

# 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:

**Simcoe 5 Boundary Fencing Project**

2. Name of applicant:

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

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

**Sara Kuhn; 360-819-3886; [sara.kuhn@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:sara.kuhn@dfw.wa.gov); 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501**

4. Date checklist prepared:

**April 13, 2022**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**WDFW**

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

**Summer 2022**

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

**Not at this time**

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

**SEPA checklist is the only environmental permit required for this project**

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**

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

**None needed**

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 proposes to install boundary fencing along a new land acquisition within the Simcoe Mountains in Klickitat Wildlife Area. Approximately 1.84 miles of fence will be installed, including 4 stream crossings, 5 access gates and 19 end or corner posts. The fence will be installed in three sections. The fence will be constructed of steel t-posts and barbed wire at a height of 4.5 feet tall. T-posts will be spaced 12 feet apart and all fencing will clear span the streams.**

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.

**Fencing will be placed within the newly acquired Unit 5 within the Simcoe Mountains, Klickitat Wildlife Area (Parcel # 05181400000200). This Wildlife Area is located in Klickitat County,**

approximately 8 miles west of Bickleton, Washington. The project is located in township 5N, range 18 E, Sections 10, 15, 16, and 17.

## **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)?

**20%**

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.

**According to NRCS Web Soil Survey, the soils are Itat cobbly loam (5-45% slopes), Rockly-Kiakus complex (2-8% slopes). These soils are both well-drained. The parent material of Itat cobbly loam is primarily basalt and alluvium and this soil forms on hillslopes. The parent material of Rockly-Kiakus complex is primarily basalt and volcanic ash and this soil complex forms on plateaus.**

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.

**No grading would take place as a result of this project. The only excavation or grading associated with this project would be the digging of 3” holes approximately 6” deep to place galvanized steel fence posts and the placement of tapered concrete post footings at corner or stretch braces and at the end of the fence or gate braces.**

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

**Erosion is unlikely to occur due to the minimal impacts associated with construction.**

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

**This project would not result in any new impervious surfaces.**

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

**Standard erosion control BMPs would be implemented in order to reduce or control erosion.**

**Additionally, fence pickets will be installed 1 foot above the Ordinary High Water Mark in order to prevent erosion at the 4 stream crossings.**

### **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 associated with construction equipment would increase for the duration of project work. These air emissions would return to normal levels upon completion of the project.**

**Additionally, since the scope of this project is minimal in nature, it is not anticipated that heavy machinery will be utilized beyond a minimal extent.**

- 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:

**Standard emission control converters and mufflers will be used by construction equipment and vehicles.**

### **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.

**This fencing project will cross 4 freshwater perennial streams, which are all tributaries of Rock Creek and Quartz Creek.**

- 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 fencing will cross 4 streams, however no posts will be placed below the Ordinary High Water Line.**

- 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 fill or dredge material would be placed in or removed from surface waters or wetlands.**

- 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.

**No**

- 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.

**This project won't generate any stormwater runoff**

- 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.

**The proposal wouldn't alter or affect any drainage patterns**

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

**Pickets installed near the stream shall be placed at least one foot above the Ordinary High Water Line. These pickets will be made of untreated lumber and all cables will be fiber core galvanized cable in order to prevent chemical runoff into the stream.**

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

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

\_X\_deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

\_X\_evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

\_shrubs

\_X\_grass

\_pasture

- \_\_\_\_ crop or grain
- \_\_\_\_ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
- \_\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- \_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- \_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

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

**No vegetation will be removed or altered**

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

**The IPaC list for Klickitat County includes gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). According to the WDFW Potential Habitats and Species (PHS) database, this project area overlaps a habitat occurrence of gray wolf as well as golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), which is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.**

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.

**None**

## 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 IPaC list for Klickitat County includes gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). According to the WDFW Potential Habitats and Species (PHS) database, this project area overlaps a habitat occurrence of gray wolf as well as golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), which is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.**

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

**This site is not designated as part of a migration route**

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.

**None**

## **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.

**The machinery that will be used in the construction will require use of diesel fuel to complete the work.**

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**

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 should be required**

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:  
**Should any heavy machinery be used, fueling of vehicles and machinery shall be completed upland and away from the water body to prevent any source of fuel from entering surface waters. A spill kit will be available on site in the event of an accidental spill**

b. Noise

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

**There are no noises generated in the surrounding area that would affect this 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.

