

# **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*** [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:  
**Skagit Wiley Slough Spur Dike Repair**

2. Name of applicant:

**Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)**

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

**Stephanie Kuhns  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501  
(360)584-3841**

4. Date checklist prepared:

**2/3/2020**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife**

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

**Work can begin as early as July 2020, or when permits are issued. The project is expected to be completed within three seasons from July 1 – February 15 in any given year.**

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

**No**

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

**A wetland delineation has been completed.**

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.

**None are known at this time.**

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

**Anticipated permits include a USACE permit, Skagit County Shoreline Substantial Development permit, Skagit County Critical Areas Review, and a WDFW HPA**

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

**The purpose of this project is to complete repairs and structural maintenance of the spur dike at the Skagit Wildlife Area Headquarters Unit. The spur dike needs repair and maintenance in order to continue to serve its purpose as part of the drainage infrastructure of Dike District #22 (Fir Island, Skagit County) and as the main public access trail at the Headquarters Unit following the Wiley Slough Restoration project. Specifically, portions of the dike are undermining, cracking, and settling, causing concerns about its long-term integrity as well as the safety of those recreating and working on the area. The dike has also been overtopped in areas during extremely high tides and would likely be overtopped during a flood event.**

**Repairs will consist of raising the dike by up to 1.5 feet in several locations so that it is uniformly level. This will involve 2 inches of grading of existing dike top gravel road surface using a grader and then adding dike material and gravel to the dike top. In addition, the southeasterly side of the dike will receive quarry spalls for erosion protection. An excavator will remove any vegetation and dig a 1.5-foot-deep key way at the toe of the dike. Fabric and quarry spalls will be added.**

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.

**Address: 21961 Wylie Road, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273**

**The project is located in the northeast quadrant of Sections 25 and 26, Township 33N, Range 3E, Willamette Meridian, and includes portions of Skagit County parcel numbers P16110, P16113, P16115, P16117, P16120, P16122, P16123, and P16124 in Skagit County, Washington.**

**Directions: Exit 221 on I-5 West on Hwy 534 Approx. 3.5 mi to Fir Island Rd. Approx. 1.5 mi. left on Wiley Rd. to end.**

**B. Environmental Elements** [\[HELP\]](#)

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

a. General description of the site:

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

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

**The general area has little topographic variability. The dike slopes are approximately 2:1 slopes.**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

**This area is mostly Tacoma silt loam (drained), hydraquents (tidal), and Briscot fine sandy loam. These soils are all usually found on floodplains, deltas, and tidal flats. These types of soils are frequently flooded and are poorly drained from parent materials of mostly alluvium.**

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

**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.

**The dike will be repaired in areas where it has been eroded by freshwater. Where necessary, dike material consisting of fines and clays will be used to bring the dike to an even height. The top of the dike will then be covered with base coarse and top coarse materials. All materials will be sourced locally.**

Description	Area	Above OHW	Below OHW
Dike material	14,925 SF	830 CY	0 CY
Quarry spalls	19,825 SF	300 CY	800 CY

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

**It is possible some erosion would occur during repair and maintenance as overgrown vegetation may need to be removed. Any erosion would be temporary in nature and would be contained by appropriate BMPs, including straw wattles.**

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

**None**

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:  
**Erosion at the site is not expected.**

**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.

**Air emissions may increase slightly due to equipment, but these impacts will be temporary.**

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

**No emissions or odors will affect the proposal.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:  
**Standard emission control converters and mufflers will be used by maintenance vehicles and machines.**

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

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

**The site is located on the Headquarters Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area. This area has many sloughs and agricultural ditches that connect - primarily via tidegates - to the estuary of the Skagit River Delta. The sloughs and ditches remain freshwater while the larger sloughs that divide the island into sections are brackish depending on the tidal influences at given times. Wiley Slough is a freshwater slough that drains primarily farm fields in the area.**

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.

**Yes. The purpose of this project is to repair a dike that is being eroded by water. The dike runs along the waterways and crosses waterways at tidegates.**

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.

**No dredging will occur.**

**Fill:**

Description	Area	Above OHW	Below OHW
Dike material	14,925 SF	830 CY	0 CY

Quarry spalls	19,825 SF	300 CY	800 CY
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4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**Surface water withdrawals or diversions would not be necessary. All work would be completed at low tide.**

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

**The project is within the 100-year floodplain and is found on FEMA map number 5301510425C.**

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.

