

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:

WDFW Eells Springs Hatchery Pollution Abatement Pond

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA. 98501
Cindy Knudsen
360 902 8422

4. Date checklist prepared:

12 04 2012

5. Agency requesting checklist:

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

February, 2013 through August 2014

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.

None.

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.

Mason County Shoreline permits and an HPA will be required for this project.

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.)

This project includes construction of a new concrete (2 cell) pollution abatement pond (120 feet x 40 foot 6 inches wide) to handle sediment and dirty water from the hatchery ponds and raceways. This project also includes additional piping to accommodate the venturi cleaning system. All water and vacuum lines for the raceways to the new pollution abatement pond lines for this project are located landward of OHW. The pollution abatement pond will require installation of electric power service. There will be a fabric structure cover over the P.A. pond, and a chain link fence will enclose the structure.

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.

From Interstate 5 South at exit 104, take ramp right for US-101 North toward Port Angeles/Aberdeen. Then, from US 101, turn left onto W. Skokomish Valley Road. Turn left, onto W. Eells Hill Road. Turn in to the Eells Springs Hatchery. T21 N, R4W, S18 (47.309308,-123.237234).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

The proposed project is in a rural area surrounded by rural residential and agricultural properties. The existing riparian zone has been somewhat degraded and altered by past pasturing and farming practices. Much of the existing riparian zone is a remnant of what was once a valley-wide riparian complex. Despite these changes to the riparian zone, good fisheries stocks remain.

Habitat exists nearby the project location for Chinook and Steelhead for rearing and migration (and *possibly* infrequent spawning). There is vegetative cover on the banks of Hunter Creek in the project vicinity. There are also some deciduous trees (willow and maple) and herbaceous plants such as willow shrubs grasses, thistle and blackberry.

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

2% slope

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.

Dungeness fine sandy loam, shallow, 0 to 2 percent slopes

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.

Excavate area for new P.A. Pond: 824 cubic yards above OHW.

Excavate area for utility lines: 287 cubic yards above OHW.

Fill P.A. Pond foundation slab/sides: 181.6 cubic yards above OHW.

Fill P.A. pond gravel backfill: 38.9 cubic yards above OHW.

Fill utility lines backfill: 188.4 above OHW.

All fill materials will be staged on site and used for backfill. Concrete materials will be formed and poured on site.

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

Yes erosion could occur as a result of clearing, construction of this proposed project. Best management practices will be used to minimize the amount of erosion occurring as a result of this project.

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 be added as a component of this project. According to Mason County: Volume 1, 2-4 of the *Stormwater Management Manual* defines "impervious area" and clearly states that retention/detention ponds are not to be counted as impervious surface for threshold determinations.

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

Siltation prevention BMPs including; siltation fences, and hay bales will be used if required preventing siltation from construction activities from entering any water source. Any materials purchased for the proposed project will come from local quarry.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, and industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Typical emissions generating from the construction of this proposal will be exhaust from bulldozers, excavators and dump trucks. No source of emission will be generated from the pollution abatement pond.

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, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Hunter Creek is adjacent to the proposed project. Hunter Creek eventually flows into the Skokomish River and is characterized by cobble and gravel substrates with moderate depth and flow conditions. There is a (possible) beaver dam half a mile downstream of the project site. There is water input from springs that contribute flow to Hunter Creek adjacent to the project location.

There is a freshwater wetland area more than 1700 feet away from the project area and also, some unnamed springs in the vicinity. There is generally good rearing habitat for Chinook, steelhead and native species at and nearby the project location.

- 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 proposed project is on the grounds of the Eells Springs Hatchery adjacent to a natural spring, and approximately 1700 feet away from a wetland area. Please see attached plans.

- 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.

No fill or dredge materials will be removed from wetlands or water areas.

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

No surface water diversions or withdrawals are anticipated by construction of this project.

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

No. The proposed Eells Hill settling pond does not appear to be within the Skokomish River's floodplain or floodway.

- 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, this pollution abatement pond will discharge waste materials into Hunter Creek. This activity is permitted by WDFW NDPES permit *WAG13-1047* for Washington State Fish and Wildlife, for Hatchery discharges. There are currently 4 discharge pipes for the round ponds and one for the raceways. They are cleaned by a draining and wash down process requiring about 125,000 gallons of water that is discharged to Hunter Creek. The new P.A. discharge amount will be 132,000 gallons maximum, or about 1000 gallons a day if averaged over a week. Typically, hatchery processes about 1.9 Million gallons in a 24 hour period that all flows into Hunter creek through the 5 existing drain pipes.

