

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:

SRKW Voights Creek Hatchery Modifications

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

Alexandra Laughtin; (360) 819-3776, alexandra.laughtin@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

9/28/2022

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Construction between April 2023-January 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 known future additions or expansions are planned at this time.

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

A wetland delineation was performed and mapped in January 2022.

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 government approvals are pending at this time.

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

None known at this time.

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

The project consists of the addition of four 10'x100' rearing raceways, a partial recirculating aquaculture system (PRAS), expansion of the pre-fab metal building feed storage building (243sf), and hatchery building (588sf). The purpose of the project is to increase Chinook production by one million fish as part of the SRKW initiative. The project will increase the water usage of the hatchery by 1200-2400 GPM under its current water right. All work to be done as a result of this project remains in the existing asphalt footprint of the facility. Excavation will occur to allow placement of new raceways, predation netting removal and installation, as well as concrete vaults for PRAS system. It is anticipated that there will be no additional traffic volumes as a result of this project, nor changes to utilities.

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.

The project is located on the Voights Creek Hatchery at 18801 Voight Meadows Rd E, Orting, WA 98360; Section 04 Township 18 Range 05 Quarter 12. See attached vicinity map. Pierce County

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)?

0-3% slope

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.

Soils are classified as Orting Loam – a somewhat poorly drained sandy clay loam that is classified as prime farmland. Work will occur on previously disturbed or paved surfaces and will not remove prime agriculture soils.

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

No surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The purpose of excavation and fill for this project is to reach desired elevations for the additional raceways, building foundations and piping to ensure correct operation and safety of the hatchery. The total area of excavation and/or fill is approximately 9000 square feet. The estimated quantity of excavated material is 2085 cyd and the estimated quantity of fill is 1091 cyd. The final grading will match the existing grading with the exception of a vault for the PRAS that is part of the four additional raceways. All fill used on the site will be native fill where possible and other fill will be concrete and aggregate for foundations.

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

No erosion is likely to occur as a result of construction. All construction will occur on previously paved surfaces and will remain paved/developed after construction.

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

No additional impervious surfaces will be added to the site as a result of the project.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
A full construction SWPP will be implemented for the project to implement the necessary BMPs.

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.

Emissions from equipment during construction are likely to occur. There will be no additional emissions after construction as a result of this project.

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

No off-site sources of emissions or odors are known at this time.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
No measures are proposed or needed for this project.

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.

Yes, Voights Creek lies to the northwest of the project area, Coplar Creek flows into Voights Creek to the North East of the project, and wetlands have been mapped adjacent to the property (see attached). The project will occur more than 200 ft away from either 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.

No work will occur over or in the waters described above. Work will occur adjacent to mapped wetlands; however, all work will occur on previously disturbed surfaces.

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 will occur in any surface water or wetland for this project.

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

The proposal will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

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

The proposal does not lie within a 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, this project will not involve the discharge of waste materials into surface waters.

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

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

No groundwater will be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or any other purposes.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground.

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.

The proposal will not change or increase runoff, collection, or disposal of water or stormwater.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.
Waste material will be filtered out of hatchery effluent before water enters Voights Creek.

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

The proposal will not affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of this site.

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

No impacts or runoff will occur as a result of this project.

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?

No vegetation will be removed or altered as a result of construction or this project.

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

No listed threatened or endangered plant species occur on the vicinity of this site.

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

No landscaping is proposed as a result of this proposal.

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

Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

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 Bull trout

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

USFWS IPaC lists marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), streak horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) as threatened; North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) as proposed threatened; and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas Editha taylori*) as endangered.

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

The proposed site lies within the migration routes of five bird species; however, the site does not provide resting or feeding habitat for any of the species.

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

No measures are proposed to preserve or enhance wildlife as this project will not be disturbing native ground.

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

No invasive animals are known to be on this site.

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.

Electric energy currently exists for the hatchery. The project would increase electric energy need in the new proposed raceways and hatchery buildings.

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

The proposed project would not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

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:

LED lighting will be utilized where possible for the project.

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.

Fuel spills or vehicle/machinery leaks are possible. The risk of a spill or leak is not likely and spill kits are available at the project site if a spill should occur. Fueling of vehicles and machinery is completed upland and away from the water body. No work will occur below the ordinary high water mark of Voights Creek.

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

There is no known or possible contamination of 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.

There are no known hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect the project development and design.

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.

Formalin is currently stored and used in the hatchery building, but will not be used during construction of this project.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services will be required for construction of this project.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
Fueing of vehicles and machinery is completed upland, away from any waterbody to prevent fuel from entering surface waters. Standard BMPs will be in place to prevent any possible environmental hazards.

b. Noise

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

Traffic, equipment, running water, hatchery operations

- 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 will be created on a short term basis through construction of the project. The project will not increase the ambient noise level currently produced by the hatchery after construction.

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

Standard BMPs will be followed to reduce noise impacts during construction; including, but not limited to, time of day work windows, and no work at night.

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.

This site is used as a state-run hatchery facility. A residential development is present west of the hatchery; the north, south, and east properties are undeveloped or rural residential. The proposal will not affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

- 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?

