

SEPA¹ 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.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions²](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Wenas Wildlife Area - Bull Pasture Road Seasonal Closure

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Melinda Gray – Wenas Wildlife Area Manager

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

Melinda Gray – Wenas Wildlife Area Manager

312 Mt. Vale Rd, Selah, WA 98942

(509) 697 - 2082

4. Date checklist prepared:

8-7-2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

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

Dec 15th through May 1st on an annual reoccurring basis starting Dec 15th, 2024.

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

No

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

None

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 known applications

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

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

WDFW proposes to seasonally close motorized use for approximately 5 miles of the Bull Pasture Green Dot Road located in Yakima County; Township 15 Range 18 Sec 16, 17, 20, 21, 27. Signage including maps of the section seasonal closed will be posted at each entrance of the green dot road and 2 gates will be installed to restrict motorized access during the closure period. Walk in access for hunting, hiking, horseback riding or other forms of recreation in the area will remain open during the motorized closed season. The closure will prevent and protect the surrounding environment and wildlife from damage caused by off-road motorized use during winter and early spring months when soils are muddy. It will have a positive impact by protecting the overall quality of the road, which the users will appreciate during the months the road will remain open for use, especially during big game hunting seasons.

After review it appears that the proposal meets the SEPA exemption in WAC 197-11-800((5)(c), but WDFW is proceeding with a SEPA review anyway for transparency and notification.

- 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.**

5 miles of Bull Pasture Green Dot Road – Yakima County, T15N R18E Sec 16, 17, 20, 21, 27.

Coordinates for the start of the closure are (46.76728, -120.56193).

There is no street address. The proposed seasonal closure to motorized use begins approximately 9 miles north from the city of Selah, Washington, in Yakima County.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions³](https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth)

a. General description of the site:

Roughly 5 miles Green Dot Road surrounded by shrubsteppe habitat. The Bull Pasture Road was historically an old two track used for feeding cattle prior to the State buying the property. Since the road was purchased by the state and later became a green dot road it has not had any maintenance until Spring 2024. Road is alkaline soils, undeveloped.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

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

Shrubsteppe, canyons, rocky

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

15 degrees (26%)

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.

Alkaline and loamy soil. Clay and basalt rock would be most common in the area.

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

Area may be susceptible to heavy erosion if large amounts of rain or snow melt off occur.

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.

None

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

No

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

None

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

Water bars during road maintenance and proper ditch outs.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions⁴](#)

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.

None

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

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

No

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

None

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions](#)⁵

- a. Surface:**

[Find help answering surface water questions](#)⁶

- 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.**

Cottonwood Creek is approximately 640 yards east from the closure point. There is no water within the road being closed.

- 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

- 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 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

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions](#)⁷

- 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.**

N/A

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.**

Water runoff will occur naturally. Water bars and ditch outs have been added to the road to direct surface water off the roadbed to prevent road erosion. The water that has been directed off the road will flow naturally down canyons, into seasonal creeks/streams, then into year around creeks/streams/rivers or absorbed back into the ground.

- 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:

Water bars and ditch outs have been added to the road during previous road maintenance work to direct surface water off the roadbed to prevent road erosion.

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

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

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

- 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?

None

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

There are no listed threatened or endangered species on or near the site.

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.

Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Kochia (*Bassia scoparia*), Russian Knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*), Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Hairy Whitetop (*Lepidium appelianum*), Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia*), Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Russian Thistle (*Salsola tragus*)

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

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, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- **Mammals:** deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- **Fish:** bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

Hawks, eagles, kestrels, songbirds, upland birds, owls, woodpeckers, ravens, crows, scrub jays

Mule deer, rocky mountain elk, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, coyote, ground squirrels, American badger, rabbits

Snakes, lizards, frogs, salamanders

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

There are no listed threatened or endangered species on or near the site, there are candidate species historically near to the site.

Townsend Ground Squirrel (*Uroditellus townsendii*) – Candidate Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) - Candidate Species of Greatest Conservation Need

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

No

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

No

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

No

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)⁹

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None

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

No

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.

None

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-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 because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

No

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

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

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

- 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 use of this site is to protect and perpetuate wildlife and wildlife habitat. This closure will have no effect on 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 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?**

The project is former cattle grazing pasture prior to state ownership. It currently is public land. No infrastructure (besides the road) was established for any other agriculture or farming operations. No land will be converted or designated.

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.**

No

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

No

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

The site is zoned as Rural Land Development Program (RLDP). Description is Remote/Extremely Limited.

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

Horizon 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Please see the link for further information on the plan: [Horizon 2040 Comprehensive Plan | Yakima County, WA](#)

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

N/A

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

No

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

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

0

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

0

- 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.**

The closure has been proposed to the public through a DNR/WDFW Green Dot Road 2024 Management Meeting, has gone through internal WDFW agency review and discussed with the Wenas's Wildlife Area Advisory Committee in support of the Wenas Wildlife Area's Management Plan. The deed has been assessed and confirmation received that there are no restrictions on WDFW seasonally closing the road. No proposed measures aside from the public outreach already done is needed.

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

None

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

- 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:**

None

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

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

N/A

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

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

None

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

None

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

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?

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?

Motorized recreational use (ATV, UTV, 4x4, Motorcycle), hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting.

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

Yes. It would displace all motorized use on an annual reoccurring basis from December 15th through May 1st. Walk in access for hiking, biking, horseback riding and hunting will remain available.

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

Yes, walk in access for hiking, biking, horseback riding and hunting will remain available.

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

- 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

- 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

- 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.**

N/A

- 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.**

N/A

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- 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.**

No streets to identify. Road is an off road two track not tied to public streets or highways.

- 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. Approximately 10 miles to the nearest transit stop.

- 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

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

- 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?

None

- 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

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

- 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 questions¹⁸](#)

- 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

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign](#)¹⁹

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 *Melinda Gray*

Type name of signee: Melinda Gray

Position and agency/organization: Wenas Wildlife Area Manager, WDFW

Date submitted: 09/09/2024

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet](#)²⁰

Do not use this section for project actions.

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. **How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

N/A

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

N/A

2. **How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?**

The project will affect plants and animals in a positive way. During the seasonal closure, plants and wildlife will see less of a human presence in the area.

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions>

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:**

The seasonal closure is a measure being used to protect or conserve plants and animals. The project will benefit plants and animals by not allowing the public to drive on the area during a sensitive time for wildlife and well soils are in poor condition.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

N/A

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:**

N/A

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The proposal would benefit environmentally sensitive areas. This seasonal closing restriction is necessary for protection of the shrubsteppe habitat and associated nesting habitat and will help prevent further damage on the road during wet conditions. The habitat surrounding the green dot road is used as winter range for approximately 500 elk every year and holds important cover for upland birds, mule deer, Townsend's ground squirrel (*Urocitellus townsendii*), burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) and a suite of shrubsteppe dependent songbirds. The Townsend's ground squirrel and burrowing owl are species of greatest concern and have been designated as candidate species with potential to be proposed for listing as State Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive.

- **Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

No proposed measures occurring other than the project itself which is to temporarily close the road during sensitive times for species and soils.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

N/A

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

None

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

N/A

- **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

None

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

None