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.

Ground water typically generated through normal hatchery operations could enter the completed project. No water from the completed pollution abatement pond will be discharged to ground water.

- 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.

None.

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.

Runoff from the pollution abatement pond will eventually reach Hunter Creek.

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

Any stormwater entering the pollution abatement pond will mix with effluent, settle out, and eventually reach the waters of Hunter Creek. This discharge is covered by WDFW NDPES permit WAG-13-1047.

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

This proposed project will collect fishery waste materials and contain them in the new water settling area of the pollution abatement pond. Previously these waters discharged directly into Hunter Creek. Discharge of surface water is covered under NDPES permit WAG-13-1047 for WDFW Eells Springs Hatchery.

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?

No vegetation will be removed as a component of this project.

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 are proposed.

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.

Endangered Species: Upstream of the project area there are Chinook (Puget Sound), steelhead (Puget Sound), Bull trout (Puget Sound), and possibly (Hood Canal) summer Chum.

Bull Trout are present in the Skokomish River, but available data does not place bull trout or their critical habitat at or near the proposed project location. Limiting factors include fines and low summer flows that could affect water temperatures and opportunities for rearing of bull trout. The closest location of bull trout critical habitat is approximately one mile NE of the proposed project location in the South Fork of the Skokomish River (47.315,-123.247). They are not typically found in Hunter Creek.

Chum salmon, Hood Canal summer ESU (*Oncorhynchus keta*), critical habitat is present in the watershed in the lower end of the Skokomish Subbasin and nearest to the proposed project at endpoint (47.3209,-123.2211) approximately one mile NE (overland) from the hatchery in an unnamed stream segment off of the south fork of the Skokomish River. There are possibly (unknown) opportunities for chum to migrate through Hunter Creek, but spawning or rearing opportunities are not at the project location.

PHS Species:

Salmon species in the vicinity of the project location include Chum, Sea Run Cutthroat, and coho.

Critical habitat for (Hood Canal) Summer Chum is in Mason County but not at the project location.

Critical habitat for Chinook is in the vicinity of but not at the project location.

There is habitat for harlequin duck and communal eagle roosts approximately 1500 feet away from the proposed project. No other species are in the vicinity.

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

Possible migration for Chinook and Steelhead juveniles exists adjacent to the proposed project location in Hunter Creek.

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

Installation of the pollution abatement pond at the Eells Springs Hatchery may provide cleaner water for fish and wildlife in Weaver Creek.

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 completed project will use electric pumps to serve the pollution abatement pond.

- 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.

None.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

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

The proposed project anticipates more efficient management of fish waste entering Hunter Creek.

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:

None.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

This is the site of the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Eells Springs Hatchery. Adjacent properties are rural residential, agricultural and forested areas.

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

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

At the proposed project location, there are several outbuildings, hatchery raceways, staff residences, and rearing pond. There is an underground pipe that contributes flow to the instream flow upstream of the project location.

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

Existing utility lines will be excavated and unused materials will be disposed of offsite out of the flood zone at an approved facility.

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

Rural

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

Conservancy

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

This project is considered to be an aquaculture development within a 'conservancy' designated shoreline.

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?

Hatchery staff (maximum of 5) will work in and around the completed project.

Hatchery staff live nearby the proposed project.

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

No persons will be displaced by the completed project.

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:

This project is covered under provisions NDPES permit *WAG13-1047* for hatchery discharges.

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 frame for the fabric cover over the proposed pollution abatement project will be 17 feet high.

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

No.

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?

No glare will be produced from the proposed project.

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?

There are hiking, fishing, wildlife viewing, and river access areas nearby.

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.

None are known.

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

None are known.

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

In the unlikely event that historic artifacts are discovered, construction activities will stop and the proper authorities will be notified.

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.

Highway 101, W. Skokomish Valley Road and W. Eells Hill Road serve this site.

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

The nearest public transportation site is unknown.

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.

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.

Electrical service will be provided by the local utility to the proposed project.

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: *Cynthia Knicker*

Date Submitted: *12/6/2012*