

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:

Revision Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Policy: "Columbia River Basin Salmon Management C-3620"

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Contact: Bill Tweit, Special Assistant (360-902-2723) and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fishery Manager (360-902-2808)

4. Date checklist prepared: September 10, 2020

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Intent is to modify existing policy and implement beginning during 2021 through the remainder of the policy (2023).

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

Yes, further discussions with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is expected to occur in order to maintain concurrency between the two states on regulations and discuss other matters (i.e., commercial fishery license reduction program, limiting number of recreational guides/charter licenses, and thermal angling sanctuaries). Additional work over time during the policy will continue to develop and implement alternative commercial fishing gear, increase hatchery and natural production goals, implement commercial fishery license reduction program, and maintain/enhance off-channel (Select Area) for commercial fisheries.

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

Revised DNS 12-084;

Comprehensive Evaluation of the Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620, 2013-2017:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02029>; and

Joint-State Committee and WA Workgroup meeting materials:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/columbia-river-policy-review>.

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.

There are no other decisions or approvals needed, the Commission decision is the only action.

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

No permits or government approvals are needed for this action.

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.)

Modify existing Policy C-3620 to a revised policy based on the adaptive management provision. Staff developed a five-year policy performance report during 2018 with stakeholder input. OR and WA Commissions created the Joint-State Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC) to make progress on concurrency, short-term, and long-term adjustments to the policy, which WA modified the interim policy in 2019. WA Commission created the Columbia River Fishery Policy Workgroup (CRW) to continue work as the PRC was suspended. The CRW developed a long-term policy recommendation (June 10, 2020) for the Commission to consider based on what has been learned through the policy review and both PRC and CRW analyses based on meeting conservation objectives, concurrency with Oregon, and maintain/enhance the economic well-being of both sport/commercial fisheries.

In short, the policy review concluded that “The large economic benefits for both commercial and recreational fisheries expected from the Policy were not observed during the implementation period. Commercial Select Area enhancements and alternative gear development have not replaced mainstem fisheries. Recreational fisheries have only seen marginal benefits to changes in allocations. The expectations in the development of the Policy were not met.” Conservation objectives are expected to continued to be met, and if/when additional mark-selective fisheries for sport and commercial fisheries are implemented, additional hatchery fish would be removed from the spawning grounds. Concurrency is a high priority for both states and is anticipated to be addressed through commission decisions, director delegation, and/or adaptive management as necessary. Staff analyses during both the PRC and CRW processes resulted in relatively minor reductions in angler trips for the recreational fishery and increased ex-vessel value for the commercial fishery.

The proposed changes compared to the existing Policy C3620 can be found in ‘Columbia River Policy Comparison attachment’. The proposed changes allow for flexibility of gears to be used (i.e., any zone/catch area downstream of Bonneville Dam) and time period, and provides flexibility on unused impacts by either the sport or commercial fishery. Spring Chinook allocation shifts from an 80% recreational/20% commercial to an abundance-based matrix approach (70%/30% average). Summer Chinook allocation shifts from an 80% recreational/20% commercial to an abundance-based matrix approach (70%/30% average) for fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam (above Priest Rapids Dam allocation remains unchanged). Abundance-based matrix is defined as an allocation tool that shifts the sharing of catch/impacts as run sizes increase or decreases, and as in this case increases recreational priority at lower run sizes. Fall Chinook allocation shifts from no more than 80% recreational/ no less than 20% commercial to an no more than 70% recreational/ no less than 30% commercial. Proposed changes compared to the existing Policy C3620 also increase the hatchery and natural production goals, limit recreational fishing guide/charter licenses discussion with Oregon, and conduct thermal angling sanctuaries discussion with Oregon. Though most of these topics/issues are addressed in other aspects of WDFW’s on-going work, Policy C-3620 proposed changes would no longer address logbook requirements for recreational fishing guides, sustainable commercial fishery certification, and predation on salmonids.

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.

Policy will impact fisheries in all portions of the Columbia mainstem from Chief Joseph Dam to the mouth, and in the Snake River mainstem from the Idaho border to the confluence. WA State counties that border the Columbia River that the policy provides guidance for include: Pacific County, Wahkiakum County, Cowlitz County, Clark County, Skamania County, Klickitat County, Benton County, Yakima County, Grant County, Kittitas County, Douglas County, Chelan County, Okanogan County, Franklin County, Whitman County, Columbia County, Garfield County, Asotin County.

