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:

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:

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

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

   Classification of the Tufted Puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*) as a state endangered species.

2. Name of applicant:

   Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Penny Becker, Listing and Recovery Section Manager
Diversity Division, Wildlife Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98502
Tel: 360-902-2694

4. Date checklist prepared:

January 8, 2015

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Rule action by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission on March 20-21, 2015.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes. A recovery plan will be prepared for the species as required by WAC 232-12-297.

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

Draft and final status reports were prepared and provide the rationale for listing the Tufted Puffin as endangered under Washington law. The draft status report was available for a 3-month public review (September 12 – December 11, 2014) and the final status report for 14 days (January 9-23, 2015). A copy of the final status report, which is titled *Washington State Status Report for the Tufted Puffin*, is submitted with this checklist. In addition, a State Recovery Plan will be compiled for the Tufted Puffin if the species is listed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

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.

No other actions are pending that are related to this proposal.

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

This rulemaking action must be approved by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.

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 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has evaluated the Tufted Puffin for possible listing as a state endangered species with the process outlined in WAC 232-12-297. One rule is proposed to be amended: WAC 232-12-014. WAC 232-12-014 identifies endangered species in Washington that are in danger of extirpation in the state and are in need of recovery actions to restore populations to healthy levels.

Pursuant to WAC 232-12-297(5.1.1) and (5.2), WDFW is proposing to amend WAC 232-12-014 and is requesting that the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the Department's recommendation to list Tufted Puffins as a state endangered species. A rationale for this action is presented in the *Washington State Status Report for the Tufted Puffin*. The report provides an analysis of the factors cited in WAC 232-12-297 (7.1.1) through (7.1.5) and considers all information relevant to the status of the species in Washington. The report also discusses factors affecting the species' status. As described in the report, Tufted Puffins in Washington have undergone an order of magnitude population decline and no longer occupy 57% of the historical breeding locations in the state. These declines are ongoing. Causes for the declines are unknown, but potentially include a number of historical and recent factors, including reduced prey availability, changing oceanic and climatic conditions, entrapment in fishing nets, mortality from oil spills and chemical contaminants, human disturbance of breeding colonies, impacts from introduced species, and increased bald eagle predation.

Draft versions of the *Washington State Status Report for the Tufted Puffin* were evaluated by the scientific community, including both WDFW scientists and external scientists. Members of the public were also invited to review the draft report during a public comment period that extended from September 12 to December 11, 2014. After the close of the public review period, WDFW prepared the final status report and listing recommendation. The public will have an opportunity to review the final report, listing recommendation, and SEPA findings for one month before the Fish and Wildlife Commission makes their decision. The final listing recommendation is planned to be presented to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission on February 6-7, 2015 and the Commission is expected to take action on the recommendation on March 20-21, 2015.

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.

The range of Tufted Puffins in Washington includes all marine waters and coastlines.

B. Environmental elements

1. Earth

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

4. **Plants**

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

____deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
____evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
____shrubs
____grass
____pasture
____crop or grain
____ 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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

Not applicable.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

This proposal affects one species currently listed as state threatened, the Steller sea lion.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

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:

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

b. **Noise**

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

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:

Not applicable.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

12. **Recreation**

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Not applicable.

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).

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not applicable.

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

Not applicable.

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.

Not applicable.

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 Penny A. Becker

Position and Agency/Organization Listing and Recovery Manager, WDFW

Date Submitted: 1/9/15

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

(**IT IS NOT NECESSARY** to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

   This proposal will not increase discharges to waters; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise.

   Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

   Not applicable.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

   This proposal does not directly affect any plants, animals, fish, or marine life other than Tufted Puffins. Listing Tufted Puffins as a state endangered species will result in accurately reflecting the biological status of the species in Washington and will focus management attention on this species. If the listing recommendation is adopted, WDFW will develop a recovery plan for Tufted Puffins. This plan will set recovery objectives for the species and will discuss the various recovery strategies and tasks needed to achieve those objectives.

   Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

WDFW will develop a recovery plan for Tufted Puffins if it becomes an endangered species. This plan will set recovery objectives for the species and will describe the various recovery strategies and tasks needed to achieve those objectives. It would include habitat management activities to meet the needs of the species, enforcement, research, and education. WDFW and its partners would also continue to monitor the population through surveys.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

This proposal will not deplete energy or natural resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Not applicable.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Nearly all breeding islands used by Tufted Puffins in Washington are already protected as part of several national wildlife refuges. Additionally, much of the ocean habitat used by puffins along the outer northwest coast of Washington is protected by the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. State listing of Tufted Puffins as endangered would provide further justification for the continued management of these protected areas.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Not applicable.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Nearly all breeding islands used by Tufted Puffins in Washington are already protected as part of several national wildlife refuges. Thus, listing Tufted Puffins as a state endangered species will impose no further land or shoreline use restrictions.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Not applicable.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

This proposal will not affect demands on transportation or public services and utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Not applicable.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The proposal will not conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Tufted Puffins are already considered a "species of concern" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.