**There will be no discharge of waste materials to surface waters.**

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

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.

**No groundwater 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.

**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.

**Sources and amount of runoff will not be changed by this project. Therefore, no additional storm water measures are incorporated.**

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

**Waste materials should not be generated by the site.**

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

**Drainage patterns will not be altered, as the dike is already in place.**

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

**No additional measures are proposed.**

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

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

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

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

**Only vegetation that needs to be removed will be. This will be comprised of mainly low-growing cover plants, grasses, and rushes. Plants may be removed in the immediate footprint of the project.**

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

**No threatened or endangered species are known to occur 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:

**None.**

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

**Noxious weeds in the area include purple loosestrife, knotweed, reed canary grass, and spartina.**

## 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.

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.

**The gray wolf is federally listed in this area as endangered. The following species are listed as threatened: Oregon spotted frog, yellow-billed cuckoo, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, bull trout, grizzly bear, and Canada lynx. The brown pelican is in recovery status. All of these species are listed for the county the project is occurring in.**

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

**1) This area is part of the Pacific Flyway bird migration route**

**2) This area is also an important location for migration of both juvenile and adult salmon.**

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

**Mitigation for this project is proposed at more than a 1:1 ratio and would enhance wildlife by restoring habitat for salmonids and other wetland and estuarine wildlife.**

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

**Invasive animals in this area may include nutria and bullfrog.**

## **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.

**Not applicable**

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

**None**

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:

**None**

## **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.

**None**

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

**None**

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.

**None**

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.

**None**

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

**None**

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

**None**

### *b. Noise*

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

No noise will 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.

**On a short-term basis, machinery such as excavators would produce noise. These machines would operate during hours allowed by Skagit County.**

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

None

## **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.

**The surrounding land is within the estuary unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area. This is a public area. Adjacent properties are used for agriculture. No current land uses will be affected with exception of the closure of the dike during maintenance work.**

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?

**The area is not farmed for crop harvest.**

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:

**The proposal will not affect or be affected by surrounding business operations associated with farming or forestry.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**The site has a boat ramp and associated parking lot, vault toilets, and informational kiosk. A diking system with tidegates is nearby.**

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

**No structures will be demolished.**

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

**Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance**

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

**Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance**

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

**The Skagit County Shoreline Master Program designates this area as "Natural."**

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

**The area is considered a critical area due to the presence of wetlands and flood hazard areas.**



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

None

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

None

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

None

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

**The land is owned by WDFW and is open to the public. Repairing and maintaining the dike will allow for continued use of this area as a recreational opportunity and a habitat restoration area.**

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

None

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

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

None

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

None

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

None

### **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?

**No new structures are proposed. The dike that requires repairs will remain at approximately 12 feet about OHW.**

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

None

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

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?

None

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

No

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

None

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

None

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

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

Recreation opportunities include waterfowl hunting, fishing, dog walking and training, photography, and bird watching.

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

**No. The project proposal would not alter recreation activities. The dike and areas near it would be closed during maintenance, but once completed, would provide a safer user experience.**

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

**There will be no impacts on recreation once the project is complete.**

## 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.

**One previously reported archaeological site, a non-NRHP eligible segment of 1919 dike is within 1-mile of the current project.**

- 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.

**Three cultural resource surveys within 1-mile, pertaining to dike system in area: Rader 1998, Bush and Rowland 2011, Iversen 2012.**

- 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.

**Tribal consultation, DAHP consultation, previous cultural resource surveys.**

- 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.

**The current project as designed should not involve ground disturbance that would impact said possible sites and the Wiley Spur itself is of recent (<45 years of age) construction. Inadvertent discovery plan in place.**

## 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.

**No changes to the existing street system or method of access are proposed.**

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?

**The site is not served by public transit. The nearest bus stop is approximately six (6) miles away at the South Mount Vernon Park and Ride.**

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

**The proposed project does not add additional 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).

**No**

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

**The project would not occur in the vicinity of any of these.**

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?

**We do not anticipate the number of vehicular trips to increase**

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

**No**

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

**None**

### **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.

**No**

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

**None**

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

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

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

**None**

c. 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.

None

**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: Stephanie L Kuhns

Position and Agency/Organization: Permitting biologist, WDFW

Date Submitted: February 12, 2020