This project site is an aquaculture site with no working farmlands or forest lands.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

The project will not affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest operations.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

The current site includes ten 10' x 100' raceways, three 20' x 120' adult ponds, hatchery office and garage, feed storage building, incubation building, hatchery building, and a pollution abatement settling pond.

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

No structures will be demolished as part of the proposed project.

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

Agricultural Resource Land

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

Rural Unincorporated

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

High Intensity, Conservancy

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

Yes, Voights Creek and Coplar Creek northwest and northeast of the site, respectively. The site also contain unconfirmed wetlands to the north, south, and east.

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

Three to five hatchery personel work year-round at the site.

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

None. The completed project is an expansion of the hatchery facility and operations and would not displace anyone.

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

None. Standard BMPs will be implemented.

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

None. The proposed project will not change current land uses or plans.

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

None. The proposed project would no impact agricultural or forest lands.

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

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

No housing units are proposed as part of this project.

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

No housing units would be eliminated as a part of this project.

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

No housing impacts would occur as a part of 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?

18ft is the tallest proposed structure of the project. Exterior building material are proposed to be metal.

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

No views in the immediate vicinity would be obstructed.

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

No impacts would occur to aesthetics; therefore, no measures are proposed.

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

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

The constructed project will not produce any additional light or glare.

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

Light or glare from the finished project would not cause a safety hazard or interfere with views.

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

No existing off-site sources of light or glare would affect the proposed project.

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

No specific measures are proposed. Standard BMPs will be implemented to control potential light and glare impacts.

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

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

Fishing on Voights Creek and Coplar Creek, public access to the Voights Creek Fish hatchery.

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

The proposed project would not displace any existing recreational uses.

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

No specific measures are proposed. Standard BMP's will be implemented to control any impacts on 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 buildings, structures, or sites that are over 45 years old and listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers are recorded on or near the proposed project area.

- 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.

No landmarks, features, artifacts, or other material evidence of Native American or historic use or occupation has been identified within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area. Three cultural resource assessments were completed at or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area in preparation for past hatchery improvement, demolition, and new construction projects (Emerson and McKenney 2008; Ives and Emerson 2012; McKenney and Sevens 2013). The 2008 assessment included a preliminary built environment assessment of the existing Voight's Creek Hatchery Facilities located at the historic location of the hatchery north of Voight's Creek and State Route 162; no cultural resources eligible or potentially eligible for local, state, or national preservation register listing were identified within their investigation area (Emerson and McKenney 2008). In 2012, a cultural resources assessment, including a built environment survey and an archaeological survey involving subsurface testing, was conducted at the proposed location of the new DFW Voight's Creek Fish Hatchery, south of Voight's Creek and State Route 162 (Ives and Emerson 2012). No archaeological or historic built environment resources were identified at the new hatchery location during the 2012 investigations. In 2013, a supplemental cultural resources assessment was conducted to support the Voight's Creek Hatchery Improvements Project; this investigation examined additional areas in the vicinity of the historical hatchery facilities and the new hatchery location that were not previously assessed during the 2008 and 2012 investigations (McKenney and Stevens 2013). No cultural resources were identified during the 2013 supplemental investigations.

- 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.

In October 2022, a DFW Archaeologist (Ross Smith) reviewed all available archaeological and historical built environment documentation maintained by the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) from within one mile of the proposed project area. Three cultural resources assessments have been completed within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project area (Emerson and McKenney 2008; Ives and Emerson 2012; McKenney and Sevens 2013); none of these investigations identified archaeological or historic built environment structures, features, or artifacts within or adjacent to the Voight's Creek Hatchery facilities.

During their review of the proposed project, a DFW Archaeologist (Ross Smith) distributed requests to initiate consultation to seven tribes. If no concerns are identified during outreach to or formal consultation with the tribes, DFW is prepared to submit a recommended finding of No Adverse Impacts for the proposed project to DAHP.

- 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.

If no cultural resource concerns are identified during consultation with tribes or DAHP, DFW will prepare a project-specific Inadvertent Discovery Plan for the proposed project and will provide an cultural resource orientation for hatchery and construction personnel involved in the development of the new facilities in the proposed project area.

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 site is adjacent to state highway 162/Pioneer Rd E; the site will be accessed from hwy 162 via Voight Meadows Rd. No temporary access in native soil will be needed.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The site is not currently served by 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?

The proposed project will not increase or decrease parking at this facility.

- 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).

The proposed project will not require any new or improvements to any 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.

The project will not use or occur in 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?

The project is not expected to increase vehicular traffic after completion.

- 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.

The project will not affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural or forest products on the road.

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

No specific measures are proposed at this time. Standard BMP's will be implemented to control transportation impacts.

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.

There would not be an increased need for public services.

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

No specific measures are proposed.

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

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

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

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.

The existing electricity utility service for the hatchery will be used for the proposed 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: .....

Name of signee _Alexandra Laughtin_

Position and Agency/Organization _Environmental Planner 3; WDFW_

Date Submitted: _10/27/2022_