SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

**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: [help]
   7400 Wyonochee River Public Fishing Access

2. Name of applicant: [help]
   Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [help]
4. Date checklist prepared: [help]
August, 2017

5. Agency requesting checklist: [help]
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, Grays Harbor County

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [help]
August 2017 through October 2017

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [help]
This is a 5 year joint project with Green Diamond Resources. The Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife and Green Diamond will review the project during this timeframe and determine if the project was successful and both parties are willing to extend the project.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [help]
DNR Forest Practice Application
DNR Aquatics Land lease
Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application
Grays Harbor County Pre-Development Review
Grays Harbor County Pre-Application review
WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval
Habitat Management Plan

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]
The landowner is a commercial forest landowner that actively manages their land for timber harvest. The project involves rehabilitating an old road grade through a timber stand that will be eventually logged under forest practice rules and the Green Diamond Habitat Conservation Plan. No other work beyond what is proposed in this checklist is planned to occur within the buffers identified in the forest practice application.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
[help]
Grays Harbor County grade and fill permit, habitat management plan, and shorelines
Department of Natural Resources forest practice application, Aquatics land lease
Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [help]
The project will include 1,300 feet of new road construction, 200 feet of road reconstruction and 1,200 feet of brush clearing and relocating on the gravel bar. The purpose of the road is to restore public fishing access to the Wynoochee River, and the road will also be used for future timber harvest and haul by Green Diamond. A parking area, approximately 50 ft by 145 ft, will be located adjacent to the road, outside the Wynoochee River channel migration zone and the shoreline buffer. Two small roadside pullouts are also proposed, which would be located outside the channel migration zone and shoreline buffer as well. Signs will be posted to direct users and a porta potty will be located at the parking area. The proposal also includes installation of a 36-inch diameter culvert in the backwatered side channel that is currently bisected by the existing road grade with no culvert. This will allow fish to access this side channel habitat. During the fall and winter we anticipate 100 boat launches a week if fishing is good and river flow is below 2,600 cfs. When the river gets above 2,600 cfs the river becomes unfishable.

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 along the eastern shore of the Wynoochee River in Grays Harbor County, Washington, approximately 16 miles north of the town of Montesano. The site does not have an address but is located on tax parcels 200823100000 and 200824200000. Latitude and longitude is approximately 47.209803 N lat. / -123.631969 W long. The project is located in the NE ¼ of Section 23 and the NW ¼ of Section 24, Township 20 N, Range 08 W; Grays Harbor County.

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]
There are slopes of up to 40% on the property, but the old road grade to be rehabilitated is relatively flat.

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]
According to the USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey, soils at the site consist of the following:
54% Nordby very gravelly loam, 1 to 8 percent slopes; this soil type is prime farmland if irrigated. This soil type is found on benches and terraces, but is not rated as a hydric soil.
32% Juno sandy loam; this soil type is prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season. This soil type is found in floodplains, but is not rated as a hydric soil.
5% Riverwash; this soil type is not prime farmland and is found in rivers. This soil type is classified as a hydric soil.
4% Nordby very gravelly loam, 8 to 30 percent slopes; this soil type is not prime farmland, is found on benches and terraces, and is not classified as a hydric soil.
4% Open water
2% Willaby silt loam, 1 to 15 percent slopes; this soil type is classified as farmland of statewide importance. This soil type is found on terraces and is not classified as a hydric soil. This soil type is only found in a small portion of the northeast corner of the site.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [help]
There are no known surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity.

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]
The proposed road rehabilitation may include minor grading but fill will not be imported for the road rehabilitation. Fill may be imported for construction of the 50’ x 145’ parking area, which is located outside the Wynoochee River channel migration zone. For the culvert installation, new fill will not be imported. The existing road fill will be removed from the stream channel, the culvert will be placed, and the existing fill will be placed back on top and around the culvert. Whatever fill is not needed will be removed but may be used in the parking area or other areas outside the 200 ft river buffer.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [help]
The project is not expected to result in erosion due to the minor amount of clearing and grading and implementation of best management practices, such as conducting work in the dry and planting disturbed areas.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [help]
The project does not include asphalt or buildings, only construction of a gravel road and construction of a 50 ft by 145 ft gravel and dirt parking area. The project will therefore not result in an increase in impervious surfaces.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [help]
   Culvert installation will take place when the side channel is in a naturally dry state to prevent sedimentation to the channel and Wynoochee River. Disturbed areas will be planted with native plants to prevent 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]
   Air emissions during construction would be minor and temporary. The project is not anticipated to result in long-term emissions to the air.

   b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [help]
   None known

   c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [help]
   No measures are proposed or needed.

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]
         The project is located adjacent to the Wynoochee River. A backwatered side channel to the Wynoochee is also located on the site.

      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]
         Within 200 feet of the Wynoochee river, no fill will be imported, clearing will be limited to the use of hand tools to remove and relocate shrubs and immature alders (less than 4 inches diameter); and grading will be limited to the use of hand tools to smoothing some of the bumps in the old road grade to allow vehicle access.

         The project will also include installation of a culvert on the backwatered side channel. Currently, the old road grade crosses this channel as a causeway on fill with no culvert, which is a barrier to fish access in the channel. Installing the culvert will restore fish passage to this side channel.
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]

The culvert pipe will be the only new fill placed in the surface water. The culvert installation will result in an approximately 10 cubic yard net decrease of fill in the side channel to the Wynoochee. No fill will be imported within 200 feet of surface waters.

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

None required. The culvert will be placed when the side channel is naturally dry.

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

The proposal does lie within the 100-year floodplain.

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]

The project does not involve discharges of waste materials to 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]

There will be no withdrawals of groundwater.

