## **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.

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

## A.Background

#### Find help answering background questions<sup>2</sup>

#### 1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Sunnyside-Snake River State Wildlife Area, Sunnyside Unit Wetland Enhancement Project (Brady Wetland)

#### 2. Name of applicant:

Noel Ferguson, Manager Sunnyside Snake River WLA

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

WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

2030 Holaday Road

Mabton, WA 98935

(509) 788-8479

4. Date checklist prepared:

6/6/2025

#### 5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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

Project implementation is proposed during late summer/early fall 2025 (as dry conditions facilitate use of machinery, and avoid impacts to breeding wildlife.)

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.

Wetland reconnaissance level delineation report, biological assessment, floodplain assessment, and enhancement 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.

The following permit documents or applications are being prepared for the project: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act,

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

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Nationwide 27 Permit), Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Hydraulic Project Approval, Shoreline Exemption, and Floodplain Development Permit.

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 enhance wetland habitat at the Brady Wetland, which provides important habitat for waterfowl. Ducks Unlimited, Inc is providing design and permitting support for the project.

Currently, the wetland is predominantly dry compared to its historic conditions. The lack of hydrology delivered to the wetland has allowed invasive species such as *Phragmites* sp. to establish and spread, degrading the wetland's ecological function. Additionally, effective water management within the wetland is currently not possible due to a severely corroded and outdated water control structure (WCS). Giffin Lake, situated slightly northwest of the Brady Wetland, serves as the primary water source for the site.

The proposed project addresses two primary objectives: replace a WCS located at the south end of the Brady Wetland and construct a mosaic of habitats within the wetland to support waterfowl, shorebirds, and amphibians. The new WCS would allow for more precise and reliable water level management. Four habitat islands would be constructed using excavated material from the wetland itself. Excavations would be in areas now dominated by non-native and invasive reed canarygrass. These excavations would create slightly deeper areas within the wetland to prevent colonization by reed canarygrass, promoting diverse native vegetation and habitat conditions. The islands would serve as essential resting and feeding areas for a variety of wildlife species.

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 Brady Wetland is located within the WDFW Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area's Sunnyside Unit, approximately 2 miles northwest of Mabton, WA within Yakima County. The Wildlife Area contains numerous units located along the Yakima River that are managed for habitat and wildlife, and for public access and recreation. The site can be accessed from the intersection of McGee Road and Midvale Road (Figures 1 and 2; T9N, R22E, S25).

## **B.Environmental Elements**

#### 1. Earth

#### Find help answering earth questions<sup>3</sup>

#### a. General description of the site:

The Brady Wetland area consists of shrub-steppe upland, riparian, and wetland habitats. The site is located adjacent to the Yakima River and proximate to agricultural fields.

#### Circle or highlight one: <u>Flat</u>, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

Project work would occur on the flat portion of the dried wetland.

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

Less than five percent.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Silt loam; primarily: Zillah silt loam, Fiander silt loam, and Kittitas silt loam. The project area is not known to contain agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance.

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.

The purpose of filling, excavating, and grading is for wetland enhancement. Earthwork is needed to improve wetland function, increase and diversify native vegetation, decrease non-native and invasive vegetation, for improved wildlife habitat.

The types of activities include creating shallow excavations (2-3 feet deeper than existing ground) and placing material to create low elevation habitat islands (max elevation would be 1 foot above surface water).

The project proposes to construct four earthen habitat islands within the wetland using material excavated in the immediate vicinity. These islands would diversify wetland habitat and provide habitat for resident and migratory waterbirds. The project would also replace the poorly functioning WCS located at the outlet of the Brady Wetland with a concrete riser and 48-inch diameter HDPE culvert. The replaced WCS would facilitate

 $<sup>^{3}\</sup> https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth$ 

better management of water levels within the wetland unit throughout the year, expand the existing wetland footprint, and allow for more efficient WCS operation benefiting moist soil and vegetation management upgradient to the structure. An existing dirt and grass two-track access route would have gravel added in two short sections only, to facilitate WDFW access to the WCS for management purposes. The proposed gravel improvements, fitted with two rocked spillways, would allow for detention of waters onsite, upgradient of the WCS.

