

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: [Lone Ranch Creek Fish Passage \(Day Creek Rd\)](#)
2. Name of applicant: [Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife](#)
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Sandy Dotts, WDFW, PO Box 350, Colville WA 99114; 509-690-7869;
Sandra.Dotts@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared: December 15, 2020
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): Construction will occur between July 1 and September 30 of the years 2021, 2022, 2023 or 2024
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.

WDFW is implementing this project with grant funding from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under federal Good Neighbor Authority. The project occurs on Ferry County ROW with BLM as the underlying landowner. With this federal nexus, BLM undertook environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and issued a Record of Decision in 2016. These documents were used to prepare the SEPA Checklist. The documents are available upon request. WDFW is the SEPA lead agency.

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. No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
Hydraulic Project Approval, WDFW
Section 401 Clean Water Act, Ecology
Section 404, Clean Water Act, Army Corps of Engineers

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.)

This project will improve fish passage for Kettle River fluvial redband trout and other fish species by correcting a barrier on Lone Ranch Creek, a tributary stream. The existing crossing structure is one 4 ft. diameter culvert that does not provide for fish passage due to outfall drop and slope. The culvert is undersized, susceptible to failure at high flow, and has overtopped numerous times in the last five years. The new crossing will be a 20 ft x 50 ft bridge with pre-cast footings. The new crossing will provide fish passage for all species and life stages of fish by allowing natural stream processes, such as wood and sediment transport, flood flow conveyance, low flow continuity, and margin habitat, present in the adjacent channel to occur through the new crossing structure.

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.

Project is located in Ferry County on Day Creek Road at the crossing of Lone Ranch Creek, approximately one mile south of Danville, Washington
Township 40N, Range 34E, Section 9, SE ¼, WM
48.976664, -118.509289
See attached plans for additional location information.

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

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

a. General description of the site:

A geotechnical evaluation of the site was undertaken in 2018 by Aspect Consulting (attached).

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

Gently sloped, north-south oriented gravel-surfaced roadway bordered east-west by forested land that locally slopes toward creek at an angle of 3V:1H

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

Unknown

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.

Glacial outwash and glacial till (see geotechnical report for more details)

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.

- Approx. 600 cubic yards of existing fill material will be excavated from existing culvert crossing/road prism
- Approx. 200 cubic yards of streambed material will be imported to establish/adjust the stream profile within and downstream of the new crossing structure
- Approx. 100 cubic yards of imported crushed rock/gravel will be used to bed the footings of the new bridge
- Approx. 120 cubic yards of imported rip rap will be installed for footing protection
- Approx. 35 cubic yards of imported crushed rock will be installed for road surfacing
- 2 -4 logs will be installed within the stream channel to provide habitat complexity
- Backfill material for around the walls of the culvert and to reestablish the road prism will come from material excavated from existing crossing.

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

Minor erosion is typical of all construction projects if rain/snow occurs during construction. See 1h below for description of BMPs to mitigate erosion.

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

The only impervious surface will be the bridge itself which measures 20 ft x 50 ft

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: Fish life and water quality will be protected during construction by isolating the work area using a temporary stream bypass to reroute the entire stream. Fish will be excluded from entering the work area using nets. Construction within the streambed will be accomplished as quickly as possible. Large woody debris is incorporated into the design to help stabilize the new streambed and provide habitat structure. All areas disturbed by construction will be restored by eradicating invasive plants, revegetating by planting native trees/shrubs, and stabilizing slopes against erosion by seeding and mulching.

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.

Minor amounts of dust will be created during excavation and fill.

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

No

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

NONE

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.

Lone Ranch Creek, a tributary to the Kettle River

- 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. A 4 ft diameter culvert currently conveying flow of Lone Ranch Creek will be replaced with a 20 ft x 50 ft steel bridge with pre-cast concrete footings.

- 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.

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- Approx. 200 cubic yards of streambed material will be imported to establish/adjust the stream profile within and downstream of the new crossing structure
- Approx. 100 cubic yards of imported crushed rock/gravel will be used to bed the footings of the new bridge
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- Approx. 35 cubic yards of imported crushed rock will be installed for road surfacing
- 2 -4 logs will be installed within the stream channel to provide habitat complexity
- Backfill material for around the walls of the culvert and to reestablish the road prism will come from material excavated from existing crossing.

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

Lone Ranch Creek will be temporarily diverted around the work area of protect fish life and reduce water quality impacts. Details of the proposed diversion are provide in the attached design drawings.

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

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.

No

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

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.

NONE

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.

Any waste water generated (such as minor pumping associated with steam diversion) will be pumped to an upland area away from the stream.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. No waste material will be generated that could enter ground/surface waters

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

The current culvert crossing does not allow for adequate conveyance of Lone Ranch Creek at high flows. As a result, the stream has overtopped Day Creek Road on numerous occasions in recent years. The new bridge will have enough capacity to pass a 100-year flow with 3 ft of additional freeboard to pass associated debris and bedload. This project will result in a benefit to the drainage patterns of Lone Ranch Creek.

