

# **SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

JUNE 2015

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

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: [\[help\]](#)

Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route – Crab Creek Phase 2: Temporary Ground Water Relief at the Trout Lodge Hatchery

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), in coordination with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) through the Office of Columbia River and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)  
Charity N. Davidson, Columbia River Water Program Coordinator  
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
303 South Mission Street, Suite 200  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
509-665-5380

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)  
October 8, 2015

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)  
Washington State Department of Ecology

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)  
Impacts to the Trout Lodge Hatchery due to rising groundwater levels in Rocky Ford springs was initially evaluated/identified in the 2007 Final Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route Project Environmental Assessment (Reclamation) and the 2009 Final Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route – Phase 2 - Crab Creek Route SEPA Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS). In both the EA and the MDNS, a bypass structure was to be constructed to protect the Trout Lodge Hatchery facility from flooding as a result of releasing water from Billy Clapp Lake down middle Crab Creek; the private hatchery is located on WDFW owned lands. However, the bypass was not constructed and water continues is being released from Billy Clapp Lake at a rate of 100-150 cubic feet per second (cfs). WDFW staff have determined a water relief strategy needs to occur at this location to protect the hatchery and WDFW owned lands until Reclamation and Ecology can construct a bypass facility.

Prior to this checklist, WDFW had to relief the immediate flooding occurring at the hatchery on WDFW lands due to water being released from Billy Clapp Lake (July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015). As a result, an emergency Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) was submitted and delivered to WDFW staff and Trout Lodge to proceed with immediate water relief work (Attachment 1).

WDFW staff, in coordination with Reclamation and Ecology would like to continue to conduct several, short-term engineered activities to protect the Trout Lodget Hatchery facility and WDFW lands until Reclamation constructs a permanent bypass facility. **The project described in this checklist is expected to begin as soon as the SEPA comment period is over and all applicable permits have been received. WDFW would like to continue working at the site as early as November 2, 2015 and end prior to the 2016 irrigation season.**

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

Yes. This is only a short-term water relief strategy being implemented on WDFW lands – Trout Lodge Hatcher facility (Figure 1). A long-term plan with supplemental National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and SEPA review will be required to not only mitigate impacts to the hatchery and WDFW lands but to assess additional impacts associated with implementing the Feed Route Project not contemplated in the 2007 and 2009 documents. Reclamation will need to construct a permanent bypass facility to accommodate operating the supplemental feed route project<sup>1</sup>.

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

The following is a list of documents that were used that are applicable to this document:

- Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region, August 2007 (adopted as an addendum to the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Columbia River Water Management Program).
- Technical Memorandum Alternative A – Crab Creek Route. Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route Draft Environmental Assessment, Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region (April, 2007).
- Columbia Basin Wildlife Area Management Plan (WDFW, 2010).
- Priority Habitat Species Maps (WDFW, 2012).
- Middle Crab Creek – DRAFT Report (Geo-Marine, 2012).
- Trout Lodge Groundwater Relief Project Statement of Work (WDFW, 2015).

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 known applications or proposals are pending beyond the proposed future bypass facility.

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

- USCOE Nationwide Permit(s)
- WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)
- Grant County Shoreline Permit

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this

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<sup>1</sup> Ecology funded a WDFW project manager and engineering staff to quickly respond to the flooding at Trout Lodge (WDFW property) as a result of Reclamation operating the Potholes Supplemental Feed Route Project (feed route project); a mechanism for Ecology to be reimbursed by Reclamation for their emergency response will occur concurrently with NEPA/SEPA review.

page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)

WDFW, in coordination with Reclamation and Ecology is proposing to construct several, short-term engineered groundwater relief bypass structures and install temporary culverts to divert rising groundwater levels off of WDFW owned lands (location of the Trout Lodge hatchery) downstream into Rocky Ford Creek. The amount of feed water delivered from Billy Clapp Lake to the Potholes Reservoir via middle Crab Creek will range from 100 cfs annually during the non-irrigation season to up to 650 cfs during the irrigation season (in high precipitation years) (Figure 2). However, 500 cfs will likely be the maximum amount of water running down middle Crab Creek during the irrigation season in most years. Currently 100-150 cfs is being released from Billy Clap Lake (Pinto Dam) to supply water to the Odessa Subarea per water contracts. Some of the water is going subsurface at Adrian Sink, traveling south, and resurfacing in Rocky Ford Springs; Rocky Ford Springs is adjacent to the hatchery and Rocky Fork Creek.

