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:
   Cowlitz Accessible Fishing Renovation

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 : (360) 902-8380 Douglas Mackey

4. Date checklist prepared:
   5/16/2014

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

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

Summer of 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.

None has been prepared other than to reference the original environmental review preformed for the original project that is now five-years old.

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.

Land owner permission for this renovation project has been processed with Tacoma Power.

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

Lewis County requires permits per their Shoreline Master Program.

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.)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

WDFW proposes to change impervious surfaces of four parking stalls and about 150 lineal feet of 8'-wide trail from compacted gravel to asphalt. Three additional poured-concrete fishing pads will be installed adjacent to existing fishing pads. These pads will be: 1) 5' x 5', 2) 11' x 5', and 3) 8' x 5' in size. Each pad will be 6" in thickness and will have a 6" curb with a 2' deep curb footing. A small new riprap area is proposed above OHW to prevent high water-caused erosion. See tha attached project drawings.

<u>Figure 1</u>
This recent aerial photograph illustrates the degraded nature of the Accessible Fishing Area.

Heavy visitor use has obliterated the edges and interior of the northern-most fishing pad (circled).

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 project is located within Sect. 31, T 12N, R 01E. The site is located at the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery and is owned by the City of Tacoma. The address of record is 165 Osprey Lane, Toledo, WA. The attached project drawings include a vicinity map and site plan.

The parcel of record in the Lewis County Assessor's office is: 028206000000. The geographic location at the water's edge is approximately: 46.483° N 122.731° W.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other: **The project area is flat.**

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
This fishing access area has a 0% - 5% grade.

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 in the area are gravel, imported for construction of the original fishing pads, mixed with adjacent the surface soils.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.
No

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
Up to 64 yds^3 of gravel and 28 yds^3 of asphalt will be used in the project. Some existing gravel may be used as part of this quantity along the edges.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Erosion is possible, very unlikely, as the project will be done in the dry. Erosion control BMPs are required (see below).

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 impervious surfaces. The new fishing pads are located in areas where gravel and soil compaction has created an impervious surface.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Erosion control and water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented per the project drawings.

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 will be minor emissions from the vehicles used for construction.

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 controls in common 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.
The site is on the shore of the Cowlitz River. The project is dependent on its close proximity to the river.

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 project area includes no areas below ordinary high water (OHW).

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.
Yes.

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.

Not Applicable.

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

The likelihood of waste materials entering ground or surface waters is very low.

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

The project will be conducted during dry weather. Erosion control measures include placement of filter fabric between the project work and the Cowlitz River.

4. **Plants**

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

___x___ deciduous tree: **red alder**, **maple,** aspen, other:
___x___ evergreen tree: **fir**, **cedar,** pine, other
___x___ shrubs: **willow**
___x___ 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?

None

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

The Natural Heritage Program (NHP) databases as well as the state (WDFW) and federal agency listings (USFWS) were examined for threatened or endangered plants on May 16,

2014. There are no listed plants within 15,000 feet of the project area. Hairy-stemmed checker-mallow are the closest to the site.

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: **muskrat, river otter**
fish: bass, **salmon, trout,** herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
The USFWS website has the following species posted (May 16, 2014) for all Lewis County. None of these five species are known to occur within 2.5 miles of the site.

LISTED AND PROPOSED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITAT; CANDIDATE SPECIES; AND SPECIES OF CONCERN
IN **LEWIS COUNTY**
AS PREPARED BY
THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE

(Revised April 24, 2013)

LISTED

Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)
Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)
Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos = U. a. horribilis*)
Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

National Marine Fisheries Service lists Lower Columbia River Chinook, Lower Columbia River Coho, Columbia River Chum, and the Lower Columbia River steelhead trout as threatened at this location in the Cowlitz River.

