State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Habitat Program: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2534

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:
The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 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.

A. BACKGROUND

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:**
   Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project

2. **Name of Applicant:**
   Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

3. **Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**
   Jennifer Quan, Lands Division Manager
   600 Capitol Way North
   Olympia, WA 98501-1091
   Ph # (360-902-2508)

4. **Date checklist prepared:** March 12, 2008

5. **Agency requesting checklist:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. **Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**
   Contract date: Proposed Summer 2008.
   Commence thinning operations by Summer 2008 and complete by 2013.
   Prescribed burn phase to be conducted as the units become available beginning Spring 2009.

7. **Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**
   Timber thinning will produce revenue that, per federal aid funding requirements, will be used to further manage wildlife stewardship activities within Washington's Wildlife Area Program. A secondary benefit of this action will use this revenue to acquire perpetual timber rights (PTRs) on the Oak Creek, LT Murray and Wenas Wildlife Areas. PTRs are granted property rights that allow the removal of timber in perpetuity from the grantees' land. When these wildlife areas were purchased by WDFW, the seller retained the perpetual timber rights. WDFW owns the land, but cannot manage the timber resource. By acquiring the PTRs, more forestland can be safeguarded under public ownership, and public access for wildlife-related recreation would be improved. The purchase of the timber rights will have no adverse environmental impacts.

8. **List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:**
   1. Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Environmental Assessment (EA)

2. USFWS Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate Species by County, specifically Ferry County.
3. WDFW Priority Species and Habitat Management Recommendations.
4. GIS generated map showing the project area.
5. Cultural Resources Survey
6. Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of <u>other</u> 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.
A. DNR Forest Practice Application (FPA) and Burn Application and Permit.
B. Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) for Sherman Creek Wildlife Area.
C. Fish and Wildlife Commission
D. USFWS NEPA Compliance and Determination
E. Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 7
F. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106
G. WDFW SEPA Compliance and Determination

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.
This is project is designed improve habitat for mule deer/elk winter range. There are 4,000-forested acres to be thinned and prescribed burn in 17 sections. The goal is to reduce the density of Douglas Fir by removing trees which have invaded as a result of past logging practices and wild fire suppression, open up the Ponderosa Pine stands using different spacing requirements and burn the resulting slash to improve regeneration of fire dependent species for deer and elk browse. Prescribed fire will be used to improve forage availability, forest health and reduce hazardous fuels. Pulpwood and/or timber will be harvested using ground-based systems, which may include feller processors and self-loading forwarders. There will be no new permanent road construction, but the project may necessitate temporarily reopening approximately 3.77 miles of closed roads and constructing approximately 2.03 miles of temporary roads. See Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment, Page 14 Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) for more detail.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including 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.
a. <u>Legal description</u>: The proposal lies within portions of Sections 20, 26, 27, 33 and 34, all in Township 36 North, Range 36 East, Williamette Meridian (W.M.); Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33 and 34 all in Township 36 North, Range 37 East, W.M. (See Map, Appendix A)
b. The proposed wildlife habitat improvement project lies within the forested portions of the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area in Ferry County, Washington, approximately 3.3 miles west of Kettle Falls on Highway 20.
c. Sherman Creek WA acres 8,782; Proposal acres 4,000
d. Road density: Lower Sherman Creek Drainage 0.832 miles/sq. mi. and lower Trout Creek sub-drainages and other drainages 0.448 mi./sq. mi.

See Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment,

Page 7 for more detail.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (check one): Flat_, rolling X, hilly X, steep slopes X, mountainous X, other_.

The wildlife area generally is characterized by a hilly to mountainous topography and narrow stream valleys. The amount of annual precipitation ranges from 12 to 18 inches in the lower valleys to 25 inches or more on the higher mountains. Precipitation falls primarily as snow. In winter, snowfall commonly ranges from 40 to 70 inches in the lower valleys to an estimated 200 inches or more on the higher mountains. The primary timber species is Ponderosa pine on the southern aspects and lower elevation, with Douglas fir and western larch on north facing slopes and mid to higher elevations. The proposed activities are located between 1,289 to 4,600 feet elevation.