As mentioned previously, impacts to the hatchery and WDFW lands were identified in the 2007 Reclamation EA and the 2009 Ecology SEPA MDNS but a solution (construction of a bypass facility) was never deployed. Reclamation will be constructing a permanent bypass facility at this location after NEPA review. WDFW engineering staff had to work in an emergency fashion to avoid loss of property and loss of fish life at the hatchery due to groundwater rising and inundating the property. Though WDFW has alleviated the immediate issue, additional short-term activities need to occur to continue to protect property as groundwater continues to rise as Reclamation continues to release water from Billy Clapp Lake (Pinto Dam).

WDFW will be performing the following, short-term solutions to reduce the risk of impacting WDFW land and the hatchery from rising groundwater levels (Figure 1; Attachments 2-5):

- 1. *Short-term Emergency Repair:*** In order to capture and regulate the groundwater before it reaches the infiltration galleries and hatchery grounds, the water levels in the upper earthen ponds should be lowered. WDFW staff were unable to complete this during the first response because the pond elevations directly impact the hatcheries water intake; supplies needed to be purchased and rough calculations completed to determine the size and depth of additional overflow capacity before we could move forward with that element. WDFW staff will install two 48" culverts with head gates and install them adjacent to the existing concrete spillway. The ability to lower the water level in the ponds another foot would greatly relieve head pressure and remove the surface water issues. A second culvert will be installed to connect the ponds.

The concrete bridge will be broken up and removed in pieces allowing for free flow out of the facility. The channel will be widened to match upstream and downstream conditions and will add capacity to the channel. The bridge will be replaced with a new road to be constructed through the "park". The new road would require some re-routing of overflow lines and partially filling one of the existing sediment ponds. This would restore truck access and fish hauling from Phase 2 which is currently on hold.

Due to higher water elevations, WDFW staff will need to double existing bypass capacity to

allow the hatchery to reduce the amount of water going through their intake. Two 4 foot wide x 10 feet long precast concrete channels will be installed adjacent to their existing bypass. Where the open ditches were constructed to capture surface water, perforated drain pipe will be installed. This drain line will capture the groundwater from the facility and route it to the Rocky Ford Creek adjacent to the existing hatchery drain lines. These repairs will allow the hatchery staff to better control their operational water levels, and give them the ability to bypass rising groundwater.

2. **Construction and Dewatering:** WDFW Crews will use Best Management Practices (BMPs) including turbidity curtains, super-sacks, straw, straw wattles, and careful excavation to minimize sediment input into any creeks and/or wetlands. During the bridge removal, any incidental input of concrete into the creek will be retrieved by staff. Dewatering will not be possible at all locations, but best efforts will be made to isolate work from standing/flowing water using cofferdams where applicable.

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 project is located in Grant County in eastern Washington State. The Potholes Reservoir Supplemental Feed Route, Crab Creek Feed, begins at Pinto Dam, just north of State Route 28 approximately 11.5 miles east of Soap Lake, Washington. From Pinto Dam, feed water would be released to Brook Lake, located immediately below the dam. Brook Lake discharges to Crab Creek, through which the feed water would travel until it discharges into Parker Horn at Moses Lake. Once in Moses Lake, the feed water would pass through the Moses Lake outlet into the Potholes Reservoir.

The short term project is located on WDFW fee owned lands: T21N/R27E/S16 (Figure 2).

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

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

a. General description of the site: [\[help\]](#)

(circle one):  Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other \_\_\_\_\_

The topography at this site adjacent to Rocky Ford springs and upstream of Rocky Ford Creek is generally flat with a gentle slope south. There is a hatchery facility (Trout Lodge Hatchery) that is located on the site which includes raceways, hatch houses, pumps, water delivery ditches, and hatchery staff residences.

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

Sloped topography is generally found within the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of middle Crab Creek; slopes are not steep (approximate percent slope = 10%).

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

A query of soil maps (NRCS, 2015) identified the following dominant soil type within the project area: Malaga very stony sandy loam; Umapine silt loam.

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

Some shoreline bank erosion caused by floods, wind, and some farming/grazing activities currently exists.

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

All natural materials will come from the property where the work is proposed – WDFW owned lands. Other materials (constructed materials) will be brought to the site.

