

# **SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

**UPDATED 2014**

## ***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:*** [\[help\]](#)

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:***

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. 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:*** [\[help\]](#)

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer 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. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

## **A. background** [\[help\]](#)

Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#)

*Tennant Lake Boardwalk Maintenance*

1. Name of applicant:

*Washington State Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)*

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)

Washington State Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA. 98501  
Contact: Cindy Knudsen  
360 902 8422  
[Cindy.knudsen@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Cindy.knudsen@dfw.wa.gov)

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)

7 28 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)

*Washington State Fish and Wildlife*

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)

*Fall, 2014*

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

*Future maintenance could include repairs to support structures on the boardwalk.*

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)

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. [\[help\]](#)

*No.*

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)

*A Whatcom County Shoreline Exemption and an HPA will be required.*

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.) [\[help\]](#)

*The water surface of Tennant Lake is now overtopping the existing boardwalk at the WDFW Tennant Lake Access site. Portions of the walkway are inaccessible to the public for most of the year. This project will perform maintenance to the boardwalk in six sections to raise the level of the boardwalk, and install ADA access feature. One repair includes replacing the walkway at the entrance of the boardwalk to Tennant Lake, including the entry gate, railings, and boards on a bridge.*

*The remaining repairs include raising the level of the boardwalk, repairing the boards, and installing curbing and railings in five sections. Along with replacing boardwalk walkway, sections of grated fiberglass decking with 73% open space will be installed to allow light to penetrate underneath the boardwalk. Please refer to the project drawings for more detailed information.*

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. [\[help\]](#)

*This project is located at the WDFW Tennant Lake Access site. To reach this location from Interstate 5, take exit 262 for Main Street toward City Center, Continue for 0.2 miles. Turn right onto W. Axton Road/Main Street, and continued for 0.6 miles. Take a sharp left onto Hovander Road and proceed for 0.1 of a mile. Turn right onto Nielsen Avenue. The WDFW Tennant Lake Access site is on your left. This project is located in Whatcom County, (T39N, S32, R2E), 48.83111492, -122.5845079).*

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS** [\[help\]](#)

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)  
(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

*The site is generally flat.*

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)

*There is a 0.8% to 1.0% slope throughout the site.*

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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [\[help\]](#)

*There is a 0.8% to 1.0% slope throughout the site.*

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

*None are known.*

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)

*Up to four posts at the edge of Tennant Lake at the boardwalk entrance will be replaced (section 1). They will be removed with a shovel or posthole digger, replaced with new posts, and reinforced with materials at the site. No other filling or grading is proposed as a component of this project.*

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

[\[help\]](#)

*No. The landward portion of this project will be limited to replacement of signposts. Throughout the project, hand tools will be used for this project. Most of the work will involve replacing boards from the boardwalk surface.*

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

*None.*

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*No heavy equipment will be used during this project. Up to four posts will be installed to support a walkway (landward of OHW at section 1), using hand tools.*

## 2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

*Sawdust could be generated during construction activities, but no emissions will occur from the completed project.*

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

*No.*

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*NONE*

## 3. Water

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

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. [\[help\]](#)

*This project will conduct construction activities over Tennant Lake. There are Palustrine, forest seasonal wetlands throughout the area.*

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. [\[help\]](#)

*Yes this project is over Tennant Lake. The proposed project provides maintenance to elevate the boardwalk above the water surface. Please see attached plans.*

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

*No fill will be placed in or removed from surface waters.*

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)

*Yes, the entire site is within a 100 year flood plain.*

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

*Best Management Practices will be used to prevent waste materials from entering Tennant Lake by tarping under and/or around the construction area. Any damaged boards or other materials removed from the existing board walk will be removed from the site and disposed of at an approved facility.*

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)

*No ground water will be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes.*

- 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. [\[help\]](#)

*No waste materials will be discharged into the ground from this project.*

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. [\[help\]](#)

*Water will run off the boardwalk surface and enter Tennant Lake. There is no change to surface water runoff as a component of this project.*

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

*Best Management Practices will be used (tarping) to prevent materials from entering the water of Tennant Lake.*

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

*No. Repairs of the boardwalk over Tennant Lake does not affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site.*

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

*None.*

#### 4. Plants [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

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? [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

*None.*

#### 5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [\[help\]](#)

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

mammals: deer, bear, elk, **beaver**, other:  
fish: bass, salmon, **trout**, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

