

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 [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Whatcom Wildlife Area Water Control Structure Replacement

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Richard Kessler, (360) 739-3404 5975 Lake Terrell Rd Ferndale, WA 98248

4. Date checklist prepared:

7/21/2014

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

August/September 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.

JARPA Form

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. [\[help\]](#)

Hydraulic Project Approval

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

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is planning to replace two failing water control structures at the Whatcom Wildlife Area. The project will maintain existing water control capabilities at Rainbow and Intalco Pond #2 allowing managers to impound and release for benefit of fish and wildlife.

The main project elements are:

- Replace two existing flow control structures, one at the outfall of Rainbow Pond and the other at the outfall of Intalco Pond #2, and;
- Install beaver control structures on each control structure.

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. [\[help\]](#)

The Lake Terrell Unit of the Whatcom Wildlife Refuge is located at the end of Lake Terrell Road, in Whatcom County Washington, Section 28, Township 39 North, and Range 01 East W.M. From I-5 exit 260 (Lummi Island/Slater Rd). Travel west on Slater Road 6 miles to the flashing red light (Lake Terrell Rd). R (N) on Lake Terrell Rd approximately 3 miles - road ends at the wildlife area headquarters. The property is owned and operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The approximate lat/long in decimal degrees is 48.850656 N lat. / -122.690872 Long

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

1. Earth

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

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

The entire site is less than 5% slopes except the dikes and access road at the margin. The dikes are likely 2:1 slopes.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Based on the NRCS Soil Mapper (accessed July 2014) the work site(s) contain the following soils.

- Hale Silt Loam 0-2%
- Whitehorn Silt Loam

The dikes where any excavation will occur consist of non-native fill soils.

No excavated soils will leave the site.

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

No.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Approximately 100 CY of excavation will be required to remove the two water control structures to be replaced. Once the new structures are installed, the excavated material will be used as backfill. Approximately 13 CY of gravel will be placed as bedding material for the new structures. The source of this material will be from an offsite commercial pit. The total area affected by the proposed work is less than 0.1 acres.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

Not likely.

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

No new impervious surface will be added.

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

- Work area will be isolated from surface water.
- Appropriate soil erosion BMPs will be used, including silt fencing as needed.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Typical construction related emissions will occur. Operation and maintenance of the project will not emit to the air.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Yes. The proposed project will be built on dikes that maintain managed wildlife ponds: Rainbow pond and Intalco Pond #2. These ponds are impoundments to an unnamed tributary to Terrell 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. [\[help\]](#)

Yes. The project will occur at two locations with the Whatcom Wildlife Refuge one at Rainbow pond and the other at Intalco Pond #2

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

There will be no net fill in surface waters or wetlands as a result of this project. During construction, sandbag coffer dams will be utilized to isolate the ponds from the work area. Once the project is complete, the sandbags will be removed.

Some material around the existing structures will be removed from the work area. This material consists mainly of debris introduced by beavers, and will be respread on the existing dike side slopes. The material to be removed is estimated to be less than 6 CY, and will impact an area less than 0.1 acres.

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

No permanent diversions or withdrawals of surface water will be needed. A temporary construction diversions and water by-pass may be required during construction.

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

Unknown.

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. [\[help\]](#)

No.

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.

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. [\[help\]](#)

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

The project will repair water control structures in the ponds; however, pond management will not change as a result of this project.

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

No.

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

No.

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

The project is designed to maintain existing control of surface runoff.

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? [\[help\]](#)

Project will impact grasses on dikes, blackberry, and some small native shrubs. Less than 1,000 SQFT will be affected.

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

None known.

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.

Blackberry has been observed.

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

No threatened or endangered species are known to be on site. Adjacent to the site in the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, Bull Trout, and Steelhead Trout, are all expected

downstream of Lake Terrell and other fish passage barriers in Terrell Creek. Bull Trout presence is modeled within the project area on Salmonscape (accessed July 2014). The project occurs above a full barrier to fish migration.

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

Yes. It is part of the Pacific Flyway and the site is known for concentrations of waterfowl.

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

The project's primary purpose is to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat especially for migratory birds.

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

None 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. [\[help\]](#)

None. Not applicable.

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

None. Not applicable.

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: [\[help\]](#)

None. Not applicable.

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 known contamination at this site.

- 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 known hazardous chemicals or conditions.

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

None. Not Applicable.

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

None. Not Applicable.

b. Noise

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

Seasonal hunting may create noise.

- 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)? Indi-cate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)

Construction noise will occur for a short duration 2-4 weeks. Likely hours 7 a.m – 5p.m.

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

Limit hours of construction operation to daylight hours.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Current site(s) are ponds; this project will maintain existing conditions. Adjacent properties are farmland, industrial, & residential.

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

Not recently, the site is on the Lake Terrell Wildlife Refuge.

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

Multiple structures including a house converted to office space, shops, outbuildings, pens, outhouses. Structures are located near Lake Terrell far from the immediate project area

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

No.

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

Residential, Rural 1 Unit /5 Acres (Intalco Pond #2) & Recreation Open Space (Rainbow Pond)

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

Unknown

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

Not applicable.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)

Unknown.

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

Not Applicable. No structures are proposed.

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

Hunting, bird watching, target shooting, and fishing.

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

No

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. [\[help\]](#)

No

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. [\[help\]](#)

Unknown. Not anticipated in work area.

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. [\[help\]](#)

None proposed. Cultural Screening process will likely be required but it is highly unlikely any cultural resources will be affected. All excavation will occur in existing dike/road prisms.

- e. 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.

At minimum inadvertent discovery protocols will be in place.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Lake Terrell Road serves the site.

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

Unknown. Not applicable to the project.

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

Not applicable to the project.

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

None.

- 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

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

16. **Utilities**

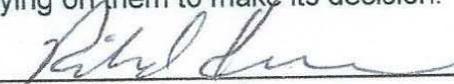
a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
electricity, natural gas, **water**, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, **septic system**,
other _____

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. [\[help\]](#)

Not applicable

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: 

Name of signee Richard Kessler

Position and Agency/Organization Wildlife Area Manager, WA

Date Submitted: 9/23/14

Dept of Fish + wildlife


Curt K. Eidem Jr.
REGIONAL BIOLOGIST, DUCKS UNLIMITED
9/24/2014