Purpose, type, and approximate quantities of fill/grading by project element include:

- Two 4 foot wide x 10 feet long precast channels will be installed adjacent to the existing Trout Lodge bypass. Excavated materials will be left on-site for future use; approximately 1,600 cubic feet of material will be removed to install the bypasses. No fill is anticipated.
- Two 48” culverts with head gates will be installed. One culvert will be installed adjacent to the existing concrete spillway and the other will be installed to connect the ponds. Excavation material is not expected to exceed 1,000 cubic feet. No fill is anticipated.
- Moving the existing road (within the footprint of the hatchery facility – disturbed area) will require some grading of existing dirt and lawn.
- Excavation will occur to widen the canal within the facility – material excavated is not anticipated to exceed 500 cubic feet. No fill is anticipated.

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

Yes. Erosion from wind may occur in areas where vegetation has been removed and/or altered to accommodate vehicle /equipment access and staging areas. WDFW will be responsible for avoiding and/or reducing soils erosion from wind by implementing applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as wetting soils, covering loose soil, and replanting disturbed areas with native vegetation.

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

It is expected that less than 1% of the total site area will be covered with short-term impervious surfaces because of the pre-casted culverts and bridge replacement.

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

As mentioned previously, WDFW will be responsible for deploying BMPs to reduce or control erosion in uplands and below the OHWM. WDFW will assure that staging areas are located in areas previously disturbed to avoid impacts to existing habitat. In addition,

WDFW staff will be on-site during construction to assure appropriate erosion control methods are being executed. WDFW staff will reduce and/or control erosion using riparian plantings after the project is complete and where appropriate.

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

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

It is expected that machines used to bring in crews, equipment, plants, and bank stabilization supplies will release CO<sup>2</sup> emissions into the air; however the levels would be minimal. Dust will be controlled through BMPs to avoid wind latent sediment.

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

None are expected.

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

The following is a brief list of expected BMPs that will be implemented by WDFW:

- Avoid clearing vegetation
- Use water to wet down dry, exposed soils
- Wash vehicles when necessary to avoid transferring soil materials to roads and/or other locations
- Vehicles/pumps/equipment, etc. will be turned off when not in use
- Replant disturbed areas with native vegetation in consultation with the WDFW Wildlife Area manager and regional WDFW wildlife biologist.

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

- 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. [\[help\]](#)  
Yes. Rocky Ford Creek is an intermittent creek, however once the Feed Route Phase 2 is implemented, it is expected to be perennial as a result of an elevated water table within Rocky Ford spring. It is anticipated that 100 cfs would be running through middle Crab Creek, to Moses Lake, and ending at the Potholes Reservoir all year around but will ramp up to a maximum of 650 cfs during the irrigation season (spring); however 500 cfs is a more likely flow regime during the irrigation season. The 2007 EA and the 2009 MDNS both indicated that water goes subsurface at Adrian Sink, therefore contributed a constant source of additional water delivery to Rocky Ford springs. Additionally, an array of wetlands have been established adjacent to Rocky Ford Creek, within Rocky Ford springs, and south of the hatchery facility (Figure 3).

- 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 proposed will reduce the risk associated with rising groundwater levels on WDFW lands/at the hatchery by diverting the water away from the hatchery into Rocky Ford Creek (Figure 1; Attachments 2-5).

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

It is not anticipated that any fill or dredge material would be placed in surface water or wetlands.

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

The proposed project will be designed to benefit from the water that will be conveyed down middle Crab Creek within the "normal" operations of the Feed Route Project and goes subsurface to Rocky Ford springs. When a permanent bypass is constructed at a later date, WDFW will coordinate with Reclamation, Ecology, and staff at Trout Lodge to ensure wildlife/habitat benefits from the additional water are maximized.

Reclamation's modeling (2009), illustrates the approximate elevation in which lands will be inundated (annual, baseflow of 100 cfs to high, flood flows at 650 cfs). It is expected that after the feed water is shut down in February of 2016 temporarily, Reclamation and Ecology will assess additional impacts and begin the process of developing a long-term plan.

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

Yes (Figure 4).

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

It is not anticipated that construction activities would discharge any unexpected materials into middle Rocky Ford Creek because BMPs will be deployed to prevent discharge to surface water. Equipment will be staged in upland areas that do not slope toward surface waters.

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. [\[help\]](#)

No.

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. [\[help\]](#)

No. Water running off the property is Rocky Ford springs water that directly feeds Rocky Ford Creek. WDFW staff are implementing construction activities to allow the water to bypass the hatchery and let it return to the creek.

