

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 [Find help answering background questions](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Klickitat WLA – Simcoe Mountains Unit Boundary/Interior Fence

2. Name of applicant:

WDFW

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

Doug Wiedemeier

WDFW

600 Capitol Way N

Olympia, WA 98501-1091

360-789-2464

4. Date checklist prepared:

January 23, 2023

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WDFW

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

May 2023 to October 2023

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

There may be other sections of fence in the area that need attention, but will be permitted separately.

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

County indicated no environmental permits for fencing. There are no stream crossings, so an HPA is not needed. Streams were intentionally avoided.

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 known.

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

No environmental permits required. Project has awaited cultural clearances with Yakima tribe. Permit for the cattleguard install on the Box Springs Road has been obtained.

11. Give a 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.)

Project is to install 24,866 linear feet of fence and a new cattleguard. New fence will be 4-wire fencing. Some of the fencing replaces old fence, and some is new boundary fence that will aid to control grazing cattle movement. All current access points on the Yakima Nation Property Boundary will remain outside the new fence, so that no current access points are affected by this project. Fencing will conform to NRCS standards regarding construction of end braces and H-Braces, with steel posts on regular spacings.

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.

Located in rural Klickitat County. Project is accessed off the Bickleton Hwy, and then the Box Springs Road. Work is proposed in T6N, Range 18E, sections 24 and 25, and in T6N, Range 19E, sections 19 and 30. Please see plans for additional details.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth [Find help answering earth questions](#)

a. General description of the site:

Hilly terrain with areas of oak and pine, mixed with open areas.

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, **hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:**

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

30 percent.

- 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.**

Area is mostly made up of three soils:

- Berson gravely ashy loam, 5 to 30 percent slopes: 25.6%
- Bocker-Klicko complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes: 32.5%
- Berson gravely ashy loam, 30 to 45 percent slopes: 41.6%

- 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.**

Contractor may have to rock drill and fill with grout to hold fence posts in place. Includes places with little soil depth.

- f. **Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

The project manager will evaluate access trails and have contractor correct any potential trail issues.

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

There is a new cattleguard that will have 50 feet of new asphalt on either side, resulting in 1400 Square Feet of new impervious. A very small portion of impervious will be fences and grout.

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

Apply BMP's to any access trails.

2. Air [Find help answering air questions](#)

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.

A minor increase in exhaust emissions, both gas and diesel during length of project.

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.

Not seen as an issue, so no.

3. Water [Find help answering water questions](#)

a. Surface Water: [Find help answering surface water questions](#)

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.

There are unnamed streams (Type N) nearby. The project will not involve any new fencing over typed waters.

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 over or in waters. Some fencing (points 17 and 18) will be within 20 feet of streams.

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 added to streams.

4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a 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: [Find help answering ground water questions](#)

- 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 a 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 (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 discharge.

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.**

Project will not change 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.**

No.

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

BMP's will be used as needed.

4. Plants [Find help answering plants questions](#)

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

- deciduous tree: oak
- evergreen tree: pine
- 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?

Most plants will be untouched. Oaks greater than 7 inches in diameter and conifer over 10 inches in diameter will not be cut down, as those are more likely to be used by western gray squirrels.

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

None known.

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

Most vegetation will be untouched. No plantings planned.

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

There are no noxious weeds or invasive plants known to be present.

5. Animals [Find help answering animal questions](#)

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

- Birds: hawk, songbirds
- Mammals: deer, bear, coyotes, squirrels
- Fish: none

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

Western gray squirrels are known to be present.

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

Yes, entire area is part of the Pacific Flyway.

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

Oaks greater than 7 inches in diameter and conifer over 10 inches in diameter will not be cut down, as those are more likely to be used by western gray squirrels. WDFW will survey for presence of squirrel nests prior to construction and ensure protection of critical habitat.

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

California ground squirrels are present.

6. Energy and Natural Resources [Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)

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.

Crew will use some gas and diesel powered engines to facilitate fence work. Once installed, no energy needs.

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 [Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

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

None known. Spill kits will be on-site while work is occurring.

a. 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. 811 will be contacted for underground utilities.

- b. 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.**

Just fuel for equipment.

- c. Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

None anticipated.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

BMP's will be applied, access trails will be evaluated by Project Manager and corrected by contractor as needed.

b. Noise

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

There will be an increase in noise from vehicles and equipment while work is being done. No housing nearby, so it should not impact others.

