

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](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Johns River Wildlife Area Water Control Structure Replacement and Habitat Enhancement Project

2. Name of applicant:

Nick Bechtold

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

4686 Wishkah Road
Aberdeen, WA 98520
360.533.5676
nicholas.bechtold@dfw.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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

Project construction is proposed for July 15 to September 30, 2025, which corresponds to WDFW's in-water work window.

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.

A cultural resources assessment of the project area has been completed. Habitat and wildlife assessments of the wildlife area have previously been completed by WDFW.

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.

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

- USACE CWA Section 404 permit;
- WDOE Water Quality Certification;
- USFWS/NOAA Section 7 compliance;
- NHPA Section 106 compliance; and
- Clark County land use permits.

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

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.)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife proposes to replace a leaking water control structure (i.e., tide gate) within a levee at the Johns River Wildlife Area Unit, located within Grays Harbor County. The degraded tide gate currently results in salt watering intrusion and limits management of freshwater wetlands at the Wildlife Area. Ducks Unlimited is providing design and permit assistance for the project and will work with partners to replace the tidegate and implement the habitat enhancement activities. North American Wetland Conservation Act funds would be used in conjunction with WDFW Duck Stamp funds to design and implement the project.

The tide gate was recently repaired (i.e., within the past 10 years) to stop uncontrol saltwater intrusion behind the levee and into the WDFW managed Wildlife Area. The project proposes to replace the structure with one of the similar size and function, with minor variations in design to facilitate safe operation and maintenance.

The existing 36-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe with half round riser would be removed along with the associated wood-framed platform and supporting materials. A new 48-inch diameter HDPE pipe would convey flows through the levee with each end of the pipe flanked by pre-cast concrete inlet and outlet structures. Approximately 25 feet downstream from the pipe inlet, a pre-cast concrete in-line water control structure would allow for management of flows out of the Wildlife Area. Concrete structures would rest atop base and leveling rock and 1-foot-thick base rock and 2-foot-thick light loose riprap would be placed on both side slopes of the levee, in proximity to the structure. Both sides of the existing levee prism are eroded, and rock has sloughed off of the Johns River side into a scour pool near the existing pipe outlet. Existing riprap would be repurposed as levee protection where feasible.

To install the new tidegate, a sheetpile or earthen coffer dam would be installed on the Johns River side of the project area to prevent tidal intrusion; dewatering via pump and fish salvage would likely be required. Additionally, a cofferdam, pump, and pipe would be installed on the upstream side of the levee to drain the work area of freshwater inputs. Work would be conducted in the dry.

The work area would be accessed by the paved levee road and construction materials would be staged in uplands. Staging would occur within the Dike Trail parking lot and / or along the paved trail leading to the tidegate. A potential borrow area may be utilized, located at the end of an existing drainage ditch, if stockpiled levee soils are not suitable for backfill. Borrow excavation would not exceed three feet, and would be located within exiting wetland habitats as shallow depressions to increase habitat diversity. In addition, surplus excavated levee soils may be placed within the existing wetland to create two habitat mounds in proximity to the water control structure. Within the project area, the levee road would be repaved post-construction.

The approximate area of disturbance would total less than 0.38-acre. Tide gate replacement activities would benefit approximately 200 acres of wetland habitat within the Wildlife Area.

Tide gate replacement activities would be completed with heavy equipment, including excavators, bulldozers, backhoes, front loaders, and dump trucks.

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 within the Johns River Wildlife Area on a portion of parcel 161101240000, approximately 5 miles east of Westport, in Grays Harbor County (T16N, R11W, S1) (Figure 1). Access to the project area is provided through the Dike Trail Parking Area and then the trail itself. The first water control structure (WCS) located underneath the trail is the tidegate proposed for replacement.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions](#)³

a. General description of the site:

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

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

The project area and Dike Trail are flat; however, the side slopes of the levee that supports the trail are relatively steep—up to 2:1 [50%]) for short distances.