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

No. It will be bypassed off WDFW owned property, downstream of the Trout Lodge Hatchery to Rocky Ford Creek. It is not anticipated that a large amount of waste material will enter ground or surface waters of the state. Deployment of BMP's will reduce the likelihood that waste materials from equipment, supplies, crew, and soil disturbance will enter the creek bed.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

Not that is expected.

4) Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Deployment of BMP's will reduce the likelihood that waste materials from equipment, supplies, crew, and soil disturbance will enter the creek bed and/or adjacent wetlands.

#### 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](#)

\_\_\_\_\_ wet soil plants: [cattail](#), buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

\_\_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

\_\_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

Historically, the native vegetation along middle Rocky Ford Creek was shrub-steppe and dominated by perennial grasses, sagebrush, rabbit brush, bitterbrush, grease wood, and spiny hopsage (WDFW personal communication). As a result of additional water being fed into the creek from irrigation runoff, wetland vegetation grows in some areas of the creek such as cattail.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)

It is anticipated that minimal quantity of native vegetation will be removed or altered. WDFW staff will replant areas disturbed with “like vegetation” and monitor for success for a minimum of three years. WDFW has funding and staff capacity to ensure vegetation is replanted and/or enhanced.

Construction equipment and supplies will be staged in disturbed areas and in consultation with WDFW staff to further avoid impacts to vegetation.

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

There are no known threatened or endangered plant species on or near the site.

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

The project is located on WDFW owned lands; areas will be managed by WDFW staff to ensure riparian planting efforts are successful, weeds are managed, and to adapt management strategies as the landscape responds to changes in hydrology.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

Knap weed, toad flax, and cheat grass are the most prominent but weeds are managed aggressively at the facility.

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

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. [\[help\]](#)

**Birds:** hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, [\[other\]](#):

- Waterfowl include: Canada goose, mallard, scaup, northern pintail, gadwall, American wigeon, northern shoveler, redhead, canvasback, bufflehead, Tundra swan, Ring-necked Duck, and blue-winged, cinnamon, and green-winged teal.
- Game birds include: Ring-necked pheasant, gray partridge, and California quail.
- Shorebirds include: killdeer, lesser and greater yellowlegs, dunlin, dowitcher, small sandpipers, American avocet, and the Black-necked stilt.
- Others include: Great blue heron, loggerhead shrike, American white pelican, red-winged blackbird, yellow-headed blackbirds, western meadowlark, horned lark, song sparrow, sora, virginia rail, and marsh wren.

**Mammals:** [\[deer\]](#), bear, elk, [\[beaver\]](#), [\[other\]](#):

- Coyote, mule deer, muskrats, shrew, and mice.

**Fish:** bass, salmon, [\[trout\]](#), herring, shellfish, [\[other\]](#):

Currently, middle Rocky Ford Creek boasts a blue ribbon trout fishery (fly fishing only). There are also a large quantity of carp.

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

There are no known threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. However, a query of WDFW's Priority Habitat Species database revealed the following species status records for state endangered near the Rocky Ford Creek project area (Table 1).

Table 1. Priority habitat and species records for the middle Crab Creek enhancement area.

| Species                | Observation Year                  | Observation Type  | State Status | Priority |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|----------|
| American White Pelican | Multiple Records<br>(1980s-1990s) | Regular small concentrations and individual occurrences | Endangered   | Yes      |

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

Yes. This site is included in a waterfowl migration and staging area. Annually, the area hosts several hundred thousand dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and Canada geese.

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

A long-term plan will be developed to construct a bypass facility at this location and develop a habitat enhancement element as a result of rising groundwater levels in Rocky Ford springs and Rocky Ford Creek. Supplemental NEPA and SEPA documents will be developed to evaluate and implement a long-term solution, as well as assess other impacts associated with the Feed Route Project not contemplated in the 2007 (Reclamation) and 2009 (Ecology) documents.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)

Carp are known to be in Rocky Ford creek and adjacent wetlands. Sometimes there are bull frogs.

## 6. Energy and Natural Resources [\[help\]](#)

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

N/A.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

N/A.

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

This project does not include any energy conservation features.

## 7. Environmental Health [\[help\]](#)

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

There is potential that equipment could leak oil, gas, or other toxic fluids into the Rocky Ford Creek or within upland staging areas; therefore a spill kit will be on-site in the event a spill/leak occurs. Crews will be required to clean equipment (gas powered augers, etc.) prior to use to reduce the likelihood that pollutants from entering the corridor. This project requires very little use of materials that would cause any environmental health hazards; there is no hazardous waste production that will occur.

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

[\[help\]](#)

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

None known.

