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:
Fio Rito Lakes Integrated Vegetation Management Project

2. Name of applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

David Heimer

600 Capitol Way N.

Olympia, WA 98501-1091

253-732-3869

4. Date checklist prepared: 4-24-08
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

April – July, 2008 – Start public awareness program, hold any necessary public/landowner meetings, implement control strategies submerged and emergent weeds, and mapping of weed infestations..

August -- October, 2008 – Monitoring of control work, any remaining control work, mapping weeds.

November, 2008 – March, 2009 – Evaluation of 2008 project work, planning and coordinating of long-term monitoring and control strategies, GPS/GIS mapping, continue and expand public awareness program.

April, 2009 – Continue public awareness program, conduct early surveys of 2008 infestation sites.

May – July, 2009 – Conduct extensive surveys, implement weed control strategies, mapping of infestations, evaluations of 2008 control strategies.

August - October, 2009 – Follow up surveys, monitoring of control work, any remaining control work, mapping.

November, 2009 – March, 2010 – Evaluation of 2009 project work, planning and coordinating of long-term monitoring and control strategies, GPS/GIS mapping, continue public awareness program.

April – September, 2010 – Conduct extensive surveys, implement control strategies, mapping of infestations, evaluations of 2009 control strategies, continue public awareness program.

August – October, 2010 – Follow up surveys, monitoring of control work, any remaining control work, mapping.

November, 2010 – March, 2011 – Evaluation of 2010 project work, planning and coordinating of long-term monitoring and control strategies, GPS/GIS mapping, continue public awareness program.

April – September, 2011 – Conduct extensive surveys, implement control strategies, mapping of infestations, evaluations of 2010 control strategies, continue public awareness program.

August – October, 2011 – Follow up surveys, monitoring of control work, any remaining control work, mapping.

November, 2011 – March, 2012 – Evaluation of 2011 project work, planning and coordinating of long-term monitoring and control strategies, GPS/GIS mapping, continue public awareness program.

April – September, 2012 – Conduct extensive surveys, implement control strategies, evaluations of project control strategies, planning and coordinating of long-term monitoring and control strategies, GPS/GIS mapping, continue public awareness program.

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

Beyond 2012, planning and coordination of long-term monitoring and control strategies will continue, as well as a continuation of public awareness campaign. Depending on the treatment efficacy and remaining level of aquatic weed infestation, WDFW will implement control/eradication measures as needed.

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

The Fio Rito Lakes Management Plan was written in 2007 by the Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board and submitted to Ecology.

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.

WDFW has applied for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from Ecology to treat the aquatic noxious weeds with herbicide.

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

WDFW has applied for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from Ecology to treat the aquatic noxious weeds with herbicide. In addition, the Aquatic Plants and Fish pamphlet will serve as the HPA for installing a bottom barrier and hand removal.

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.)

WDFW will control and prevent re-infestation of three aquatic noxious weeds threatening Fio Rito Lakes, which were former gravel pits (north lake 38-acres & south lake 25-acres), in Kittitas County. The herbicides proposed for use have gone through an EPA and WSDA registration process and Ecology has approved the products for aquatic applications under the NPDES permit. Eurasian watermilfoil is the highest priority with the goal of eradication. Purple loosestrife and yellow flag iris will also have control strategies implemented with the ultimate goal of eradication from the Fio Rito Lakes area.

WDFW will implement the Fio Rito Lakes Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan to reach the following goals:

- Reduce and then maintain Eurasian watermilfoil at as low a density as is environmentally and economically feasible with eradication as the ultimate goal.
- Control yellow flag iris along the lake shoreline.
- Eradicate purple loosestrife from the Fio Rito Lakes area and prevent reinfestation.
- Continue to monitor curly leaf pondweed densities.
- Seek a balanced approach for treatments. Take into consideration all beneficial uses including the recreational use, the fishery, and wildlife habitat.
- Develop and begin implementation of an educational plan that will reduce the chances of Eurasian watermilfoil spreading to other lakes and prevent reintroduction.
- Develop and begin implementation of an aquatic survey of all lake vegetation.

- Seek funding mechanisms to fund control of invasive aquatic plants.

