Revised Introduction
March 2012

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:
   Yakima Hwy 10 Access Project

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:
   01/14/14

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Construction scheduled to begin around May 2014 or as permits permit.

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.

No environmental documents are expected to be prepared, but may be if requested.

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.

An air space lease is currently being sought from WSDOT.

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

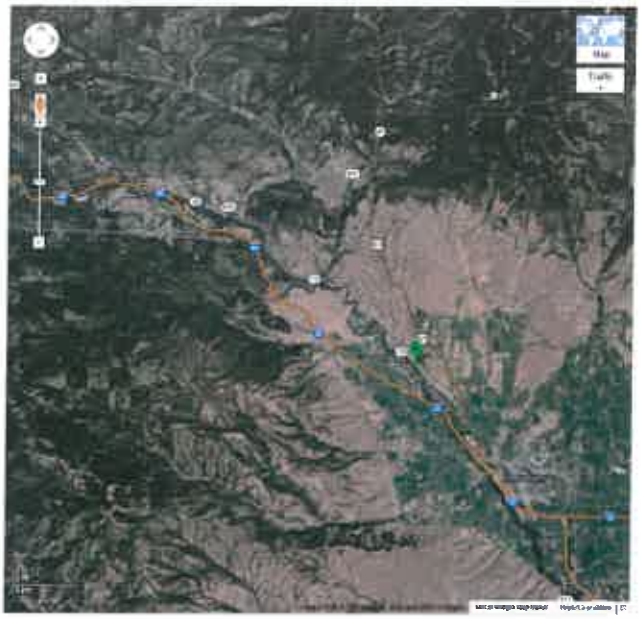
Kittitas County Shoreline Substantial Development and Floodplain permits may be required as well as a WDFW HPA permit.

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 project will include grading a gravel parking lot and adding an apron to connect with the road. A pad will be placed for ADA compliance parking and as a pad for a port-a-potty. A ramp and turn around areas will be created out of articulated concrete blocks. A guard rail is also proposed for safety. There will be 8 car parking spots and 4 for trailers.

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.

The Hwy 10 Access is along Hwy 10 between Cle Elum and Ellensburg in Kittitas County. From Ellensburg, travel west along Hwy 10 for approximately 3.5 miles. From Cle Elum, travel east along Hwy 10 approximately 12.8 miles past the interchange with Hwy 970. The access is on the south side of the highway, along the Yakima River. The parcel is located in the northwest corner of Section 12, Township 18N, and Range 17E. The parcel number is 5300950428B.



B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

Where the work will be conducted is very flat. The outlying areas around the valley are hills.

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

The steepest slope is estimated to be about 15%.

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.

The soils found on the project site are Patron complex, landslide, 5-15% slopes. This soil, found on hill slopes, is made from a parent material of residuum and colluvium from basalt and loess with an upper influence of volcanic ash. It is a well-drained soil found on 5-15% slopes with a moderate water capacity.

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

On the east side of Hwy 10 there are some slides and other instabilities.

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

Approximately ¼ acres will be cleared of vegetation to allow for the amenities proposed. Filling and grading will account for approximately 200 cubic yards of gravel borrow, 375 cubic yards of crushed rock, 950 square feet of asphalt for the road apron and approach, 300 yards of excavation for the launch, 30 cubic yards of rip rap for stabilization, and 2,200 square feet of cabled concrete blocks for the ramp. Gravel will be used to create a driving surface and parking area. The asphalt apron allows for an easy transition between the highway and the parking area.

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

Though erosion could occur, it is unlikely. The area is next to the Yakima River, and any run-off could potentially enter the river. The compaction of the gravel and installation of the cabled blocks will reduce the likelihood of erosion.

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

Approximately 8,000 square feet of area will be utilized for the project. Some of this will be graveled and 950 square feet will be covered in asphalt. The cabled concrete blocks used for the ramp will be approximately 2,200 square feet.

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 BMP's. Silt fencing will be placed along slopes to reduce erosion and siltation that may occur from disturbance.

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 would 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.

This access site provides access to the Yakima River. The river has a diversion dam downstream of this location (approximately 3,000 feet downstream).

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.