The project would excavate approximately 5,530 cubic yards (CY) of material, in total. Of this, about 1,940 CY would be reworked within the excavation footprint to grade areas to the appropriate elevations. Some of the material would be utilized to create four habitat islands sites. Specifically, Island 1 would utilize about 170 CYs of material, while Island 2 would be constructed from approximately 595 CYs of soil. Islands 3 and 4 are part of the two excavation areas, so there is a component of cut and fill in each of those areas, with a net amount of cut. The total net cut and fill for the entire project within the wetland is 2,267 CYs (cut). A bit of that material could be used to regrade the two-track access route to the water control structure, and backfill around the new water control structure. The remainder of the 2,267 CYs of material would be graded into the nearby uplands in shallow mounds, covering areas dominated by non-native and invasive weeds, and be re-seeded with native grass cover.

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

The project is scheduled for construction from late summer to early fall, during the dry season, and construction is anticipated to occur in-the-dry. Almost all ground disturbance activities are within the self-contained wetland area where all water discharge is controlled by the new water control structure. Erosion control rock will be used around the culvert inlet and outlet. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented, if necessary, to protect water quality.

# 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.

The project is scheduled for construction from late summer to early fall, during the dry season, and construction is anticipated to occur in-the-dry. Erosion control rock will be used around the slopes near the front of the water control structure and outlet of the culvert.

## 2. Air

#### Find help answering air questions<sup>4</sup>

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)..

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.

#### 3. Water

#### Find help answering water questions<sup>5</sup>

- a. Surface: <u>Find help answering surface water questions</u><sup>6</sup>
  - 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.

Giffin Lake discharges to the Brady Wetland. Water then flows through about 1,400 linear feet of ditch that bisects Brady Wetland. After leaving Brady Wetland, another ditch flows south away from the wetland through approximately 950 linear feet and eventually discharges to the Yakima 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.

All work would occur in the dry; however, work would occur within a limited area of both the Brady Wetland and associated drainage ditch, as described under Section

 $<sup>\</sup>label{eq:sepa-checklist-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-checklist-section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air \end{tabular}$ 

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> 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

A.11 above. See attached engineering plan and Figures 1 and 2 (location and area maps).

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.

Refer to Section B.1.e. The only import of material into the project area, gravel surfacing for access improvements and erosion control rock for the water control structure inlet and outlet would be sourced from an approved facility. The area for the gravel fill is two short sections of the two-track route that allow access to the water control structure, directly adjacent to the water control structure on both the east and west sides. See engineering plan set for details.

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.

Yes. The entire project area is located within the FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain (Zone AE per FEMA Flood Map Service); specifically, the Yakima River floodway. The applicant will apply for a Yakima County Floodplain Hazard Permit.

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<sup>7</sup>

 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

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

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.

Not applicable; the project proposes wetland enhancement. Local run off would flow into the wetland and be captured within the Brady Wetland basin.

2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

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/failing WCS, which would allow Wildlife Area managers to better regulate water levels within the Brady Wetland. By design, this improvement would minimally affect drainage patterns onsite.

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

Best management practices, such as maintaining vegetative buffers, use of erosion control rock, silt fence or straw wattles, could be used, if needed.

#### 4. Plants

#### Find help answering plants questions

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

- $\boxtimes$  deciduous tree:
- □ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- oxtimes shrubs
- $\boxtimes$  grass:
- □ pasture
- □ crop or grain
- $\Box$  orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.
- $\boxtimes$  wet soil plants:
- ☑ water plants: smartweed water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- $\Box$  other types of vegetation

#### b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) exists in the wetland and would be removed from the excavated areas. Reed canarygrass is a wetland invader that becomes a dominant monoculture and reduces the wetland habitat value. Total removal is 3.3 acres.

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.

Artificial islands and deeper wetland sites would improve native plant diversity. Noxious plant removal would benefit native species by allowing them to establish at the site. Bare soil areas would be seeded with native grass or forb species.

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

Common pepperweed (*Lepidium densiflorum*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) are present (invasive/non-native but not state listed noxious weeds). Noxious weeds include Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), whitetop (aka perennial pepperweed or *Lepidium latifolium*), and kochia (*Bassia scoparia*).