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.

Ocosta silty clay loam (not prime farmland per NRCS Web Soil Survey). On site soils are not classified as associated with agricultural land of long-term commercial significance.

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

Erosion was observed at the outlet of the tidegate (loose riprap and soil erosion), necessitating structure replacement.

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.

Approximately 1,970 square feet (SF) / 940 cubic yards (CY) of excavation would be required to remove the tide gate, with excavation extending up to 10 feet below the existing ground surface. The project would also excavate a shallow depression (7480 SF / 105 CY), extending about 2.5 feet below the ground surface. Material excavated from both locations would either be stockpiled in an upland and used as backfill, or incorporated into low profile (approximately 15 inch high) habitat islands in the adjacent managed wetlands (7,135 SF/165 CY). Rock (155 CY) would be imported to stabilize the dike side slopes, and base and leveling rock (15 CY) would be installed under the new tide gate. A temporary cofferdam would also be installed on the John's River side of the dike to

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

allow work to occur in the dry. Dike Trail pavement and leveling gravel (approximately 55 LF) would be replaced in-kind. Engineer design sheets are attached.

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

Unlikely. All grading and excavation activities would be completed in the dry, with standard construction best management practices (BMP) implemented to minimize erosion potential. The site is largely flat, so erosion on steep slopes would not occur, particularly with placement of riprap around the tidegate.

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

The post-project condition would contain the same area of impervious surfaces as pre-project (paved trail).

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

All construction would be completed during the summer and in the dry. Construction BMPs, such as the use of silt fence or straw wattles, may be used as necessary to control erosion.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

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.

Limited emissions would be associated with the use of heavy equipment (e.g., excavators, trucks) during construction. Trucks, maintenance vehicles, or mowers would also periodically access the project area (e.g., 1-2 times per month).

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:

All heavy equipment would be outfitted with appropriate emission control measures and would not be allowed to idle for extended periods of time.

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

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.**

The tidegate proposed for replacement is located within a levee that separates Johns River, located on the downstream (southern) side of the levee, from an unnamed freshwater drainage ditch, located within a portion of the Wildlife Area. The freshwater ditch collects flow from numerous other drainage ditches and serves as the only outlet for lands located behind the levee.

- 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.**

All work would occur in the dry; however, work would occur within a limited area of both Johns River and a drainage ditch, as described under Section A.11 above.

- 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.**

Stream channel dewatering would extend approximately 10 linear feet upstream and downstream from the tidegate; the disturbance footprint required to replace the structure totals approximately 1,970 SF, removing 940 CY of material that would be stockpiled in uplands and partially reused as backfill, if suitable. In addition, 7,480 SF of reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) dominated wetland located adjacent to the project would be disturbed in to create any additional source of borrow material to backfill around the tidegate, and to create additional topographic diversity within the wetland. The only work discussed under B.1.e that is proposed to occur outside of surface waters or wetlands is replacement of asphalt paved Dike Trail, which would be in-kind.

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

Yes, a pumped stream diversion would be required to bypass flows over the levee and around the work area, as discussed in Section A.11. In addition, water pumped from the dewatered work area would be discharged into adjacent managed wetlands.

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

Yes. The entire project area is located within the FEMA-mapped 100-year Johns River floodplain.

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>

- 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.**

The project does not involve any discharge of waste materials to surface waters.

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 groundwater would be withdrawn by the project and no water would be discharged to the groundwater aquifer (outside of natural percolation of water between the stream and wetland and groundwater aquifer).

- 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.**

Not applicable.

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.**

Stormwater is currently generated by the paved Dike Trail atop the levee. Water flows from the trail into dense herbaceous vegetation (primarily reed canarygrass) located on both levee side slopes.

- 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 project would replace a poorly functioning tidegate, which would allow Wildlife Area managers to better regulate water levels within drainage ditches and groundwater levels within managed wetlands located behind the levee, and to minimize saltwater intrusion. By design, this improvement would affect drainage patterns onsite.