One Priority Habitat & Species polygon intersects the project site: the Rocky Mountain and Roosevelt Elk Wintering Range. Four other PHS listings can be found within two miles of the fishing area:

- BALD EAGLE USE AREA-INCLUDES INTERMITTANT USE BY WINTERING EAGLES AND YEAR ROUND
- CAVITY NESTING DUCKS-OVER 20 DOCUMENTED NESTS IN OXBOW LAKE & BLUE CREEK AREA
- OLD RIVER CHANNELS, BEAVER DAMS, FLOODED WILLOW & SPIREAE. WOOD DUCK & HOODED ME
- WILD TURKEY SITE

The presence of these five species in the general vicinity will not be affected by the project.

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

The site is considered part of the Pacific Flyway used by migratory birds. The adjacent river is a migration route for all the anadramous fish identified above.

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.
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:
None.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
There are no noises that adversely affect the project or the surrounding environment any differently than current situation.

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.
Maintenance or construction vehicles will be at the site for less than five days during construction between the hours of 7 am and 5 pm. Otherwise the project will not affect noise levels in the long term.

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 is used for the same purposes, as a place to go fishing by individuals with disabilities.

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The fishing access area currently includes a vault toilet, a gravel walkway, and three concrete fishing pads.

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

No.

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

The project area is zoned RRD – 10 in the Lewis County Comprehensive Plan.

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

The project area is zoned RRD – 10 in the Lewis County Comprehensive Plan.

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

This land above Ordinary High Water (OHW) where the fishing area is located is designated "Conservancy."

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.

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?

The curbs will stand 6" above grade.

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 part of the shoreline is specifically designed to be accessible to the mobility-impairde members of the public. A near-by boat launch offers a fishing opportunity to people of all abilities.

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

No, recreational use will generally remain that same as it is currently.

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

None are needed.

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.

None are known to exist. See Appendix B: June 26, 2012 memorandum from Hannah Tofte (Cultural Resource Coordinator for Tacoma Power) to Dolores Noyes, (WDFW Project Proponent) titled: Re: Proposed ADA Improvements at the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery. This memo references the 1998 work of professional archaeologist Dr. Gary Wessen who surveyed this area identifying the location as one of disturbed soils and thus "not areas of cultural concern."

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

None are known.

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

Should any cultural resources be identified within the project area during construction, work will cease in that area and a professional archaeologist would be notified immediately and a site protection plan will be developed.

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 shall remain the same; all users access the site by using private vehicles.

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?

The proposed renovation will allow for the parking of four vehicles in designated ADA-compliant parking stalls.

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.

The renovation, once complete, may generate increased interest in using the site – but an actual increase in use levels is not anticipated as current use levels are high when fishing is believed to be good.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
None, other than by providing only four accessible parking stalls.

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 _____.
None exist at this site.

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: Douglas W. Mackey

Name of signee: **Douglas Mackey**

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

Date Submitted: **May 16, 2014**

Appendix A Project Drawings

Appendix B June 26, 2012 memorandum from Tacoma Power to WDFW regarding archaeological survey of Dr. G. Wessen, entitled Re: Proposed ADA Improvements at the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery.

TACOMA POWER
TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

3628 South 35th Street

Tacoma, Washington 98409-3192

TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

June 26, 2012

Ms. Dolores Noyés
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Re: Proposed ADA Improvements at the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery

Dear Dolores,

I have examined the materials you sent me regarding your proposed construction work at the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery near the existing outfall structure.

Dr. Gary Wessen, a professional archaeologist, surveyed the area around the Trout Hatchery in 1998 as part of a larger project. It was Dr. Wessen's professional opinion at the time of his survey that the particular locations of your ADA improvements are disturbed soils and thus are **not areas of cultural concern.**

Tacoma Power's Cultural Resources Management Plan stipulates that proposed ground disturbance in areas that have previously been surveyed (and determined not to be areas of cultural concern) does not require an additional survey. Thus, your project should be allowed to proceed as planned without posing a significant risk to cultural materials. Nevertheless, Tacoma Power continues to carefully monitor all ground disturbance and any additional disturbances, or changes in the location of the disturbances, must be approved prior to the commencement of this revised work.

In the unlikely event that you or your workers encounter cultural resources during the course of your construction, please cease all work immediately and contact me.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (253) 779-7735 or by email at htofte@cityoftacoma.org if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Hannah Tofte

Hannah Tofte
Cultural Resource Coordinator