

## **WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### *Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

#### *Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

#### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

#### A. BACKGROUND

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

Salmon Creek Estuary Restoration Project

##### **2. Name of applicant:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Attn: Doris Small

502 High Street Suite #112

Port Orchard, WA 98366

(360) 895-4756

##### **4. Date checklist prepared:** 08/12/07

##### **5. Agency requesting checklist:**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

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

Begin construction May 2008

End construction by September 2009

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

Additional habitat restoration activities might occur in the general vicinity at some unknown future time. Future activities are purely conceptual at this time and no funding has been sought or engineering done.

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

'Garrison Property Phase I Environmental Site Assessment' prepared for WDFW prior to purchase of the Garrison property.  
'Phase II Site Assessment Activities Garrison Property' prepared for WDFW prior to purchase of the Garrison property 2003.  
'Final Report to WDFW Asbestos Removal and Disposal Operations for Garrison Property' Memo prepared by DHL Environmental Consulting 2003  
'Discovery Bay Site Soil Investigation for Estuary Restoration Project ' prepared by Pacific Rim Soil and Water February 2007  
'Discovery Bay Wetland Assessment Report and Conceptual Mitigation Proposal' prepared by Pacific Rim Soil and Water. April 2007.  
'Landfill Investigation Report' by Kennedy Jenks Consulting July 2007  
'Archaeological Investigation' by Western Shores Heritage Services January 2007

**9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.**

None to my knowledge.

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

Jefferson County Shoreline Permit  
Jefferson County Stormwater Management Permit  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit  
Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
US Army Corps of Engineers Permit  
401 Water Quality Certification from Washington DOE  
Cultural Assessment through Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
ESA Section 7 Consultation through NOAA  
Section 106 Archeological Consultation

**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.)**

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council's "Salmon Habitat Recovery Strategy for the Hood Canal & Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Version 09-2005" identifies the Salmon Creek Estuary as the highest priority habitat type in WRIA 17, critical to the recovery of Hood Canal/Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon. The estuary is also inhabited by coho and sea run cutthroat trout and most likely provides estuarine rearing habitat for non-natal Puget Sound Chinook salmon.

Human impacts to the estuary include bisection by an abandoned railway grade, presence of US Highway 101, which borders the salt marsh to the west and south, and construction of a mill operation in the 1950's which included the subsequent filling of mud flat and salt marsh areas in the 1950's and/or early 1960's. Through this project we will 1) restore parts of the estuary impacted by the mill construction, 2) remove a portion of railroad grade to reconnect an area of partially isolated salt marsh, and 3) create an additional 5 acres of salt marsh adjacent to the current lower Salmon Creek estuary. In addition to excavating to marsh elevation, some tidal channels will be constructed. Re-vegetation will be allowed to occur naturally in the newly created marsh, and some re-vegetation will be done along the tidal channels.

**The project scope includes:**

- Removal of five derelict lumber mill buildings
- Removal of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of wood waste
- Removal of approximately 29,000 cubic yards of fill and associated berms
- Creation of approximately 11 Acres of salt marsh through removal of material to upland or off site disposal areas
- Creation of 5200 meters of new tidal channels (1,100 to be excavated and 4,100 to form naturally over time)

The primary intent of the project is to restore estuarine habitat for salmonids, especially out-migrating summer chum. Numerous wildlife species are expected to benefit from this project, especially waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds.

**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.**

Section: 23      Township: 29N      Range: 2W

The project is located at the south end of Discovery Bay in Jefferson County, WA.

Jefferson County Parcel Numbers include #902233013 #902234001 #902231004 #902231010 and #902231018

State Highway 101 swings around the South end of Discovery Bay and heads north along the west side of the bay. The Highway borders the project sites. Site 1 is located south of Highway 101 and sits behind an antique shop and large domed metal garage. Site 3 is east of Highway 101 just behind the Trading Post. Sites 4-6 lie to the north of site 3 and are adjacent to the old railroad grade, which follows Highway 101 in this location. See attached vicinity and project location maps.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

#### **a. General description of the site (circle one):**

Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . .