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.

North and South Fio Rito Lake are located along Interstate 82 approximately five kilometers south of Ellensburg, Washington, in Kittitas County (T17 R19 sections 19 and 30). The two lakes were the result of gravel mining operations during the construction of Interstate 82 in the early 1970's. The northern lake is 38 acres and the southern lake 25 acres in size respectively.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

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)? None.

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.

Sand and gravel.

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.

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

a. **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.

Exhaust from boat engines and vehicles would occur during survey and weed control activities. In addition, there may be the odor of herbicides after applications.

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:
Application of herbicide to treat Eurasian watermilfoil will be made by subsurface injection which will reduce odors. Applications to emergent noxious weeds will be made during times of low public use and the area will be signed.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT EVALUATION FOR

AGENCY USE ONLY

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. Fio Rito Lakes (North and South) are the project site. The two lakes were the result of gravel mining operations during the construction of Interstate 82 in the early 1970's. The northern lake is 38 acres (maximum depth 3.9m) and the southern lake 25 acres (maximum depth 5.2m) in size, respectively, with a small connection between them. In addition, Naneum Creek runs along the edge of the Fio Rito Lakes and connects to the South Lake via an overflow culvert. Water goes from North to South lakes and some water exits via a culvert and into Naneum Creek and eventually into a canal named Cherry Creek.

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. The project is to treat noxious aquatic weeds in Fio Rito Lakes.
Herbicides: WDFW, or its designee, will treat all known locations of milfoil with appropriate Ecology-approved herbicides (2,4-D and triclopyr are examples of appropriate herbicides). WDFW will treat purple loosestrife and yellow flag iris with Ecology-approved herbicides. Follow-up treatments shall be conducted as necessary.

Monitoring: WDFW, or its designee, will conduct herbicide residue monitoring inside and outside of the largest treated area during the first treatment. A baseline sample will be taken prior to any herbicide application. One sample will be taken from within the treatment plot and a second sample will be taken outside of the outer edge of the treatment plot at 24 hours and seven days after treatment, 14 days after treatment, and 21 days after treatment (the sampling times can be adjusted to accommodate weekends or staff work schedules if necessary). All samples shall be submitted to a laboratory accredited for the appropriate parameter. Samples should be collected, stored, and delivered to the laboratory according to the laboratory directions. For more information about sampling methods see:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final_pesticide_permits/noxious/monitoring_data/lakesmonitoring_plan.html.

After the first year of treatment, WDFW will coordinate future sampling events, if any, with the Ecology. Sampling intervals and distances may be changed based on year one sampling results. WDFW shall submit all aquatic herbicide monitoring data to the Ecology using the form provided by the Ecology. Specific questions about data submittal can be directed (via e-mail) to Kathy Hamel at kham461@ecy.wa.gov.

Hand-pulling and Bottom Barrier Installation: WDFW, or its designee, may hand pull scattered milfoil plants or cover larger patches of milfoil with bottom barriers. Using alternatives to chemical control will help prevent the formation of hybrid milfoil or herbicide-resistant strains of milfoil.

Surveys: WDFW, or its designee, will conduct snorkel or diver surveys of the plant community in Fio Rito Lakes each year to locate and map all milfoil plants. The locations will be noted using Global Positioning System (GPS) points and mapped as points or polygons.

A post treatment survey should be done within one month of any herbicide applications using snorkel, divers, viewing tubes, remote cameras, or other methods that provide an estimate of efficacy. A revised map and report clearly delineating the impacts from the herbicide treatments should be made with recommendations on follow-up treatments or other contingency activities (e.g., hand removal etc).

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.

Does not apply.

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.

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.

Yes. Several herbicides will be used to treat aquatic noxious weeds in and around Fio Rito Lakes. A subsurface application of 9,775 lbs acid equivalent of 2,4-D per year will be made to attain no more than a 4 ppm concentration. The emergent noxious weeds will be treated with triclopyr (8 quarts/year), imazapyr (6 pints/year) and glyphosate (4 quarts/year) with approved adjuvants (e.g. Agridex, Hi-Light) as dictated by the NPDES permit. It is likely that the amount of herbicide needed after the first treatment year will decline in relation to reduced aquatic noxious weed abundance.