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

The steepest slopes are approximately 50% on 10% of the project area and it would average under 35 percent for the entire project area. Thinning will be limited to slopes less than 45%.

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.

General types of soils found in the proposal area fall into a loam or stony loam, sandy loam or cobbly sandy loam, sandy loam or stony sandy loam, silt loam or sandy loam, rockland complex categories.

In Sections 34 and 35, T36N R37E there is approximately 120 acres of agricultural land that primarily serves as wildlife food plots. The soils associated with these sections are generally classified as BmD – Bisbee loamy fine sand, 0 to 25% slopes.

See Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment, Page 65-69 for more detail.

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.

The project may necessitate temporarily reopening approximately 3.77 miles of closed roads and constructing approximately 2.03 miles of temporary roads. Up to 1,000 cubic yards of clean rock (from a licensed/certified rock and gravel company) may be needed. Majority of the clean rock will be used to construct and maintain temporary roads. Some of the clean rock will be used to enhance approaches/fords to streams. Clean rock will only be added to streams (90% is associated with Type N (4,5 &9), non-fish bearing, intermittent streams; 10% is associated with Type F (2&3), fish bearing (resident trout only) perennial streams) when dry or frozen. The remaining clean rock will be used for routine road maintenance (within the road bed) that includes, not limited to:

- Reinforcement of soft spots with rock
- Grading
- Drainage maintenance

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

Erosion could occur on existing or temporary roads. WDFW will maintain erosion control measures, drainages and culverts. Re-closed roads will be seeded with native vegetation to help prevent erosion.

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:
Disturbed soil will be seeded with native species to bring back vegetation quickly and prevent invasion of noxious weeds. Upon completion of the proposal, tank traps and signing will be used to restrict unauthorized access.

2. Air

a What type 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.
This proposal will involve vehicle emissions, dust from logging, forwarding and hauling equipment and smoke from prescribed fire. There should be no significant impact to air quality. The prescribed burning will adhere to the State of WA's Smoke Management Program and DNR Burn Permit.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
None known.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
Ensure equipment operators have safety mufflers for emission control. Minimize soil disturbance for dust control. Prescribed fire will be implemented per federal, state and local laws and regulations.

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 or wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.
WDNR forest practice base maps indicate Type F (2 & 3) fish bearing perennial streams and Type N (4 & 5) non-fish bearing intermittent streams all occur within the project area. There are 4 Type F (2 & 3) streams. Sherman Creek, a Type F (2) stream flows through Sections 27, 28, 29, and 30, T36N R37E and Sections 26, 33, and 34, T36N R36E eventually flowing into the Columbia River. Three Type F (3) streams (which includes Trout Creek and S.F. Sherman Creek) flow through Sections 26, 33, and 34, T36N R36E and Section 29 and 30, T36N R37E, which flow into Sherman Creek. There are approximately 58 Type N (4 & 5) streams and approximately 18 untyped streams. Trout Creek and its tributaries flow into Sherman Creek. S F Sherman Creek and its tributaries flow into Sherman Creek. Mainstem Sherman Creek and its tributaries eventually flow into the Columbia River. Other Type N and untyped streams and their tributaries associated with unnamed drainages flow in to the Columbia River.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.
Yes, Type F (2 & 3) fish bearing perennial streams and Type N (4 & 5) non-fish bearing intermittent streams all occur within the project area. No thinning would take place within the riparian management zones (RMZs); however other treatments, such as prescribed fire, may occur. Timber harvest buffers would exceed Washington Forest Practices Rules for buffers on all typed streams. WDFW would double the RMZ buffers required by Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Forest Practices Rule on Sherman Creek, a Type F (2) stream, to 260 feet (ft); all other Type F (2) streams would have a buffer of 200 ft. Trout Creek, a Type F (3) stream, would be set to 200 ft; all other Type F (3) streams would have a buffer of 150 ft. Type N (4) stream buffers would be doubled to 100 ft and buffers would be set at 50 ft for Type N (5) streams. WDFW would concentrate the wildlife reserve trees close to RMZs, where possible. Work will consist of felling, processing operations and forwarding. Clean rock from a licensed and certified rock company will be used to enhance fords/approaches to streams. Clean rock will only be added when streams are dry or frozen.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate