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

Less than 12%

#### **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 prime farmland.**

Sites #3-6 are very to extremely gravelly loamy sand fill material. The Hoypus (HvC) gravelly loamy sand on the hillside across the road is very likely the source of the gravelly fill material. Site #1 is Lummi silt loam. There is also sawdust and wood waste.

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

NO.

#### **e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

A portion of Site #1 excavation material, approximately 25,000 cubic yards of naturally occurring soils, will be disposed of at an upland disposal site on the same property. The disposal site is currently pasture, and a cover crop will be planted once the material is placed and graded. Another portion of site #1 material (4,000 cubic yards) will be hauled to sites #5&6 to be used as backfill where wood waste material is removed below the target elevation of the project. Following fill removal, all sites will be graded to their final salt marsh elevation.

#### **f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Yes. After construction activities, the new salt marsh and tidal channels will have exposed soils. Immediately after construction we expect some erosion as the channels and marsh find a natural grade through several tidal cycles. We expect this to be a short-term condition and a necessary part of the process. Similar projects at the nearby Jimmycomelately and Chimacum estuaries have caused remarkably small amounts of erosion.

There is a potential for erosion of soils deposited at the upland disposal site. Erosion control measures will be implemented as necessary to prevent spoils from entering any surface waters.

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

0% impervious surfaces

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

Undisturbed ground will separate all the excavation sites from surface waters until work at the given site is otherwise complete. Then the remaining earthen buffer will be removed during low tide so that each site will remain isolated from surface waters until the excavation work has been completed. This technique has proven extremely effective at other similar projects.

Sediment control measures will be put in place to minimize disturbance to nearshore marine environments. Silt fencing will be used as needed seaward of the construction area. Silt fences will be used to control erosion at Salmon Creek where Site 1 borders Salmon Creek. A vegetated berm will be left along a portion of sites 4-6 as part of the project design. This berm will serve to minimize tidal erosion of the completed project. The disposal site will be sown with a cover crop and mulched to stabilize spoils.

**2. Air**

**a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

There may be a temporary increase in emissions from construction vehicles during the construction phase. There will not be any emission once the project is complete.

**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:**

Mufflers will be standard on all heavy construction equipment used for the project.

**3. Water**

**a. Surface:**

**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.**

Yes. Salmon Creek flows through the Salmon Creek Estuary into Discovery Bay. Sites #3-6 are on Discovery Bay.

**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.**

Work on Site #1 will take place adjacent to Salmon Creek. Salt marsh will be created adjacent to the creek. Work at sites #3-6 take place adjacent to Salmon Creek estuary. Fill will be removed to salt marsh elevations and will meld into adjacent existing marsh.

**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.**

Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of soil will be removed from site #1, which is about 5 acres. This site is a freshwater wetland, as indicated by hydric soils.

**4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give 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. See attached map "Site Map with FEMA 100-Yr Flood"

**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:**

**1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give 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 (for example: 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.**

Survey work done by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified 3 culverts. One is located north of site #6 and is not affected by the project. Another located west of site 4 provides drainage of tidal waters through a berm. The berm and culvert will be removed as part of the project to allow for natural water movement. The third culvert is on site #1 and facilitates movement of water through an agricultural ditch. This ditch is located outside of the area to be excavated though the culvert will be upgraded, no change to runoff through this culvert will be made.

None of the culverts are delivering storm water to the project area directly. The remaining source of runoff will be sheet flow of rainwater and tidal waters over the project. As this is an expected and desired outcome, no collection or disposal systems will be constructed for long-term management of storm water. The newly created salt marsh at the northern sites will be protected from runoff impacts from US Highway 101 by existing vegetated buffers.

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

NO

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

During construction, silt fences will be installed as detailed on the attached plans.

#### 4. Plants

a. Check or circle 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
- ✓ 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?