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

During project construction, straw wattles would be installed along the edges of the trail, in proximity to the work area and would remain until construction is completed.

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>

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

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?

One red alder (*Alnus rubra*) may require removal if excavation impacts a significant portion of roots under the tree drip line. Reed canarygrass dominates the work areas, with limited woody vegetation cover (e.g., Himalayan blackberry [*Rubus armeniacus*]) and other herbaceous plants (e.g., bedstraw [*Galium aparine*], sedge [*Carex* spp.]). Disturbance would primarily impact reed canarygrass in association with the borrow area and habitat islands; however, these temporary impacts would be restored post project by replacement of vegetative stripping. Disturbed areas would be reseeded with a native hydroseed mix or with straw for erosion control, if needed, but would likely revert to reed canarygrass monocultures.

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

No federally protected plants are listed by USFWS as potentially occurring within the project area.

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

The top 6-inches of vegetation within disturbance areas would be stripped prior to work and replaced after construction is complete.

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

Reed canarygrass and Himalayan blackberry.

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: Canada goose, mallard, widgeon
- **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.**

Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), yellow-billed cuckoo [western U.S. DPS] (*Coccyzus americanus*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) are listed by USFWS as potentially occurring within the project area.

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

Migrating waterfowl and shorebirds use the Wildlife Area as wintering and/or breeding habitat.

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

Construction would be completed outside of the nesting season to avoid impacts on birds. Construction would occur in the dry, so there is limited potential for turbidity or sediment delivery to streams. Improved management capabilities resulting from the project would improve foraging and winter habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, deer, and elk.

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

None.

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.**

The project has no long-term energy needs.

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

The project would have no effect on 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.**

Not applicable.

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>

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>

7. Environmental health

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

- 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.**

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

Past and present land uses in the project area include agricultural production, where fertilizers or other chemicals may have been used. No specific areas of contamination are known to occur.

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 existing hazardous chemicals / conditions that might affect 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.**

Petroleum products (e.g., fuel, lubricants) would be used to operate heavy machinery during construction. No other toxic or hazardous chemical would be stored, used, or produced during project development, construction, or operation.

4. **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

No special emergency services would be required.

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

Standard worker and environmental health protection measures would be employed during construction, including use of appropriate safety gear (hard hats, ear protection) and dust suppression, as required. No other environmental health hazards are anticipated.

b. Noise

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

Noise is limited to periodic use of agricultural equipment on adjacent lands and wildlife (e.g., flocks of Canada geese [*Branta canadensis*]). Existing noise sources and levels would not affect the 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)?**

Limited noise from use of heavy equipment would occur during construction. This noise would be short-term and would only occur during daylight hours.

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>

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

Work would only be completed during daylight hours. In addition, there are few (if any) sensitive noise receptors located in the vicinity of the work area.

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.

Johns River Dike Trail is open to the public and served by the parking lot located in the northwest project area. Johns River is used for recreational boating and fishing, while the lands located behind the levee are managed to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl. The project vicinity provides for recreational hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. The project is proposed to improve current land uses on site (i.e., wetland habitat and hunting opportunities).

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 area was in agricultural production prior to 1955, when WDFW acquired the property. Currently, the area is managed for wildlife habitat. The project would not convert agricultural land of long-term commercial significance to another use.

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 would not affect – or be affected by – surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

A 36-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe (CMP) is located within the levee and fitted with a non-functioning tide gate at the downstream end. At the upstream end, a corrugated metal half-riser allows for placement of boards that control upstream water levels within the Wildlife Area. A metal grate supported by wood posts and fitted with a wooden ladder facilitates access to the half-riser from above. The most waterward posts are supported by a concrete base located within the stream bed. The tide gate structure is located near the bottom of an approximately 20-foot-high earthen levee. Large riprap protects the toes of the levee, but has eroded from the levee face in places, primarily at the downstream end of the structure.

