

## SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

### ***Instructions for applicants:***

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

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.

### ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

### ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:***

Please complete all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D). For nonproject actions.

#### A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Durr Road Bridge**

2. Name of applicant:

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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

**600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA : (360) 902-8383 : Kristen Kuykendall**

4. Date checklist prepared:

**7/19/2012**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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

**Summer-Fall 2012**

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.

**A JARPA/HPA has been prepared.**

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.

**None are known at this time.**

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

**A JARPA/HPA. DNR approvals for placement of the bridge on their property are currently being processed.**

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 Durr Creek bridge (60' x 12') is proposed to replace the at-grade ford. The bridge will remove motor vehicles and associated pollutants from the creek bed and is designed with the bridge stringers above the of the 100-year flood elevation. Umtanum Creek, a perennial creek, is used by migrating and spawning steelhead. The project area is approximately 150 feet long by 40 feet wide. See Appendix A: Project Drawings.**

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, and county 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. **Kittitas County, WA**

**T16N, R18E, Section 16, SE ¼ NE ¼ & NE ¼ SE ¼ The center of the project is at approximately WA State Plane Coordinates: N 562807, E 1622341 at Elevation 92'.**

## **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)?

**The creek-bank slope is about 50% at its steepest location.**

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.

**The soil type in the project area is WA Soil type #809 Weirman-Kayak-Zillah complex. The top 6" – 7" of these soils are characterized respectively as: very gravelly sandy loam, ashy sandy loam, and silt loam.**

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

**Stream banks up and downstream of the project site show signs of erosion due to high flow velocities, adjacent ground is rocky and stable. Ford location is rocked and stable.**

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

**The project calls for 3 yards<sup>3</sup> to be cut and 214 yards<sup>3</sup> of fill used in the bridge construction. The source of clean fill will be from a local commercial source to meet engineered specifications.**

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

**Some minor erosion is anticipated adjacent to the new structures. Overall, the stabilization of erosion-related project area impacts will be accomplished through use of sediment control BMP's including use of silt fence and planting and mulching all exposed soils.**

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

**New impervious surfaces include the bridge surface, new road surfaces will overlay existing impervious road surfaces.**

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

**Filter fabric fencing will be used during and after construction to prevent erosion and help establish vegetation. All disturbed soils will be covered upon completion of project or prior to any summer rains.**

## **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.

**Emissions from construction vehicles and emissions from vehicles using Durr Road are associated with this project. No significant increases in the use of Durr Road are anticipated due to the upgrading of the facility.**

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:  
**Standard emission control converters and mufflers would be in use by construction vehicles.**

3. **Water**

a. Surface Water:

- 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.

**The project is specific to Umtanum Creek, a perennial 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.

**The work will occur over the creek bed and will be accomplished during construction work-windows.**

- 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 are no dredge or fill areas; all constructed features are above ordinary high water.**

- 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.

**Portions of the project do lie within the 100-year floodplain and have been designed to allow passage of a 100-year flood with over 1.5 feet of clearance for large woody debris and or ice. All fill material will be armored from above OWH with boulders sized to meet 100-year flood impacts. The abutments (armored to and above the 100-year flood elevation) and road contour designs are engineered to withstand water higher than 100-year floods. 500-year floods, for instance, would also move out and around the bridge.**

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

**No.**

b. Ground Water:

- 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.

**Only runoff generated by precipitation is expected, runoff will be collected through use of silt fence and all exposed soils will be covered with straw mulch if a summer rain event is anticipated. All runoff will be isolated from Umtanum Creek.**

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

**The feature being constructed, a bridge for vehicles, will help to minimize unwanted discharges to the drainage basin. All work is being conducted outside of OHW. The only overwater work is the placement of the bridge which will be cleaned prior to installation to prevent any waste material from entering the water.**

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

**Sediment control BMP's will be in place including use of straw mulch, silt fence around all fill material, and working during the dry summer months will reduce any runoff impacts.**

4. Plants

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

deciduous tree: **alder**, maple, **aspen**, other: **cottonwood**

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

shrubs: **willow**

grass

pasture

crop or grain

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?