#### 5. Animals

#### Find help answering animal questions<sup>8</sup>

- 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.
  - **Birds:** A search on eBird.org came up with 3 hotspots for the area near this project site (all 3 are within 1.5 miles) and one at this location listed 166 species of birds (all-time). The species expected to benefit would include a variety of waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans), water birds (herons, egret, coot), shorebirds (yellowlegs, killdeer, sandpipers), raptors (marsh hawk, red tailed hawk, northern harrier), songbirds (red-winged blackbirds, yellow-headed blackbirds, marsh wrens, finches, warblers), and many more.
  - **Mammals:** Deer, coyote, beaver, skunk, porcupine, and several species of bats (big brown, little brown, and Yuma myotis).
  - **Fish:** Warm-water fish species inhabit Giffin Lake and the outlet stream. These include channel catfish, smallmouth bass, and pumpkinseed perch. These inhabit

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

the Yakima River in this area. The Yakima River also supports other species of fish, such as chinook, steelhead, walleye, rainbow trout, mountain whitefish, etc.

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

None.

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

The site serves as stopover habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other migratory birds on their migration to breeding grounds. The goals of the project are to provide island and water habitat conducive for waterfowl and wildlife that use wetlands.

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

The Brady enhancement project proposes to create a mosaic wetland where there are both deeper pockets of water and shallower waters within the wetland. Additionally, islands are to be constructed to provide wind cover and roosting / resting areas for waterfowl, shorebirds, and amphibians.

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

European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*), as well as California ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*).

#### 6. Energy and natural resources

Find help answering energy and natural resource questions<sup>9</sup>

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.

## 7. Environmental health

Health Find help with answering environmental health questions<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 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 <sup>10</sup> 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.
  - 1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Past 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. 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.

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<sup>11</sup>

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 property is owned by WDFW and used for wildlife management purposes. Additionally, activities like hunting, birding and sightseeing are a common use at this location as well.

Adjacent properties are used for agricultural uses.

The proposed project would not alter any of the land uses on the site or nearby 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 site is not a working farm or forest. No land would be converted to other uses.

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.

There are no buildings, barns, sheds or other such structures. An existing water control structure is degraded to the point of a near complete loss of functionality. This structure would be replaced with a new, up to date, functional water control structure.

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

The existing water control structure would be replaced.

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

Remote / Extremely Limited (R/ELDP-40)

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

Rural Remote/ELDP

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 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

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? Conservancy
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Wetlands and special flood hazard 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.

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

The use of the property is a public-access wildlife area. The project is designed to enhance the functions of the habitat to both benefit wildlife and the recreational quality tied with the habitat.

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<sup>12</sup>

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> 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<sup>13</sup>

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

At-grade water control structure primarily composed of concrete; it is not a building.

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<sup>14</sup>

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?

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:

Not Applicable.

#### 12. Recreation

#### Find help answering recreation questions

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

The property is open to the public / has public access, and serves many functions, one of which is for public recreation including: sightseeing, hiking, hunting, and birding. The project would enhance the recreational quality of the site.

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

No.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics <sup>14</sup> 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. 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<sup>15</sup>

 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.

There are no known historic properties or archaeological sites within the area of potential impacts (API).

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, there are no known resources at this site. A WDFW archaeologist performed a site visit and did not find any resources that might be disturbed from this work. A pedestrian survey was carried out in a portion of the API in 1995 (NADB 1341420). No cultural resources were identified.

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 WDFW archaeologist conducted a desktop review of the project, which included an analysis of nearby sites, surveys, historic literature and maps, lidar, etc. They also conducted a site visit of the API and consulted with the Yakama Nation and Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) for any information/concerns that they may have regarding the project. The Yakama Nation requested that a monitor be present for earth disturbing activities (excavations).

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.

An SOI-qualified archaeologist will be on-site during ground disturbing activities and will provide a report detailing the results of monitoring. WDFW will consult on the monitoring report. Additionally, an inadvertent discovery plan will be followed during implementation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> 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

#### 14. Transportation

Find help with answering transportation questions<sup>16</sup>

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The public can access the site via parking at the gravel lot located southwest of the intersection of McGee Road and Midvale Road. WDFW can access the site via a road located behind a gate, west of McGee Road.

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.

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).

A short segment of a two-track access route used by WDFW would be improved as part of the project by adding gravel for traction.

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

Not applicable.

**15. Public services** Find help answering public service questions<sup>17</sup>

 $<sup>^{16}\</sup> https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist$ 

guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation <sup>17</sup> 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

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 questions<sup>18</sup>

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 sign<sup>19</sup>

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.

Х

Nick Ferguson

Type name of signee: Reject Manager Position and agency/organization: Aggistent May., Sunyside Wildlite Afec, WDFW Date submitted: ClGL5

guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature

<sup>18</sup> https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklistguidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities <sup>19</sup> https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-