

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

**Wenner Lakes Dam Repair**

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

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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

**WDFW**  
**600 Capital Way North**  
**Olympia, WA 98501**

**Contact: Marty Peoples**

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

October 14, 2015

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

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Fall/Winter 2015

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

No.

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

A JARPA will be prepared for this work.

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 other applications are pending.

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

Permits and approvals may include a CORPS of Engineers Section 404 Permit, an Okanagon County Shoreline Permit, and a WDFW Hydraulics Permit (HPA). Other permits may be required and will be obtained as required.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)

The Wenner Lake #3 Dam (also called the Chalfa Dam) was breached in 2014 after the watershed experienced fire damage, then followed by a heavy rainfall event. This breach occurred in the spillway area of the dam as the functionality of the spillway was reduced by a build-up of large woody debris. The Wenner Lake #5 Dam was also breached during this same event. This project will repair Wenner Lake #3 Dam and stabilize breach area at Wenner Lake #5 Dam and restore the access road. The specific components of this project will be:

1. Reshape the breach area at Wenner Lake #5 Dam to open up the stream channel width and to restore vehicle access across this point. Material will be cut from the old dam to lessen the slope grade to allow vehicle passage. The bottom of the cut (where the stream passes through the breach) will be armored with 4 inch minus pit run to provide a driveable dip. Materials cut from the old earthen dam will be deposited nearby above OHW and seeded.
2. At Wenner Lake #3 Dam, the entire spillway will be reshaped and regraded to repair eroded areas. The floor of the upper half of the spillway will be layered with 2.5 feet of rock to prevent erosion during future storm events.
3. The floor of the lower spillway will receive a 4 inch layer of rock armoring. A dissipation pad will be placed at the bottom of the spillway on both banks of the stream to protect against erosion when the spillway is active.
4. Three cut-off walls will be installed below grade in the lower spillway to prevent spillway failure. Filter fabric will be installed under the rock armoring along entire length of spillway.
5. The existing outlet control structure at Wenner Lake #3 will be removed. WDFW will install new precast outlet control structure to regulate lake levels.
6. Install new debris catching log boom to replace the damaged log boom at Wenner Lake #3. Length of boom will be 180 lineal feet.

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 Wenner Lakes site is located in Finley Canyon and is reached by driving east on Highway 153 from Twisp for 6 miles, then turning left on Benson Road. Proceed east on Benson Road for 3 miles, then turn right onto gravel road accessing Finley Canyon. The site is located in Okanagon County, Township 33 N, Range 23 E, Section 30. The latitude/longitude is 48.3319 N by -119.9456 W.

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

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

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

50%.

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. [\[help\]](#)

The soil is classified as Newbon stony loam.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Total Area Disturbed – 25,385 square feet

Imported Rock at Spillway – 390 cubic yards of light loose, 165 cubic yards of 4 inch minus

Imported Rock at Ford – 5 cubic yards

Cutoff Walls Rock – 111 cubic yards

Imported Rock for Spillway Outlet – 35 cubic yards of light loose

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

Erosion could occur as soil on the earthen dams is disturbed. BMP's will be in place to prevent runoff and contain turbidity during construction.

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

5% of the site will be impervious after construction.

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

All disturbed soil will be contained within a sediment fence. Seeding and mulching will be done to prevent long term erosion.

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

Vehicle exhaust and dust from construction is expected. No long-term change in emissions is expected from the completed project.

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

No.

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

None.

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

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

Wenner Lake #3 and #5 are in the work area as well as Wenner 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. Work will be performed immediately adjacent to waters mentioned above.

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

5 cubic yards of rock will be placed in surface waters at the vehicle ford. There will be no net increase of fill in surface waters as 25 CY of old earthen dam material will be removed below OHW line at this site.

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

No.

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

Yes.

- 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 ground water will be withdrawn.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [\[help\]](#)

No waste materials will be discharged.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Runoff will not be altered at this site. Typical stormwater runoff sheetflows down the earthen dam into vegetated areas or enters the lake.

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

Surface and ground waters will be protected by BMP's. Waste materials will not be used and not enter surface waters.

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

Drainage patterns will not be altered.

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

Stabilize disturbed areas with mulching and seeding.

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? [\[help\]](#)

The only vegetation to be removed will be grasses that have become established on the earthen dam and in the spillway area.

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

There are no endangered plant species in this area.

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

Native grass species will be planted in disturbed areas.

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

Noxious weed species include knapweed species.

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. [\[help\]](#)

Examples include:

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

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)  
Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)  
Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) [west of U.S. 97 and State Highway 17]  
Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)  
Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

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

Yes, waterfowl use this area as a migratory route.

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

Work will only be performed on the established dam footprint to avoid impacts to aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

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

None known.

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

No energy will be used.

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

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

This project will not require the use of energy after completion therefore no energy conservation features were considered.

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

No.

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

[\[help\]](#)

None known or anticipated.

- 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 or anticipated.

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

No hazardous chemicals will be used, stored or produced.

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

Emergency medical help may be needed if an injury occurs.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Fueling of equipment will be done in upland staging areas isolated from surface waters.

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

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

This project will not be affected by 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)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)

Increased short term noise levels are expected during construction hours from 7 am to 5 pm. No long term change in noise levels are anticipated.

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

Equipment used during construction will be in good operating condition and properly equipped with mufflers to minimize noise impacts.

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

This site is used as an access area for recreational activities including fishing, wildlife viewing, and hunting.

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

No.

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

The site contains a earthen dam and an outlet control structure.

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

No.

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

Recreational - Parks.

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

Recreational - Parks.

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

NA.

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

Yes.

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

Consult with Okanagon County.

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

Consult with Okanagon County.

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

The tallest structure onsite is a six foot high control structure.

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

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

No glare is anticipated.

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

None known.

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

None planned.

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

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

Fishing and wildlife viewing.

- 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 needed.

**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 buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old.

- 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 no features or landmarks that are apparent at this site. A WDFW archaeologist will evaluate this site and determine if further investigation is needed.

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

Initial assessment of potential impacts will be made by the WDFW archaeologist. Any required cultural resources suveys will performed by a professional archaeologist.

- 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 work will be done on established road surfaces and within previously placed fill. The project will operate under a WDFW Inadvertent Discovery Plan.

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

This site is served by a private road off of Benson Road.

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

Public Transit does not reach this site. The nearest stop is unknown.

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

No parking spaces will be added.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No increase in vehicle trips are anticipated.

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

No.

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

None taken or needed.

**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. Useage of this site will not be changed and not result in a need for additional services.

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

WDFW will conduct repairs quickly to avoids impacts to public.

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

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

No utilities are availbale at this site.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [\[help\]](#)

No utilities are proposed for this site.

**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: Martin Peoples

Name of signee Martin Peoples

Position and Agency/Organization Biologist, WDFW

Date Submitted: 11/2/15