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

None

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?

Two to three conifer trees will be removed to facilitate construction. These trees will be installed downstream of the crossing as in-stream large wood debris.

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

The following is a summary of ESA species analyzed in the the "Republic Forest Health Project Environmental Assessment (EA)", finding of no significant impact, and Decision Record for details (BLM 2016):

Yellow-billed cuckoo – The project area does not include areas of cottonwood/willow habitat >25 acres and the species is not expected to occur in the project area. Therefore, no effects to the habitat or

populations is expected from the project.

Grizzly bear – The project area does not contain critical habitat for grizzly bear recovery, and the species is not known to regularly occur in the area, no effects to habitat and local population of grizzly bears are expected from the project.

Canada lynx – The treatment area is not located with a LAU and is not suitable lynx habitat. No lynx habitat will be affected and this project will have no effect on lynx.

Bull trout – The project lies within the historic range of the species; however bull trout are currently extirpated due to the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams and a natural passage barrier (Cascade Falls on the Kettle River near the Canadian border) that precludes access to the project area. The project area does not contain any designated critical habitat and bull trout have not been identified in the project area and are not considered present by WDFW. No downstream impacts to bull trout habitat will occur from this project.

Plants – No federally listed or candidate plant species occur within the project area.

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

Upon completion of construction, all disturbed areas will be seeded with native grasses and planted with native shrubs/trees to replace those lost during construction.

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

There are no noxious weeds/invasive species known to be on/near site.

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 _____

Redband trout, brook trout, Columbia spotted frog, passerine birds, white-tailed and mule deer

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

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Falls on the Kettle River near the Canadian border) that precludes access to the project area. The project area does not contain any designated critical habitat and bull trout have not been identified in the project area and are not considered present by WDFW. No downstream impacts to bull trout habitat will occur from this project.

Plants – No federally listed or candidate plant species occur within the project area.

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

Once the new bridge is in place, it is anticipated that adfluvial redband trout from the Kettle River will migrate through the site to spawn.

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

The project will restore passage for all species and life stages of aquatic organisms.

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

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.

None

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

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:

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.

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

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.

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.

Gas and diesel will be used to fuel equipment during construction.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None

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

Equipment will be checked daily for leaks and any required repairs will be conducted in an upland location before using the equipment in or near the water.

b. Noise

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

Typical construction noise from the operation of equipment will be generated.

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.

All noise generated above background levels will be short-term only and will occur during daylight hours.

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 site is currently used as a Ferry County road and will remain so after construction.

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 site is forested land managed by the BLM. No forest land will be converted to other uses as a result of this project.

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:

Traffic to Day Creek will be temporarily detoured via Day Creek Road/Boulder Pass.

c. Describe any structures on the site. A 4ft corrugated steel culvert is the only structure on site.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
The 4 ft culvert will be demolished during construction.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Ferry County does not have zoning

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Public lands & mineral land of long term commercial significance

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Lone Ranch Creek is not designated as a Shoreline of the State under the Ferry County shoreline master program

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
Streams and their associated riparian area are designated as Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas under the Ferry County Critical Areas Ordinance.

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:
Not applicable

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
Not applicable

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

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

None, not applicable

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

None, not applicable

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

None, not applicable

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?

3 ft, steel

- 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, not applicable

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

None, not applicable

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

None, not applicable

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

None, not applicable

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

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

None

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

No

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

None, not applicable

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.

There would be no adverse impacts to cultural resources identified in the Republic Forest Health project area. Consultation with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation was completed on July 20, 2015, when they concurred with BLM's finding that no adverse effect would occur to historic properties.

- 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.

There would be no adverse impacts to cultural resources identified in the Republic Forest Health project area. Consultation with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation was completed on July 20, 2015, when they concurred with BLM's finding that no adverse effect would occur to historic properties.

- 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.

Consultation with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation was completed on July 20, 2015, when they concurred with BLM's finding that no adverse effect would occur to historic properties.

- 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.

None, not applicable

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.

Day Creek Road is a county road that connects Lone Ranch Creek Road and Deer Creek Road/Boulder Pass. Day Creek Road is used to access Hulburt Road and various unimproved forest roads on private, state and federal property.

- 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?

No public transit

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

No parking spaces will be created or eliminated

- 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).

Day Creek Road (public) in the project vicinity will be improved by removing the existing culvert, replacing it with a bridge, and resurfacing the road surface.

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

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?

The project would result in no changes to vehicular trips on Day Creek Road.

- 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.

Forest and agricultural traffic will be temporarily detoured to Day Creek Road via Deer Creek Road/Boulder Pass.

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

Construction will be conducted as quickly as possible to reduce the duration of detour necessary.

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.

Not applicable

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

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

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

There are no utilities within the construction area.

- 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.

No new utilities are proposed

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: Sandy Dotts

Position and Agency/Organization [Habitat Biologist, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife](#)

Date Submitted: 12/15/2020