**All work will be done in existing road surface, the shoulder of the road is currently a grass mix and will be altered during construction and reseeded with a native grass mix. Some tree branches will be cut back to allow for bridge placement. Vegetation disturbance will be minimized.**

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

**The Natural Heritage Program (NHP) databases as well as the federal agency listings (USFWS) were examined for threatened or endangered plants on July 9, 2012. No listings were found.**

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

**Because all work will take place within the existing road section and road shoulder, minimal planting is scheduled. All disturbed soils will be planted with a native grass seed mix and cottonwood cuttings will be interspersed in the riparian areas.**

## 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: **grouse, raven**

mammals: **deer, bear, elk, beaver**, other:

fish: bass, salmon, **trout**, herring, shellfish, other **Steelhead**

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

**Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) databases as well as the federal agency listings (USFWS and NOAA) were examined on July 9, 2012. WDFW fish data show the non-detected potential presence of bull trout in this section of Umtanum Creek. Discussion with Habitat Biologist William Meyer clarified that while there has been no record of the presence of bull trout, fish biologists believe that conditions may occur that would make it possible for bull trout using adjacent systems to enter the Umtanum and possibly reach the Durr Road crossing. Biologist Meyer further stated that no spawning could occur at this location.**

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

**The site is on the eastern edge of the Pacific Flyway used by migratory birds. Steelhead are known to migrate and spawn in the area. Bull Trout may be able to use Umtanum Creek. See part b, above.**

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

**None are proposed other than maintaining the riparian zone plants per the planting plan.**

## 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 are needed.**

- 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 are included.**

## 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.

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)?

**There are no noises that adversely affect the project or the surrounding environment.**

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.

**Some noise will be produced during construction from about 7:00 am to 5:00 pm during the 5 to 8 days anticipated for construction.**

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

**No special noise reduction efforts are planned.**

8. **Land and shoreline use**

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

**The property has been used as a Public Wildlife Area for over 35 years supporting public uses including hiking, hunting, fishing and camping.**

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

**No.**

c. Describe any structures on the site.

**Several small aging bank-stabilizing gabion baskets have fallen apart and are integrated with soils, river rock, and vegetation at grade.**

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

**None.**

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

**The project area is zoned Commercial Agricultural in the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan.**

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

**The project area is zoned Commercial Agricultural in the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan.**

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?  
**The current Kittitas Shoreline Master Program does not show a designation for this area.**
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.  
**None.**
- 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.  
**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?  
**The only "above grade" structures located near this site are the angular rock and gabion placements associated with the former ford. These are all less than two feet tall.**
- 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? **None.** What time of day would it mainly occur?



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?

**The area is used for hunting, fishing, and an informal campground is located alongside the south side of the creek on either side of the road.**

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

**The project will modestly enhance the recreational utility and experience for visitors. There will be no disturbance to the campgrounds.**

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

**The project has been planned- and budgeted- for in order to minimize adverse impacts of recreational use that has historically depended upon a viable ford over the creek bed. The bridge will both improve the recreational experience and help reduce adverse impacts to the environment and recreation.**

## 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.

**A Cultural Review for the Wenas WA roads including this project area was completed by Archaeological Investigations Northwest Inc. May 31, 2006. This Report No. 1694 is on file with the Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation.**

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

**None were found at or in proximity to the site.**

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

**Should any cultural resources be identified within the project area during the operational phase, work will cease in that area and a professional archaeologist will be notified immediately and a site protection plan will be developed.**

## 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 project bridge will provide the surface for Durr Road which is open to the public year-round.**

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

**The site is not served by public transit.**

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

**Parking does occur adjacent to the site of the proposed bridge; no changes are proposed for this unpaved parking area.**

- 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).

**There are no new roads, all work will occur in the existing road location.**

- 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.

**The project improves the site yet will not likely generate additional visits of own accord.**

- 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. It is worth mentioning that the project will improve egress for emergency vehicles.**

- 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: **No utilities exist at this site.**  
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 utilities are planned this site.**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_



Name of signee: **Kristen Kuykendall**

Position and Agency/Organization: **Environmental Engineer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Date Submitted: **July 24, 2012**

**Appendix A Project Drawings**