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.

Does not apply.

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.
Does not apply.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.
Does not apply.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:
The treatments will occur when no rain is expected to minimize potential overflow into Naneum Creek. In addition, 2,4-D's short half-life represents a low potential for damaging vegetation off-site should an overflow event occur . Other herbicides used on emergents will be targeted on the shoreline, not in the water. The NPDES permit contains water monitoring requirements to monitor herbicide concentrations.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:
X deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
X shrubs
X grass
X pasture
_____ crop or grain
X wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
X water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
_____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
Eurasian watermilfoil (63 acres), purple loosestrife (1 acres) and yellow flag iris (2 acre) are the noxious weeds targeted for control/removal in this project.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
Washington Natural Heritage Program does not have a report of an occurrence.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
The areas where noxious weeds are removed by this project will be colonized naturally by desirable species that occur in the system.

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: Osprey
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromacvlatvs*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), pumpkinseed sunfish (*Lepomis gibbosus*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), largescale sucker (*Catastomus macrocheilus*), bridgelip sucker (*Catastomus columbianus*), common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), and chiselmouth (*Acrocheilus alutaceus*).

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
There are various priority species in the nearby Yakima River including steelhead, spring chinook salmon, bull trout, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, mountain whitefish, river lamprey (bull trout & steelhead are ESA threatened). None of these are found on site (in the ponds).

Naneum and Cherry Creek are listed in PHS for Priority Anadromous Fish Presence and the Yakima River is listed as Riparian Area in the SW corner of T17NR19E Section 30.

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

No.

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

Controlling the noxious weeds at Fio Rito Lakes will enhance native and desirable vegetation for wildlife.

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.

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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? If so, describe.

Yes. The herbicides used in this project are toxic to plants and represents the products' mode of action. However, they represent a low risk for people and wildlife species when applied according to label and NPDES guidelines. The products have gone through an EPA and WSDA registration process and Ecology has approved the products for aquatic applications under the NPDES permit.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None required.

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

The herbicide label and the NPDES include measures to reduce the risk to the environment, applicators, and the public. These methods include herbicide applications occurring during periods of low public use, using integrated pest management (IPM) to achieve better results, posting the sites so the public is aware of herbicide applications, as well as engaging in public outreach. Spill kits will be on hand during applications.

b. **Noise**

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

I-84 occurs adjacent to the Fio Rito Lakes and the site is used by the public. This will not affect our 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.

The noise generated from this project would be from a boat's outboard motor used during application of herbicide, or during surveys and diver plant removal. A truck would also be used for the project. The noise associated with the project would be short-term and occur during the 6 a.m. – 4 p.m. timeframe several times during the treatment season May – October.

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

No noise reduction measures are needed.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

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

Mattoon Lake is a recreational site for fishing. I-84, a residence, pasture, and agricultural fields are adjacent to the WDFW property at Fio Rito Lakes.

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

Yes. Adjacent property is used for grazing cattle.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Outhouse.

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

No.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

No.

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

Does not apply.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Does not apply.

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:

The proponents of the project and WDFW designed the project to enhance the habitat and recreational character of Fio Rito Lakes.

9. **Housing**

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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?

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

11. **Light and glare**

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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:

Does not apply.

12. **Recreation**

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

Fishing and outdoor, non-consumptive recreation.

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

Possibly for a short time. The project site will be treated with herbicide and some members of the public may choose not to recreate during these periods.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Public outreach is being conducted by the Kittitas Field and Stream Club, WDFW posted a legal notice in the Ellensburg Daily Record and the Yakima Herald, a public meeting will be held in May and the lake will be posted prior to herbicide applications. In addition, WDFW will time applications to coincide with periods of low public use.

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. DAHP's WISAARD database was queried and no information was registered for the project site. In addition, I called and described our project to Rob Whitlam (DAHP) who did not feel our project presented a concern to historic and cultural resources.

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:

Does not apply.

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.

Number 6 Road serves the project site.

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

Does not apply.

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).

No.

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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.

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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.

None.

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Does not apply.

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.

Does not apply.

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: .....