



**State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST
(WAC 197-11-960)**

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Freshwater Slough Levee Repair

2. Name of Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Capitol Programs & Engineering Division
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

WDFW Contact Person: Marty Peoples
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
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Consultant Contact: Brian Missildine,
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Environmental Scientist
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4. Date checklist prepared:

July 7, 2008

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2008.

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

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be

prepared, directly related to this proposal:

Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application, HPA, Biological Assessment, wetland classification, wetland report.

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.**

There are no pending applications for government approval that would affect the property.

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

A Skagit County Shoreline Exemption Permit, WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, Section 10 permit, Ecology 401 Water Quality Certification, and Endangered Species Act consultation will be needed.

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.**

WDFW proposes to repair the existing levee that was damaged during the 2006 floods. Approximately 40 linear feet (approximately 300 cubic yards) will be repaired by regrading the waterward slope. Native vegetation such as willows will be planted to improve habitat and help stabilize the slope. Also, the backside of the levee will be filled with the material removed from the waterward side and regraded to maintain the levee's width.

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.**

From I-5 north take exit 221 or the Lake McMurry exit, head west on the Pioneer Hwy. Go over the interstate and take the first right onto Fir Island Road through Conway and about 1.8 miles to left on Wylie Road go to the end of Wylie and stay left onto the Wildlife Area. From this point, WDFW personnel will escort visitors by boat to the project site.

There is no street address for the proposed project. The closest town, Conway, is approximately 2 miles to the northeast. The legal description is Township 24 Range 33N Section 3E. See attached figures.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. **General description of the site (underline one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:**

Proposed project is located on a levee.

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

45%. (side slope of levee)

- c. **What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of the agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.**

The soil is classified as Tacoma Silt Loam.

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

Yes, the purpose of the project is to stabilize unstable soils where the levee failed.

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

The purpose of the project is to repair 40 linear feet of an existing levee. The waterward side of the levee will be graded to a 2:1 slope from the existing toe. Material removed from the waterward side will be used to fill the backside of the levee in order to maintain the desired width of the levee.

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

Erosion could occur during a storm event, however, appropriate BMPs and additional planting will minimize the potential for erosion.

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

No impervious surface will result from the proposed project.

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

Any potential erosion will be prevented using erosion control BMPs such as silt fencing and straw mulch.

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.**

Vehicle exhaust and dust from construction is expected. No long-term change in emissions is expected from the completed project.

- 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:**

None.

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.

Freshwater Slough is adjacent to the project site. Freshwater Sloughs a tributary of the Skagit River. Also, there are wetlands on site that were identified as category 3 wetlands (See attached classification report).

- 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.**

This project will occur within 200 feet of Freshwater Slough. The project description is listed in question A-11 and the project plans are attached.

- 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.**

300 cubic yards of material will be removed from the waterward side of the levee and will be placed on the backside of the levee to maintain width. Approximately 100 cubic yards will be placed in the wetlands. However, removal of material will not occur below the waterline.

- 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, please see attached FEMA map.

- 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 waste material will be discharged into surface waters.

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.**

No waste material will be discharged.

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.**

Storm water will be filtered through grass filter strips. If any stormwater runoff occurs, which is unlikely, it would flow into Freshwater Slough or the wetlands located on the inside of the levee.

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

There is an extremely remote chance that material such as grease or oil from the construction equipment could enter ground or surface water. However, all equipment will be checked for leaks before construction commences. In addition, completion of spill prevention control and countermeasure (SPCC) plan kept on site will minimize this potential.

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

Construction related BMPs would be imposed before work began. Measures such as inspecting the equipment for leaks and ensuring no equipment enters the water will minimize or eliminate the chance that waste material would enter ground or surface water.

4. **PLANTS**

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

 x deciduous tree: alder, willow, maple, aspen, cottonwood, other

 evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

 x shrubs

 x grass

 pasture

 crop or grain

 xx 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?**

Approximately 2,000 square feet of Reed Canarygrass will be removed. In addition, 5-10 young alder trees will be removed.

c. **List threatened and endangered species [of plants] known to be on or near the site.**

We researched the Washington Department of Natural Resources National Heritage program database and found that no endangered plant species occur at the project site.

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

Native vegetation will be planted on the regraded slope to improve habitat conditions. Species and density of plantings has not been determined but will most likely consist of willows.

5. ANIMALS

- a. **Underline any birds or 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:

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Otter trail observed on site

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

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

Puget Sound Steelhead, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, and bull trout are known to use Freshwater Slough.

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

Anadromous salmon stocks migrate through Freshwater Slough. Also the island is used as a rest area for migratory birds

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

Work will be conducted when salmonid species are least likely to be present near the proposed project (June 15 to August 31). In addition, work will occur during summer months when water levels are at their lowest. Finally, no in-water work is proposed.

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.**

The proposed project will not require any post-work energy sources.

- 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.**

Any time construction equipment is being used there is a slight chance for hazardous waste (oil,

grease, hydraulic fluid) spill.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None required.

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

All construction equipment will be inspected for leaks on a daily basis before work commences.

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 long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

No additional noise is expected to be created as a result of the proposed project except during construction. Construction noise is expected to occur between 7AM and 7PM and last no more than two weeks.

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

No work will occur during nighttime hours (between 10pm and 7am).

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

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

The current site is located on an island. The island is currently planted to enhance waterfowl and migratory bird feeding and resting habitat. The island is used for hunting during hunting season. Adjacent properties are primarily agriculture with residents dispersed sparsely in between. There is one residence directly across the slough from the proposed project.

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

Yes, see 8a.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures on site.

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

None.

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

The current zoning of the site is classified as Public Open Space, Area of Region or Statewide importance.

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

The current comprehensive plan is designated as *Public Opens Space, Area of Region or Statewide importance*.

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

The current shoreline master program designation is classified as *Conservancy*.

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

Yes, part of the proposed project is located in a wetland classified as a category 3 wetland (See attached wetland report and wetland classification documents).

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:

None.

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

No change in land use is proposed.

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?

There are no proposed structures for this project.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

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

None.

11. LIGHT AND GLARE

- 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?**

Opportunities such as *hunting, boating, fishing occur in the immediate vicinity..*

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

No recreational uses will be displaced as a result of this project.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational 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.**

FEMA investigated historical and cultural resources and found no historic or cultural preservation registers on or next to the site.

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

None.

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

Keep the project within the existing footprint.

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.**

The proposed project is located on an island and there are no public streets or highways serving the site.

- b. **Is site currently served by public transit? If no, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

No, the nearest transit stop maybe in Conway which is over 2 miles away.

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

Not applicable.

- 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.**

Yes, equipment will be barged over to the island and back. Generally, the barge will pick up equipment on the northern shore of Freshwater Slough and deliver it to the island. There is a sandy location on the island where the barge will land. This spot is currently disturbed and has been used in the past for barge landing.

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

No additional vehicle trips are anticipated to result from this project.

- 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.**

No.

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

None.

16. UTILITIES

- a. **Underline 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 additional utilities proposed.

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:** _____