**Construction noise would occur during the hours of 7am to 5pm.**

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

**No measures are proposed, as this project is in an isolated area and increased noise associated with the project is expected to be of short duration.**

**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.

**Simcoe Unit 5 is a newly acquired parcel of land that has been added to the Klickitat Wildlife Area. This area and the adjacent properties were formerly used as working forest and rangeland, and within the wildlife area it is utilized for conservation and recreation purposes. This proposal will not affect current land uses.**

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?

**Yes, this site was utilized as working forest and rangeland prior to its acquisition by WDFW as part of the Klickitat Wildlife Area. This proposal would not convert this land to other uses, as the acquisition of Simcoe Unit 5 has already occurred. This proposal would just install fencing around these new areas.**

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, this project would not affect or be affected by the normal operations of surrounding farm or forest land.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**There are no structures currently on site except.**

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

**No structures will be demolished.**

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

**General Rural**



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

**General Rural**

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

**None**

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

**No areas of the site have been designated as a critical area**

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

**This is a fencing project, so no people would reside in the area. However, WDFW staff would maintain and work around this project site.**

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

**This project wouldn't displace anyone**

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

**N/A**

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

**The proposed project does not substantially change the use of this Wildlife Area. This project is very minimal in nature and would not result in significant impacts to the land or surrounding resources. Fencing this area of land will allow WDFW to manage and preserve this land in accordance with the goals of the Wildlife Area. Therefore, the proposed project is compatible with existing and project land use of the site.**

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

**There are no impacts associated with agricultural or forest lands associated with the proposed project.**

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

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

**This project does not involve the creation of housing**

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

**This project would not eliminate any housing units**

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

**There are no proposed measures, as there would be no housing impacts associated with this project.**

## **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?

**The fence would be 4.5' in height and would be constructed out of steel t-posts, smooth twist wire, barbed wire, and lumber**

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

**No views would be altered or obstructed**

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

**None required**

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

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

**This project will not produce any light or glare**

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

**No, this project would not result in a safety hazard associated with light or glare**

- 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 proposed**

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

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

**The Simcoe Mountains Unit within the Klickitat Wildlife Area allows camping east of Box Spring Road.**

- 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:

**This project would not result in any impacts to recreation**

### **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.

**No previously recorded historic structures or buildings over 45 years of age within project area or within 1-mile (1.6 km) of project area.**

- c. 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.

**Pre contact archaeological sites 45KL1832, 45KL2129, 45KL258 and 45KL259 are within 1-mile (1.6km) of the proposed project. No previously identified archaeological sites are within the project area of potential impact.**

**Consultation under Executive Order 21-02 with affected tribes and a cultural resource survey are being conducted to identify potential cultural resources in the project area.**

- 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 affected tribes and DAHP, examination of historic maps and GIS records, and a cultural resource survey will be conducted.**

- 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.

**In addition to recommendations based on cultural resource survey results, the WDFW inadvertent discovery plan will be in place. Any identified additional cultural resources will result in a stop work order for that segment of fence line and continued consultation with the tribe, as per the WDFW IDP.**

#### **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.

**The Simcoe Mountains Unit is located in eastern Klickitat County, north of the Bickleton Highway and west of the community of Cleveland. It can be accessed from Box Spring Road off of Bickleton Highway.**

- 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, there is no public transit leading to the site. The nearest transit stop is in Goldendale.**

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

**This project would not create or eliminate 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).

**This proposal would not require any improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities.**

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

**This project would not use or occur within the immediate vicinity of water, rail, or air transportation.**

- 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?

**This project is not expected to increase any vehicular trips, as it is designed for better management of the wildlife area by WDFW staff and is not likely to affect the public's use of the site.**

- 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.

**This proposal will not interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products.**

- 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, this project would not result in an increased need for public services.**

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

**This project would not impact public services; therefore, no measures have been proposed.**

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

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

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

**No utilities are currently available at the site**

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

**No utilities are proposed for the project**

**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:     *Sara M Kuhn*    

Name of signee     Sara Kuhn    

Position and Agency/Organization     Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife    

Date Submitted:     4/13/2022