the source of fill material.
Up to 1,000 cubic yards of clean rock (from a licensed/certified rock and gravel company) may be needed. Majority of the clean rock will be used to construct and maintain temporary roads. Some of the clean rock will be used for approaches/fords to streams. Clean rock will only be added to dry or frozen streams (of which 90% is associated with Type N (4,5 &9), non-fish bearing, intermittent streams; 10% is associated with Type F (2&3), fish bearing (resident trout only) perennial streams).

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? __ YES _X_ NO**
If so, note location on the site plan.
Sherman Creek falls within a 500-year floodplain.

6) **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste material to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**
No

3. WATER
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.**
Not applicable

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (including quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**
Spring runoff from snow melt, and rain the rest of the year will be channeled through culverts, cross drains, and over water bars. Runoff intercepted by roads and ditches will be diverted to the undisturbed forest floor, where possible. Feller processor will place limbs and tops on travel corridors to reduce surface erosion.

2) **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**
Only from fuel or oil spills associated with equipment operations.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground and runoff water impacts, if any:
Feller processor will place limbs and unmerchantable tops in the travel corridors for the forwarders to drive over to avoid and/or minimize soil erosion. Conduct winter logging when the ground is covered with snow and/or frozen and summer logging under dry conditions .In addition, routine road maintenance will occur which includesmaintaining erosion control measures, drainage ditches, culverts, etc. Activities associated with this proposal will meet or exceed Forest Practice rules and regulations. Maintain drainage structures before, during and after operations, construct erosion bars, re-vegetate disturbed areas with native seed, and hire responsible contractors. Contract will also require that refueling and oil changes only take place in designated areas and be conducted with catch basins under equipment.

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

_X deciduous tree: X Black cottonwood and aspen, X Western Larch

_X evergreen tree: X Doug, Grand and Sub-alpine fir, X W. redcedar, X Ponderosa pine, other:

_X shrubs: Ceanothus, snowberry, oceanspray, wild rose, willow, elderberry, serviceberry

_X grass: bluebunch wheatgrass, needle and thread grasses, threadleaf sedge

__ pasture

_x_ crop or grain food

_x_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

___ water plants: waterlily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

___ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
Douglas fir, Grand fir, sub-alpine fir, western larch and Ponderosa Pine will be thinned to a variety of prescriptions (25'x25' spacing out to 40'x40'). Up to 8 trees per acre will be topped to create snags for cavity nesters.

c. List threatened and endangered species [of plants] known to be on or near the site.
No federally listed threatened or endangered plants or plants proposed for federal listing are known to occur in the wildlife area or on adjacent federal lands. No T& E plants have been observed during recent fieldwork to layout the project and prepare thinning/prescribed fire units the on the wildlife area.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
Reseeding of the area with native vegetation. The project proposal was planned to increase native, fire dependent species key to elk and mule deer winter range. Native seed mix to include: Bluebunch wheatgrass, yarrow, Sandberg's bluegrass, Idaho fescue, wild rye, ceanothus, and bitterbrush.

