will be identified in the approved prescribed fire burn plan(s) and will include WDFW staff and possibly volunteers trained as wildland firefighters with approved clothing and gear, and at least one wildland fire engine.

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 will be generated by equipment to construct the fire lines and during the burn from fire pumps and fire engine. Noise will primarily be generated weekdays during normal business hours.

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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?
-The site is used as a Wildlife Area. Adjacent properties are used for agriculture and timber harvest.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
-Yes, cattle grazing previous to WDFW ownership

c. Describe any structures on the site.
-

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
-None, all adjacent structures will be protected

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

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

-Unknown

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.

-No

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

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

-None

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?

-Does not apply

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

-Smoke production from prescribed fires in these grass fuel types will be light and of short duration having little impact on views. A daily smoke permit will be obtained from WA DNR prior to implementing prescribed fires.

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

-Desirable post-burn vegetation response will occur as soon as there are favorable growing conditions. Aspen clones should be stimulated by prescribed fire (primary burn objective) resulting in aesthetically pleasing aspen stands that provide diversity to important wildlife habitats. Post-burn native grass seed production should increase and we should witness a flush in forb plant communities resulting in a flush of wildflowers. Some wildflowers may not have been seen at this site for many years and flowering as a fire disturbance will allow the soil seed bank to be replenished to ensure the continuance of some species.

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

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12. Recreation

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

-Hunting, hiking, horseback riding, etc

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

- Yes, only adjacent lands will be affected for a short duration, during burning and post burning mop up.

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.

-Unknown

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:

- Limit soil disturbance when constructing fire line and protect adjacent buildings.

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.

-Only Wildlife Area access roads will be used to access the two burn units.

b. Is 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?

-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

