

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:

Stocking Grass Carp in Small Ponds Statewide (“Small Pond SEPA”)

2. Name of applicant:

Stephen Caromile, Inland Fish Program Manager

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

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501
(360)902-8315**

4. Date checklist prepared:

March 18, 2022

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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

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

Yes. Some projects may need to re-stock, after a minimum of five years, due to predation or natural mortality. Restocking would not likely require a new SEPA determination but would need to go through a new planting application process.

We may adjust these guidelines in the future if it is felt that they do not provide adequate environmental protection. We will do SEPA review, if appropriate, for any adjustments or changes.

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

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.

As this proposal is not site specific, it is unknown if there are other proposals affecting project locations.

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

- a. **Stocking permit from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for individual proposals.**
- b. **Certificate from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the fish shipped are triploids (sterile) and certification that the fish show no sign of disease for individual**

proposals.

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.)

WDFW proposes to allow for a streamlined application process to stock triploid Grass Carp *Ctenophryngodon idella* for applicants whose water bodies meet certain criteria.

This proposal would generically analyze in a single threshold determination Grass Carp stocking applications for small backyard ponds and golf course ponds that meet certain “Small Pond” criteria as set forth below. These applications are similar because, when limited to the Small Pond criteria below, they have common aspects that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental impacts together. Relevant similarities include common impacts, methods of implementation, environmental media, and subject matter. For Grass Carp stocking applications that do not meet the “Small Pond” criteria, or that are determined to have a probable significant adverse environmental impact, WDFW will prepare a separate, individual SEPA determination.

Upon application approval, triploid Grass Carp could be stocked into small backyard ponds and golf course ponds that are not located adjacent to floodplains and are not adjacent to or connected to lakes or streams. The “Small Pond” criteria for the appropriate use of grass carp under this determination include:

1. State waters on private lands
 - a. Golf courses or
 - b. Single owner/single parcel, or
 - c. Documented unanimous vote from home-owners association
 - d. May be constructed or natural ponds
 - e. Stable soil types, i.e., not in areas that are subject to slides that would displace stocked fish
 - f. Other waters not meeting these requirements can still go through normal (individual) SEPA process to obtain an individual SEPA determination
2. Screening
 - a. When site visit confirms that no screening is required,
 - b. When site visit confirms that screening that meets WDFW standards is already in place, or
 - c. When applicant installs screening that meets WDFW standards after a site visit and is subsequently verified by WDFW staff.
3. Surface water
 - a. No surface water connection
 - b. No outlet or seasonal overflow
 - i. except when appropriately blocked or screened and verified or
 - ii. overflow cannot go to stream or other water body.
4. Must be outside of 100-year flood plain
 - a. But can still go through normal (individual) SEPA process for others within floodplain.
5. Site visits are not required by WDFW Policy 5103 but are usually conducted to confirm presence of outlets and screening and native species present. Site visits will be even more important when using the Small Pond SEPA.

6. Threatened, Endangered, or Species of Concern:
 - a. No planting of Grass Carp where there would be probable significant adverse environmental impact, including impact to any federal or state threatened, endangered, or species of concern.
 - b. If there are any listed species present, an individual SEPA determination is required.

Upon receiving an application to stock Grass Carp, including a completed SEPA Environmental Checklist for planting Grass Carp, Fish Program staff would be able to either use the Small Pond SEPA, or request an individual SEPA determination if the location does not clearly meet the specific parameters in the Small Pond criteria above.

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.

This proposal is to stock Grass Carp in certain freshwater waterbody types, as described above, statewide.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site:

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

Depends on site location. Most ponds where Grass Carp may be stocked under this proposal are on flat or within slightly rolling areas. These types of areas are more prone to slower water movement, sedimentation deposition, and nutrient rich soils which increase plant growth.

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

Depends on site location.

- 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.

Depends on site location. But, most lakes and ponds that have an abundant vegetation problem will be shallow, with a peat or muck layer that is high in organic compounds that cause excessive plant growth.