5. ANIMALS

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

Birds: red tailed hawk, heron, X golden eagle, X songbirds, X other: wild turkey, bald eagle, white head and lewis' woodpeckers

Mammals: X deer, X black bear, X elk, beaver, other: cougar

Fish: bass, salmon, X trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Unique habitats: X Cliffs and talus slopes

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
The following animal species are not known to occur on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area: Bull trout *(Salvelinus confluentus) T* and Canada lynx *(Lynx Canadensis)* T. However, Bull trout occurs within the lower ½ mile of Sherman Creek, outside of the proposal area and approximately 16 years ago lynx were observed (individual occurrences) on adjacent National Forest lands, there have been no new sightings to date. See Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment, Page 46-56 for more detail.

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

Yes, the general area is used as elk and mule deer winter range and migration route.

d. Proposed measures to preserve and enhance wildlife, if any:
The primary objective of the project is to enhance reproduction and increase vigor of fire dependent species like ceanothus, serviceberry, elderberry, willow, bitterbrush and snowberry for elk and mule deer winter forage. All existing snags will be left for cavity nesters, in addition the feller processor will create up to 8 snags per acre either scattered or in clumps, depending on the prescription. Cull logs will be left in the woods for amphibians, reptiles and small mammals. In addition, a prescribed fire will be implemented after the timber removal that will improve nutrient cycling and reduce hazardous fuels. See Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment, Page 14-17 for more detail.

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.
Fuels to operate equipment for harvesting, loading and hauling timber and any related road work. Some fuels may be necessary for the prescribed fire.

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:
Does not apply.

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.
There could be fuel spills when refueling equipment or oil spills while performing equipment maintenance. There is always the risk of fire from equipment operation in the woods or from prescribed fire escaping.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
The contractor must maintain firefighting equipment on the job and be in compliance with WDNR fire equipment codes. WDFW may also request fire suppression services from both agencies as well as Ferry County Fire District #3 if the prescribed fire were to escape. Washington State Department of Ecology and WDFW will be notified if any spills occur.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
All equipment will have spark arresters on mufflers. Catch basins under equipment when refueling or changing oil. WDFW will also implement spill prevention best management practices. USFS and/or WDNR may be asked to assist WDFW with the prescribed fire. Fire fighting equipment will be available on-site that will include, but not limited to, fire fighting clothing and gear, water tenders and trucks with slip in water tanks.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
Other land management operations associated with adjacent landowners and/or recreational traffic.

2) **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on an short-term or long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**
During harvest activities there will be some noise associated with feller processors, self-loading forwarder and trucks. Typically these would be daylight only and weather dependent. Heavy

equipment noise can easily exceed 100 decibels.

3) **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**
Maintain mufflers on equipment. Ear protection is recommended.

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
Current use of the wildlife area is for forest management, fish and wildlife conservation, spring/summer/winter range and wildlife-related recreational activities.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so describe?
Yes, but only in Sections 34 and 35, T36N R37E, which consist of a total of 120 acres of agricultural land that primarily serves as wildlife food plots.

c. Describe any structures on the site.
Six structures exist on the wildlife area: Office/garage, shop, equipment building, pump house and barns (2).

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

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Forestland and fish and wildlife conservation area.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Forest - Maintain as forestland with emphasis on managing habitat for wildlife.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
The Sherman Creek Wildlife Area is a fish and wildlife conservation area and contains wetlands, springs, seeps, riparian areas, meadows etc. These areas will be flagged for "no entry" and buffered for protection.

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:
Does not apply

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
This proposal will not impact existing and projected land uses and plans. Further, project was identified and discussed within the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan (2006), which was vetted through a statewide 30-day public review and comment period.

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:
Does not apply

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?
Does not apply

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
With the reduced density of trees, the sight distances will increase resulting in more area being viewable from a single location.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
Management prescriptions include leaving all existing snags and creating more (up to 8/acre) for cavity nesters and retaining all large diameter Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, which would make good wildlife trees. Disturbed areas will be seeded after the harvest/prescribed burn is complete.

11. LIGHT AND GLARE

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
Possibly light or glare from flames on the days that the controlled burn takes place. Timing will be dependent on weather and ground conditions.

