

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:

Remove Steller Sea Lion from the State Endangered Species List

2. Name of applicant:

Bill Tweit

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

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Directors Office

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

4. Date checklist prepared: 14 September 2012

5. Agency requesting checklist: WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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

Rule adoption by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission on 14 December 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 additional actions related to this proposal.

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

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a proposed rule on April 18, 2012, to remove the eastern Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of Steller sea lions (SSLs) from the list of Threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The eastern DPS includes all SSLs in Washington state. In response to petitions from Washington, Oregon, and Alaska, NMFS reviewed the current status of the eastern DPS and determined that the species has recovered and no longer meets the definition of a Threatened species under the federal ESA. The draft NMFS status review is available at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/stellers/edps/status.htm>.

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 other actions are related to this proposal.

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

None, this rule making action will follow the Federal delisting action.

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.)

Pursuant to WAC 232-12-297(6.1.1) and (6.2), the Department intends to adopt the April 2012 NMFS draft status review as the preliminary species status report required in subsection (7.1) of the rule. In its review, NMFS considered all information relevant to the SSLs' status in Washington, as well as the rest of the species range on the Pacific coast, and addressed factors affecting its status. NMFS's draft status review has been evaluated by members of the public and the scientific community, including WDFW scientists, through a public comment period extending from April 18 to June 18, 2012. The draft review provides an analysis of the factors cited in WAC 232-12-297(7.1.1) through (7.1.5). Interested parties are invited to submit new scientific data relevant to the draft review, classification recommendation, and SEPA findings to the Department by October 15, 2012.

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 Washington range of Steller Sea Lions includes all marine waters and coastlines, estuaries, and the Columbia River mainstem upstream to Bonneville Dam.

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 N/A

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

- 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. N/A
 - d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. N/A
 - e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. N/A
 - f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. N/A
 - g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? N/A
 - h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: N/A
- 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. N/A
 - b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. N/A
 - c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: N/A

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. N/A

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. N/A

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. N/A

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

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

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. N/A

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. N/A

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. N/A

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. N/A

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

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

4. Plants

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

_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

_____ shrubs

_____ 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? N/A

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

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

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:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
This proposal affects one species currently listed as Threatened, the Steller Sea Lion (SSL).

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. Washington range of SSL includes breeding, migratory and non-breeding areas.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: SSL populations remain protected under National Marine Mammal Protection Act and state laws that forbid harvest.

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. N/A

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

- 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: N/A

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. None
 - 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. N/A
 - 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: N/A

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 a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. None

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

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? N/A

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. N/A

- c. Describe any structures on the site. N/A

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? N/A

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? N/A

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? N/A

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

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

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? N/A

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? N/A

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: N/A

- 1. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: N/A

9. Housing

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

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

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

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? N/A

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

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

11. Light and glare

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

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

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

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

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? N/A

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

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

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. N/A

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

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: N/A

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. N/A

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

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

- 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). N/A

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. N/A

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

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: N/A

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. N/A

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. N/A

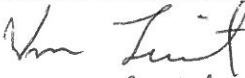
16. Utilities

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

- 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. N/A

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: 18 September 2012

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

This proposal is unlikely to increase discharges, emissions, toxic or hazardous substances, or noise production.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

This proposal has no bearing on any plants, animals, fish or marine life other than Steller Sea Lions. There is no actual affect on the population of Steller Sea Lions, as this action is consistent with the species achieving the recovery objectives. SSLs were listed as Threatened under the state ESA in 1993, following a federal listing in 1990. The Federal Recovery Plan was published in 2008; a separate State Recovery Plan has not been developed. The Department's bases its proposed SSL delisting on scientific information contained in the Department's petition to the NMFS, submitted on August 30, 2010, and in NMFS's April 2012 draft status review. The petition and the status review provide evidence that SSLs in Washington are no longer in danger of failing or declining and are no longer vulnerable. Both the petition and the status review provide evidence that the recovery objectives in the 2008 Federal Recovery Plan have been achieved.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Other protective measures for Steller Sea Lions remain in effect, including the provisions of the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act and state law prohibiting hunting. The MMPA prohibits taking (i.e., to harass, hunt, capture, kill or collect, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, kill or collect) marine mammals except as permitted or authorized under special circumstances (e.g., incidental to research or commercial fishing activities, subsistence harvests by Alaska Natives). Under the MMPA Steller sea lions are classified as a strategic stock and designated as depleted throughout their range. In Washington many sites used by Steller sea lions are on National Wildlife Refuge lands, where human activity is restricted except by permit. Federal and State regulations in Washington prohibit boaters from approaching near Steller sea lions.

Under Washington State Law (WAC 232-12-011), pinnipeds, which includes Steller Sea Lions, are protected species and shall not be hunted, except that: "This section shall not apply to hair seals and sea lions which are threatening to damage or are damaging commercial fishing gear being utilized in a lawful manner or when said mammals are damaging or threatening to damage commercial fish being lawfully taken with commercial gear." This exception does not preempt the Federal protections under the MMPA.

Any future management and control actions of Steller Sea Lions in conflict areas would be conducted under the auspices of the

MMPA and state law, and would require SEPA review prior to final decision and implementation.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

This proposal will not deplete energy or natural resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

This proposal is unlikely to affect environmentally sensitive or protected areas.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

This proposal is unlikely to affect land and shoreline use.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

This proposal will not increase demands on transportation, public services or utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

This proposal is consistent with recent Federal actions to delist the Steller Sea Lion under the Federal Endangered Species Act, and does not conflict with any other local, state or federal laws or requirements.