The work will be conducted adjacent to and in the Yakima River. The ramp that is to be placed will have some area below OHWM, but the rest of the work will take place above the OHWM. The work is primarily within 200 feet of the river.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

It is anticipated that there will be no net fill below OHWM. An estimated 3 cubic yards will be removed and replaced with engineered materials; a combination of riprap and cabled concrete block.

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.

Yes. The entire site is within the 100 year floodplain.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

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.

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.

Storm water runoff will still run from the road, along a ditch, eventually outputting to the river. The gravel parking area will drain to the river.

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

It is possible that waste materials may enter the river. Runoff from the highway and the parking lot may not be diverted by ditches and may flow into the river.

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

Sediment control BMP's will be in place including silt fencing as called for in the specifications and drawings. Any necessary BMP's will be utilized as needed. Impacts are not expected.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

___x___deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other: **cottonwood, sumac,**
___x___ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, **pine**, other
___x___ shrubs: **sagebrush**
___x___ grass
_____ pasture
_____ crop or grain
_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other: reed canarygrass
_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
___x___ other types of vegetation

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

About ¼ acre will be cleared of vegetation. There are low-growing groundcovers, shrubs, and small trees.

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 January 8, 2014. Threatened plants in Kittitas County include: pasqueflower, Palouse milk-vetch, large-awned sedge, beaked cryptantha, Wenatchee larkspur, white eatonella, basalt daisy, Oregon goldenaster, Howell's rush, Nuttall's sandwort, Adder's-tongue, Brewer's cinquefoil, and Hoover's tauschia. Endangered plants include: least phacelia and Wenatchee Mountain checker-mallow. The showy stickseed is federally endangered in Kittitas County.

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

None is planned.

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.

Northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, bull trout, grizzly bears, and Canada lynx are all threatened in Kittitas County. The gray wolf is considered endangered in this area. Spotted owls and marbled murrelets do not have critical habitat in this range. Summer steelhead and spring Chinook have been documented as spawning in the river and bull trout and Coho have been documented as present in the river, per SalmonScape.

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

The site is part of a migration route for many birds.

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

To preserve fish and wildlife resources, WDFW will time this project to have minimal impact upon wildlife.

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.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

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

Avoid use of toxic chemicals and materials.

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.

Increased levels of noise during construction activities are expected from this project. Hours of increased noise levels will be 7am to 6pm. 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 property does not currently have a designated use. Some rafters and other small boats have used the site as a haul-out and there is enough area to park currently. This is the last accessible area to haul boats out before reaching the dam. Though this is WDFW land, it has not been developed for a specific use or as designated access. Adjacent land is primarily used for residences and farming.

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

The site has not been used for agriculture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures on this site.

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

No structures exist on the property and none will be demolished.

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

Agriculture 20

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

Rural working/ Rural

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.

The site is listed under Priority Habitat for the following:

Breeding area for golden eagle (Township)

Regular concentrations of bald eagles

Occurrence of gray wolf (Township)
Occurrence of sharptail snake (Quarter Township)
Palustrine (Aquatic Habitat)

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.

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?
There will not be any structures. A concrete pad will be available for a port-a-potty within the parking area.

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?

The area is used for parking and boat haul-out, both informally.

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:

The new parking lot will be ADA compliant. The newly established launch will provide easier access from the river for users with small boats like kayaks, rafts, and canoes.

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. While there are sites nearby, they are all on the other side of the river.

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:

The project will be kept within the proposed footprint to reduce and control any possible impacts.

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 site can be accessed directly from Hwy 10, on the south side. No modifications will be made to the existing road, but the entrance driveway will be widened for safety and an asphalt apron will be added.

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

Kittitas County does not have a public transportation system. There are services that will drive you to destinations at a low cost that are supported by public funding.

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

The completed project will add a dedicated ADA parking space and the rest of the parking area will be regraded for parking, adding wheel stops for a total of 12 parking spaces, 4 of which are designed for trailers. Currently the site does not have parking spots delineated.

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.

While the project is expected to increase recreational access and opportunities, it is not anticipated that the project will draw additional traffic to the point of being a nuisance.

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: **No utilities exist at this 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 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: **Christina Gourley**
Position and Agency/Organization: **Biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Date Submitted: **January 14, 2014**

Appendix A. Project Drawings