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 to the ground.

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]

Since no new impervious surface is proposed, no stormwater collection or disposal is proposed.

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

Best management practices will be implemented to ensure no waste materials enter ground or surface waters. The culvert installation will occur when the side channel is in a naturally dry state.

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

Installation of the culvert will improve the natural hydrology of the side channel to the Wynoochee and
restore fish passage to this habitat. Otherwise, the project will not alter or affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: [help]
Aside from best management practices during construction (primarily for installation of the culvert), no other measures are proposed to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water.

4. Plants [help]
a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [help]

- [x] deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- [x] evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- [x] shrubs
- [x] 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]
Clearing will be limited to vegetation that has grown on the old road grade, new road segment, proposed 50 ft by 145 ft parking area. Commercially harvested timber will be removed from the new road construction, pullouts and parking area. Within the old road grade, no mature trees will be removed. On the gravel bar, vegetation removal will consist of immature alders (less than 4 inch diameter) and shrubs. Invasive tansy will also be removed on the gravel bar as mitigation.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]
No threatened and endangered plant species are known to be 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]
Invasive tansy and other invasive plants encountered will be removed from the site. Native plants will be installed in disturbed areas (associated with the culvert installation) to prevent erosion.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. [help]
Tansy, scotch broom

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:
b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [help]
Bull trout could be present in the Wynoochee River, although the project will not include work in the river. Bull trout will not be present in the side channel because the culvert installation will be conducted when the channel is naturally dry.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [help]
The site is part of the Pacific Flyway migration route for migratory birds.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [help]
The project is not anticipated to impact wildlife, so no measures are proposed specifically related to wildlife. Removal of invasive tansy will benefit wildlife, as this weed can be toxic to some animals.

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]
The project will not require energy.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [help]
The project will not affect use of solar energy.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [help]
None needed.

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]

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]

Gasoline and diesel may be stored on site to fuel construction equipment but will be removed following construction.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. [help]

The project is not anticipated to result in increased need for emergency services.

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

WDFW Enforcement will patrol the site regularly to prevent illegal dumping and litter, transient population establishment, user conflicts, and to enforce fishing and boating regulations.

b. Noise [help]

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

Noise in the area will not affect the project.

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 from the project is anticipated to be minimal and would be generated by vehicles, boats, and recreational anglers. There are no noise-sensitive uses near the site that would be impacted.

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

None proposed.

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 site and surrounding properties are managed for timber harvest by Green Diamond. The proposal will not affect the land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

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 property and surrounding properties are working forest lands. The project will not convert forest land to another use. The project will allow public fishing and logging access on working forest lands by creating the new road segment.
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]

WDFW will work with Green Diamond to ensure that construction and operation of the fishing access will not impact forest land normal business operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site. [help]

There are no structures on the site.

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

No structures will be demolished.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [help]

General development 5

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

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

The Wynoochee River is classified as a shoreline of the state, and the side channel is a fish and wildlife habitat conservation area.

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 proposed.

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

The proposal will not change the existing or projected land use.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [help]

WDFW will work with Green Diamond to ensure forest operations are not impacted by the project.

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

None

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

None

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

None needed.

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]

No structures are proposed.

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

None.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [help]

None needed.

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]

The proposal will not produce light or glare.

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

The proposal will not produce light or glare.

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

None.

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

None needed.

12. **Recreation** [help]

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

The adjacent site has been used as a river access for fishing, but was closed to public access in 2015 by Green Diamond.

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

The project will provide fishing access at the site and will not displace any existing recreational uses.
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 proposed. The project will improve recreation at the site.

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? If so, specifically describe. [help]

There are no structures on or near 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 is no evidence of Indian historic use or occupation.

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 Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation database was searched and no sites were documented. Through the Forest Practice review process, tribal biologists have visited the site as well.

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]

Ground disturbance from the project will be minimal and will be limited to the footprint of the road and the parking area. If any cultural resources are discovered, work will stop immediately and tribal archaeologists will be contacted.

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]

The site will be served by Wynooche Valley Road. The project does not propose new access to the street system, as the site will be accessed by existing forest roads.

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

The site is not served by public transit. It is over 20 miles to the nearest transit stop.

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

The project will not eliminate parking and will add 10 parking spaces.
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]

The proposal will create a road located on private forest land. This road will be used by vehicles to access the Wynoochee River for fishing and forest management. No additional road improvements are anticipated beyond what is proposed for this project.

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

The project will not use or occur in the immediate vicinity of rail or air transportation. Recreational boat transportation would be available at the site.

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]

During construction, the project will generate up to 5 vehicular trips during daytime hours. During fishing season, primarily in the fall and winter, it is anticipated that up to 14 truck/boat trailers will access the site during daylight hours per day. Most will be shuttled down river to the take out site and not parked at the access parking lot. This anticipation is based on good fishing and river flows below 2,600 cfs. Fishing effort is significantly less when fishing is poor and the river becomes virtually unfishable above 2,600 cfs. This information is based on observations and discussions with the fishing public by WDFW staff that monitor the Wynoochee River fisheries.

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]

WDFW will work with Green Diamond to ensure that the project does not interfere with the movement of forest products in the area. Forest practice operations will take priority over fishing access.

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

Due to the very small nature of this project, it is not anticipated to have any significant transportation impacts.

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]

WDFW Enforcement will conduct regular patrols at the site to discourage illegal activity and unsafe practices.

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

No direct impacts to public services are anticipated for this project.

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 available at the 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]

A porta potty will be provided at the parking area.

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: [Signature]
Name of signee: Daane Kloempken
Position and Agency/Organization: Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Date Submitted: 8/20/17