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:

Middle and West Foster Creeks Riparian Restoration

2. Name of applicant:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Applicant: Dan Peterson, Wildlife Area Manager Contact Person: Dan Peterson, Wildlife Area Manager 54 Moe Road Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 670-1284

4. Date checklist prepared:

14 January 2025

5. Agency requesting checklist:

WDFW

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

Project permitting is to be completed, hopefully, considering our CR process, by October 2025. We will begin implementation shortly thereafter. We anticipate work to occur annually for the duration of the HPA (5 years). Annual work will include installation of new structures and adaptive management/maintenance of existing structures.

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

The proposed work complements and integrates with the 110 BDAs installed by WDFW in West Foster Creek and Smith Draw in 2023 and 2024. The success of those structures led WDFW to propose BDA construction in the areas described in this checklist. Our intent is to continue adaptive management/maintenance and installation of new structures as needed for the next several years. Where suitable soil conditions exist, native riparian shrubs and trees will be planted to increase the distribution of this habitat type.

 $^{^2\} https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background$

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

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Recovery Plan Greater Sage-Grouse Recovery Plan Wells Wildlife Area Management Plan Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area Management Plan

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.

Cultural resource consultation will be required. WDFW HPA Work within critical areas may require Douglas County permits. A permit or exemption will be required from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act, Section 404.

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.)

By installing beaver dam analogs (BDAs), post assisted log structure (PALS), and Zeedyk rock structures, WDFW will restore individual reaches of West Foster Creek and Middle Foster Creek. These creeks are in Douglas County on the Sagebrush Flat and Wells wildlife areas. The creeks have incised channels and headcuts due to numerous flood events that occurred in the 20th Century. The project goal is to stop the incision process, improve water quality, water retention, and stream habitat, plus reconnect the creeks to their floodplain and improve the health and diversity of the surrounding riparian vegetation community.

Up to 30 CY of <u>off-site</u> rock <u>may be</u> used for instream rock structures. Material used for BDA construction will consist of tree limbs, weed free straw, wood chips, untreated wood posts, plus vegetation, dirt, and rocks collected from the creekbed and vicinity.

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 creeks are in Douglas County (refer to maps 1 - 4):

- West Foster Creek: Township 28N, Range 25E, Sections 2, 10, 11, 15, and 16. Approximately 3.3 miles is on the Bridgeport Unit of the Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area. Another 0.15 miles is on the West Foster Creek Unit of the Wells Wildlife Area. Approximately 4 miles south of Bridgeport.
- 2) Middle Foster Creek: Township 28N, Range 25E, Section 15. It is approximately 5 miles south of Bridgeport and runs for 1.1 miles through the Bridgeport Unit of the Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

Find help answering earth questions³

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)?
 - a. Site 1, West Foster Creek: 5%
 - b. Site 2, Middle Foster Creek: 4%
- 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.
 - a. Site 1, West Foster Creek: Aquolls, nearly level.
 - b. Site 2, Middle Foster Creek: Aquolls, nearly level.

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

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.

There'll be no filling, excavation, or grading.

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)? 0%

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

The intent of the BDAs is to reduce/control erosion of the creekbed.

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.

Emissions include those from assorted vehicles used to transport materials and people to the sites, the internal combustion engines of the portable hydraulic post pounder and UTV used to ferry the pounder across the sites, and the internal combustion engine of a John Deere 50G compact excavator with attached hydraulic post pounder.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. No

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

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: None

3. Water

Find help answering water questions⁵

- a. Surface: <u>Find help answering surface water questions</u>⁶
 - 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. Middle Foster Creek flows into West Foster Creek which flows into Foster Creek which flows into the Columbia River.
 - 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.

Native riparian trees and shrubs will be planted in suitable locations adjacent to the creeks. All plant materials will be purchased from a regional nursery specializing in native plants. Plants will be in 1-gallon and/or 40 cubic inch pots and planted in appropriately sized holes.

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.

Up to 30 CY of off-site rock may be used for instream structures. The BDAs will require the use of off-site untreated wood posts driven into the streambed to form a 'picket' of posts into which limbs, branches, bows, of vegetation harvested on and off site will be woven/placed.

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

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

- 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:

Find help answering ground water questions⁷

- 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.

None

- c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):
 - 1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. N/A
 - 2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

N/A

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

No

 $^{^7\} https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater$

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

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
 - \Box 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.

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, Greater sage-grouse (both state listed only)

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

Disturbed areas will be planted with a native grass/forb mix. Native riparian trees and shrubs will be planted in suitable locations adjacent to the creeks. All plant materials will be purchased from a regional nursery specializing in native plants. Plants will be in 1-gallon and/or 40 cubic inch pots and planted in appropriately sized holes.

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

Canada thistle, reed canarygrass, Russian knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax

5. Animals

Find help answering animal questions⁸

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:** red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, bald eagle, golden eagle, rough-legged hawk, prairie falcon, kestrel, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, goshawk, ruffed grouse, great-horned owl, short-eared owl, California quail, chukar, ring-necked pheasant, Wilson's snipe, mallard, American goldfinch, song sparrow, red-winged blackbird, and other songbirds.
- Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, coyote, cougar, various small mammals
- Fish: None
- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage grouse (both state listed only)

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

Yes, the area is within the Pacific Flyway for lesser sandhill cranes.

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

The projects will be beneficial to wildlife. Riparian and mesic habitats are used by most animal species at one time or another.

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

Eurasian collared doves

6. Energy and natural resources

Find help answering energy and natural resource questions⁹

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. N/A

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

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

N/A

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.

N/A

7. Environmental health

Health Find help with answering environmental health questions¹⁰

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

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

 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)?

N/A

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)?

Noises caused by the project include those from assorted vehicles used to transport materials and people to the sites, the internal combustion engines of the portable hydraulic post pounder, the UTVs used to ferry the pounder across the sites, and the internal combustion engine of a John Deere 50G compact excavator with attached hydraulic post pounder.

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

N/A

8. Land and shoreline use

Find help answering land and shoreline use questions¹¹

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.

The site is in a state wildlife area that provides public recreation such as hunting, wildlife watching, hiking, photography, dog walking, camping, bicycling, horseback riding. The proposed project will improve riparian habitat and stop the degradation of the stream. The project will not affect nearby land uses.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses 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?

Portions of the creek are adjacent to a former dryland wheat field that was last in production approximately 46 years ago. It was then planted with crested wheatgrass as

 $^{^{11}\} https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use$

permanent cover. Between 2001 and 2002 WDFW worked to remove the crested wheatgrass then plant native grasses and forbs.

 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.

None

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Resource - agriculture

- 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? $$\rm N/A$$
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Unknown

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

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

None, N/A

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

None, N/A

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

None, N/A

9. Housing

Find help answering housing questions¹²

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

N/A

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

N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: None, N/A

10. Aesthetics

Find help answering aesthetics questions¹³

- 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
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? None

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

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: None

11. Light and glare

Find help answering light and glare questions¹⁴

- 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? Hunting, camping, wildlife watching, photography, hiking, dog walking, biking, horseback riding.
- 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: N/A

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 questions¹⁵

- 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. Cultural resource consultation will be completed prior to implementation.
- 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. That will be defined, if needed, in the final CR report submitted prior to implementation.

14. Transportation

Find help with answering transportation questions¹⁶

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.

None

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

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

- 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
- 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? N/A
- 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: N/A

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. N/A

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 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.

Type name of signee: Dan Peterson

Position and agency/organization: Wildlife Area Manager, WDFW, Douglas County Wildlife Area Complex

Date submitted: 6 February 2025

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