Invasive plants including Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberry and Reed Canary Grass will be removed throughout the project area. Pasture grass and Bull Rush will be removed at Site #1. Site #5 contains an old sawdust pile, which was created on top of salt marsh. The sawdust pile has decomposed and now supports species typical of upland forests (hemlock, salal, huckleberry, Douglas fir). These species will be removed along with the sawdust pile. Sites #3-5 support individual species of upland plants throughout, though most of the vegetation is invasive species. In addition to the species already mentioned, individual grand fir will be removed along with fill material.

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

None according to Washington Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Database for the project's Section, Township, Range. (<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/contact/wnhptrs.pdf>)

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

There will be a combination of planting native salt marsh vegetation and allowing natural recruitment. Planting will focus primarily on the areas adjacent to newly created tidal channels. Extreme care will be taken not to disturb existing salt marsh vegetation during construction. Construction areas adjacent to upland will be planted with appropriate native upland vegetation.

#### 5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: waterfowl, shorebirds  
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: otter  
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: white sturgeon

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

Bald eagle, Hood Canal/Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, steelhead.

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

Migratory fish, especially anadromous salmonids, travel through the site. The site is also located within the Pacific Flyway.

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

The purpose of the project is to restore and enhance the estuarine environment for the benefit of fish and wildlife species.

**6. Energy and natural resources**

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

None.

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

No.

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

None.

**7. Environmental health**

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

No.

**1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

N/A

**2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

Any hazardous material discovered during the construction will be handled appropriately.

**b. Noise**

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

Highway 101 is adjacent to the project area and creates road noise.

**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.**

Construction vehicle noise during normal working hours. There will be no long-term noise impacts.

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

Construction vehicles will be fitted with mufflers.

**8. Land and shoreline use**

**a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?**

The project sites are all owned by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for habitat restoration and protection purposes

**b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.**

Site #1 has been used for grazing dairy cows but now is only used for hay.

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

There are 5 buildings. All were part of a log peeling and veneer mill built in the 1950's and shut down in 1965.

The buildings are empty, simple stick built structures. Some have fallen down flat to the ground, while others are standing. All Buildings are abandoned and a hazard to the public as they are likely unstable.

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

All 5 buildings will be removed either by a salvage company or by a demolition contractor.

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

Site #1 is zoned Agricultural (AP) 1:20

Site # 3-6 are zoned Rural Residential 1:5

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

Sites #3-6 are designed rural residential 1:5

Site #1 is designated commercial agriculture

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

The 1989 designation is 'natural' and 'suburban'. The plan is currently undergoing revisions.

**h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.**

None known.

**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:**

N/A

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

The project site will be protected as fish and wildlife habitat. The site will remain accessible to the public for passive recreational uses.

**9. Housing**

**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:**

N/A

## **10. Aesthetics**

**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

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

N/A

## **11. Light and glare**

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

N/A

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

N/A

**c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

N/A

**d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

N/A

## **12. Recreation**

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

Bird watching, walking, bike riding, shellfish harvest, boating, fishing

**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:**

The project itself will not yield any direct net change in recreational opportunities.

## **13. Historic and cultural preservation**

**a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**

No.

**b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.**

None.

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

N/A

#### **14. Transportation**

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

State Highway 101 borders sites #3-6 and access will be across a small piece of private land. Site #1 will be accessed at first, via an agreed upon access point across private land adjacent to Highway 101. Once a temporary bridge is installed across Salmon Creek, access to the site will be via 101 to Uncas Road and across WDFW property on Uncas Road.

**b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

There is a transit stop at the nearby Discovery Bay store, situated between both project sites and within walking distance to each.

**c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

None/None

**d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

A temporary access road will be constructed between Site #1 and the upland disposal site. The road will be completely removed and the area restored to its current condition at the completion of the project.

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

No.

**f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

It is not expected that the estuary restoration project will generate any additional vehicular traffic to the area.

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

N/A

#### **15. Public services**

**a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, 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**

**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.**

No utilities are needed for this restoration project.

**C. SIGNATURE**

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.

Signature: .....

Date Submitted: .....

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

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

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

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

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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