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

Depends on site location. Most ponds where Grass Carp may be stocked under this proposal are on flat or within slightly rolling areas that are stable. But as stated in the Small Pond criteria in Section A.11, this SEPA determination will not be used to stock Grass Carp in waters that are surrounded by unstable soil berms, or where surrounding slides can displace these fish into other bodies of water.

- 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.

Depends on site location. Some ponds where Grass Carp may be stocked under this proposal are previously-excavated, artificial ponds. No additional excavation or fill is needed to plant Grass Carp. Water bodies that are currently being filled or excavated will have no need for Grass Carp to control aquatic vegetation.

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

No erosion will occur as a result of stocking Grass Carp.

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

No change in impervious surfaces will occur as a result of stocking Grass Carp.

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

None.

2. Air

- 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.

Normal vehicle emissions from the employee site visit and the initial delivery of the Grass Carp.

- 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:

Does not apply to this proposal.

3. Water

- 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.

Yes, this proposal is to stock Grass Carp into certain types of small, disconnected waterbodies that are on private property, and are year-round freshwater ponds or lakes.

- 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.

The work is to stock Grass Carp into water bodies; no other work will occur.

- 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.

None.

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

No.

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

Ponds where Grass Carp may be stocked under this proposal must not lie within 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.

No.

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

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.

None.

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

No.

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

No.

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

Does not apply to this proposal.

4. *Plants*

- 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?

Depends upon project location, but the purpose of stocking Grass Carp is to help control overabundant aquatic macrophytes, both native and non-native.

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

Depends upon project location, but as stated in the Small Pond criteria in Section A.11, this SEPA determination will not be used to stock Grass Carp in waters where they could impact any plant species that are threatened, endangered or of special concern.

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

No landscaping is included in this proposal to stock Grass Carp.

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

Depends upon project location, but the purpose of stocking Grass Carp is to help control overabundant aquatic macrophytes, both native and non-native.

5. Animals

- 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 _____

Depends upon project location.

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

Depends upon project location, but as stated in the Small Pond criteria in Section A.11, the proposal does not include stocking Grass Carp in waters where they could impact any animal species that are threatened, endangered or of special concern.

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

Depends upon project location.

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

None.

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

Depends upon project location.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- 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.

Does not apply to this proposal.

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

Does not apply to this proposal.

- 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:

Does not apply to this proposal.

7. Environmental Health

- 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.

No.

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

Depends on location, but possibly fertilizer or pesticide/herbicide residue.

- 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)?

None.

- 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.

None.

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

None.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- 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.

Current project locations include certain water bodies on residential, agricultural, and recreational lands. Stocking Grass Carp will not change the current land use.

- 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?

Depends upon project location. No conversions will occur.

- 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.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Depends upon project location.

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

No structures will be demolished as a result of stocking Grass Carp.

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

Depends upon project location.

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

Depends upon project location.

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

Depends upon project location.

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

Depends upon project location.

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

Depends upon project location.

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:

Depends upon project location.

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

None.

9. *Housing*

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:

Does not apply to this proposal.

10. *Aesthetics*

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

This proposal is not proposing the construction of any structure.

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

Does not apply to this proposal.

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

Depends upon project location.

11. *Light and Glare*

- 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?

Does not apply to this proposal.

- 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*

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

Depends upon project location.

- 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:

Does not apply to this proposal.

13. *Historic and cultural preservation*

- 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.

Depends upon project location.

- 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.

Depends upon project location.

- 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.

None. Stocking Grass Carp will not impact cultural or historic resources.

- 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. Stocking Grass Carp will not impact cultural or historic resources.

14. Transportation

- 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.

Depends upon project location.

- 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?

Depends upon project location.

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

None.

- 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.

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?

One or two vehicle trips for staff to perform a site visit, and one vehicle trip to stock the Grass Carp.

- 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

- 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

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other _____

Depends upon project location.

- 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.

Does not apply to this proposal.

C. Signature

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:

Steve Caromile
Inland Fish Program Manager
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Date Submitted: March 31, 2022