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

N/A.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [\[help\]](#)

N/A

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: [\[help\]](#)  
Equipment will be cleaned and checked for leaks prior to use. The contractors will be required to have a spill kit on site.

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

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

N/A. The project is located within a Columbia Basin Wildlife Area, Gloyd Seeps Unit at a hatchery facility.

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

Noise will be generated from several vehicles driving to the site and the use of gas powered augers and generators. The project area is located within the Gloyd Seeps Unit and noise is not expected to be heard by residents, however recreators in the area may be able to hear some noise.

Noise levels are expected to be minimal, short-term, and within the hours of 6am-7pm

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

WDFW will reduce noise impacts to wildlife by avoiding working near important breeding areas during breeding and nesting seasons (if applicable).

**8. Land and Shoreline Use** [\[help\]](#)

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

The project is located on the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area, Gloyd Seeps Unit. The property is leased to Trout Lodge to run a fish hatchery. Most of the property is developed with hatchery facilities. The current use of adjacent properties are irrigated agricultural lands, open space, recreation, and a mix of light 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? [\[help\]](#)

The site is currently used by Trout Lodge to operate a fish hatchery. There is no known agricultural activities on the site beyond small gardens established by the hatchery workers that live on site.

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

No.

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

There are many structures on the site associated with the hatchery operations including:

- Multiple raceways
- Pump houses
- Water delivery structures/gates
- Access roads
- Egg hatch houses
- Hatchery residences
- Other small infrastructure

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

Yes. A concrete bridge will be removed.

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

Urban Residential 1

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

Residential 1

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

Grant County's Shoreline Master Program designates the site as recreation.

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

There are wetlands downs stream and adjacent to the facility (Figure 3) – regulated under the CAO.

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

None. People that work at the hatchery already live there.

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

None.

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

N/A.

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

WDFW's mission is "To preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreation and commercial opportunities." This project was designed to fulfill that mission, to comply and meet shoreline protection/enhancement objectives within Grant County's Shoreline Management Program, and protect the Trout Lodge Hatchery.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [\[help\]](#)

This project was designed to fulfill that mission, to comply and meet shoreline protection/enhancement objectives within Grant County's Shoreline Management Program, and protect the Trout Lodge Hatchery. This project is compatible with nearby agricultural activities – the wildlife area is within the Columbia Basin Project.

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

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)

2 -4 feet (culverts and bridge).

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

N/A.

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

This project is expected to increase aesthetics of the area in the long-term on lands not in use by the hatchery to maximize fish and wildlife benefits, therefore measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts are not proposed beyond replanting efforts.

#### 11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

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

There may be some glare from construction equipment during daylight hours.

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

No.

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

N/A.

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

None.

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

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

Rocky Ford Creek currently provides designated recreational opportunities in and around the project footprint including wildlife viewing, hiking, bird hunting, and fly fishing. There are no recreational opportunities currently located at the hatchery – recreational opportunities are located downstream of the facilities in Rocky Ford Creek. However, increased water levels in Rocky Ford Creek from a downstream clogged culvert has reduced public access downstream of the hatchery at a designated WDFW public access site.

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: [\[help\]](#)

There are no proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to recreation as a result of this short-term groundwater relief strategy.

#### 13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

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. [\[help\]](#)

There are no known places or objects listed on, or proposed for national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site.

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

There are two archaeological sites near the project footprint but they are located on a bluff quite a distance from the project area (Query of WIZZARD, 2015).

- 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 WDFW archeologist will consult with Tribes per Executive Order 05-05. WIZZARD was used to query sites near the project footprint – no sites were found within the project footprint or staging areas.

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

All activities will be designed/placed in a manner to avoid adverse impacts to cultural resources. In the event cultural resources are discovered, the WDFW archeologist will contact Tribes and DAHP to identify appropriate “next steps”. WDFW will ensure the Cultural Resource Management Plan developed for WDFW by Central Washington University (2014) is utilized.

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

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

N/A. The facility is served by a dirt road - B street, Soap Lake.

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

No. The nearest transit stop is approximately 7 miles away and located Ephrata, WA.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

2-3 service trucks per day will visit the site for the duration of the project. A model was not used due to the low number of vehicular trips.

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. [\[help\]](#)

No.

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

N/A.

**15. Public Services** [\[help\]](#)

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. [\[help\]](#)

N/A.

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

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

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

The site is a hatchery facility.

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. [\[help\]](#)

N/A.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Position and Agency/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_