*This area is known as the Lummi Flats, identified as a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) wintering area. This area coincides with the wintering waterfowl areas on Bellingham Bay.*

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)

*This area is identified as a Pacific Migratory Fly Zone for ducks, geese, and swans. This area is also known as a wintering area for Peregrine Falcon. Fish species migrate through Tennant Lake.*

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

*None are known.*

## 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. [\[help\]](#)

*No source of energy will be required by the finished project.*

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

*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: [\[help\]](#)

*No.*

## 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. [\[help\]](#)

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

*No contamination at the site is known.*

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

*No existing hazardous chemicals or conditions are known to be at the site that would affect project development.*

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

*No toxic or hazardous chemicals will be used or produced during the project, or at any time during the operating life of the project.*

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

*None.*

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

*During construction face masks and eye protection will be worn to protect from flying objects and to prevent inhalation of pressure treated lumber sawdust. Best Management Practices will be used to prevent sawdust from entering Tennant Lake.*

#### **b. Noise**

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

*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. [\[help\]](#)

*Hand tools, including generators, saws, and air compressors may be used during construction that would produce noise on a short term basis during typical working hours of 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. during construction. No noise will come from the finished project.*

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None are proposed.*

#### **8. Land and shoreline use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

*This site is a WDWF Water Access Site, providing public education and recreational opportunities. Adjacent properties are rural with some residential and agricultural areas.*

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [\[help\]](#)

*This site has not been used as a working farmland or forest land.*

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

*No.*

- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)

*There is an existing boardwalk that extends into Tennant Lake, terminating in a viewing platform.*

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)

*Portions of the existing boardwalk may be removed during construction. The discarded boards will be taken to an approved landfill for disposal.*

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)

*Recreational Open Space (ROS.)*

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

*As a part of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, this project is part of the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Open Space Plan.*

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)

*Natural, Conservancy.*

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

[\[help\]](#)

*No.*

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

*None.*

## 9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*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? [\[help\]](#)

Installation of guard rails alongside the boardwalk will measure 3 feet 6 inches above the surface of the water.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

## 11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

## 12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)

*In the immediate vicinity there are boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, a fragrance garden, and environmental education opportunities. There is a boat launch at the northern end of Tennant Lake. The Tennant Lake Natural History Interpretation Center is nearby.*

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

*This project will allow continued safer public use of the board walk. After maintenance, the boardwalk will be able to provide additional public access during seasonal high water events.*

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

### 13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)

*Near, but not at the site is the Hovander Homestead Park, that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Three nearest archaeological surveys (Kelly 2009, Meidinger 2011, and Storey 2010) did not result in the identification of archaeological deposits.*

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)

*Near, but not at the site is the Hovander Homestead Park. In 1978 the Hovander Homestead Park received the National Trust for Historic Preservation award for the preservation of a significant and authentic historic site. No archaeological studies have been conducted on the subject property, the nearest archaeological surveys (Kelly 2009, Meidinger 2011, and Storey 2010) did not result in the identification of archaeological deposits or any evidence that the project area is of special cultural significance, beyond that identified with Hovander Homestead.*

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [\[help\]](#)

*The project was reviewed by the WDFW archaeologist, who conducted an assessment of the likelihood that the project would encounter archaeological resources. The assessment was based on archival review, an understanding of local expressions of precontact and historic era settlement patterns and a consideration of the scope and nature of the proposed project. As the project anticipates only incidental of low volume disturbance and will take place within the demonstrated vertical and horizontal limits of previous construction or disturbance, the likelihood that the project would encounter archaeological materials is extremely low.*

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

*If project encounters archaeological deposits or features, WDFW's Inadvertent Discovery Plan should be enacted. Contractors and WDFW staff will be briefed on the plan prior to project initiation.*

### 14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)

*Access to this site will be unchanged. Access to this site is gained from Interstate 5, Axton road/Main Street, Hovander Road and Nielsen Avenue.*

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)

*The nearest public transit stop is unknown.*

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)

*None.*

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)

*No.*

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

*No.*

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)

*No increase in vehicle trips are anticipated.*

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

*No.*

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

*None are proposed.*

## 15. Public services

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

*No.*

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

*None are proposed.*

## 16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

*None.*

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. [\[help\]](#)

*No utilities are proposed.*

### C. Signature [\[HELP\]](#)

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:           Cynthia Knudsen          

Name of signee           Cynthia Knudsen          

Position and Agency/Organization           Biologist III: WDFW          

Date Submitted:           7/29/14