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?
Does not apply.

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?
Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and wildlife viewing. See Draft Sherman Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement Project Environmental Assessment, Page 80-82 for more detail.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
Depending on weather conditions and timing of harvest, some forms of recreational activities, like hunting and wildlife viewing, could be temporarily impacted.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
Signs will designate areas temporarily or seasonally closed. Signs will notify the public of potential delays for their safety, while logging operations are in progress. To minimize conflicts during hunting seasons, signs with maps, objectives, and a district contact with phone number would be posted at road junctions on roads that have historically had hunter camps on them. Signing would be accomplished at least 2 days prior to the beginning of the current season. News releases would also be utilized to notify the recreating public of project activities.

d. Positive impacts of the proposal.
The proposal will greatly reduce the number of hazardous trees along roads and access sites, making for a safer environment for people and reduce the risk of a stand replacing wildfire.

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.
None known, but a cultural resources survey is currently underway.

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

Several original survey markers and witness corners were located and will be protected. A recent cultural resources survey of the project area resulted in further documentation of a previously recorded historic archaeological site, 45FE206H. Site 45FE206H, recorded by the Forest Service in 1983, dates to the period between 1920 and 1930 (Osborn 1983). The site form describes the site as "a historic logging site with three main components remaining; a railroad bed, a wet flume and a 'logging activity area' which includes a yarding area, splash dam site and log chute as well as portions of the railroad bed and wet flume (Osborn 1983).

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

Protect survey markers and site, 45FE206H. No ground disturbing activities will occur near the location markers or site, 45FE206H. Implement DAHP recommended protection buffer of 15 feet wide from the outside edges of the resources and maintain during the project activities.

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.

Main arterial roads are US 395, SR 20, and the Kettle Falls County Road.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If no, 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? _____

Does not apply.

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).

Primarily, SR 20 would be used to access WDFW roads within the wildlife area and US 395 would also be used to access a few WDFW roads. Existing wide spots/spurs along WDFW roads would be used for landings and access to cutting units. The temporary reopening of approximately 3.77 miles of closed roads and the construction of approximately 2.03 miles of temporary roads will be necessary.

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.

This proposal should result in no increase in vehicle trips per day upon completion of the habitat improvement project. During the harvest and log hauling, contractors, sale administrators and log truck drivers may exceed 10 vehicles per day.

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

Post signs notifying the public that the area will be closed for thinning and prescribed fire.

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.

USFS, WDNR or Ferry County Fire District #3 may be needed to provide fire suppression services, if the prescribed fire were to escape during the controlled burn phase of the proposal.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any:

The prescribed fire will be comply with the DNR Burn Permit and adhere to the Washington's Smoke

Management Program. Further, fire fighting equipment will be available onsite to contain the prescribed fire. By opening the stand, leaving fire resistant older Ponderosa pine, removing the majority of the Douglas fir and ladder fuels will reduce the chance for a wildfire.

16. UTILITIES

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS, WATER, REFUSE SERVICE, TELEPHONE, SANITARY SEWER, SEPTIC SYSTEM, OTHER.

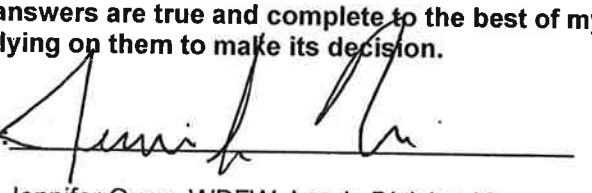
None

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.