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

The existing tide gate would be replaced (using HDPE [High-density polyethylene] pipe rather than CMP) and the metal grate, wood posts, and wood ladder would be replaced with concrete inlet / outlet, pre-cast in-line WCS, and backfilled with dirt to improve safety and access.

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>

- e. **What is the current zoning classification of the site?**
County G5 (General Development Five).
- f. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**
Unknown.
- g. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**
Natural.
- h. **Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**
Wetland areas, frequently flooded areas, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas are mapped in the project area.
- i. **Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**
None.
- j. **Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**
None.
- k. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.**
Not applicable.
- l. **Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.**
The projects would not change the current use of the Wildlife Area.
- m. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:**
Not applicable.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing)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:**
Not applicable.

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>

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?**

The height of levee is approximately 15 feet higher than existing outlet grade. In proximity to the work area, the levee is composed of earth and rock.

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

None. Views of the replaced tide gate structure and reconstructed levee would be comparable to the views of existing conditions. The tide gate structure and levee do not obstruct views of or from the area, as the Dike Trail is located atop the levee.

- 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?**

No light or glare would be generated by the project.

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

Not applicable.

- 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:**

Not applicable.

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

The project area is available for recreational hunting (during the regulated hunting season) and wildlife viewing.

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

No.

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>

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>

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

The project would be constructed outside of the hunting season, over a short (approximately three weeks) period. The segment of Dike Trail at the tide gate structure would be closed to the public during construction. Improvements to habitat within the project area resulting from the project would improve hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities in the future.

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 buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site are over 45 years old and listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers.

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.

According to the cultural resources survey report prepared in summer 2024 for the project, the General Land Office surveyed the area in November 1858 and identified a large diking system that included the project area and most of the land in the area to the southwest. In 1878, Jason Fry patented the property in the project area as part of his 165.70-acre homestead entry. It does not appear that the project area was reclaimed for agriculture but that the diking system safeguarded interior land Fry owned, outside the project area. From at least 1927 to 1935, A.M. Abel owned the property. Markham Shingle Company owned land adjacent to the project area and was an important milling company in the Markham area. The current dike was constructed after A.M. Abel's tenure and between 1943 and 1950. A goat farmer expanded pasturage by creating the present-day dike that extends through the project area and installed the tidal gate.

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.

A cultural resources assessment was conducted for the project that included a review of the archaeological context, a pedestrian survey and subsurface survey, and National Register of Historic Places evaluation with recommendations.

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.

The cultural resources assessment report recommends that the project proceed as planned with no additional archaeological investigation and that the dike in the project area is not eligible to the

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>

National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A-D. Therefore, the Project will not be an adverse effect to a historic property. An Inadvertent Discovery Plan should be onsite and consulted in the event that cultural material is disturbed during construction.

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.**

From Aberdeen, follow WA-105 S to 16980 / Johns River Road. Continue on 16980 / Johns River Road to the Dike Trail parking lot. Travel about 1,000 feet east to the tide gate.

- 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. Grays Harbor Transit operates a park and ride south of the intersection of Montesano Street and Highway 105, approximately 7 miles southwest of the work area.

- 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).**

The project would not require any new or improvements to existing paved roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycles or state transportation facilities. The asphalt-paved Dike Trail will be replaced near project completion.

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

The project would not use water, rail, or air transportation.

- 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?**

The completed project would not change the number of vehicle trips per day.

- 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, the proposed road improvement would not coincide with hay harvest.

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

None.

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>

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.**

The 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.**

No utilities are proposed as part of the project.

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.**

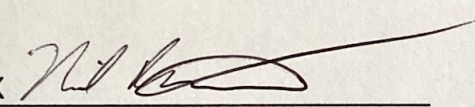
None.

C. Signature

Find help about who should sign¹⁹

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



Type name of signee: Nick Bechtold

Position and agency/organization: Olympic-Willapa Hill Wildlife Area Manager, WDFW

Date submitted:

11/12/24

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>

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