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)?**

Increase in traffic and construction noise during construction. Construction to be mostly done in daylight hours. After construction, noise levels will return to baseline.

3. **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.**

None planned, as impacts are not considered an issue.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)

- 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.**

Area is part of the Wildlife Area. Use will not change due to this project.

- 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 because 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?**

Land is still used for seasonal grazing and is part of a working forest. No conversion to other uses will occur 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?**

No.

- c. **Describe any structures on the site.**

Only fences and a new cattleguard.

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

Some old fence will be replaced.

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

Forest Resource and General Rural.

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

Ag/Forest

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

NA

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

Not that WDFW is aware of.

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

None, this is a wildlife area. Occasionally staff will be on-site to check fence and environmental conditions.

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

None.

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

None needed.

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

Continue current use.

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

This project is not expected to cause any long-term impacts to grazing or forest management.

9. Housing [Find help answering housing questions](#)

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.**

No changes.

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

No issues.

10. Aesthetics [Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)

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

Fence will be 6 foot posts, perhaps 5 feet high or more in places.

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

No changes.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.**

No issues anticipated.

11. Light and Glare [Find help answering light and glare questions](#)

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

Could be minor glare from new fence and fence posts. However no large surface areas.

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

No.

- 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 [Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

The Wildlife Area supports hunting, hiking, and bird watching.

- 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.**

May be minor impacts during construction due to increased traffic and noise. Long-term there will be no impacts on WDFW lands. New fences will help to define public property lines and thereby reduce accidental trespass on adjacent private property by the public.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation [Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)

- 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 built environment features are within the project area or within 1-mile (1.6 km) of the project.

- 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.**

A cultural resource survey was conducted in 2019 by WDFW cultural resource staff. Six archaeological sites were identified.

- 45KL2445 Milk Spring Isolate- A pre contact lithic isolate (biface)
- 45KL2446 A pre contact lithic isolate (biface)
- 45KL2447 A pre contact lithic isolate (flake)
- 45KL2448 A pre contact lithic isolate (flake)
- 45KL2449 Satus Fence Lithic Scatter pre contact lithic site and historic scatter consisting of debitage (N=25), historic tobacco tin (N=1), biface (N=1)
- 45KL2450 pre contact lithic site consisting of debitage (N=20)

- 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.**

WDFW conducted a cultural resource survey, consulted with tribes and DAHP. Consultation occurred under project Simcoe Boundary Fence Phases 1-3 (DAHP # 2017-06-04406), the project was renamed to Phase 4 but all project details have remained the same. An ethnographic survey was conducted and project adjusted based on tribal consultation.

- 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.**

Based on the results of the reports and tribal consultation the following measures to avoid impact will be followed:

- No vehicle traffic is permitted within 30 feet of recorded site boundaries or within site boundaries. If project construction needs require off-road driving installation team must maintain one ingress and one egress route to each fence segment to limit damage to the ground surface. The ingress and egress routes must be identified to the Archaeologist prior to use and the Archaeologist must be allowed the opportunity to examine them prior to use. At the conclusion of the project, the Archaeologist will re-inspect the access routes.
- No on-site materials (including soil or rock) may be used (“borrowed”) for project construction needs without prior inspection by the Archaeologist and consultation with the Yakama Nation.
- An archaeological monitor must be present for work conducted within 150 feet of identified archaeological sites and a DAHP site alteration permit acquired.

All proposed work is outside of 150 feet of identified archaeological sites.

14. Transportation [Find help with answering transportation questions](#)

- 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.**

Access is from Box Spring Road off the 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?**

Nearest regular bus route is in Goldendale, 21 miles away in a straight line.

- c. 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 CHANGES TO PARKING.

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

No.

- e. 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?

There is no long-term change expected in traffic volume. This project will result in several vehicles accessing the area 5 or 6 days a week for the project duration, primarily at the beginning and end of the work shift.

- f. 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.

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

None planned.

15. Public Services [Find help answering public service questions](#)

- 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 [Find help answering utilities questions](#)

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

None.

- 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.

None. Contractor will bring in all equipment needed.

C. Signature [Find help about who should sign](#)

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.

X *Doug Wiedemeier*

SEPA Responsible Official

Type name of signee: Doug Wiedemeier

Position and agency/organization: Project Permitter, WDFW CAMP

Date submitted: 2/21/2023