None

C. SIGNATURE

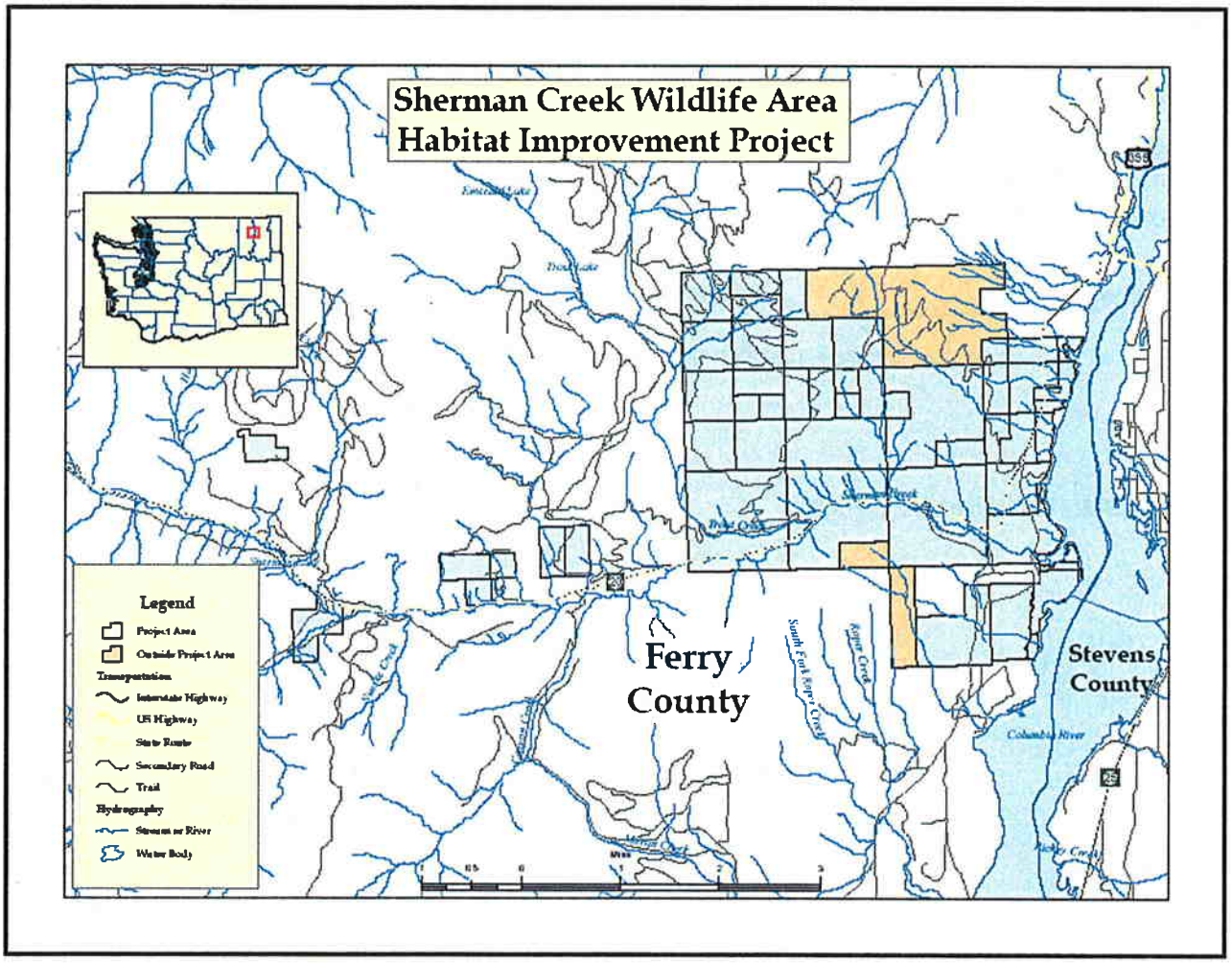
The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

SIGNATURE: 

Jennifer Quan, WDFW, Lands Division Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: March 25, 2008.

APPENDIX A


Sherman Creek Wildlife Area
Habitat Improvement Project
Ferry
County
Stevens
County
Legend
Project Area
Outside Project Area
Transportation
Interstate Highway
US Highway
State Route
Secondary Road
Trail
Hydrography
Stream or River
Water Body