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.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
   Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Northern Leopard Frog Habitat Enhancement Project

2. Name of applicant:

   Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

   Attn: JoAnne Wisniewski or Rich Finger
   1550 Alder Street NW
   Ephrata, WA 98823
   (509) 760-6600

4. Date checklist prepared:

   August 7, 2008

5. Agency requesting checklist:

   Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

   November 2008 or 2009, lasting approximately 30 days

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.

   Ecological Land Services, Inc. prepared a Wetland Delineation Report and Wetland Mitigation Plan, dated March 28, 2008, describing wetlands within the WDFW Potholes Reservoir that will be expanded to enhance habitat for Northern leopard frog, a state endangered and federal species of concern. The report was submitted with a JARPA to all agencies with jurisdiction for review and approval.

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.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Hydraulic Project Approval
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nationwide Permit 27
Washington Department of Ecology, 401 Water Quality Certification

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The purpose of the project is to enhance existing NLF habitat and assist in controlling predation that is a serious threat to the reproduction and survival of the state-endangered species. NLF is listed as a state endangered species and as a federal species of concern and the Northern Leopard Frog Management Area (NLFMA) located within Columbia Basin Wildlife Area in Grant County, Washington currently contains the only known population in the state. The proposed Northern Leopard Frog (NLF) habitat enhancement project involves the creation of upland berms to provide surface water breaks as well as wetland breeding habitat. Construction of 26 berms is proposed including 16 within 12 wetland study areas. A total of 2.09 acres of Category II wetlands will be impacted due to the construction of the upland berms. Wetland creation to provide additional habitat for NLF will produce 1.51 acres of Category II wetlands that will also serve as mitigation for the wetland impacts due to the berm construction.

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.

The property is currently used as the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area and contains the NLFMA managed by WDFW and owned by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Washington Department of Natural Resources. The property, separated into Unit A (approximately 230 acres) to the east and Unit B (approximately 330 acres) to the west, is located south of South Frontage Road and Interstate 90, west of the City of Moses Lake within Section 1, Township 18 North, Range 27 East; Section 36, Township 19 North, Range 27 East; and Section 31, Township 19 North, Range 28, east of the Willamette Meridian in Grant County, Washington.

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 . . . . . .

Rolling

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

Approximately 10 to 15%

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, fine sand, and loamy fine sand. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designates soils within Units A and B as Burbank loamy fine sand, 0-5% slopes (26), Qunicy fine sand, 2-15% slopes (97), Wanser-Quincy fine sands, 0-5% slopes (176), and Winchester sand, 2-5% slopes (186).

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.

Filling and grading are purposed to create upland berms to provide surface water breaks and to create wetland breeding habitat. Approximately 2.09 acres of wetlands will be impacted to create upland berms from on-site upland soil and approximately 1.51 acres of wetland will be created from uplands adjacent to existing wetlands on site.

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

Erosion is not anticipated.

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

None. No impervious surfaces are proposed.

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

Best management practices proposed include silt fencing, mulch, and re-seeding of disturbed areas.

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.

Heavy equipment used to create the berms and wetland habitat areas will produce typical automobile emissions and may cause dust during construction. Quantities are unknown. No emissions will result when the project is completed.

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:

Heavy equipment used during construction should meet air quality standards and be maintained regularly. If large amounts of dust are disturbed during construction, soils could be wet down to prevent air quality impacts.

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.

Wetlands are present on site. There are 67 permanent, semi-permanent, seasonally, or temporarily inundated areas, including fish bearing and non-fish bearing water bodies, identified within the project site. Hydrology within the site is quite complex and is primarily influenced by ground water fluctuations. ELS delineated wetlands within 12 wetland study areas in the vicinity of the berms and wetland creation areas associated with the NLF habitat enhancement project

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, work will occur in Category II wetlands on site to construct upland berms providing surface water breaks and increase NLF protection from predators.

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.

There will be a *total of 2.09 acres of Category II wetlands impacted due to the construction of the upland berms. Fill material will consists of on site upland soils.*

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Water withdrawals or diversions are not anticipated as work will occur when water levels are low.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The site contains area mapped by FEMA as Zone A and Zone X. Zone A is where there is no base flood elevation determined. Zone X is determined to be outside the 100 year floodplain

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.

Not applicable.

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 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.

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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
_____ pasture
_____ crop or grain
X wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
_____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Herbaceous and shrub vegetation.

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

None.

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

None.

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:
mammals: ***deer***, bear, ***elk***, ***beaver***, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other***: carp***

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

Northern leopard frog (Rana pipiens)

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

Unknown.

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

The proposed project is to enhance NLF habitat through berm creation to provide increased protection from fish and bull frogs and wetland creation to increase breeding habitat.

6. Energy and natural resources

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

None.

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

No.

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

None.

7. Environmental health

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

No.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

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

None.

b. Noise

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

Interstate 90 and South Frontage Road exist north of the project site.

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.

Short term noise will be associated with the construction equipment used to create the upland berms and wetland habitat areas. Hours of noise due to construction could occur from 6 am to 6 pm. No long term noise will be associated or created by the proposed project.

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

None.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

The site consists of relatively undisturbed desert habitat with no existing structures and one dirt road accessing Unit B from the west. The project site is open to the public for recreational uses. The northwest corner of Unit B is a portion of an agricultural property owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, but this portion of Unit B will not be within the construction area. The remaining properties adjacent to the site consist of vacant desert and wetland habitat.

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

The northwestern portion of the Unit B is used for agriculture, but it will not be within the construction area.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

None.

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

No.

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

Agricultural and undeveloped/unused land.

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

None, state and federal land.

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.

Yes, the site contains Category II wetlands and the state listed Northern leopard frog.

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:

None.

9. Housing

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

11. Light and glare

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

12. Recreation

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

The project site is open to the public for recreational purposes including hunting.

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:

If any historic or cultural artifacts are identified during construction, work will stop until authorized agency official evaluated the artifact and allows work to continue.

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.

One gravel/dirt road accesses Unit B from South Frontage Road to the north. Construction equipment will likely use this access road and other trails during construction. No future access is proposed.

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.

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.

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: 

Date Submitted: August 7, 2008