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: *Maintenance activities at Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDF&W) fishways under the jurisdiction of the TAPPS Division/Habitat Program.*

2. Name of applicant: *WDF&W TAPPS Division/Habitat Program*

2. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: *Tom Burns; 360-902-2558, WDF&W, Habitat Program, 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501-1091.*

4. Date checklist prepared: *October 18, 2007.*

5. Agency requesting checklist: *State of Washington, Department of Fish & Wildlife*

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): *General maintenance of fishways takes place on a year around basis. Maintenance associated with concrete repairs to weirs and fishway walls is usually scheduled to coincide with the period of low flows and the absence of migrating adult and juvenile salmonids. Gravel removal at fishways is usually done during summer time low flows prior to the return of adult salmionids in the fall unless such removal is required to immediately accommodate fish passage.*

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. *Yes. Some of the fishways will be redesigned and modified in the future to improve fish passage. These fishways will undergo separate SEPA Review at that time.*

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. *Both electronic and hard files have been developed for all WDF&W owned fishways. Files contain design, construction cost, biological information, inspection reports and current status of operation.*

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. *Hydraulic Project Approval (WDF&W), Shoreline Concurrence (Counties).*

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.) *This SEPA is for the maintenance of all TAPPS owned fishways. Currently, WDF&W; TAPPS Division/Habitat Program is responsible for the oversight and maintenance of 82 fishways statewide. The types fishways types range from log controls to complex and formal vertical slot fishways built under the Mitchell Act. The following activities are typical maintenance needs required to safely and freely pass fish (including ESA listed species). The proposed timing of those activities are also noted:*

A) Replace and or adjusted stop logs and guides associated with weir/pool, pool-chute, or vertical slot fishways damaged by weather related events, normal hydraulic action or vandalism. Proposed timing: needed year-around.*

B) Remove both inorganic (sediment, gravels, large rocks) and organic (trees, limbs, etc.) material using hand tools, e.g. chainsaws and where appropriate heavy equipment, e.g., track hoe excavator from weir/pool, pool/chute, baffle and/or streambed control, blasted chute, vertical slot, denil and steep pass type fishways. In selected cases, pre-existing sluice gates are used to evacuate gravels from fishways. Proposed timing: needed year-around.

C) Repair or replace concrete weirs and walls associated with formal concrete fishways damage by weather related events or normal hydraulic action. Proposed timing: year-around w/all work to be done in isolation of flowing water w/sufficient cure time to protect fish life.*

D) Repair or replace metal trash racks, guides, intake screens, walkways, ladders and grates normally associated with weir-pool, pool-chute, or vertical slot fishways damaged by weather related events or vandalism. Proposed timing: needed year-around.*

E) Repair log control(s), filter fabric, ballast damaged by weather related events. Proposed timing: Will comply with HPA fish window. All instream work will be tight lined prior to repair.*

**Weather related events include such events as flooding, freezes and/or wind storms.*

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. *Various locations throughout the state.* ***SEE ATTACHED REPORT FOR LEGAL LOCATIONS AND COUNTIES OF CURRENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED TAPPS FISHWAYS. If additional fishways are developed, their maintenance will be covered under this SEPA action.***

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . *WDF&W Habitat Program fishways are located throughout the state, usually on a 2 to 20% grade. They are often associated with both natural barriers, i.e., waterfalls and cascades, as well as man-made barriers, i.e., dams and culverts.*

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? *Often times, those fishways associated with passage over natural falls are located within steep canyon walls exceeding 50%. The Wind River fishway at Shipperd Falls is an example of such.*

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. *Soil types vary from sand, gravel to peat depending on fishway location. Many of the fishways are located in rock reaches made up of either granite or basalt with very little if any soil exist.*

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. *Soil stability varies from site to site. Generally, the soils immediately around the fishway are stable.*

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. *The purpose of removing material from the fishway is to accommodate the unimpeded passage of fish. Material removed from the fishway, i.e., sand, gravel, rubble, boulders will either be deposited above the Ordinary High Water (OHW),where possible, or side casted within the OHW where disposal above the OHW is not possible. An example of the latter is the Granite Falls fishway tunnel. The quantity of materials will vary from a few shovel fulls up to 100 cubic yards.* ***Note* The upper limit is confined to larger mainstem fishways, Granite Falls, Sunset Falls and Wind River.***