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

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

a. General description of the site:

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

NA. Not site specific

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

NA

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.

NA

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

NA

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.

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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.

NA. Not site specific, no construction activities.

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

NA

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

NA

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.

NA. Not site specific. Policy guidance applies to the entire Washington portion of the Columbia and Snake River mainstems. No change from current policy.

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.

NA

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.

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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.

NA

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.

NA. Not site specific.

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.

NA

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.

NA. Not site specific.

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA. Not site specific.

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

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.

Fisheries for salmon and steelhead are addressed in the policy. No change from current policy.

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.

Salmon, Chinook Lower Columbia River ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Salmon, Chinook Snake River fall-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Salmon, Chinook Snake River spring/summer-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Salmon, Chinook Upper Columbia spring-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Salmon, chum Columbia R. (*Oncorhynchus keta*)

Salmon, coho Lower Columbia River ESU (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

Salmon, sockeye ESU (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)

Steelhead lower Columbia R. (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Steelhead middle Columbia R. (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Steelhead Snake R. Basin (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Steelhead upper Columbia R. Basin (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Pacific Eulachon (smelt) (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)

Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)

All fishery-related activities in the lower Columbia River (below Bonneville Dam) have been provided to NOAA Fisheries during consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NOAA Fisheries has provided a Biological Opinion that fisheries operated under the “U.S. v Oregon” Management Agreement” dated May 2018 meet the “no jeopardy” standard, and do not pose jeopardy to ESA-listed salmonids. All fishery activities would be consistent with current Endangered Species Act (ESA) guidelines and requirements, so no new permits or modifications to existing permits are needed. No change from current policy.

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

Yes, salmon return to the sites as adults on their upstream migration. Additionally, adult and juvenile anadromous fish pass through these areas from their natal waters. All of the salmon, steelhead, smelt and green sturgeon would migrate through the lower Columbia River, and all salmon and steelhead migrate from the mid to upper Columbia River. No change from current policy.

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

NA

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

NA, not site specific.

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.

NA, not site specific.

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

If so, generally describe.

NA, no.

d. 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:

NA

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.

NA, not site specific.

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

- 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.

- 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.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

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

b. Noise

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

NA, not site specific

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)?

Indi-

cate what hours noise would come from the site.

NA

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

NA

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.

NA, not site specific

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?

NA, not site specific

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:

No, NA.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

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

NA, not site specific

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

NA

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

NA

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?

NA, not site specific

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

NA

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

NA

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

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

NA, not site specific

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

NA

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

NA

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

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

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
Recreational fisheries for salmon and steelhead occur throughout the area affected by the policy. No change from current policy.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
Proposed policy revisions would decrease the allocations available to some recreational salmon fisheries, but would still maintain recreational priority for those species.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
Proposed policy revisions would decrease the allocations available to some recreational salmon fisheries, but would still maintain recreational priority for those species.

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.
NA, not site specific.
- f. 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.
NA
- 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.
NA
- 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.
NA

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.
NA, not site specific
- 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?
NA

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

NA

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).

NA

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

NA

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?

NA

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.

NA

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

NA

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.

NA, not site specific

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

NA

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

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

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

NA, not site specific

g. 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.

NA

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: Ryan Lothrop

Name of signee Ryan Lothrop

Position and Agency/Organization Columbia River Policy Coordinator/Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Date Submitted: September 10, 2020

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[HELP\]](#)

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

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

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

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

Proposed policy revisions are unlikely to change existing recreational and commercial fisheries to the degree that current discharges, emissions, and noise levels are significantly altered.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

Proposed policy revisions are unlikely to change existing recreational and commercial fisheries to the degree that current impacts will change.

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

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

Proposed policy revisions are unlikely to change existing recreational and commercial fisheries to the degree that levels of consumption of energy or natural resources will change.

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

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks,

wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

NA, change in allocation will not affect these.

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

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

Proposed policy revisions are unlikely to change existing recreational and commercial fisheries to the degree that current impacts will change.

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

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

Proposed policy revisions are unlikely to change existing recreational and commercial fisheries to the degree that current demands will change.

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

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

No conflict with any local, state or federal laws or requirements.