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. *Yes, a small amount of erosion could take place due to construction staging, however, all bmp's will be in place to safeguard the possibility of erosion. Re-seeding and erosion control measures will take place during and immediately after construction staging.*

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? *There will be no new impervious surfaces as a result of such maintenance activities.*

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: *Revegetation of disturbed soils. Keep access, staging and equipment footprint to a minimum.*

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. *Temporary emissions from construction equipment.*

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: *Equipment use will be kept to a minimum.*

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. *All fishways are on year around flowing waters of the state, i.e., streams/rivers.* ***SEE ATTACHED LIST OF FISHWAYS WITH STREAM NAMES AND WRIA #'S for currently owned and operated TAPPS fishways. This SEPA is not limited to these currently owned and operated fishways.***

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. *Yes, see A. Background, #11; Project Description.*

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. *Amount of material will vary*

from a couple of shovel fulls up to 100 cubic yards. Source of the material found in the fishway comes from upstream areas.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. *Yes, temporary water diversion will take place around the work area during material excavation, form and pouring of concrete to repair weirs and fishway walls.*

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. *All of the maintenance work within fishways will occur with the 100 year flood plain.*

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. *There will be no discharge of waste material into the groundwater.*

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. *Existing run-off patterns will not be changed.*

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: *No impacts expected.*

4. **Plants**

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

deciduous tree: *alder, maple, cottonwood, vine maple*

evergreen tree: *fir, cedar, pine, hemlock*

shrubs: *elderberry, huckleberry, salal, salmonberry, snowberry, and others*

grass: *fiscues, glovers and others.*

pasture: *timouthy*

crop or grain: *No.*

wet soil plants: *cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other*

water plants: *water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other*

other types of vegetation: *No.*

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? *Generally, very little if any disturbance will occur during fishway maintenance.*

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. *No threatened or endangered plants are known to occur at the locations of maintenance activities covered by this document.*

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: *Soils disturbed in the course of fishway maintenance activities will be revegetated with native plants.*

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,waterfowl*
mammals: *deer, bear, elk, beaver, otters*
fish: *salmon, trout, mountain whitefish, native char*

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. *Varies from site to site. Such species such as bald eagles will transit the areas and may feed adjacent to sites. Native char, i.e., bull trout and other listed fish species require unimpeded passage benefiting from the maintenance activities proposed here. Extreme caution and strict adherence to any permit conditions will help insure against impacting any listed species.*

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. *Yes, salmon, steelhead, native char, mountain whitefish and lamprey.*

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: *Proposed fishway maintenance activities are designed to insure safe and free passage of fish including ESA listed 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, which could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. *Accidental fuel spills could occur during operation of equipment.*

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. *Medical evacuation of injured maintenance personnel and fire suppression.*

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: *Develop and implement WDF&W Emergency Communication Plan prior to activities. Abide by State and Federal health and safety rules and regulations.*

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? *None.*

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. *Noise from chainsaws and heavy equipment.*

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: *Keep equipment use to a minimum.*

8. **Land and shoreline use**

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

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. *No.*

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

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? *No.*

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? *Varies by locations, and is set by the local jurisdiction for each facility. In general, most fishways are located in areas zoned rural. Classifications will be specified when and if a shorelines development is needed.*

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? *Varies by locations, and is set by the local jurisdiction for each facility.*

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? *Some of the fishways fall under the jurisdiction of the shoreline master plan. This designation again, varies from site to site.*

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. *Environmentally sensitive areas are designated by local governments. Through the shoreline permitting process, any restrictions as a result of such a designation can be determined, and the activities modified accordingly.*

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: *No displacement will occur.*

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: *Maintenance of existing fishways will be compatible with existing land use plans.*

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. *None.*

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. *None.*

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

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? *Existing fishways requiring maintenance vary in height.*

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? *Activities proposed are for the maintenance of existing fishways. No alteration of views will occur.*

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

11. **Light and glare**

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**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? *Recreational opportunities vary per area but can include hunting, hiking and/or 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: *None.*

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: *None.*

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. *Fishways are located and accessed in a variety of areas served by public and private roads. No change to existing conditions will occur.*

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? *No.*

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? *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). *No.*

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. *None.*

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: *None.*

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. *None.*

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. *None.*

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. *None, other than the Granite Falls and Sunset Falls fishways which have electrical sevices.*

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

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: .....